

**THE 192nd ANNUAL MEETING
OF THE
FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF PHILIPSTOWN
COLD SPRING, NEW YORK**

**will be held on Sunday, 31 January, 2021, at 11:30 AM
on zoom, immediately following the Service of Worship.**

The purposes of the meeting are to: receive the 2020 reports; elect Elders and Deacons; and transact other appropriate business.



In order to expedite communicating the Church's committee reports, you are receiving them electronically or in printed form herewith. You are encouraged to read this material to learn about what has been happening at the First Presbyterian Church of Philipstown. Please come to the meeting with your questions, suggestions and concerns. Your input is important.

The reports will not be read individually at the meeting, but time will be allowed for discussion where concerns or questions arise.

We encourage you to attend this meeting, seeing it as an opportunity to look at the whole program of our Church and to take ownership in helping to shape the future direction of the First Presbyterian Church of Philipstown.

While members only may vote, friends of the congregations are cordially invited to attend and take part in the discussions. This is also an excellent time and way to learn about how the Presbyterian Church's form of government works.

**PLEASE HAVE THIS PACKET WITH YOU AT THE ZOOM MEETING
ON
31 JANUARY 2021 – 11:30 AM**

DOCKET
192nd ANNUAL MEETING
31 JANUARY 2021

Convening Prayer
Constitutional Statement

Moderator, The Rev. David Harkness
Clerk, Lynn Brown

Docket

Minutes of the 191st Annual Meeting, 2 February 2020

Clerk, Lynn Brown

Proposed Amendments to Congregational By-Laws

Clerk, Lynn Brown

2020 Nominating Committee Report

Elder, Andrea Bach

Presentation of Reports and Motion to Receive

Clerk of Session Report
Statistical Report for 2020

Clerk Lynn Brown

Buildings and Grounds

Elder Sandy Barton

Capital Campaign

Elder B. Andrew Reid

Christian Education, Children and Youth

Elder Carolyn Llewellyn

Communications and Technology

Elder Mona Smith

Congregational Life

Elder Beverly Taylor

Board of Deacons

Deacon Catherine Carnevale

Finance Report 2020/Budget for 2021

Elder Barry Llewellyn

Mission

Elder Ronald Sopyla

Personnel

Elder Ralph Cottiers

Stewardship

Elder Lynn Brown

Worship and Arts

Elder Ron Sopyla

Director of Music Report

Thomas E. McCoy

Green Team

Church Historian's Reflections

Janet Rust

Community Nursery School & Learning Center

Director, Rosemary Rodino

Philipstown Food Pantry

Andrea Bach

Motion for Adjournment and Prayer

Moderator, The Rev. David Harkness

MINUTES OF THE 191st ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

2 February 2020. Pursuant to a proper call, the 191st Annual Congregational Meeting of the First Presbyterian Church of Philipstown was held in the sanctuary on Sunday, February 2, 2020, following the service of worship. The purposes of the meeting were to receive the 2019 committee and affiliated group reports, elect Elders and Deacons, and transact any other appropriate business.

The Moderator, the Rev. Dr. Doris Chandler, convened the meeting with prayer at 11:40 AM. Reading of the constitutional statement was waived since it had been read just prior to the meeting during worship. The Clerk declared a quorum was present. It was VOTED to approve the docket as presented. A motion to waive the reading of the minutes of the 190th Annual Congregational meeting held on Sunday, 27 January 2019, was APPROVED since they were available before the meeting.

Elder Andrea Bach, Chair of the Nominating Committee, placed the following slates in nomination for Elders and Deacons:

Elders, Class of 2021: Mona Smith, 1 year term

Class of 2023: Andrea Bach, 2nd term, 3 years; Ralph Cottiers, 1st term, 3 years

Deacons, Class of 2023: Jean Duncan, 2nd term, 3 years, and Nina Velez, 1st term, 3 years

For the Congregational Nominating Committee for 2020: Annie Becker, Catherine Carnevale, Diana Geller, Janet Rust

There being no further nominations, the nominations were VOTED to be closed. The congregation VOTED to elect the slates as presented, and the Secretary was instructed to cast a single unanimous ballot. The date of installation and ordination was to be determined.

The Moderator asked if there were any questions or discussion regarding any of the Committee and affiliated group reports included in the 191st Annual Meeting packet. It was VOTED to receive and approve the reports, to include the 2020 budget and Pastoral Terms of Call for the Part-Time (30 hours per week) One-Year Stated Supply Position for Rev. Dr. Chandler.

There being no further business, it was VOTED to adjourn. Rev. Chandler closed the meeting with prayer at 12:30 PM.

Attested By:

The Rev. Dr. Doris Chandler, Moderator

Lynn Brown, Secretary

Proposed Amendment to Congregational By-Laws for virtual meetings

ARTICLE XII – ELECTRONIC MEETINGS

Section 1. The Congregation, committees, commissions, boards, and other official entities of First Presbyterian Church of Philipstown may, from time to time when physical meetings are impractical, arrange to meet and conduct business via electronic video and/or audio teleconference. Reasonable notice of the date, time and set-up procedures of electronic meetings will be given by the group's chairperson or moderator. The conduct of electronic meetings will conform as closely as possible to the procedures for physical committee meetings set out in the latest edition of Robert's Rules of Order, including (but not limited to) those for quorums and the recording of minutes. Actions taken in teleconference meetings shall be reported in the same manner as any other actions are reported. Minutes of teleconference meetings shall be treated as official minutes, must be approved by the entity at its next physical or electronic meeting and shall be kept and forwarded in the same way as minutes of physical meetings.

Nominating Committee 2020 Annual Report

Members of the 2020 Committee:

Cathy Carnevale, Annie Becker, Diana Geller, Janet Rust, and Andrea Bach (Chair)

ELDERS BY CLASS

CLASS OF 2022	CLASS OF 2023	CLASS OF 2024
Barry Llewellyn, 1 st term, 3 yr	Andrea Bach, 2 nd term, 3 yr	Gareth Guest, 2 nd term, 3 yrs
Beverly Taylor, 1 st term, 3 yr	Cathy Carnevale, 1 st term, 2 yr	Carolyn Llewellyn, 2 nd term, 3 yr
Ron Sopyla, 2nd term, 3 yr	Andy Larivee, 1 st term, 2 yrs	Annie Becker, 1 st term, 3 yr

DEACONS BY CLASS

CLASS OF 2022	CLASS OF 2023	CLASS OF 2024
Patricia Guest, 2nd term, 3 years	Jean Duncan, 2 nd term, 3 years	Janet Barton, 2 nd term, 3 yrs
Karen Tangen, 2 nd term, 3 years	Nina Velez, 1st term, 2 years	Diana Geller, 1 st term, 3 yrs
Jean Llewellyn, 1 st term, 3 years		

Nominating Committee for 2021: Elder to be named as Chair

FPCP Clerk of Session Report 2020

“Good things are already on their way to us. I believe this, and I hope you do, too!”

