



2019 Annual Report
The First Presbyterian Church of Northport, NY
Founded 1785

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The First Presbyterian Church of Northport
Annual Congregational Meeting
February 9, 2020
11:00 AM
Docket

1. Call to Order and Determination of Quorum—Rev. Rachel Vione, Moderator
2. Opening Prayer
3. Approval of the Docket
4. Review of the 2019 Finances---Peggy Denniston, Finance Ministry Chair
 - a. Overview of 2020 Budget
5. Report of the All Church Nominating Committee—Elder Joan Armet, ACNC Chair
 - a. Election of Ruling Elders
 - b. Election of Deacons
 - c. Election of the 2020 All Church Nominating Committee
6. Review of the 2019 Annual Reports
7. Pastors Remarks
8. Delegate Reading and Approval of Minutes to the Session
9. Prayer and adjournment to Fellowship Hall for Pancake Breakfast

Dear Friends,

What an exciting year it has been at the First Presbyterian Church in Northport! I would like to highlight a few of the things that we have accomplished together in the life and ministry of our church.

1. Our Weekday Nursery School is thriving and growing by leaps and bounds! We are thankful to God for all the little ones who are enriched by our wonderful programs and loving staff. Our program is currently full for the fall, with only a few spots remaining in our Kinder-steps program. We have added an additional chapel service to our curriculum this year to enhance the spiritual component of the program. On the first Wednesday of the month I am privileged to lead two chapel services with the three and four-year old children. Since there are 65 students who participate, we meet in the sanctuary instead of the chapel. Our time together includes, lighting candles, singing songs, a short message and giving thanks to God for our many blessings. It is the highlight of my week to see these little faces in the pews and to have them recognize me when I see them in the building during the week.
2. Another highlight for me is meeting weekly with our Pioneers for chapel, conversation and lunch. This group of amazing seniors is so vibrant and fun! They love to sing hymns (all the verses!), and worship together every Wednesday. The Pioneer's chapel service is the longest running mid-week worship service at FPC! One of the best parts of my job is being able to worship with all the generations on the first Wednesday of each month! The age range is from three to 102! Praise God from whom all blessings flow!
3. Our youth group has participated in many different activities throughout the year. This wonderful group of young, energetic and faithful kids have worked together in service projects and fellowship events and have bonded together as a community within the larger community of faith. The youth regularly participate in worship and lead the worship service one Sunday in June. We definitely have some future pastors in the group!
4. The Pastor Nominating Committee (PNC) continue in their work to find the next installed pastor. Please keep the PNC in your prayers as they continue in this important job.

As you can see, it has been an eventful year at FPC! I would be remiss if I did not thank the wonderful members of session, deacons, assorted ministries and committees, and all the committed staff members with whom I have the privilege to minister. I can't wait to see what God will do next in the life and ministry of the church!

With much joy in serving as your Interim Pastor!

Rachel

Clerk's Report

2019 saw another active year in the life of our Northport Church Family. We have been extremely blessed to still have Pastor Rachel serving as our interim pastor during this time.

On Sunday March 31, 2019 the following individuals were ordained and/or installed as our Church Officers for the Class of 2021:

Elders (3 year terms): Florence Ogg, Bob Shevlin, Dennis Hartin, Marilyn Fox, Dennis Crowley; and Stephanie Lee as Youth Elder for a one year term.

Deacons (3 year terms): Marlena Dentrone, Shelley Pierce, Robin O'Neill Gonzalez, Tim Gladding, James Beyer; and Shea Contino as Youth Deacon for a one year term.

The following individuals were approved by Session as Corporate Officers of the Church: Marcia Mercer, President; Carole Gandy, Secretary; William Doremus (who since retired and Robert Spiller was approved) as Treasurer; and Mary Blondrage, Financial Secretary. Marcia Mercer was approved as Clerk for an additional one year term.

We shared in the baptisms of 3 infants, one child and 1 adult and welcomed 21 new members, including 11 Confirmands. We were deeply saddened, however, to lose the following members: Edward Bell, Russell Day, Fred Black and Doris Black.

