



# First Presbyterian Church of Ukiah

## 2020 Annual Report

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# **PASTOR**

Rev. David Rodriguez

## **“God Did It AGAIN”**

Will God do it again? At the beginning of each new year we tend to wonder what the Lord will be doing in our midst and we hope that He will take care of us again. Hebrews 13:8 tells us, “Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever.” On the one hand we believe that. On the other hand, we still wonder, “But what about in 2020, the year of the COVID-19 Pandemic” Let’s reflect on what the Lord has done in our midst in 2020 and we’ll see that God did it AGAIN.

The Lord provided for all of our financial needs and He even blessed us with more than we had expected. God did it AGAIN.

The Lord enabled us to live-stream our worship services to the homebound for the first time ever. Through generous donations, we were able to add a new camera system to the sanctuary which greatly enhanced our ability to proclaim the Good News of God’s love and salvation. God did it AGAIN.

The Lord has blessed us with our new pastor, Katherine Schoen following the departure of our beloved Alexis. Pastor Katherine is truly a blessing from God who has expanded our ministry to the community and beyond. God did it AGAIN.

The Lord has comforted us in our isolation and enabled us to experience His peace and joy. God did it AGAIN.

The Lord has enabled us to show hospitality to the homeless, the suffering, and the lonely. God did it AGAIN.

Our men’s ministry, Bible studies, women’s ministry, small groups, fellowship groups, are all thriving on Zoom. God did it AGAIN.

The Lord has led us to reach beyond our church walls and show others His love during a mission trip to Uganda, support to orphans in Djibouti and Uganda, and community outreach events. God did it AGAIN.

In 2021, we will have more opportunities to celebrate God’s never changing love as the world continues to change around us. People throughout our community are longing to experience the Lord’s forgiveness, salvation, and life-changing transformation. You can enable this to happen by letting others know that God will do it AGAIN.

Your Pastor, Rev. David Rodriguez

# DIRECTOR OF STUDENT & FAMILY MINISTRIES

## “New to the Family”

It has been a joy to serve as the Director of Students and Families for the last three months. Alexis Moore left Student Ministries in a healthy place for a seamless transfer to new leadership. Her care for the students is evident. I have enjoyed getting to know students, volunteers and our new church family. I have a feeling that I will continue to meet new faces at church for at least the next year.

One characteristic of our new church family that I have observed is how welcoming you all are. You have embraced our family and made space for us. I think about the love and hospitality we have experienced being extending to others and I start dreaming big dreams. I think about our church family growing bigger simply by sharing what God has already given us...love.

This next year, the Christian Education Elder, Roe Sandelin, and myself will continue to serve our students (middle school and high school), with the help of Dory Haselswerdt and Mike Schoen. I am so grateful for this team. They are immensely supportive, faithful and creative. I am looking forward to continuing to serve with them. We are hoping to be able to hold a student retreat in the fall.

We will also be looking for ways to support our families with younger children in the next coming year. During Shelter in Place, we are dreaming of having a weekly meeting, much like our student ministries. Another part of that support is to reimagine what Sunday morning will look like when we are able to gather in person and inside again. This is just one of the opportunities to share God's love with others.

Another way we are looking to support families is to provide an online marriage class this spring. A strong marriage is a foundational piece to a health family. Like all relationships, our marriages need to be invested in no matter how long we have been married or how good our marriage is. We are excited at the prospects of seeing marriages grow stronger and families healthier. I can see God's love once again influencing our thoughts, words and action so that more individuals can experience God.