Friends, I read those words a couple of months ago, and they informed my reflection for our “zoom” worship service on the first Sunday of Advent. Advent is a season of hope and expectation. And we, as a church family and community, are indeed in our own season of hope and expectation. We could never have expected all that 2020 brought us, and we can’t know what 2021 will bring, but let’s try on some hope and expectation!

Earlier this week, in a small group discussion of folks in the Hudson River Presbytery, the topic was “What has 2020 brought your church, in terms of a learning, or an “Epiphany”? Some very common themes emerged: Resilience and dedication of leadership; affirmation that “the church” is so much more than a building or a pastor; that kindness and generosity abound; that every church’s food pantry has grown astronomically – in clients, yes, but also in donations!; and, that, no matter what, we “find a way”. All of this certainly applies to “The Church of the Open Door”, even with our doors closed!

Your 2020 Elders on Session: Andrea Bach, Sandy Barton, Ralph Cottiers, Gareth Guest, Barry Llewellyn, Carolyn Llewellyn, Mona Smith, Ron Sopyla, and Bev Taylor, more than rose to the occasion, and then went above and beyond. You will read, in their reports, of great challenges and also surprising blessings and successes. My cup overflows with gratitude to them and to so many others who have stepped up and stepped in.

The Session met for no less than 17 meetings, (stated monthly meetings and special meetings), not to mention countless committee and team meetings, work groups, and e-mail votes. We are so blessed by the time and energy and care that they have devoted to our Buildings and Grounds, Christian Education, Communication, Congregational Life, Finances, Mission, Nominating, Personnel, Stewardship, and Worship and Arts.

I hesitate to single anyone out, but in this unprecedented year, Bev Taylor took on the role of leading our “COVID Response Team” and, partnering with Cathy Carnevale, worked countless hours researching policy and procedure guidelines to be sure that we were compliant as we held outdoor worship, wrestled with opening the Nursery School program in the fall and keeping the building, to include Food Pantry operations, safe. The Session voted last spring to keep our small sanctuary closed for worship at least until March 2021, and has reaffirmed that decision on a monthly basis.

We are especially grateful to The Rev. David Harkness for moderating our Session, and for he and Rev. Martha Louise Harkness filling our pulpit; and to The Rev. Rachel Thompson for offering Pastoral Care, beginning and heading up our “Green Team”, and for she and her beloved Rev. Joe Gilmore, whom we lost in December, filling our pulpit.

As we meet this Sunday, our Session-elected Interim Pastor Search Committee of Amy Dul (Chair), Peter Bach, Cathy Carnevale, Diana Geller, and Carolyn Llewellyn is already in the process of seeking candidates. Let’s offer gratitude and prayerful support to them!

YOUR partnership in our future begins with completing the online survey which opens on Monday, February 2, and will be available for 3 weeks (check your email soon for more information and the link), with paper copies available on request. This Congregational Assessment Tool will, with your help, provide a clear picture of who and where we are right now, and give our new Interim Pastor valuable information with which to hit the ground running!

Yes, friends, good things are already on their way to us, I believe this and I hope you do, too!

With gratitude,
Lynn Brown, Clerk of Session

2020 STATISTICAL REPORT

TOTAL ACTIVE MEMBERSHIP as of 31 DECEMBER 2019 112

GAINS for 2019

Profession of Faith, Reaffirmation of Faith 0

Certificate of Transfer 0

TOTAL GAINS for 2019 0

LOSSES for 2019

Death 1

Certificate of Transfer 0

Other 0

TOTAL LOSSES for 2019 1

TOTAL ACTIVE MEMBERSHIP as of 31 DECEMBER 2020 111

THE CHURCH TRIUMPHANT

And Jesus said, 'I am the resurrection and the life. Those who believe in me, even though they die, will live, and everyone who lives and believes in me will never die....' [John 11:25]

We mourned the loss of

Rose Janet Champlin (June 22, 1931 – October 19, 2020), member since 1955

Rev. Joseph Gilmore (December 26, 1943 – December 17, 2020)

Friend of the Church, Guest Preacher, and husband of Rev. Rachel Thompson

BUILDINGS AND GROUNDS REPORT FOR 2020

2020 proved to be a rather calm year for Buildings and Grounds, unlike the world around us. We had limited use of our facility due to the pandemic which cuts back on the usual wear and tear. Fortunately, we were able to continue supporting the Food Pantry and the Community Nursery School in this time of great need.

On the positive side, we were able to sign a contract with a New Jersey based company, Reflective Energy Solutions, to supply our solar energy as well as each unit of traditional electricity. We need more time to assess the savings side of this, but it keeps us on our path to becoming a more green presence in our community.

Many thanks to the countless individuals who anonymously donated their time to assist in projects ranging from removing a diseased deer carcass to the care of our beloved Rose's Garden. Thanks also to John Ormiston for his countless hours of assistance with the many responsibilities of the sexton job. And last, but certainly not least, we welcome our own Greg Smith as the newly appointed sexton.

As I leave my chairmanship of Buildings and Grounds I would like to thank Wally Becker and Andy Reid for their tireless efforts on behalf of our church and their unending support throughout this difficult year.

Respectfully yours,
Sandy Barton, Chair
Buildings and Grounds Committee

CAPITAL CAMPAIGN ANNUAL REPORT FOR 2020

2020 was for the Capital Campaign a mixed blessing of sorts. We had just finished a series of fund raising in the latter part of 2019 and as of Jan 1, 2020, the restricted Cap Campaign fund balance was \$25,800.

We started the year with great promise that a grant proposal to the Hyde and Watson Foundation would help us approach our goal of \$50,000. Through work by Mona Smith and committee we applied but unfortunately were not awarded a grant at that time. As with everything in March, Covid -19 shut down our committee and any progress that we planned for the year to reach our goal for the Phase III renovation of the kitchen.

As the pandemic moved into our lives the project momentum slowed through the summer.

Fortunately, through the work of the Finance Chair, M&T Bank and the SBA we applied for and received a low interest loan and in September we added \$63,000 to our fund and ended the year with a balance of \$89,222.

Having instantly met the goal the Cap Committee met in late October in joint session with the Buildings and Grounds to resume the project and plan for the use of these funds. A schedule of items to be contracted out has been developed and are to be quoted. As covid is still languishing appointments have been hard to schedule with contractors.

We are optimistically looking forward from now to finish the planning, award the work and get this project completed this summer.

By Committee-

Wally Becker, Lynn Brown, Cathy Carnevale, Jean Duncan, Andy Reid

Youth Christian Education annual report for FPCP, 2020

submitted by Carolyn Llewellyn, January 2021

2020, of course, was a trying year for all. **Sunday School started out normal**, with volunteer teachers preparing lessons and teaching anywhere from one to ten students. Teachers in January through March were Rachel Emig, Ana Silverlinck, Sally Smith, Bev Taylor, Nina Velez, and myself.

COVID hit just as we were about to begin rehearsals for the **spring 2020 Easter pageant**. Families were emailed the script and other resources for discussing and celebrating Easter at home. The week after Easter, I began emailing families a **weekly Christian Education email**. The email is still going, usually sent on Saturday evenings. It includes greetings, a reminder that the church is available to help families in any way, a link to the weekend's zoom worship service, scriptures and some corresponding thoughts, and activity ideas for children and families. Responses have been favorable. The emails go out to 34 families, 12 of whom are not members of the church.