Session meets one time per month except during the summer months, with the occasional called Session meeting. Each Elder takes a turn opening our meetings with a prayer and devotion. Many of the devotions shared this past year were taken from Daily Guideposts; Listening to Your Life, Daily Mediations by Frederick Buechner concerning "Lent"; These Days Daily Devotions: "We are Witnesses to These Things" and "An Older Man Gives Thanks"; Thoughts on Journeys of Faith as expressed by Rev. Trudy Foote, ELC Pastor based on the 23rd Psalm; "Sunday Paper" blog by Maria Shriver about friendship with someone with difference beliefs; and Simple Abundance – A Day Book of Comfort and Joy.

In March your Church Officers met for their annual retreat here in Northport. Additionally, besides their regular meetings your Session members remain quite active in all aspects of our Church life: Worship, Finance, Property and Maintenance, All Church Nominating Committee, Pastoral Nominating Committee, Membership, Choir, Sanctuary Guild, Mission, Peacemaking, Presbyterian Women, Weekday Nursery School Board, Personnel, Sunday School, Youth Groups, Stewardship, Adult Education, Ushers, Communion Servers, Liturgists, Fellowship Hour hosts, to name a few!

Please continue to hold our Pastor Nominating Committee in your prayers while they continue in their process of selecting a new pastor. They have been working diligently and hard throughout this endeavor but we know God will lead them and our Church in a good and right direction.

Here is to a new and blessed year in the life of the First Presbyterian Church of Northport.

Blessings and Peace to all,

Marcia Mercer, Clerk of Session

Adult Education Ministry

Our members include Christine Spiller, Jack Fink, Audrey Van Deusen, Bob Van Deusen and Tim Gladding.

We continue to support and utilize the PARISH RESOURCE CENTER for program materials and networking as we strive to offer a variety of content in the areas of Scripture, theology, spiritual life and practices, and Christian ethics.

Lively discussions and early morning fellowship are offered to a number of members interested in sharing their spiritual journey.

Respectively submitted,

Christine Spiller, AE Chair



Board of Deacons

The Board of Deacons is a ministry of compassion and service to our church and community. Thanks to the generous support of our congregation, the Deacons are able to minister to those in need. We appreciate your generosity, as we receive donations through the Deacons' pew envelopes. Your support enables us to reach out to others in many ways.

This year we were able to:

- *Give support to members of our church. We made calls and visits, whether at home or in hospitals and rehab facilities. We sent care cards and provided transportation to doctor appointments. We provided emergency meals as well as financial support when needed.
- *Support several Pioneers programs and hosted a brunch for them, which gave us an opportunity to really spend time with this wonderful group.
- *Host receptions following funeral and memorial services.
- *Send care packages to our college students, an important part of our church community.
- *Support the work of the Ecumenical Lay Council.
- *Donate to the Pastor's Fund which allows the Pastor to help quickly with small donations to church community members who have financial emergencies.
- *Support the work of the Long Island Council of Churches.
- *Help support the Dawn Hill home for people, primarily veterans, with mental health issues.
- *Support the Presbytery Disaster Assistance Fund. (This year was Hurricane Dorian)
- *Host two blood drives.
- *The Deacons Prayer Ministry meets the first Sunday of the month.

- *Take part in communion, along with the Elders, with set up, clean up and serving.
- * Help support members of our congregation with various mission trips they were involved with.
- *Show support and love to our congregation with the Prayer Ministry, which takes place every Communion Sunday in Grace Chapel.

The members of the Board of Deacons serve the church joyfully and are always ready to volunteer.

Carolyn Louis, Moderator
Sue Ebert, Recording Secretary
Jeannie Obrien, Treasurer

TREASURER'S REPORT - DEACON FUND 2019

Opening Balance: January 1, 2019 **\$2,354.55**

Income:

Donation, loose plate, communion offering, Gifts, Envelopes	4,333.00
2018 Reconciliation Income	<u>783.30</u>

TOTAL INCOME **\$7,470.85**

Disbursements:

Communion Supplies	22.47
Coffee Supplies	247.96
Charlie Skarda Reception	76.42
Envelopes, Gift Cards	293.30
Easter Baskets for Food Pantry	93.56
Pioneer Brunches	123.92
Midnight Run/Uganda/Puerto Rico	1,100.00
First Presbyterian/Good Samaritan Fund	500.00
Sacred Heart University/Guatemala	1,000.00
Presbyterian Disaster Assistance/Dorian	500.00
Tiffany Thomas/Illness Assistance	<u>1,000.00</u>

