NOMINATIONS – JANUARY 29, 2023

Elders

Elders *comprise the Session of the Presbyterian Church which is, in essence, the decision-making body of the church. They recommend and approve all program and policy implementation and modifications in the church. Elders serve a three year term and the Session meets monthly; Elders generally serve on one or more committees, which also usually meet on a monthly basis.*

Jan Bickford
Jan and her husband George reside in Nazareth; their family includes two children, three grandchildren, and a newborn granddaughter. They have been involved with FPCB since 1983. Among other things, Jan has served as a Deacon, taught Sunday School, and participated on the Discipleship Committee. She also enjoys volunteering at local soup kitchens, being a part of the lunch bag ministry for UCC in Bethlehem, and teaching Tai Chi at the Heritage Village where she lives. As a Spiritual Director, Jan offers a spiritual direction ministry. Writes Jan, "In all the years I have been a part of FPCB, I have never felt so challenged by or hopeful for its continued ministry. Together with God's guidance and our commitment, I hope to be a part of making the church more meaningful to the community we serve."

Jon Conrad
Jon resides in Hanover Township and has been a member of FPCB since 1985, where he currently serves on the personnel committee. He and his wife Suzanne Bleiler-Conrad were married here by The Rev. Keith Brown, and their son Christian (now a teacher and coach at Liberty High School) was baptized here and went through the church's youth programs. Jon has over 30 years' professional experience in Human Resources and is the Vice President and Chief Human Resources Officer at Moravian University, where he has been for 21 years. He has also served on a number of local boards, including the American Red Cross (PA Rivers Chapter), the Allentown Band, and Bethlehem 1st Federal Credit Union. In his spare time, he plays trombone with the Allentown Band (a music passion he shares with his wife) and teaches trombone lessons. Jon writes, "FPCB has been a part of my life for many years. I am hopeful my background can be helpful in guiding FPCB into the future and is another way I can give back to a church that has given my family so much."

Linda Filipovits
Linda, a retired medical practice administrator, lives in Allentown and has three adult children and nine grandchildren. A member of FPCB for over 40 years, she currently sings in the Chancel Choir, is a Stephen Minister, serves as co-chair of the Membership Directory Committee, and volunteers as a receptionist in the office. Writes Linda, "I look forward to serving as we seek to broaden our outreach to the community and be a church that is truly welcoming to all."

Ted Masthay
Ted and his wife Bekah live in Bethlehem Township with their three children. He is currently an Assistant Professor of Political Science at DeSales University and became a member of the congregation in April 2022. Upon first attending FPCB, Ted and his family felt extremely welcomed in every possible way. Specifically, the church's mission, particularly its commitment to an inquiring faith, appeals to Ted and makes him want to be part of its exciting future.

James Tintle
James is a resident of Macada North (Santee Heights) and has been a member of FPCB for over 36 years. He has two daughters who live locally and one grandson who is a freshman at Nazareth High School. Currently, James serves as an usher for the Bach Choir of Bethlehem. During his younger years, he sang in the FPCB Chancel Choir for 25 years as a way to be an active participant in the church. Speaking to his wish to serve, James writes, "I have felt a nudge or maybe a push to be more involved in the life of the church."

Deacons

*The **Deacons** are the caregivers of the church. They minister to the individual members through home communion and visits, hospital and prayer ministries, and providing support to those in difficult situations. Deacons serve a three year term and typically meet monthly.*

Jeff Csatari
Jeff lives in Bethlehem with his wife, Kathy; they have three daughters. He works as an Editor at Galvanized Media and an adjunct professor of journalism at Moravian University. He has been a member of FPCB since 1994. Jeff would like to serve in order to share with others the blessings he and his family have received from God and from FPCB.

Marie Kennedy Rosenthal
Marie lives in Bethlehem with her husband, and joined FPC-Bethlehem in 1991 after finding the church through our Preschool. In the past, she has participated in the K-Groups and feels blessed to be currently part of a group. Within the church program, Marie currently mentors a student at Donegan Elementary School and schedules liturgists for the traditional service. Over the years, she has served on the Nominating Committee and has been involved in childcare, youth ministry, home Communion, and a variety of other ministries. Working at LVHN for many years as a hospital pharmacist, she has recently reduced her hours to part-time, providing her with more time to serve. Marie writes, "We are blessed to be a blessing!"

Doreen Sheppard
Doreen lives in Monroe County, Saylorsburg, with her child, Blaine, except for when they are in college. She has been affiliated with FPCB since Blaine began singing in the choir in their junior year of high school. Becoming even more involved with the church over the past year, Doreen attends both services when they are offered, has been on the annual Bethlehem Interfaith Group Faith Crawls, volunteers in the local soup kitchen, and recently joined the handbell choir. Spending time talking to the congregation after every service, she makes it a point to reach out to those whom she hasn't seen before. Doreen has also had extensive nursing experiencing, serving as a missionary nurse in Haiti with her prior church, a trauma nurse in an emergency room, and a nurse for severely handicapped people and the incarcerated. Prior to becoming a nurse, she was a math and science teacher for high school students. Doreen writes, "I know God is calling me for a new start in life, and I am hoping that being a deacon for First Presbyterian is the path I am now meant to walk."

Nominating Committee

*The **Nominating Committee members** are charged with identifying candidates for Elders, Deacons, Trustees, and the Nominating Committee itself. This committee usually meets three or four times each year; the term of service is one year, and a member may serve no more than two consecutive terms.*

Jacqueline Byrnes
Jackie currently lives in Bethlehem and is a retired school teacher who has served as a deacon, elder, usher, and a hospital ministrant at FPCB, where she has been a member since 1985. A widow, she has four adult sons and seven grandchildren. She also volunteers for ArtsQuest. She writes, "I love my church, and I am willing to serve wherever needed."