After the shutdown, Dr.Doris continued to engage the teens, working to transition the confirmation class from last year into a **youth group**. As Lent began, several youth joined with her to create art and participate in the first Sunday service of Lent, introducing the theme of "wilderness". During the pandemic several zoom meetings were held with varying levels of attendance, from zero to five of the eight teens who had been in the class. Dr.Doris invited all of the teens to the church for a masked/distanced goodbye before she left in October. Roy and Elaine were there.

Spring is when the church presents **Bibles to third-graders**. Bibles with embossed names were ordered and delivered to the homes of seven children: Allegra Clementson, Sarah Emig, Aya Hull, Kayla Tangen, Brooke Taylor, Natalie Taylor, and Caelan McDermott. Dr.Doris included a letter with each that had a special scripture verse or passage chosen for each child.

June brought celebrations for our **high school graduates**. Julie Geller, Molly Reid, and Riley Johanson each received a letter of congratulations and a plant and paper "balloons" from the church, and a visit from myself and Dr.Doris. Doris shared a blessing and a prayer with each family.

As the summer ended, we remembered the "**backpack blessing**" that we have had in church in recent years. Bev Taylor led her grandchildren in painting river rocks with hearts, smiles, and other encouraging designs. The weekend before school began, 27 families received deliveries with a painted rock for each child along with a note, Psalm 18:2 (*The Lord is my rock, my fortress my deliverer...*) and blessings for health and the school year. Five months later folks tell me that they still treasure their rocks. Thank you, Taylors!

In the fall we had one in-person Sunday School class. The first Sunday in October was Dr.Doris' last Sunday with FPCP. Six children attended the outdoor program at Mayor's Park. We met in a far corner of the field and enjoyed Bible story charades and discussing the 121st Psalm, raising our eyes to the hills.

Despite the pandemic we managed to have some special Christmas events. **Advent wreath kits** containing candles, greenery, instructions, and an FPCP bookmark were distributed to 28 families from our wider church community. The Sunday mornings of Advent saw some children with their parents on our church zoom worship services for the lighting of the Advent wreath. Other families reported lighting the wreath at home together each week. This is especially nice since our pageant rehearsals usually mean we do not focus much on the Advent tradition and symbolism during Sunday School.

Tom McCoy took extra time to put together the voices of about a dozen children into an FPCP **youth choir** singing *Away in a Manger*. This lovely recording was shared on the Sunday before Christmas, along with the **online pageant**. Tess Dul compiled videos submitted from 14 families to create an extraordinary telling of the Christmas story. Thank you Tom and Tess! Since we are all digital this year I will link both here for your enjoyment. These are treasures that continue to bless a wide community of friends and family of the children involved.

FPCP online youth choir, 12/20, Away in a Manger:

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1STWuR3Yst6k4zWhEI7xx-G0QzINPvoaB/view?usp=sharing>

FPCP online Christmas pageant, 12/20:

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/12alLdoHroB3DfOgiEnj2ZYz1Hjr3-jgv/view?usp=sharing>

In addition to the virtual artistry, thanks to Janet Barton, we had a lovely in-person COVID-safe **Sunday School Christmas celebration** at the church. A dozen youth and their grown-ups gathered, masked and distanced,

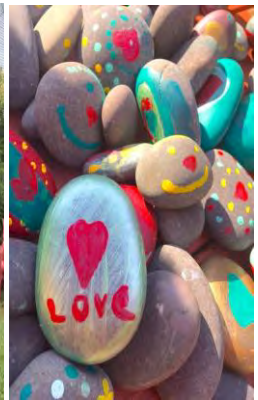
outside the church. The snow made for a beautiful scene as children played around the church, just like in the lovely painting by Michael Kelley. The centerpiece was a rustic manger made by Janet's son. The children brought cards and artwork to be shared with senior members of the congregation who cannot gather with family this year. They were placed as an offering in the manger. Hot chocolate and brownies were enjoyed. Janet gathered everyone and talked about the meaning of the candles on the Advent wreath. We hummed a few carols and every child was given a goody bag including lovely ornaments, some treats, and masks that say "love and peace". It was a beautiful, soul-feeding hour.

Throughout the pandemic, thanks to the creativity and dedication of adult volunteers and the youth themselves, **we have managed to stay connected**. New families have joined our community. We had a parent and child who are new to our church attend the in-person Christmas event, and a different child who is new to the church participated in the pageant.

Please join me in praying for the young people of our church, and that God will continue to call adults to work with them. We are so grateful to those, mentioned above, who have taught Sunday School and led programs this year. My hope is that we will continue to have volunteers to orchestrate Sunday School and pageants, in whatever form they take, and that a leader can emerge for some sort of youth group for teens.

Children who participated in church happenings this year have included: Eli and Riley Barton, Allagra and Marcello Clementson, Aurelias Drinnon, Ryan and Andrew Duncan, Silas and Sarah Emig, Maggie and Jack Gordineer, Aya Hull, Elaine and James Llewellyn, Matty and Athena Portman, Evie and Brooks Schick, Audrey and River Silverlinck, Roy Smith, Sophia and Natalie and Ethan Taylor, Brooke and Christopher and Nicholas Taylor, Kayla and Garret and Emme and James Tangen, Rosie and Louisa and Theodore Sanchez Thompson .

Enjoy some photos!



Annual Report 2020 – Communications & Technology

We saw tremendous change in our church communications and technology beginning in March 2020, when COVID-19 was deemed a pandemic in New York State, and self-quarantining and sheltering-in-place became our new normal.

1. Worship services: First on video, then online.

a) Initially, in March, we produced videos of Sunday services. These videos were available to watch online, on demand -- on Facebook and via links on our website. We also offered short videos of youth sermons. We're grateful to former pastor Rev. Dr. Doris Chandler, Director of Music **Tom McCoy**, and Clerk of Session **Lynn Brown** for video content and to **Ana Silverlinck** for filming, editing, and post-production.

b) We then switched to online services Zoom, a remote meeting platform (*see #2 below*). Many thanks to **Lynn Brown**, **Tess Dul**, **Tom McCoy**, and others who have worked on screen and behind the scenes to make dozens of online services happen.

2. ZOOM remote meeting platform. During the pandemic, we gathered safely on screen for services, programs, meetings, and activities via Zoom. While this new technology has proved challenging at times, it has also offered some blessings – for example, those who live far away or find it difficult for other reasons to travel to our church building are now able to join us online and on screen! To date, FPCP has used Zoom every week, and often several times each week, for:

- **Services:** We've enjoyed dozens of worship services online. Last month we gathered on screen to light Advent candles and celebrate Christmas together.
- **Session:** Session met regularly via Zoom throughout the pandemic to keep administration of the church and its missions/outreach running smoothly.
- **Adult Ed:** During Lent, **Rev. Rachel Thompson** piloted a Zoom study group; **Lynn Brown** has been instrumental in moving all Adult Ed gatherings online.
- **Youth Group:** Teens met online regularly in the spring with the former pastor.
- Our **meditation group**, **Book Club**, **Green Team**, **committees**, and **work groups** continue to use Zoom to meet, to socialize, and to get things done.