TOTAL DISBURSEMENTS **-\$4,957.63**

BALANCE – December 31, 2019 **\$2,513.22**

Respectfully Submitted,
Jeannie Obrien, Deacon Treasurer

Annual Financial Report

Fiscal Year 2019

Budgeted Accounts

Summary

Income	2019 Budget	2019 Actual
Pledged Giving	\$380,000	\$366,258
Other Income	\$47,600	\$51,746
Gifts and Bequests	\$30,000	\$30,000
Total Unrestricted Income	\$457,600	\$448,004

Operating Expense Disbursements	2019 Budget	2019 Actual
Payroll and Insurance	\$244,685	\$229,014
Property and Maintenance Expense	\$108,100	\$110,256
Benevolence	\$49,418	\$50,851
Administrative Expenses	\$13,760	\$13,975
Ministries	\$14,315	\$11,166
Total Operating Expense	\$430,279	\$415,262

Restricted Accounts

Account	Balance 12/31/2018	2019 Income	2019 Disbursements	Balance 12/31/2019
Burn the Mortgage	\$18,259	\$71,042	\$88,500	\$801
P/M Capital Fund	\$13,160	\$5,000	\$5,800	\$12,360
Endowment Fund Seed Income	\$0	\$46,897	\$0	\$46,897
Memorial Fund	\$15,037	\$1,885	\$7,941	\$8,981
Music & Ministry	\$4,714	\$652	\$1,400	\$3,966
Memorial Garden	\$4,430	\$4,700	\$2,839	\$6,291
Rambo Endowment	\$7,625	\$2,859	\$4,070	\$6,414
Joy Offering	\$2,045	\$1,805	\$2,095	\$1,755
Congregational Dinners	\$736	\$3,059	\$3,292	\$503
Youth ministry	\$529	\$450	\$976	\$4
Peacemaking	\$941	\$1,776	\$1,554	\$1,163
Pentecost	\$1,050	\$1,330	\$2,118	\$262
Sanctuary Guild	\$132	\$3,159	\$2,952	\$339
Pioneers	\$63	\$0	\$63	\$0
One Great Hour	\$5	\$2,767	\$2,702	\$70
Other Restricted	\$22,955	\$104,091	\$107,076	\$19,970

Presbyterian Investment and Loan Program Mortgage

	Amount
Outstanding Loan Balance 12/31/2018	\$149,622
2019 Scheduled Principal Payments	\$28,727
2019 Additional Principal Payments	\$88,500
Outstanding Loan Balance 12/31/2019	\$32,395

2019 Total Interest Paid	\$3,014
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Account Balances

Account	Value 12/31/2018	Value 12/31/2019
TD Bank Checking	\$214,228	\$165,173
TD Ameritrade	\$92,087	\$177,580
New Covenant Funds	\$101,881	\$120,643
PayPal Account	\$389	\$0
Total Unrestricted	\$317,104	\$353,619
Total Restricted	\$91,482	\$109,776

*Please note that the year-end balance does not include deposits or outstanding disbursements in transit. If you would like further information, please contact Bob Spiller, Church Treasurer.

Respectfully Submitted, Kevin McKerr, Financial Manager

Comparative Budget 2019/2020

	2019 Budget	2020 Budget
Income		
Pledged Giving	380,000	360,000
Bequests/gifts	30,000	30,000
Unpledged	16,000	16,000
General Use of Building	8,500	9,000
Weekday/Food Pantry Expenses Share	11,600	15,600
Shared Denominational Support	4,000	4,000
Loose Plate Giving	4,500	4,500
Investment Income	3,000	3,000
Total Income	457,600	442,100

Expense

Total Payroll & Insurance		
Salaries & Benefits	234,517	249,276
Employer FICA/Medicare	6,418	6,610
Payroll Processing Expenses	1,750	1,250
Worker's Comp & Disab. Ins.	2,000	2,500
Total Payroll & Insurance	244,685	259,636
 Property & Maintenance		
Church Building		
Utilities		
Electric	16,000	14,500
Gas	8,000	7,000
Telephone/Fax/Internet Access	2,500	2,250
Communication Repair/lease	2,000	2,000
Water	1,250	800
Total Utilities	29,750	26,550
Liability Insurance	20,750	21,750
Church snow removal	14,000	14,000
Repairs (Discretionary)	7,500	8,000
Required Inspections	5,130	5,000
Miscellaneous Expenses	3,500	3,500
Supplies / Consumables	3,500	3,000
Church refuse collection	2,400	2,300
Landscaping	2,100	2,300
Fire Alarm System	420	700
Total Church Building	89,050	87,100
 Woodhull Manse Expenses		
Utilities		
Fuel Oil	4,000	4,500
Cable/Phone	2,000	2,000
Electric	1,850	1,500
Water	200	300
Total Utilities	8,050	8,300
Repairs/Supplies	10,000	5,000
Lawn Maintenance/Pest Control	1,000	1,250
Total Woodhull Manse	19,050	14,550
Total Property & Maintenance	108,100	101,650