In 2021, I am looking forward to meeting more of our church family, learning to love each other more fully, to welcome more individuals into our church family and to extending God's love beyond the doors of First Presbyterian Church of Ukiah. In the words of the Apostle Paul, my prayer for 2021:

*I pray that out of his glorious riches he may strengthen you with power through his Spirit in your inner being, so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith. And I pray that you, being rooted and established in love, may have power, together with all the Lord's holy people, to grasp how wide and long and high and deep is the love of Christ, and to know this love that surpasses knowledge—that you may be filled to the measure of all the fullness of God.*

In God's service, Rev. Katherine Schoen

# STATISTICS

Warren Pribyl, Clerk of Session

## BOARD MEMBERS

- **ELDERS:** Randy Beckler, Jerry Garcia, Lenord Swope, Wilma Pribyl, Randy Huffman, Roe Sandelin, Alexis Moore, Mark Smith, Dory Haselswerdt, Katherine Schoen
- **Deacons:** Myrinda Head, David Head, Cherie Alton, Betty Hook, Sandra Applegate, Sharon Ruddick, Tom Desroches, Kim Huffman, Marie Pera, Meredith Lintott, Juanita Coddington, Debbie Holland, Caroline Crowley
- **Nominating:** Wilma Pribyl (Elder, Chairman); Debbie Holland (Deacon representative);  
**Congregational Representatives:** Diane Yanez, Jim Barrett, Francine Selim  
**Corporate Officers:** President, Jerry Garcia; Vice President, Roe Sandelin;  
Treasurer, Randy Beckler; Secretary, Lenord Swope

## CONGREGATIONAL STATISTICS

**MEMBERSHIP AS OF 12-31-20:** 136

**AVERAGE SUNDAY MORNING WORSHIP ATTENDANCE:** 89

**DEATHS:** June Jacobs, Jeanne Engelman, Barry Squires

## DECISIONS BY SESSION/CONGREGATION

### SESSION

- 2-9-20: Sale of Ramos Property
- 4-16-20: General Mission Commitment \$4,800
- 5-5-20: Approved purchase of video equipment for live streaming of worship service
- 5-21-20: Approved Board of Deacons to manage the Compassionate Ministries Fund
- 6-18-20: Open the church campus, in its entirety, on June 21, 2020, contingent upon the adherence to county health protocols
- 7-2-20: Accept resignation of Alexis Moore as Director of Youth and Families Ministries, effective 8/2020
- 9-17-20: Hired Rev. Katherine Shoen to be the Director of Youth and Families Ministries
- 10-15-20: Use General Memorial Funds (\$3,500) to upgrade the sound system

### CONGREGATION

- 7-19-20: Approved amending church by laws in the section, Meetings of the Church, that the congregation, Session, and Deacons may meet by electronic means if all active members have reasonable notice of the electronic meeting and the ability to discuss, deliberate, and discern the will of God and vote on business items.

# **NOMINATING COMMITTEE**

## Nominating Committee Members:

James Barrett, Diane Yanez, Francine Selim, Debbie Holland,  
Wilma Pribyl (Elder), David Rodriguez (Ex Officio)

One of the objects of the Nominating Committee this year was to have the demographics of the various boards reflect the demographics of the membership of our church. We have reached that goal with our session, but have fallen short with the remaining boards. We need more men on the Board of Deacons and the Nominating Committee.

Of the 49 members asked to be on a board, 31 declined to serve. COVID-19 has impacted us all. The Nominating Committee nominated 18 members for positions this year:

- For the Board of Elders: Katherine Schoen & Janet Noe, Class of 2021; Molly Schultz, Class of 2022; & Lenord Swope, Don Pera, & Shirley Lewis Class of 2023.
- For Board of Deacons: Caroline Crowley Class of 2020; Chris Gordon, Randy Colson, Gayle DeVries, & Linda Logan for the Class of 2023.
- For the Nominating Committee Class of 2021: Jim Barrett, Juanita Coddington & Michele Young.
- For the Officers of the Corporation Class of 2021: Janet Noe, President, Wilma Pribyl, Vice President, Lenord Swope, Treasurer & Katherine Schoen, Secretary.

# **BUILDINGS & GROUNDS**

## B&G Committee Members:

Randy Beckler (Elder), Len Brutocao, Mark Smith, Perry Crowley, Kevin DeVries, Jerry Garcia,  
David Head, Don Pera, Wilma Pribyl, Roe Sandelin, Dean Vickers

First, I want to thank this year's members of the Building and Grounds Committee. This has been a very challenging and difficult year, but we were able to have six Saturday workdays with seventeen different people participating, even with physical distancing in place. We were also able to remodel the Cafe with the help of Dean Vickers and Zach Beckler while the Church was empty. I want to also mention the great work that Roe & Kitty Sandelin are doing with making our outdoor worship space comfortable.