3. Website resources. In March, we used the website to explain Session's decision to close the sanctuary during the pandemic for safety, and we posted a letter from our former pastor to put this decision in a caring context.

Thereafter, on the website:

- Our **home page** was regularly updated with service and programming announcements, photos of outdoor and online services, as well as hyperlinks to new COVID-10 related resources, including helpful information on how to access our video, online, and outdoor services (*see next bullet point*).
- **New COVID-19 web pages** were created including a blog for the former pastor and online/outdoor worship service resources including: guidelines for outdoor worship; links and information for downloading Zoom and to receive weekly Zoom links to services; and weekly lectionary (scripture) readings.
- **All web pages were updated** to provide COVID-19 information on our shift to online gathering for some programs and temporary suspension of others.
- **Major revisions to our mission pages** provided essential COVID-19 info about our critical mission programs that continued to operate during the pandemic: our Food Pantry, PAPA Meals, and the Midnight Run. We increased the Pantry's visibility by adding "Pantry" to the navigation bar. We created new text describing the huge increase in clients served; added downloadable registration forms in Spanish and English; moved the donation button to a more prominent position; and posted new images courtesy of Glynwood.

4. Facebook page. Our Facebook page proved to be especially important during the first few months of the pandemic. We used it to relay time-sensitive info to our online community -- for example, canceling an outdoor service due to weather and moving to an online service instead. We also used Facebook as a key resource to:

- Post our initial video services for on-demand viewing
- Invite our community to our safe outdoor and online services, and to share pictures and short videos of those services
- Keep our FPCP/online community connected through online engagement; people enjoy posting comments and questions, and having FPCP respond.
- Request donations/volunteers for mission/outreach; re-posting on community FB pages like “Cold Spring Neighbors” proved successful in attracting new donors/volunteers -- very important re: **Midnight Runs** by **Ron Sopyla**
- Relay updates about our critical mission work to the wider community, and to thank and recognize FPCP members, neighbors, community groups, scout troops, the Lions Club, etc. for their amazing donations and volunteer efforts
- Call attention to social justice issues and urgent community needs (BLM, food insecurity) and demonstrate via posts and images FPCP members’ activism
- Post a video of our Sunday School’s virtual Christmas Pageant for on-demand viewing by friends and family members far and near

5. Newsletter goes digital: FPCP’s *Community News*. FPCP started publishing a bi-monthly print newsletter in January 2015, usually distributing **50 printed copies** in church and a handful by regular mail. We published the last two print editions of our newsletter in January and March of 2020. On April 1, we began to use a new online communications platform, **Constant Contact**, to publish our new ***Community News***, a colorful, digital newsletter emailed to 230+ people almost weekly, enhancing our engagement and outreach. Here are some reasons we decided to go digital:

- Digital newsletters sent via email are more **cost-effective** than color printing. We can have more stories, pictures, and information in each newsletter. We can also send out newsletters more frequently via email – we now send out our *Community News* almost weekly, as compared to every other month!
- Digital newsletters were **a safe and practical way to publish during COVID-19**.
- Digital newsletters sent via email are more **eco-friendly** than paper, and our Green Team has a goal of reducing our church’s paper usage.
- Our new *Community News* is full of **hyperlinks** that allow people to instantly and easily jump to our website or our Facebook page for more information, or to quickly send off an email to church/FPCP volunteer email addresses.
- Our new *Community News* **can be easily forwarded** to friends, family, and neighbors via email, which helps us engage more people.

As a comparison: **In 2020, we published and distributed 41 editions of our digital newsletter over just 10 months**, whereas from 2015-2020, we published and distributed **just 32 editions of our print newsletter over 5+ years**.

2020 METRICS & MEASUREMENTS: COMMUNICATIONS & TECHNOLOGY

Church Website: www.presbychurchcoldspring.org

Our website continues to provide key information and images via these pages: **About FPCP, Worship, Food Pantry & Other Missions, Education, Music & Arts, and Capital Campaign.** Website visitors can opt to **join our email list**. They can make **online donations** to our general fund, missions, and capital campaign. Overall, our website visitation continues to grow slowly and steadily, attracting (on average) **more visitors each month**, and our visitors are spending more time on our site to look at more pages. Our website hosting platform, Weebly.com, offers us these December-over-December metrics to help us assess our growth:

Website Metrics	Dec 2019	Dec 2020	% increase
Unique web site visitors per month	313	414	32%
Total pages viewed by visitors per month	644	795	23%
Average # of pages viewed by visitors	1.99	2.12	7%

Church Facebook Page: www.facebook.com/ChurchOfTheOpenDoorColdSpring/

FPCP's Facebook community is steadily growing! In 2020, our Facebook page had more posts than ever before, and more engagement – especially in the early months of the pandemic. Facebook continues to be an effective way for us to meet new people on line, to increase our church's visibility, and to communicate with the greater Philipstown community and our Hudson Valley neighbors. We can see the growth of our Facebook community in this table:

Facebook Page Metrics	As of Dec 2019	As of Dec 2020	% increase
# people who like +/or follow us	159	270	70%
Highest post reach in 1 month	4,357	7,262	67%
Most post engagements, 1 month	1,306	1,983	52%
Most videos views in 1 month	1,534	3,005	96%

Our New Digital Newsletter: *FPCP's Community News*

From April 1 to December 31, we published 41 editions of FPCP's *Community News*. We welcomed many photo and text submissions, plus chatty emails from readers! We rekindled communications with old friends and made new friends, too. During the pandemic, the weekly *Community News* emails helped our friends and members to stay in touch, and to participate in the life of our congregation as fully as possible.

Constant Contact Metrics	FPCP	Industry Standard	% difference
% people who open/read newsletters	43%	23%	FPCP = +20%
% people who click on newsletter links	13%	15%	FPCP = + 2%

In Closing

Thank you to everyone who contributed images and content this year to our FPCP website, our Facebook page, and our digital newsletter, the *Community News*.

FPCP cordially welcomes your story ideas, photographs, videos, calendar items, announcements, mission updates, and other kinds of wonderful content that we can feature on our web site, our Facebook page, and our *Community News*! Please email any and all material to: outreach1presbyterian@gmail.com. Thank you!

Respectfully submitted,
Elder Mona Z. Smith

CONGREGATIONAL LIFE REPORT 2020

The year of 2020 presented First Presbyterian Church with an unprecedented situation dealing with the Covid 19 pandemic that prevented us from entering our sanctuary and meeting in person from March forward.

