

**THE CHURCH'S LIFE**  
News of the First Presbyterian Church  
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## Utilizing our Church Property



One of the three focuses of the FPC Future Focus study was better utilization of our church property to reflect our values. A subcommittee of the Session has been charged with exploring opportunities to maximize our property. That committee, comprised of Mike Fahey, John Mehl, and Kathy Danielson, has begun working with the Oikos Project to assess congregational skills and interests, needs of our community, and opportunities to provide revenue for First Presbyterian Church.

A crucial part of this exploration process is involving the full congregation in an exploration of our collective skills and values. The Oikos Project has provided a structured online exercise that will identify shared congregational skills and help us better focus on areas where we might be able to develop a profitable enterprise that is consistent with our values.

The Skills Deck is an easy online exercise that will take less than 15 minutes to complete. We will compile the results of this exercise and hold a congregational meeting to discuss the outcomes and explore next steps.

**Click the link below to do the Skills Deck exercise**

Use this link to take them to the Skills Deck exercise: <https://skillsdeck.rootedgood.org/?group=C1%20-%20First%20Presbyterian%20Church%20-%2020Oregon,%20WI>. You will be asked for your name, email address, and occupation. All that information stays internal with FPC. If you have any questions about the effort to better utilize our property, please reach out to any of the three members of the Oikos Project team (find them listed on the next page).

Thank you,  
Mike Fahey - [mikefaheywi@gmail.com](mailto:mikefaheywi@gmail.com)  
John Mehl - [johnwmehl@gmail.com](mailto:johnwmehl@gmail.com)  
Kathy Danielson - [kdanielson180@gmail.com](mailto:kdanielson180@gmail.com)

# Pastor Search Update



Originally, Session hoped to complete the preliminary work needed to secure approval from John Knox Presbytery, Committee on Ministry (COM) to form a Pastor Nominating Committee (PNC) by January 1, 2022. The PNC, comprised of members of Session and our Congregation would then conduct the formal search for a new pastor.

However, it was clear to members of Session early on that there were significant issues associated with our church, the future of churches in general and the impacts of the virus, that needed careful deliberation before moving ahead.

At its January meeting, Session voted to take the bold step to seek a Designated Pastor for a three-year term who would work three-quarter to full-time leading our Congregation and implementing our Future Focus Objectives.

The next step, pending approval by the COM, will be a Congregational meeting later in February at which time the Congregation will elect the members of the PNC.



# Treasurer Needed

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After almost half a decade of service to FPC, Sue Mielke has chosen to resign from the position of Treasurer in early-2022. The Session is extremely grateful for Sue's commitment and for her professional dedication while serving as Treasurer for our congregation. We wish her well as she moves ahead to other challenges.

Because of that upcoming vacancy, we encourage you to prayerfully consider whether your talents might be moving you in the direction of serving as FPC's next Treasurer. The time commitment is minimal - about two hours a week - and Sue has offered to mentor the new Treasurer through the first days until you "get the hang of the job."

Please contact either Marcia McDermid (outgoing Personnel Chair, 2mac@charter.net) or Dave Hanson (Administrative Asst, info@fpcoregonwi.org) if you have questions about the tasks involved; a position description can be forwarded to you.

# Mission

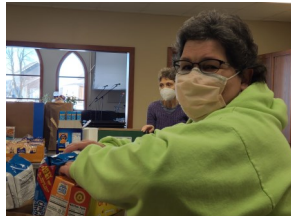


## PPOW—Presbyterian Pantry on Wheels

PPOW served 10 families in January. Our contact family helped us navigate icy, snowy, and frigid conditions as we delivered several bags of food for each family. Thank you to the congregation for supporting monthly collections and donating toiletries that enabled PPOW to provide each family with a bag of assorted items including deodorant, lotion, toothpaste, and toothbrushes.