Mission / Benevolence*

Mission Committee		
Mission-Local & Global	8,600	9,000
Iglesia Presbiteriana Hispana	6,000	6,000
Nueva Paz, Cuba	1,500	1,500
Total Mission Committee	16,100	16,500
Presbytery		
Basic Mission Support	20,800	20,000
Per Capita Expense	12,518	12,480
Total Presbytery	33,318	32,480
Total Mission Committee-Benevolence	49,418	48,980

Ministries**Worship**

Substitutes		
Substitute Preacher	2,500	2,500
Substitute Organist	1,100	1,100
Substitute Choir Director	700	700
Total Substitutes	4,300	4,300
Organ/Piano Repair & Tuning	3,540	3,540
New Music-Chancel choir	500	400
Sanctuary Supplies	250	350
Copyright Insurance	0	0
Robe Cleaning	100	100
New Music-Youth choirs	100	100
Total Worship	8,790	8,790

Christian Education

Sunday School		
Supplies/Resource	1,200	1,200
Youth Ministries	600	1,500
Baptism/Confirmation	400	400
Adult Education	300	300
Celebrations	300	300
Family Ministries Events	200	200
Total Christian Education	3,000	3,900
Pastor Nominating Committee	1,200	3,500
Stewardship	400	400
Church Officers	400	500
Memorial Garden	200	0
Membership	125	125
Peacemaking	100	100
Pioneers	100	250

Total Ministries	14,315	17,565
Admin Expenses		
Office hardware/software		
Copier Lease	2,150	2,150
Copier Usage	2,000	2,000
Hardware/Software	1,500	1,200
Total Office hardware/software	5,650	5,350
Subscriptions & Prof. Svc. Fees	3,000	3,000
Supplies-Office	2,000	1,750
Postage & Handling	1,200	1,200
Web/ Church Management software	1,100	1,750
Total Admin Expenses	12,950	13,050
Required Mortgage Payments		
PILP Loan - Interest Expense	5,760	0
PILP Loan - Principal Expense	25,880	0
Total Required Mortgage Payments	31,640	0
Banking		
Credit Card Trans fee	750	800
Returned checks and fees	60	100
Total Banking	810	900
Non-Operating Expenses		
Pastor Moving Expenses	0	10,000
Front Steps Repair	0	10,000
Total Non-Operating Expenses	0	20,000
Total Expenses	461,919	461,781
Difference	-4,319	-19,681

* The Mission expenses are exclusive of the "Donated Space" and utilities for the ELC Food Pantry, YDA Program and Weekday Nursery School.



Mariners

Year ending December 31,2019

Checking Account
First National Bank of Long Island

Opening Balance January 1, 2019. \$1831.57

Disbursements

Village of Northport Park Reservation. \$ 50.00
Barbecue Scudder Beach. \$ 59.85

Total \$109.85

Closing Balance December 31, 2019. \$1721.72

Submitted by

Faye Michels Treasurer Mariners

Mariners activities include all adults of our church. We are a social ministry. This year we hosted a barbecue at Scudder Beach, Northport. It was an exceptional evening with a very creative group of chefs. The grills were lit and members brought foods to share and ideas for next year. Thank you all!



Membership Ministry

This has been another inspiring year at First Presbyterian Church under the leadership of Pastor Rachel. We have added 10 new members to our church family. Those who have joined this year are:

Paul and Courtney Kress
Timothy and Kelsey Mooney
Steven and Alana Morgan
David and Elizabeth Pontillo
Ryan and Krystle Schultz

In addition, we are blessed with 11 confirmands who have joined the church:

Robert Blosser
Katie Casano
Ryan Casano
Riley Gayer
Robert Gonzalez
James Graziano
Julia Graziano
Lorelei Heuer
Stephanie Lee
Andrew Posner
Lily Waldhauer

We have continued this year with congregational events such as dinners, a summer BBQ , the kick off BBQ and a brunch after the pageant using Vernon Valley Deli plan Thanks to Tim Gladding, Mike Hodson , Glenn Baldwin and Ken Gilbert for providing music for these events. We also appreciate the support of the congregation in attending and in helping to clean up. Remember to bring friends and family who may not be associated (yet) with First Presbyterian.