This presented Congregational Life with the issue of reaching out to our church congregation of family and friends without meeting in person. So, we sought to find ways in keeping our congregation together, meeting through zoom worship, phone calls and home deliveries. First a phone network was established so that elders and deacons would have a list of church members and friends to contact monthly to see if prayers or pastoral outreach was needed. Then, prior to Easter, 65 tulips and daffodils were ordered and then delivered to the congregation with the help of Annie and Wally Becker, Ron Sopyla, and Cathy Carnevale as a symbol of our connection to one another. We continued our Lunch Bunch visits on zoom the second Tuesday of every month, but we found it a poor substitution for the real joy of sitting together and having lunch at a local restaurant. A decision was made in the fall to put our “zoom” lunches on hold until we meet can once again meet in person. The book club, which meets once a month, resorted to zoom get-together for our book discussions. Thanks goes to Cathy Carnevale who scheduled our zoom meetings and Jean Llewellyn in helping to organize our reading choices.

Congregational Life participated in a Presbytery sponsored conference via zoom, that spelled out the New York State regulations that were needed to return to public worship. An established time frame for returning to indoor worship was unknown and based upon the infection rates of our area. Following these regulations, Worship and Arts determined we could safely meet for outdoor worship and with the help of Carolyn Llewellyn securing the pavilion at Mayor’s Park, we were able to meet throughout the summer months and into the fall following the regulations as established by NY State Forward Plan. Fall was upon us and in normal times we would be planning the church homecoming. Instead, we brought together our delivery team to bring beautiful fall mums that usually grace our sanctuary, right to homes.

Finally, as Advent approached and we were not able to return to our sanctuary, the delivery team went to work making golden Advent bags with an Advent calendar, a kindness calendar, treats, gifts and a special candle to be used for the beloved Christmas service that would be held by remotely.

Understanding this is a difficult time for everyone, Congregational Life strives to continue to keep us united and supported, even in these difficult times.

Respectfully submitted,
Beverly Taylor



2020 Annual Report for the FPCP Deacons

Deacons are ordained to the service of the congregation. The Deacons who served in 2020 were: Pat Guest, Jean Duncan, Jean Llewellyn, Cathy Carnevale, Karen Tangen, Janet Barton, and Nina Velez.

The year began with the Deacons carrying out their normal duties of preparing the monthly and every-Sunday Lenten communion at the church, as well as preparing for the coffee and refreshments after church services. Things changed abruptly as a result of the Covid-19 Pandemic. We tried for several weeks to alter procedures to accommodate safe no-contact communion during Lent, before it became clear that services could no longer be held indoors.

Some Deacon activities continued unabated. Deacons provide for the monthly Peekskill Area Pastor's Association meal once each month. This was kindly prepared by the Dul Family and delivered by a volunteer. Also, Janet Barton took on the responsibility for sending cards to FPCP friends and members for illness, holidays, sympathy, thank you, thinking of you, etc.. Anyone in the Care Network routinely was sent a caring card from Janet on behalf of the Deacons and the church.

By the end of March, the Deacons and Elders had partnered with the Congregational Life Committee to perform Community Outreach during the pandemic. This consisted of breaking the existing directory up into smaller lists with Deacons and Elders regularly calling persons on their lists to see how they were doing. Because the existing directory was seriously out of date, one of the Deacons led an effort to update the old directory. In May a new directory was emailed or mailed by post to all church members, so everyone could stay in touch during these trying times. As happens, people took notice of this "new" directory and sent back further updates, so a "new" new directory was emailed out to everyone in June.

Because we could not enjoy a sanctuary filled with Easter flowers, 65 tulips and daffodils were purchased and delivered to the congregation with the help of Bev Taylor, Annie and Wally Becker, Ron Sopyla, and Cathy Carnevale. Similarly, we delivered chrysanthemums in the fall, when we normally would come together for church Homecoming, so no one would be missing the "mums" and, well, everyone likes flowers delivered to their door.

By the Advent season, the well-attended church Zoom services and Adult Study sessions demonstrated that our church was staying pretty well connected. Nevertheless, Congregational Life and the Deacons decided to partner again to make the season special (as if the Christmas pageant was not enough). We prepared Advent bags with an Advent calendar, a kindness calendar, candy, gifts and a special candle to be used for the virtual Christmas Eve service; and these bags were delivered to church members. We have found that the delivery volunteers get so much joy from seeing smiles and hearing in-person "Thank yous" from the church family, that they are looking forward to another round of deliveries. Stay tuned.

Thank you to all the Deacons for your service to our church!



Finance 2020 Annual Report

Church operating revenues for 2020 exceeded related expenses by approximately 17%. This \$32000 operating gain was achieved despite starting the year with a projected budget deficit of approximately \$6000.

A loan for \$22400 under the Paycheck Protection Program was obtained and it has been fully forgiven by the Small Business Administration-- turning it into a grant. Three other grants were obtained totaling an additional \$6200. If these four grants had not been obtained, the church would still have ended 2020 with an operating gain of \$3438(1.8%).

Pledged and unpledged income along with plate offerings were below budget by approximately \$14000(12%) while expenses associated with payroll, office expenses and programs were below budget by about \$28500(20%). Our overall financial condition is markedly improved with all bills being timely paid and increased funds balances in all major accounts.

Over the last year, our endowment fund has increased by nearly 40% from \$159011 to \$221985 due to the receipt of a \$42000 bequest, loan repayments and investment gains. The balance in the Capital Campaign Fund has increased to \$89222 due largely to obtaining a low interest loan under the Economic Injury Disaster Loan program for \$63200. It is expected that these funds will enhance our ability to complete needed renovations--starting with the kitchen project. The balance in the Food Pantry account has increased exponentially since the onset of the pandemic, reflecting dramatic growth in community financial support. Details on the growth in this important mission will be covered in a separate report.

Our budget for 2021 bears careful monitoring as we continue to experience the constraints of economic hardships brought on by the pandemic. At this time, we project an operating deficit of \$6835(4.6%). This reflects both a reduction in revenues and expenses with the latter being driven primarily by reduced payrolls as we await the naming of a new pastor.

Respectfully submitted,

Barry Llewellyn, Finance Committee Chairman

**FPCP 2021 BUDGET
EXPENSES**

	2019 Budget	16-'18 Average	2020 Budget	2021 Budget
Bldg Expenses	\$ 12,000.00	\$ 11,516.00	\$ 12,000.00	\$ 14,000.00
Insurance	\$ 10,000.00	\$ 8,098.00	\$ 8,500.00	\$ 7,000.00
Manse Expenses	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 920.00	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 1,000.00
Office Expenses	\$ 6,000.00	\$ 6,889.00	\$ 7,000.00	\$ 6,000.00
Pastor Discret.	\$ 2,000.00	\$ 1,842.00	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 1,000.00
Pastor Expenses	\$ 3,500.00	\$ 2,275.00	\$ 3,901.00	\$ 4,000.00
Presb'y Per Capita	\$ 5,000.00	\$ 4,165.00	\$ 2,037.00	\$ 4,000.00
Program Expenses	\$ 10,000 .00	\$ 14,584.00	\$ 15,000.00	\$ 15,000.00
Loan Payment(EIDL)	\$	\$	\$	\$ 3,240.00
Payroll##	\$ 122,000.00		\$ 123,402.00	\$ 99,595.00
Total Excl. Payroll	\$ 49,500.00	\$ 50,289.00	\$ 50,438.00	\$ 55,240.00
TOTAL	\$ 171,500.00		\$ 173,840.00	\$ 154,835.00