This was the last year of my six year stretch as a seated Elder on Session and Chair of the Building & Grounds Committee. I look forward to working with Elder Don Pera as he takes over the reins of our committee.

As Christians we are called to be a reflection of Christ and in a year such as this, it can be extremely difficult. We have had people lose their temper, causing emotional wounds, and loss of trust. As a family of God we are called to a higher standard, and our weapons are love, forgiveness, and truth. We are to be a Light to the World and an example of Christ. I pray that we are all out there Shining, in this time of need. God Bless us all.

# FINANCE

## Finance Committee Members:

Mark Smith (Elder partial year), Janet Noe (Elder partial year),  
Cindy DeVries (Treasurer partial year), Katherine Smith (Treasurer partial year)  
Denise Beckler (Office Manager), Pastor David Rodriguez

We can all agree that this past year has been like nothing we have experienced before. Our church and church life has had to be flexible and adapt to the changes that Covid has brought to our lives.

Your faithful giving to First Presbyterian Church of Ukiah is incredible. It has allowed us to share the love of Jesus Christ and continue to be a light for Him in our community and the world.

When we started out in 2020 the budget projected we would need to use \$45,000 of our reserves to meet our anticipated expenses. We have been blessed and ended the year with a surplus. We did not need to go into our reserves.

Income: \$277,169  
Expenses: \$275,270  
**Surplus: \$1,899**

We also had a substantial increase in designated funds. This included the sale of the Ramos property for \$52K and an additional \$34K for various missions and programs. Session approved spending over \$27K of these funds for our missions and programs during 2020. Session is also discussing how to utilize these designated funds including upgrading the livestream equipment.

Again, thank you for your continuing and faithful giving. Our checking account balance is over \$200K and our savings is at \$127K.

Please review this recap of our financial position as of December 31, 2020.

The session approved budget for 2021 is a separate handout.

<b>As of December 31, 2020</b>		<b>Total \$\$</b>
General Fund Income	\$	277,169
General Fund Expenses	\$	275,270
<b>Difference</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>1,899</b>
<b>Balance in Checking Account</b>		<b>Total \$\$</b>
Non-Designated Funds	\$	106,583
Designated Funds (detail below)	\$	101,278
<b>Total Balance in Checking</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>207,861</b>
<b>Balance in Savings</b>		<b>Total \$\$</b>
CD's	\$	44,645
Mutual Funds	\$	30,629
Other Savings	\$	52,005
<b>Total Balance in Savings</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>127,279</b>
<b>Detail of Designated Funds in Checking Account</b>		
Missions	\$	1,126
Missions Fundraiser	\$	7,294
Centsability	\$	70
One Great Hour of Sharing	\$	-
Pedals 4 Protein	\$	50
Per Capita	\$	-
Deacons	\$	-
Ramos Trust	\$	52,185
General Memorial	\$	30,025
Buildings & Grounds	\$	2,148
Compassionate Ministries	\$	4,495
Pastor Appreciation	\$	-
Adult Ministries	\$	3
Worship	\$	856
Singalong	\$	-
Fellowship Meals	\$	50
Youth Activities	\$	360
Children's Activities	\$	167
Children's Playground	\$	2,389
Camperships	\$	60
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>101,278</b>

## **PERSONNEL**

### Personnel Committee Members:

Sandy Applegate, Jerry Garcia (Elder), Shirley Lewis, Kathy Smith, and Ty Yanez

As we close out the year, we look back at what has transpired during this period of social isolation and distancing. We've had good and better days as we focused on God's work and perhaps less on the concerns brought about by COVID 19. It is with the Lord's guidance that we continue to thrive Spiritually and by his grace that we've survived economically.