Our current members are: Marilyn Barker, Peggy Denniston, Deidre Gehrke, Suzanne Haffner, Barbara Healy, Jody Horton Semeraro, Nancy Hogan, Carolyn Louis, Claire Newman, Chris O'Shea, Shelley Pierce, Barbara Sanderson, Suzanne Wells and Libby Yoskowitz.

We are pleased to announce that Libby Yoskowitz will be taking the position of Membership Ministry Chair!

Respectfully submitted
Nancy Hogan
Retiring Membership Ministry Chair

Members on 12/31/19. 328

Local/Global Mission Ministries

The 2019 discretionary funds received by Local/Global Mission Ministries were disbursed as follows: Donations were made to Presbyterian Disaster Assistance (PDA) in response to the devastation caused by Hurricane Dorian in the Bahamas, by the wild fires in California, and to address refugee emergencies at our southern border.

Due to our continued interest in relief aid for Puerto Rico, in March, six members of our congregation traveled to San Juan to work on a PDA sponsored project to repair a home in a neighborhood near the capital city. They stayed at the manse of the Miraflores Presbyterian Church which serves as a PDA host site. In July, additional Mission funds were sent to the Miraflores Church in support of their free Vacation Bible School. Our gift made it possible for 45 local children to spend a week studying the Bible, learning about Jesus, singing songs and making field trips to the city. Each day, a hot lunch was prepared for them in the kitchen of the church. They had a great time!

Acting locally, donations were made to the Northport VA medical center to buy items for “the comfort and welfare of veteran hospital patients”. \$50 Target gift cards were purchased to be given to clients of the “Voluntary Veterans Services – Homeless Vets Resettlement” program. As each veteran is settled in a new residence, he or she will receive one of the cards. Additional money was donated to support New Church Development programs in the Presbytery; to help start a Deacons' fund at the Emanuel Mission in Center Moriches, and to the college fund of the Nueva Vida Presbyterian Church.

As in the past, Mission Ministries sponsored four HHHI dinners for homeless people staying at St. Peter's Evangelical Lutheran Church. Northport volunteers purchased the food, cooked it, served it to the guests and helped clean up afterwards. It was wonderful to see how many folks wanted to help out.

In response to our request in November, members of the congregation donated socks, gloves, hats and scarves to be distributed to the HHHI guests. They were so grateful for your gifts! Due to the abundance of the gifts received, more clothing items will be distributed at the January 27 dinner.

On October 6th, Pastor Rachel invited Rev. Alejandro Madrigal and members of Iglesia Evangélica Presbiteriana Nueva Vida to attend our World Communion Sunday worship service. Pastor Madrigal gave a presentation along with three young people who had attended Youth Triennium in July. It was their way of thanking us for our donation to help cover the cost of their travel expenses. Your gifts to the Pentecost Offering the previous year made those gifts possible. Following the Worship Service, Mission Ministries sponsored a luncheon that gave us all the opportunity to meet and talk with our special guests.

Acting globally, in response to the mission opportunities listed in the *Presbyterian Giving Catalog*, funds were donated to purchase heating fuel for refugees, water filters, and for relief agencies to purchase and to distribute famine relief vouchers.

As in the past, Mission Ministries sponsored three special PCUSA offerings: the One Great Hour of Sharing, the Pentecost Offering and the Christmas Joy Offering. Gifts to these offerings totaled \$5,836.58.

The members of Mission Ministries would like to thank you for your generous support in 2019 – both financially and “hands on”. We hope you will continue to do so in 2020.

Love and peace to you all in the New Year.
Marilyn Fox, chairperson

Pastor Nominating Committee

We thank you for your prayers and your statements of support and encouragement as we continue the task of calling our next pastor.

Your Pastor Nominating Committee (PNC) began in January 2019 by creating a snapshot of the congregation describing our ministries, community, and vision called a Ministry Information Form (MIF). We based much of the MIF on the Mission Study in which the congregation participated in 2018. Session and the Committee on Ministry of the Presbytery of Long Island approved our MIF last July, which allowed us to post our MIF online at the denomination's Church Leadership Connection to be matched with similar forms prepared by pastoral candidates, called Personal Information Forms (PIFs).