##Does not include overtime; assumes interim pastor begins on 5/1/2021 at same TOC as Dr. Chandler

REVENUE

	2019 Budget	16-'18 Average	2020 Budget	2021 Budget
Pledges	\$ 115,000.00	\$ 108,540.00	\$ 104,000.00	\$ 94,000.00
Un pledges	\$ 10,000.00	\$ 12,567.00	\$ 10,000.00	\$ 9,000.00
Open Plate	\$ 4,400.00	\$ 3,635.00	\$ 4,000.00	\$ 3,000.00
Jazz Vespers	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 2,258.00	\$ 2,000.00	\$ 500.00
Manse Rental	\$ 33,600.00	\$ 32,554.00	\$ 35,500.00	\$ 36,000.00
Space Use	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 1,419.00	\$ 1,500.00	\$
CNS	\$ 6,500.00	\$ 5,831.00	\$ 7,000.00	\$ 3,000.00
Program Offsets*			\$ 3,700.00	\$ 2,500.00
TOTAL	\$ 171,500.00	\$ 166,804.00	\$ 167,700.00	\$ 148,000.00

*Contr's to Per capita, Glynnwood Shares, Habitat, Give A Goat and CNS Scholarships

Mission Report 2020

Our mission activities this year were both greatly curtailed and expanded. The pandemic shut down volunteer work for Habitat for Humanity. We had to discontinue our large Midnight Run trips into the city too. But we had the opportunity to continue small Midnight Runs servicing fewer people each trip, but allowing for social distancing and safer delivery of goods to the homeless. Instead of doing trips twice a year, we have been doing monthly trips.

At first the trips were done solo by Ron Sopyla, servicing 25 people each time, but more people started to volunteer and we have been able to increase the number of people served each trip to about 60.

Connie Knapp of the Hudson River Presbytery facilitated the creation of a network of churches willing to help on the Midnight Runs. These are churches who can no longer go on the Runs, but are eager to contribute.

Through the network we have solicited support from other churches, and they have come through with generous donations of toiletry kits. These churches include Palisades Presbyterian, Scarborough Presbyterian, St. Philips Episcopal, Rye Presbyterian, Bedford Presbyterian, Yorktown Presbyterian, and the Philipstown Reform Synagogue.

Side Note: Toiletry kits are not a trivial contribution, the personal hygiene supplies are much needed and valued by the people on the street. The Putnam County Department of health has contributed condoms and HIV information pamphlets to go into the toiletry kits.

We have posted sign-up sheets for donations on Sign-Up Genius and the response from the community has been overwhelming. There are too many people to thank.

Special thanks to the volunteers who have joined on the Runs, David Harkness, Andy and Sandy Larivee, Susan Jordan (for coming to the city and all the friendship bread!), Rachel Thompson, Mike Bernstein, Jill Shoffiett and their daughter Molly.

Thanks to Dale Williams of the Run office, and Alberto and Iorgo, our guides on the Runs.

And many thanks to Joe Gilmore, whose vision and compassion began the Runs many years ago.

Joe used this poem once in a service. It speaks to the heart of the Midnight Run. He sent me a copy:

The poet was Michael Goldman, the title was: "Report on Human Beings". Here it is.

"There came into my head
the question of how we might describe
human beings to rational creatures
who were not human
and had no direct contact with us...
so I had to think about
what was distinctly human.
What was most wonderful about us
was our kindness,
but of this it is impossible to speak.
Only someone who knows our cruelty,
who knows the fears we always lived with,
fear of inside and outside, smooth and rough,
soft and hard, wet and dry, touch and no touch,
only someone who understands the great palace we built
on the axis of time
out of our fear and cruelty and called history,
only those who have lived in the anger
of a great modern city,
who saw the traffic in the morning
and the police at night
can know how heartbreaking
our kindness was."

"Glad to send the poem along. By the way, I hope people understood that though I was certainly talking about inter-personal relationships, I meant more than that: the Midnight Run is driven by an economy of kindness. There is also a housing policy resting on kindness, and a foreign policy, and an immigration policy, etc. For what it's worth. Best, Joe"

- Ron Sopyla

2020 Report of the Personnel Committee

It has been another tumultuous year for the staff of our church. After almost thirteen years of service our Office Administrator, Christine Lawrence, resigned and moved with her husband to Spring Hill, Florida. Prior to her last day of work on December 12, 2019, Kate Elliot, who worked with her for several days to learn the main procedures of the position, replaced her. Unfortunately, Kate Elliot subsequently abruptly resigned for personal reasons early in the spring, leaving Ralph Cottier to manage the immediate financial necessities until a replacement could be found for Kate. The session is extremely grateful to Ralph for restoring order to the fiscal records. The position of Office Administrator was then filled by Greg Smith who worked with Ralph to learn the routine procedures and the technical challenges of the position.

Our part-time Stated Supply Pastor, Rev. Dr. Doris Chandler, resigned to accept a full time position in Michigan, initiating an effort to find an interim pastor, an effort that is currently underway.

There was also unusual turnover in the Sexton's position as a succession of Sextons served for relatively short periods of time. We are grateful to Elders Sandy Barton and B. Andrew Reid, and to Wally Backer, for their efforts to recruit sexton candidates. Greg Smith was finally hired for the sexton position, which meshed happily with his work as Office Administrator.

Tom McCoy celebrated his 22-nd anniversary as our Minister of Music in June. He continues to provide exceptional music for each service, whether improvised or recalled from his wealth of musical memories.

Respectively submitted,
The Personnel Committee
Ralph Cottiers, Chair
Gareth Guest, Beverly Taylor

Stewardship Report for 2020

This is to thank you for your generosity in giving of your time, talent, and resources, to support the ministry of "The Church of the Open Door" in 2020, a year which has challenged us all in more ways than we could ever have imagined! Though we are not gathering in person for worship at this time, or for the foreseeable future, the life and work of the church goes on!

Our Food Pantry is serving more clients than ever, and the numbers continue to rise. Fortunately, so does the support of the church and the community to provide sustenance to those in need!

While our other outreach opportunities are mostly on hold, we continue to support Habitat for Humanity of Greater Newburgh as a Presbybuild partner congregation, and the Midnight Run to provide food and toiletries for those living on the street in NYC. While we are not sending groups, Ron Sopyla has been doing 'solo' runs, on a smaller and more limited scale – again with wonderful support from the congregation and community. As we live through this time of COVID-19, we understand ever more clearly the importance of food and shelter to daily existence and health.

Music Director Tom McCoy, the Worship & Arts Committee, and a host of guests and friends in our pulpit continue to provide Sunday worship experiences via the Zoom platform on a weekly basis, as we negotiate the technological challenges of way of virtual gathering.

Zoom has also provided a means for our Session and committees to meet, and for the Sunday Adult study group, and the Wednesday morning prayer group to continue.

The Congregational Life Team and our Deacons are working to keep us all connected, and you should also be receiving the weekly email written by Mona Smith, which keeps us up to date on upcoming events.