Our personnel has met the challenge and led us through this maze of obstacles while tending to the health and safety concerns of the congregation. Our paid staff worked overtime while the thought was "why" when we're basically in a shut-down mode? This was their calling; to make sure that we were never closed. Even while losing our beloved Director of Youth and Family Ministries; Alexis Moore who moved on to enhance her career path for her future, God had a plan. Upon her departure, Alexis left us with suggestions for our new director, and as the time arrived to select Katherine Schoen as our new Director of Youth and Family Ministries, we could see how the Lord works in wondrous ways! All the qualities suggested by Alexis and sought by Session were met, as well as her being an ordained pastor who could spell Pastor David as needed.

Pastor David and Denise have worked nonstop, meeting with Session, Deacons, and volunteers as needed to move forward. They have all been amazing!

It has been an enlightening year, one we will never forget. As we look with 20-20 vision we see how the Lord has blessed us with challenges we NEVER would have imagined and are better because of them.

## **CHRISTIAN EDUCATION**

### Christian Education Committee Members:

Roe Sandelin (Elder), Alexis Moore (Director Family Ministries partial year),  
Katherine Schoen (Director Family Ministries partial year), Chris Gordon,  
Dory Haselswerdt, Debbie Holland, Patti Longstreth

The Youth and Families Ministry activities for 2020 can be summed up in one word: CHANGE. The year started out normal enough. Programs and activities were continuing on from the previous year. Plans were in place to begin Spring with our Annual Easter Egg Hunt and...COVID-19! Our world just got turned upside down and sideways. All the things we count on as a church family were suddenly placed on a giant "HOLD IT RIGHT THERE, DON'T MOVE, DON'T MEET, DON'T GO OUT"!!!

We began to get a very personal understanding for the definition of the word "pandemic". The information and guidance being sent out locally and nationally seemed to be in a constant state of flux. "Treading water" seemed to be a good strategy.

Lots of prayers were sent to God asking for wisdom and understanding. Each of us in the FPCU family have stories to tell. It quickly became important to learn more about internet tools like ZOOM and Facetime. Face masks, disinfectant wipes and social distance became very important. Developing a LIVE STREAM presence for our worship service and creating a comfortable outdoor worship and youth group meeting venue became a key focus for staff and volunteers. We have succeeded quite nicely in this work.

Youth and Families Director Alexis Moore led our youth gatherings via ZOOM for most of the summer. ZOOM allowed us to establish connections with our local kids and with several from far away in Arkansas and Arizona. We even had a connection with one student while his family was traveling down the Interstate! Of course, she continued other social media contacts, emails and the like.

More change was on the horizon. We received word from Alexis she would be leaving FPCU at the end of September, in preparation for the next chapter in her life. We now know she will be relocating to the Eugene, Oregon area in early 2021. Alexis is such a treasure to all who know her. Her leaving was so bittersweet. We know God is leading her for His purposes, and this is the sweet. We know she is finished here, for now, and that's not so sweet. I often referred to her as "Sonshine". A worthy description for this wonderful woman.

In late September, Session made an offer of employment to Katherine Schoen for the vacant Youth and Families Director position. She started work effective October 1. She brings an impressive skill set, a breadth of experience in ministry and is an ordained pastor. She gave her first FPCU sermon on October 18. God has blessed our congregation once again!

Pastor Katherine's first significant community outreach event was the Halloween Trunk or Treat Event the evening of October 31. The properly social distanced and masked event saw a steady stream of kids stop by seven brightly decorated "treat stations" to receive a candy treat that popped out of a six-foot long plastic pipe shoot. At least 540 children and adults attended. 120 church information flyers were distributed to adults. We saw a large number of church members participate in the planning, set-up and performance of this event.

October 21 saw the restart of our youth group activities. We have had to make a number of adjustments in order to remain safe in Covid-19 times. The breezeway area has been modified to allow safe outdoor gatherings. Typically, we are seeing an average of six young people in attendance. We have seen ten or more a time or two. We are presenting Bible study in story telling form. This is proving successful in holding the attention of younger members. Those charged with doing the stories are gaining much new knowledge about the characters in their stories! Our Youth and Family Ministry efforts have been blessed, not only with the addition of Pastor Katherine but also her family. Husband Mike plays guitar and leads singing, daughter Anna jumps right in with the teenagers, and sons Jonny and Kristian add their musical and singing talents to the cause when they are home on college break. We are blessed to this have Godly family as partners in our work to share His good news.