The January PPOW distribution provided each family with: Ground Beef, Chicken, Fish, Cheese, Eggs, Potatoes, Onions, Bananas, Grapes, Carrots, Pinto and Black Beans, Rice, Diced Tomatoes, Corn, Bread, Tortillas, Sugar, Mac and Cheese, Ranch Dressing, Mayonnaise, Oil, Cereal, Spaghetti Sauce, Noodles, Soup, Crackers, Cookies, Toilet Paper and Assorted Toiletries.

Thank you for the support PPOW receives as this enables us to provide more groceries to our families each month. With the cost of food continuing to rise, our families appreciate the assistance in putting food on the table for their families.



## PPOW For February

The item the Mission committee is collecting for the month of February is 48 oz. bottles of canola or vegetable oil. Any brand is fine. We got a lot of toilet paper in January - that was a big help! Thanks to everyone who donated! Stay tuned to this newsletter for the March item (hint: it is fish related.)



# Mission Partners

In December 2021, the following gifts were distributed from First Presbyterian Church to our Mission Partners:

\$1,000 Salvation Army

\$750 Oregon Area Food Pantry

\$500 NINA (Neighbors in Need of Assistance). This helps families in the Oregon Area School District and is distributed through a Social Worker in the School District

\$500 Helping Hands. A joint mission with the churches in the Oregon Community to support people needing assistance.

\$1,000 Presbyterian Disaster Assistance General Relief and Undesignated Program Support (money is used where most needed).

Here are some excerpts of thank you notes received from some of these partners. The letters are posted on the bulletin board in the Narthex.



**Salvation Army.** "We are so lucky to have you as a supporter, and we thank you for investing in our clients and in our community. Your generous donation of \$1,000 helps us to continue to provide the critical programs offered by The Salvation Army. Without your support, we would not be able to help those who need us the most."

**Oregon Area Food Pantry (OAFP).** "Thank you for all the support your congregation gives to the Food Pantry. With your support, the OAFP is addressing the hunger crisis in our community. So many of our neighbors are struggling to meet basic needs and face hunger daily. Children and the elderly are especially vulnerable. We are so grateful for your partnership in helping neighbors in need access affordable food in an atmosphere of dignity and respect. Your gift of \$750 makes a difference in the lives of hungry families and helps provide our community with hope and nourishment."



## "The Small Church: A Gift to Its Community"

We are a "small church," but far from the only one. Here is a link to an article in Presbyterian Today that Session members recommend on the gift of small churches: <https://www.presbyterianmission.org/story/pt-1121-smallchurch/>



## 2022 Per Capita

It's a new year and time to remind everyone to please make your **Per Capita payment for 2022**. Remember, you need to pay **\$33.70 per member** of the church, **including children** who may no longer be living at home. You have three ways to make your payment: a check to the church left in the offering plate on Sunday, a check mailed to the church, or via our online giving page.

### A little more insight into our Per Capita payments from the John Knox Presbytery Generosity Task Force:

Quoting from the Presbyterian Church-USA website: "Presbyterians have a form of government built upon shared power and mutual accountability as we seek together to find and represent the will of Christ." The connection we have with our home church is strong and as we look outward to the John Knox Presbytery, the Synod of Lakes and Prairies and the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church USA, the connection we have individually may be a little less felt.

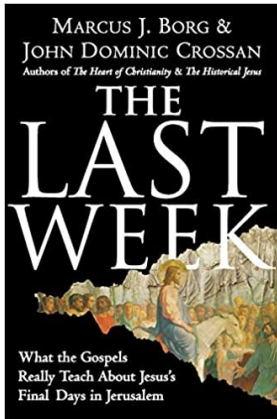
Per capita is also known as the **Presbyterian Covenant Community Fund** which perhaps describes it better and can create more of a community bond among PC-USA's approximately 11,000 congregations. Per capita amounts per church are calculated each year based on the membership from a previous year (for example, this year the per member amount is \$33.70). As with Shared Mission dollars, our Presbytery then disburses portions to General Assembly, the Synod of Lakes and Prairies and retains the majority of these funds for the work of the John Knox Presbytery. Along with the Shared Mission amounts, per capita is used toward supporting our committees' work, training, scholarships and assisting our congregations.