We are especially grateful if you have been able to maintain your level of giving to the church during this time. And we hope that, if possible, you have made, or will make an estimate of giving for 2021. Last year our 34 pledges totaled approx \$100,000. For 2021, thus far, we have 17 of our 34 previous pledges totaling just under \$70,000. We know that some families have been adversely affected by the pandemic, and our system is different this year, but it's not too late! Please consider a pledge to the church if you have not yet done so.

You may mail the estimate of giving, and any checks for donation to FPCP 10 Academy St. Cold Spring, NY 10516. You may also donate by automatic checks, or use our website www.presbychurchcoldspring.org for online giving to the church.

Please reach out if you are in need – your church family is here for you!

With gratitude and hope for the future,

Your Stewardship Team – Lynn Brown and Diana Geller

Worship and Arts End of Year Report

It's been a rough year. We stopped using the sanctuary for services in March, and since our last congregational meeting, our pulpit has been filled by supply pastors and elders at least 21 times. It feels like a year without a pastor and a year without a sanctuary. But neither are what define a church. Our hearts became the sanctuaries and our congregation and the community of the Hudson River Presbytery became our pastors. We led each other through a year of pandemic and national turmoil, feeding the hungry, clothing the naked, caring for the sick, counseling the troubled and afflicted.

After we had to close the sanctuary in March, we began ZOOM services. Those who could not attend online were able to do so via phone connections. This remains the case. In August, thanks to the efforts and inspiration of Carolyn Llewellyn, we began outdoor services at Mayor's Park. It was great to see everyone's faces again, listen to live music and be inspired by the beauty of our hills, trees and waterfront. When the weather became chilly again in October we retreated to the warmth of our homes and attended online.

During our online and in person time, we've managed to celebrate communion, mostly on a BYO basis. Bev Taylor researched and purchased the cutest pre-packaged communion kits featuring a slug of grape juice in a plastic chalice and something resembling an oyster cracker for the eucharist. Many thanks to Bev for this. I must say, If I were a kid, I would have loved these!

Kudos again to Bev and Cathy Carnevale for masterminding three projects that brought us all together and kept the sense of a church community alive: Delivering flowering plants at Easter, mums in the fall, and advent kits in anticipation of Christmas.

Rev Dr. Doris Chandler submitted her letter of resignation to the congregation in September and left several weeks after that following a vacation. This was preceded by vacation, a study leave, and prior to that, in 2019, extensive sick leave. There is a feeling of abandonment due to so many absences, but we were cared for by many ministers and elders who stepped into our pulpit on a repeat basis. Thanks and thanks again to Rev. David Harkness and Rev. Martha Louise Harkness, Rev. Rachel Thompson and Rev. Joe Gilmore, General Presbyter Deborah Milcarek, Rev. Peter Johnson, Elder Lynn Brown, Elder Connie Knapp, Elder Susan Jordan, Rev. Bill Doster, Rev. Susan DeGeorge. Apologies to anyone I may have missed.

Special thanks to Tom McCoy for soldiering on and struggling with technology to improve the sound quality of our online music. It still ain't like hearing Tom live, but sooo very nice to hear each Sunday, beautiful, soothing, and fun. Thanks to Tess Dul and Michele Humphrey-Nicol, and Ana Silverlinck working as our web gurus. And thanks to Lynn Brown for creating the power points, communications liaison, idea person and source of necessary reminders.

And that was truly the best Christmas pageant ever thanks to Carolyn Llewellyn, Janet Barton and all the Sunday school parents and kids. A real baby, a ranting Herod, Magi with a scroll of hieroglyphs, nativity scene puppets, parents and kids working together, who could ask for more!

In March, shortly before the shut-down We were awarded the technology grant for \$2,000 from the Presbytery. Special thanks to Gareth Guest, Rachel Thompson and Ana Silverlinck for extra time spent in researching and writing up the grant. Special thanks too to Rev. Chandler for spearheading the project. We are using the grant to purchase technology to allow us to live stream services.

- Ron Sopyla

FPCP Annual Report 2020— Music

Not long before the unforgettable, impactful Rev. Joe Gilmore passed away, husband of our beloved Parish Associate Rev. Rachel Thompson — so suddenly, so tragically for us in our loss of him, and unspeakably so for Rachel — she and I were discussing music selections for FPCP's Christmas Eve online service, which they were slated to lead. Rachel had seen a virtual choir video of Handel's Hallelujah Chorus online and found it so inspiring that she wondered if we might use it for our own service. I loved the idea but proposed using our own FPCP virtual choir version instead. Coincidentally, work had already begun on it, but learning of how Rachel was so moved by what she had seen fired me up to want to make our own Hallelujah Chorus something extra special, hopefully to approximate her vision of the service.

Rachel related how moving was the sheer spirit of the performers, many obviously non-professionals. My hope was that the authenticity of our doing our own version, all in-house with our own highly talented congregation members and friends, might approximate her vision of Hallelujah for the service, even despite the glaring absence of the video component from ours, which we were not yet equipped to handle integrating into the production, only the audio.

Rachel and I never got to finish that conversation. Not long after it had begun, God moved and Joe was called back to his heavenly home. Rachel, grieving with family, was unable to Zoom with us for the Christmas Eve Candlelight Service. But this turn of events only served to strengthen my resolve that our humble virtual Hallelujah be worthy of being an offering in tribute to Joe's life and legacy and to our gratitude for having Rachel in our terrestrial midst.

So, Rachel, this one's for you.

In that spirit, since the initial airing of our virtual Hallelujah on Christmas Eve, work on it has continued, massaging and refining the recording, smoothing out rough edges, adding a little spice, doggedly slogging up the learning curve of too-often buggy digital audio tools. The many lessons learned along the way (such as optimal workflows and software-glitch workarounds) should serve well for our next big virtual choir project — Easter

In the meantime, links to the music broadcast on Christmas Eve will be posted soon to our website. Whether you missed or already heard it, to listen now, albeit out-of-season, would be to honor so many gifts of love. Besides the Hallelujah Chorus, there are several carols with gorgeous solos. Also noteworthy is the participation of singers from far and wide, beyond our congregation. All these details will be posted along with the audio.

A note on *virtual choir*: what is it, and how does it work?

As most of us well know, ever since that fateful church choir rehearsal last year somewhere in Washington State resulted in 40 new Covid cases, church choir singing became verboten. Hence, the birth of the virtual choir.

The idea behind it is both simple and ingenious: each singer and instrumentalist is provided with an accompaniment recording; they listen with headphones from one device while recording their own part on another device. Then, with the help of readily-available, state-of-the-art audio-editing software, an audio engineer (in our situation, the music director), compiles, synchronizes and edits all of these recordings into a harmonious whole.

The devil being in the details, executing this simple concept comes with a unique set of challenges, of course. Everyone attempting this thing faces their own learning curve — performers as well as engineer. But until the pandemic is over and we may congregate again, virtual choir is the only choir.