We are sure many in our church family are happy to see 2020 leave us. As we look forward to 2021, we see it as a time to plan and prepare for gathering on-site as well as support families during the current “shelter in place.”

- Children’s Ministry
  - Developing a larger CE committee
  - Going to see if there is interest in a after school meeting on Wednesdays for 3-5 grades.
    - Before Student Ministry begins
    - Format similar to Student Ministry, age appropriate
    - Purpose: to provide Christian education to grade schoolers and create connection
    - We will see input from parents and grandparents to assess interest
  - Evaluate current children’s space in the building and make a proposal of changes as needed
  - Evaluate the possibility of a VBS this summer
- Student Ministry
  - Katherine and Roe continue team teaching lessons
  - Evaluate current student spaces in the building and make a proposal for changes as needed
  - Hoping to plan a Student retreat towards the beginning of next Fall
- Family ministry
  - Plan to offer an online marriage class in spring
  - Plan to offer a family bible study in the summer
  - Plan an Easter Egg event similar to Trunk or Treat

## **COMMUNICATIONS**

### Communications Committee Members:

Alexis Moore (Elder partial year) Rev. Katherine Schoen (Elder partial year), Denise Beckler (Office Manager), Perry Crowley (Website Administrator)

What a year it has been! If 2020 taught us one thing it is how to adapt to change and our church has had to adapt with it (i.e., Zoom bible studies and livestreaming of church services). This was the 2<sup>nd</sup> year that the Communications Committee was active and we had our share of changes as well. We continued to run a number of articles and/or announcements in the Ukiah Daily Journal advertising FPCU events in an effort to have families attend that might be interested. Our former Elder, Alexis Moore, left to explore the next steps in her life in September and our new Elder, Rev. Katherine Schoen started in the Fall as Director of Family and Student Ministries.

Early this year, our FPCU Website went through a complete redesign. It is now easier to navigate, more modern and includes many new features including a “gallery” page that has photos of our congregation in action. Check out the redesigned website at [www.fpcukiah.org](http://www.fpcukiah.org)

As a result of new Covid-19 restrictions in the Spring, our church has had to adapt to closures by streaming the live worship service on YouTube every Sunday at 10 am. We have purchased several video cameras and additional equipment to allow us to do this. We plan to continue to livestream our services after COVID-19 restrictions are lifted, to increase our presence online. You

can either watch the entire worship service (or previous church services) online at [www.youtube.com/channel/UC5kNyxK3oK87zaPH9hiRA-g](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC5kNyxK3oK87zaPH9hiRA-g) OR just the sermon on our website at <https://fpcukiah.org/resources/sermons/>

Plans for 2021 include a redesign of our monthly “Presbeat” Newsletter as well as a video devotional series to be featured on our website.

## **CONGREGATIONAL LIFE / FELLOWSHIP**

### **2020 A Year of Challenge**

Although some church members may remember the vignette of the persistence and patience of my mother, it is an encouraging message to share with the congregation in this report. My parents bought a house on five acres of very irregular terrain. Whenever my mother planted new vegetation, she would carefully preserve the clumps of soil and plant them in the dips in the yard. I confess my mild amusement and skepticism at her relocating the dirt (I would gladly assist in the process). In about five years she had very effectively smoothed out the terrain.

The analogy fits our circumstances, COVID has caused a very rough landscape for our community yet patiently in steps we are smoothing the dips in our community life. The generosity of one family enabled us to transition from a small computer camera on a tripod aided by photo lights to a three camera with lights system feeding into a Sling Studio unit supporting multimedia. Alexis had set up our Zoom and YouTube accounts and Perry handled the details of broadcasting on YouTube.

For Mother’s Day and Father’s Day gift packets were assembled distributing them by curbside pick up. For Mother’s Day we had our in house Cookie Professional, Daniel Rodriguez, overseeing the cookie making. Alexis and Roe adapted the Youth ministries to the changed conditions. Our worship team also adapted to the changed conditions so that music remained a part of our worship.