Jeanette Claessens
Jeanette, an Easton resident, has been a member of FPCB for 34 years, where she has served as a Deacon, a Stephen minister for many decades, a former Sunday school teacher and youth group leader for eight years. Jeanette currently volunteers with the Bach choir and has previously volunteered with Lehigh Presbytery's Helping Hands project, cleaning up and rebuilding after Hurricane Katrina in 2010 and the floodwaters in Iowa in 2011. She enjoyed a long career as a social worker, and since retiring has worked as a licensed massage therapist for six years in a private practice. She has been married for 35 years and has two adult children and a grandchild.

Sue Jones
Sue is a resident of Stockertown and has been a member of FPCB for over 40 years. She has taken on a number of roles at church over the years, including going on mission trips, cooking for youth groups, ushering, and participating in a K group, Hearts N Minds, and prayer group. The parent of a grown son and daughter and grandparent of three young adults, she is retired from managing a stove and fireplace business. She enjoys volunteering, gardening and reading. She tell us, "Because I love our church, I am honored to again be asked to be part of the Nominating Committee as we search for those members who are gifted to serve as Elders, Deacons, and Trustees. Serving on the committee gives me a unique chance to know better people's hearts and talents and assess where they fit into the leadership of FPCB."

Bekah Masthay
Bekah and her husband Ted and their three children, Mina, Marko, and Malin, live in Bethlehem Townshp. They joined FPCB last year, and attend regularly; the children have all been baptized here. She is an elementary school teacher at the Palisades School District. Bekah writes, "This church has been a blessing to our family since we started attending in December of 2021. We were welcomed and loved immediately. It's been wonderful to find a church community to build and grow relationships when we live so far from family. Our children are so excited to attend every week and having them build connections and learn about God is heartening. To be able to invest more in the church, the community, to build relationships with the congregation, and continue to build roots would be an honor."

Elizabeth Mountain
Elizabeth currently lives in Bethlehem with her husband and daughter and has been a member since the end of 2018. She was married by JC and her daughter was baptized by JC and Lindsey. Elizabeth works as a veterinarian and volunteers to do readings at service or as a backup in childcare. She expresses that her family has really enjoyed being a part of FPCB and its community, and she would be happy to help and be involved.

Tracy E. Samuelson
Tracy resides in Bethlehem and has been a member of FPCB for approximately 30 years. She was a Sunday School (middle school) teacher for over 20 years and assisted with the kitchen and Luminaria at Christmas. Tracy has two grown children, Molly and Michael, and recently retired as Assistant Planning Director for the City of Bethlehem. She is interested in helping FPCB's mission as an inclusive, accepting church in any way that she can now that she has more time to serve.

Trustees

Trustees *oversee all financial and property matters in the church including the budget, building renovations and repairs, planned giving, and investment funds. Trustees will meet monthly and members will also serve on one additional committee, such as the property or finance committee, which also generally meet monthly. The term for Trustees is three years.*

Harold H. (Bud) Newton, Jr. PE, PLS
Bud lives in Allentown and has been a member of FPCB since the early 1980s, but has been attending the church since the late 1970s. He is married with two children and is a Professional Civil Engineer and Land Surveyor with the Newton Engineering Group PC. Since the schism, Bud has seved on the Property Committee and has been a Trustee since 2020.

Susan Nelson
Susan lives in Moore Township and was a member of FPCB for eight years in the 1990s, but has recently returned in 2021 as a member. In the 1990s, she assisted with Bible Studies, ushering, and K-Group, and joined a group of individuals who were asked to call members in order to keep in touch with them. Recently, Susan has been involved in the Craft Group, Adult Sunday School, and a K-Group. Prior to being retired, she had worked in the Program Development Department at Hunterdon Developmental Center for 35 years, where she was responsible for running the team meetings for each individual. While attending her previous church, Susan volunteered in the Children's Ministry Office and assisted the Children's Ministry Director. She has also been on a number of mission trips to Philippi, WV, where she assisted with the VBS program, and to New Orleans where she assisted with construction. Susan writes, "I had been praying for ways to become more involved in the life of the church. So when I was approached about becoming a Trustee, I felt that God was answering my prayer. In my journey of faith, FPCB has become so important to me that I would love to have the opportunity to assist in ensuring its sustainability."

Mark Swank
Mark and his wife Pamela, residents of Bethlehem, have been members of FPCB since 1986. Pam formerly served as a deacon and is currently a member of the choir, and Mark has served as a Trustee since 2020. Their three adult children grew up in this church and benefitted greatly from participating in the youth program and choirs. A retired physician, he writes: "I believe in the core values of this congregation. I want to see us grow in order to expand our programs, sustain our staff, and maintain our facilities, all in order to more fully meet our mission to serve God and love people."

Jack Frederick Walker
Jack has lived in Bethlehem Township for 33 years and has been a member of FPCB for 32 years. He was a member of the Steering Committee for the church to remain in the Presbyterian Church (USA) during the schism of 2016-17. He has also taught new members for many years. Jack has prepared communion in both the old and new formats and was an Elder for three years. His wife Phyllis was also a member of the Steering Committee; she was an Elder for six years and a member of the finance committee for many years. In addition, Jack volunteers with the New Bethany Food Bank.