Many churches have seen wonderful and continual giving during the very challenging times of 2020 and 2021 including giving to per capita. Creatively meeting new needs of worship has included moving to online services, recording YouTube videos, and delivering care packages to members/friends with messages of hope and support-just to name a few efforts when gathering in person has been unadvised. Our Pastors, Elders, Deacons and Congregations have met these challenges with God's help and the faithful giving of time, talent and treasure.

As we look forward to 2022, let us remember the connection God wishes for us and our families, our churches, our communities, our Presbytery, our Synod and our General Assembly.

John Mehl, Finance Committee Chair





## Fall/Winter Bible Study

As in previous years, during 2021-22 we will continue the FPC tradition of biweekly Bible study. We will continue to meet **virtually via Zoom every other Tuesday, from**

**February 1 — April 26 from 7:00 - 8:15 PM**

Our focus this year will be reading and discussion of the book *The Last Week: What the Gospels Really Teach About Jesus's Final Days in Jerusalem*, by Borg & Crossan ([amazon link](#), available as paperback, Kindle e-book, Audible audiobook, or on audio CDs).

The book takes a unique approach, and in eight concise chapters guides us through each day of the Easter Week, day by day (starting with the Palm Sunday, and ending with Easter), following **the timeline of the Gospel according to Mark**.

Because the book starts with the Palm Sunday (which corresponds to chapter 11 in Mark), during the first five bi-weekly meetings (October - December) we will read and review the first 10 chapters in the Gospel of Mark, reading the text alongside selections from several popular commentaries. You will only need your Bible (New Testament) for these first five meetings - other materials will be provided as electronic (PDF) handouts on the website.

Then, after Christmas/New Year (a 2-week break), **starting on Tue. Jan 4, 2022**, we will begin reading the Borg-Crossan book, and plan to finish it on Tue. of the Easter Week, April 12, 2022, just in time for Easter which is on April 17, 2022. We will conclude the series on April 26, with a Summary/Reflection meeting.

Please contact Mike Fahey at [mikefaheywi@gmail.com](mailto:mikefaheywi@gmail.com), if you are interested in participating, and would like to be added to the **FPC Bible Study mailing list** to receive updates, announcements, Zoom meeting invites, and meeting reminders.

## How to Watch our Worship Service



With our transition to in-person indoor worship on May 30th, we will no longer have a Facebook livestream of the service. We will still record the service and post that recording on YouTube on Sunday afternoon. The YouTube service will be linked to our Facebook page: [www.facebook.com/fpcoregon](http://www.facebook.com/fpcoregon), and the homepage of our website: [www.fpcoregonwi.org](http://www.fpcoregonwi.org).



## Session Update

Session Action Items from January's meeting below:

Approved the Ordination of Sue McGuigan as an Elder and the Ordination of Pat Arthur as a Deacon.

Approved the Installation of Sue McGuigan and Dave Hanson as Ruling Elders and the Installation of Pat Arthur, Susan Niebauer, and Nancy Sheldon as Deacons.

Approved Sue McGuigan as Commissioner to the February John Knox Presbytery meeting.

Enthusiastically supported Florida vacation plans for Pastor Sue Melrose from February 4-10

Approved the 2021 Annual Report for PCUSA

Approved the 2022 budget

Approved a motion to participate in the PCUSA Special Offerings in 2022 (One Great Hour of Sharing, Pentecost, Peace and Global Witness, Christmas Joy)

Approved a motion from Worship Committee to celebrate Communion on the first Sunday of each month in 2022, Maundy Thursday (April 14) and January 1, 2023

Voted to request approval from the JKP Committee on Ministry to call a congregational meeting for the purpose of electing a Pastor Nominating Committee, who will direct the search for a Designated Pastor: three-year term, 75%-100% time.

Voted to have Session prepare the slate of nominees for the Pastor Nominating Committee.