The DeVries family treated us to a full meal after church filling our Potluck void. Our Missions fundraising dinner cook team also maintained our traditional fundraising meal. The Halloween Trunk or Treat was lead by the Schoen family creating the beautiful balloon arches and making the candy refill runs. Though we could not host our usual Community Sing celebration, Denise and Katherine headed up our alternative Outdoors Sing Celebration.

Our Bible studies, Women’s and Men’s continued by Zoom meetings. Church workdays still continued adapted for the circumstances.

As we reflect back on the events of 2020, we sustained a lot of our activities in spite of COVID. This Congregational Life report closes with the quote from Tiny Tim from the Christmas Carol “God bless us each and every one.”

# MISSIONS

## Missions Committee Members:

Randy Huffman (Elder), David Rodriguez, Jaunita Coddington, Mark & Kathy Smith, Kevin & Shelly Mack, Kitty Sandelin, Michele Young, Randy Beckler, Shirley Lewis, and Wilma Pribyl

To say that missions was difficult this year, is an understatement. However, we were all in this together and faced the same challenges with COVID-19 and all the restrictions.

Our missions team stuck together and like clockwork met every month, albeit on “Zoom” trying to find a glimmer of need that we could do to fulfill our calling. “To bring the knowledge of Jesus Christ by identifying and supporting worthy projects both locally and globally”

In doing so this year our outreach was pared down somewhat, this also meant our budget would be adjusted too. Staying within our budget was more doable as there was no missions trip to plan for, however it’s still something we are looking at for next year.

Working within our Covid guidelines, our fundraising was streamlined to “meals to go” with the same service model of curbside pickup, now more popular than ever, given many of the local eateries were using the same “drive up process”. While the results were not as profitable as in the past, it was a great way to outreach into our community and let them know we were still here and ready to serve and at the same time make a little money for our programs.

While programs slimmed down a bit this year, we still were able to do the following;

- with all of the church member donations and the help of our military troops we continued to support to the Caritas Orphanage in Djibouti. A special thanks to Wilma and Shirley who together sent over a number of care packages throughout the year.
- We also continued to support our Presbytery.
- Cents-Ability offerings- Feeding the hungry in our area.
- Pastor John in Uganda- Partnering with others we were able to provide funding for the purchase of a piece of land next to his. This was a big opportunity for his mission as he will use the land to grow crops that will feed the family and the orphans he cares for. This was a real answer to prayer too.

Yes, it was a different year, however God has sustained us all, it is in his presence that we know we are at the right place. With our team, we will be focused on what God has for us in 2021.

Thank you for your continued prayers and support.

# WORSHIP

## Worship Committee Members:

Dory Haselswerdt (Elder), Pastor David Rodriguez,  
Denise Beckler (Music Director), Alexis Moore, Roe Sandelin

January - Several members of the First Presbyterian Church of Ukiah, who faithfully and joyfully serve behind the scenes, braved the experience of leading the call to worship, prayer of confession, scriptural readings, and serving Communion alongside seasoned liturgical leaders. Alexis Moore and George Phelan assisted Pastor David Rodriguez with sermons. We sang praises of (foreshadowing?) songs like, "Endless Hallelujah," and "You Never Let Go." The new year looked promising, and despite the way we view 2020 in hindsight, whether with sorrow or laughter, the assurances of God's love found us in new ways.

February - Ariel Mink assisted Pastor David with sermons. Following a mission trip to Africa, Shelly & Kevin Mack gave a presentation to show how God is working internationally, and provoking conversation about what our next steps may be in continuing that mission of love. Ash Wednesday began our journey of experimentations in worship, as a response to (dramatically foreboding music.....dun-dun-dunnnnn) COVID-19. We had questions like, "How to serve communion during a pandemic?"