Up till now, integrating video with our virtual audio recording seemed out of our grasp as the task of compiling and editing mountains of audio tracks was daunting enough. Now that we've made significant headway with audio — with producing virtual choir, as well with improving audio quality over Zoom — it is my hope that for Easter we can have video along with the audio for the complete virtual choir experience.

Nothing can replace the satisfaction of singing, playing and listening together in each others' presence. It is much more difficult and less rewarding to sing or play along to a recording than to sing as a part of a group. There is a ton of subtle, unconscious live communication that transpires between performers, as well as with the audience in live performance and rehearsal. Timing cues from subtle body language; instantaneous pitch-adjustments; intangible emotions, for instance. Yet, virtual choir is not without its own unique pleasures. For one thing, it is possible to create a huge sound, way out of proportion with the number of performers available. The trick? There are several: you can simply record some performers in multiple takes — a “multiplier effect”; the recruiting of performers is not limited by geography — we had a tenor from Philadelphia, PA and an alto and tenor from Berkeley, CA. And this is before even considering what digital effects can do. For instance, digital audio allows you to emulate the greatest concert halls and cathedrals in the world as your acoustic backdrop. And much more.

So, while we must mourn the hiatus of live performing, we can only make the most of what gifts are currently available. It is true that with the low-cost technology currently available, there has never been a better time for virtual music.

And when this whole pandemic thing is finally over, we will treasure singing and playing and praying and laughing and crying and simply talking together face-to-face as never before possible. Let's try to hold on to that as we ride this thing out.

In Love and Spirit, your Tom McCoy

Introducing: The Green Team!

Based on her work with the Hudson River Presbytery “HRP Green” Team, Rev. Rachel Thompson proposed that FPCP begin our own Green Team. Rachel had presented the rationale in a sermon during worship in early 2020, and the Session agreed to begin the initiative.

Invitations to join the newly-formed team were extended, and a series of meetings were held after church on Sundays. The Deacons joined in as our Lent “Zero Waste Challenge” began, with elimination of disposables at coffee hour and church events. The Office Administrator was requested to order recyclable paper supply and cleaning products whenever possible. Communications were shared regularly in the weekly eblast, and on our website and facebook page by Mona Smith, to include helpful suggestions for going green at home.

The Green Team applied for, with the endorsement of the Session, a Presbytery “Challenge to Change” grant and was awarded \$6,400 for a three-year plan, most notably to replace existing grass with more sustainable and lower maintenance plants and to create a pollinator garden. This momentum inspired the team to connect with local landscapers who, along with team members, did a walk-about and presented a plan. Thanks to Wally Becker, we now have an outdoor water connection in front of the church to assist in the process.

The project was somewhat de-railed by the COVID pandemic, and the landscape plan is under revision to begin on a smaller scale, in a couple of plots at a time during 2021. Thanks to Jean Llewellyn who will be working with our landscapers on this process.

Additional thanks to Buildings & Grounds Chair Sandy Barton who came on board hooking into solar energy sources, and reported that in our energy audit, the church was 90% compliant and will be more so once the kitchen renovation is completed.

Amid the pandemic, the group continued to be active, with Elise LaRocco creating a video teaching about home worm composting.

Stay tuned for more initiatives and progress from our Green Team in 2021!

Saying Good-bye by Janet Rust, Church Historian

“To The Beloved Community”

- The Rev. Dr. Doris Chandler often used these words to refer to our congregation. As Doris left us to assume the full-time pastorate of a Presbyterian Church in Michigan, we wished her bon voyage, and also thanked her for our fellowship together since Advent 2017. Her last service with us was on Zoom and outdoors at Mayor's Park on October 4, 2020.

2020 brought other changes to our life together, beginning with the pandemic related to coronavirus, and the decision made to close our church in March, not knowing when we could open our doors again. We had to say good-bye to our well-loved opportunities to gather in the sanctuary, and meet and greet one-another at coffee hour. It was mid-April, after Easter, that we arranged to have on-line services via Zoom on Sundays, which we still hold.

We remember Rose Champlin , a member of our church for more than 60 years, who died on October 19, 2020. Rose served the church in many ways, particularly through our music programs. We can thank her for the grand piano in the sanctuary - she did the fund-raising campaign for it. There was a lovely outdoor, socially distanced, graveside service for Rose, officiated by The Rev. Rachel Thompson, with live music provided by Tom McCoy on keyboard, Lynn Brown on flute and Carolyn Llewellyn on cello, and many memories shared.

We also remember Katherine Mary Beale, who died on January 20, 2021. She was the wife of our former member, John A. Beale. "Jack" as we called him, is the only surviving member of the Executive Planning Council, the group which supervised the building of our Social Hall . Jack was co-chair of the Council with the late William Wirz. (the late Eve Kristiansen was also a member of this group.) Jack is the nephew of our late members Hazel Wood and Florence Woods.

In Doris's farewell letter to our congregation, dated September 10, 2020, she quoted from Mary Lindberg's book , "The Graceful Exit" :

"Apparently God's plan all along was that endings would be part of the life for God's people."

PHILIPSTOWN FOOD PANTRY

Annual Report 2020

Covid-19 has turned our world upside down and made our “Little Community Food Pantry” more necessary than ever. This year has been one of our most challenging. The number of people in need of assistance has risen above our expectations. The Philipstown Food Pantry has become one of the main sources for groceries for more than 115 households (individuals, couples and families) totaling approximately 150 people, here in Philipstown. We serve at least 3 days worth of food to approximately 65 households per week.

I am particularly grateful for everyone who has reached out to offer help to our food pantry, may it be as a donor or a volunteer. The outpouring of support in any way was tremendous and wonderful to experience.

There are so many people, organisations and businesses that stepped up to make sure our local families experiencing food insecurity have what they need, it was overwhelming to say the least. Additionally, volunteers stepped up to become a Food Pantry home delivery service for those who are most endangered by the virus.

I can't even begin to name all who have supported us this past year with their donations. Whether it be a few cans and boxes of food, a one time donation or regular monthly check to keep us going, it is appreciated. The support from everyone in our community has grown beyond our imagination.

It is with great respect and appreciation that we receive all you do for our clients. Over the past year we have received help and support from: The Lions Club, Foodtown Grocers, many different branches of the Haldane Central School, the Garrison Free School, the Manitou School, Glynwood Farm and donors of shares from them, Philipstown Farm Market and Vera Giordano, the “Toys for Tots” program, many different troops of the Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts, all the Communities of Faith, donation jars at Grey Printing, The Country Goose and so many other individuals, organizations and businesses.

I apologize if I forgot to name anyone who should have been listed here.

Throughout this year we were blessed to have been asked several times to distribute FoodTown shopping cards to our clients in the value of \$100 each by the Town of Philipstown. These cards were donated by an anonymous donor repeatedly throughout the year. Thank you for such a generous gift!

And last but not least, ***‘Thank You’*** to our tireless volunteers and church members who have been there every week to serve these families during this crisis.

I fear that this pandemic is far from over and our work is not done. I hope and pray that we all get through this healthy and safe.

BLESS YOU ALL AND STAY SAFE !

Humbly,

Andrea Bach, PTFP Coordinator