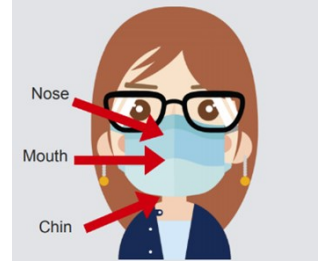
Voted to call a Special Session Meeting on January 30 for the purpose of preparing a draft slate of nominees for the Pastor Nominating Committee.

Voted to call a Special Congregation Meeting on February 27 to appoint a Pastor Nominating Committee, pending JKP Committee on Ministry approval

Appointed John Mehl, Marcia McDermid, Sue Melrose and Tom Niebauer to purchase a new computer for the Pastor's Office.

Respectfully submitted, Tom Niebauer, Clerk of Session

# Mask Update for Worship



As Covid-19 cases surge in the U.S. due to the spread of the highly transmissible omicron variant, the Center for Disease Control is urging the public to upgrade their masks in addition to receiving booster shots and getting tested. Session has been actively monitoring the Covid numbers, as well as considering the actions other churches are taking to provide a safe worship experience. Session feels it is essential for our spiritual and social well-being to continue gathering for worship in-person. An additional safety precaution being implemented is to upgrade the quality of masks worn during worship, which is outlined in the information below.

**Beginning January 15th, wearing a surgical, KN95 or N95 mask will be required to enter the sanctuary for worship for everyone age five and older. There will be a limited number of masks available in the narthex. We kindly ask of anyone wearing a cloth mask, that they double-mask, layering with a surgical mask or wear one of the three masks mentioned above.**



Health experts recommend wearing masks that produce an electrostatic charge, such as the N95, KN95 and KF94 masks. There should be no air gaps or voids around the nose, cheeks or chin. These masks also do a great job of filtering your own exhalations to protect others.



## **Oregon Community Blood Drive**

Gorman & Company, LLC  
200 North Main Street

**Tuesday, February 22, 2022  
10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.**







## FEBRUARY

Feb. 1 Sandra Champagne  
 Feb. 4 Gerald Neath  
 Feb. 5 Dolly Ledin  
 Feb. 18 Matt Dalstrom  
 Feb. 21 Jason Rudy  
 Feb. 24 Susan Niebauer  
 Feb. 26 Linda Clark  
 Feb. 27 Levi Walmer

# December Financial Snapshot

First Presbyterian Church of Oregon				
Monthly Financial Summary				
as of		December 31, 2021		
		Monthly Amount	Year-to-date Actual	Year-to-date Budget
Pledges Committed (Annual Budget \$116,388)				
	Operating Cash Revenue from Pledges	\$ 25,358	\$ 149,148	\$ 116,388
Operating Income				
	Total Income	\$ 27,375	\$ 164,553	\$ 121,288
	Deduct: Total Expenses	\$ 12,394	\$ 123,344	\$ 153,766
Adjustments to Cash:				
	Add: Transfer from Current Assets	\$ -	\$ 1,246	\$ -
	Deduct: Transfer to Per Capita Fund	\$ 6,378	\$ 6,378	
	Deduct: Principal Payment on Debt	\$ 768	\$ 11,161	\$ -
Net Operating Income (Loss) ADJUSTED		\$ 7,835	\$ 24,916	\$ (32,478)
Cash Balance-Operating Fund				
	Beginning Balance	\$ 34,050	\$ 7,634	
	Ending Balance	\$ 40,994	\$ 40,994	
Increase in Available Operating Funds		\$ 6,944	\$ 33,360	

**Per Capita for 2022** — IF YOU HAVE NOT YET PAID, please complete your Per Capita payment for 2021, as you are financially able. You have three ways to make your payment: a check to the church left in the offering plate on Sunday, a check mailed to the church, or via our online giving page. The amount this year is **\$33.70 per church member**, including children who may no longer be living at home. Payment of your per capita is much appreciated by the church and helps meet our budget.