March - Suddenly, our world flourished with the commotion of COVID-19. Plans to visit family, friends, weddings, funerals, doctor appointments, attend school, and yes, even church services such as Easter, were indefinitely put on hold. Worship, however, doesn't get sidelined just because of technical difficulties. Pastor David made it his mission to ensure that our services as a church would continue to be available to the community. If you can't come to church, church will come to you. Youtube and Zoom became our church's method of engaging in "Live Stream" worship services and Bible studies. Denise Beckler continued to fill our lives with healing music, such as this song:

*Come, now is the time to worship  
Come, now is the time to give your heart  
Come, just as you are to worship  
Come, just as you are before your God*

April through August kept the worship teams quite busy as they learned how to get the most out of the facilities and technological advances we've been given, including a very generous donation from one of our church families to invest in updated equipment for Sunday morning worship services. Father's Day was celebrated as the first day congregants could participate in the morning worship service together, inside the sanctuary. We wore masks and face shields, and sat far apart from each other, with none of the familiar hugging, but many familiar smiling faces. Summertime worship services continued to change as the public health department and CDC provided new insight and advisories, such as indoor versus outdoor services, how to sing safely together, how to serve communion, and whether or not we should meet in person or worship from home.

September through November was a time of change (although for many, it may have felt like a continued blur from the previous months). Our family ministries director, Alexis Moore, resigned and Reverend Katherine Schoen was hired as our new Director of Student and Family Ministries. Traditional events of gathering were still unadvised. Members of our church continued to come up with creative alternatives for events such as our Harvest Dinner and Halloween. As we continued

to worship outdoors at the church and indoors (in our homes on Youtube), we noticed the temperature getting a bit cooler, and the outdoor breezeway was transformed into an outdoor worship tent, similar to what local restaurants have been using.

December's Advent season brought the anticipatory excitement of decorating! Young and young-at-heart came together to hang the greens both indoors and outdoors. We safely gathered for candlelight caroling, and enjoyed a warm and cozy Christmas Eve worship service with each other (some virtually, some in the holiday-adorned worship tent). God has used our tumultuous year of changes to shine floodlights on our creativity and the ways we can come together as the hands and feet of God.

## **DEACONS**

Members: Kim Huffman (Moderator), Cherie Alton, Sandra Applegate, Debbie Holland, Jaunita Coddington, Sharon Ruddick, Kim Huffman, Tom Desroches, David Head, Myrinda Head, Marie Pera, Betty Hook, Carolyn Crowley

As we all know, the year 2020 is gone, but not forgotten. It was a very difficult year for all of us – being sheltered from each other for three-fourths of the entire year. Only attending meetings via Zoom, and watching the worship service on YouTube. Still, the Deacons have been here ready to serve in whatever ways we can. Even though we were very limited in what we were able to do this year, below is a list of our normal areas of ministry:

- Prepare communion
- Coordinate greeters and ushers
- Host coffee hour after the worship services
- Deacon representative for the Nominating Committee
- Sending out cards and calls of get well, thinking of you, sympathy
- Visiting our shut ins and providing communion with Pastor David
- Prepare meals on a short-term basis for those in the congregation that have a need due to illness, surgery, loss in the family, etc.
- Set up coffee and cookies for memorials and clean up afterwards
- Help with set up or clean up for the various church potlucks and other events such as the Christmas sing a long, Maundy Thursday, etc.
- Keeping the kitchen stocked with supplies for coffee hour and occasional kitchen cleaning.
- Oversee the Compassionate Ministries Fund

# PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN IN THE CONGREGATION

Moderator, Jaunita Coddington

We offer a weekly Bible study to women, each Wednesday, 1:30 p.m. From January – mid-March, we met in the church library and cafe. From mid-March through December, we are meeting on Zoom. All women are invited to participate using meeting number 604094910 and passcode number 896761. Our group size has varied and currently there are 8 or 9, depending. We are currently reading the Psalms.

No fundraising has been engaged in this year.

Balance forward from 2019	\$2,747.40
There are no receipts	
12/22/20 First Presbyterian Church, café/facilities	-1,500.00
<b>Current balance on hand</b>	<b>\$1,247.40</b>

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## First Presbyterian Church of Ukiah Mission Statement:

Our vision is to lead others into a transforming relationship with Jesus, and authentic community with each other, so that everyone in Mendocino County and beyond can flourish.