We began receiving PIFs in August in lots of about 30 at a time. We have so far reviewed over 160 PIFs. Each member of the PNC reviews the PIFs. After reviewing PIFs, the PNC members share observations and opinions about each candidate. We then listen to or watch sermons from the candidates who pass the initial review. We contact the candidates who remain after the sermon review to schedule an interview, usually by teleconference. If the PNC wants to continue dialogue with a candidate after that interview, we contact the candidate's references and then, if still interested, we schedule a second interview. Any candidate who is still under consideration after the second interview is invited to visit Northport and meet personally with the PNC. At any given time, we have pastoral candidates at different stages of the process.

Our search requires imagination, courage, prayer, and yes...time. We ask your patience. We ask you to honor our mutual covenant of confidentiality that this search requires. And we ask for your prayers, for the PNC, for this congregation, and for our next pastor as we look toward the future together.

Anita D'Amico Stambouly
Carole Gandy
Kim Gilbert
Dennis Hartin, Chair
Wayne Louis
Diana Montusi



Peacemaking Ministry

This year, Peacemaking has continued to discuss and to bring information to our congregation about our Christian response to immigration, gun violence and the environmental crisis. We are donating funds to Heifer International, The Sierra Club, Gold Standard Carbon Offset (environmental organization), Coalition to Stop Gun Violence, and Direct Relief (Emergency services and disaster relief).

Our efforts on immigration and equality for all continue. In January, we posted “WE CHOOSE WELCOME” signs in church to show our members and community that we choose to welcome all regardless of race, nationality or immigration status. In October we sponsored a speaker, Richard Koubek, from Long Island Jobs with Justice, who spoke on ***Embracing Our Diversity, Finding Common Ground in Our Different Family Histories***. We discussed our family immigration stories, where our ancestors came from, and how each immigrant group was assimilated in our society. He reviewed the current immigration crisis and what we can do to help. We are planning a follow-up session with him, hopefully in May.

Recently we have focused on the environmental crisis. Some of our members attended Presbytery Day which dealt with our Presbyterian response to the changes in our environment and our responsibility to care for God’s creation. We are planning two adult education sessions, to be presented in February on ***Climate Change and our Christian Response***. The first will be an overview of the topic with videos and discussion. In the second session we will host Alisa Tippie, a representative of the Sunrise Movement, an environmental activist group. She will present information on her organization and discuss suggestions for decreasing the carbon burden on the environment and slowing global warming.

We meet monthly, usually the second Sunday of the month after church. We will continue to discuss issues that are important to the way we live and our Christian responsibility to other people and our environment. All are welcome. Please contact any of us if you are interested in joining. The following quote is a modification of a quote from Dr. Martin Luther King:

Remember peace is not just about the absence of conflict, but the presence of justice, and a solution for the world where different races and cultures live in harmony, respecting each other and our environment; a world where peace is built with justice, and justice is guided by love.

Cathy Coleman

Chair, Peacemaking Ministry

2019 Members: Elizabeth Coleman, Pat Reeves, Alan Schorn, Bob Shevlin, and Audrey Van Deusen,



Pioneers

Pioneers are a group of retired people who enjoy meeting each Wednesday at church for fellowship, worship and lunch.

Programs include subjects to keep us mentally sharp and physically strong. We enjoy music and art, antiques, puzzles, movies and poetry. We would like to thank Linda Dickman for leading several poetry workshops; Tim Gladding & Glenn Baldwin for sharing their musical talents with us; Weekday Nursery School children for entertaining us with songs; Pastor Rachel for sharing pictures and stories from her trip to the Vatican. Young people from Weekday Nursery School visit us to sing at holiday time.

We have enjoyed lunches at Ruvos and Ciro's as well as chair yoga and "Jeopardy."

We help the pantry of our church by preparing Easter Baskets and collecting personal hygiene items for the clients.

Pastor Rachel Vione leads us in chapel. Singing hymns as well as hearing the word each week gives us strength to carry through the week.

A special thanks to those who have provided music and presented programs as well as Deacons who provide support to make them possible. Thank you also for those who have provided soup and dessert each week for our lunches.

We mourn the loss of our dear friend, Doris Black, who faithfully played the piano for our chapel each week. We miss her smile and her talents!

Join us on Wednesday! Have an idea for a program, call Faye Michels or Sharon Noonan

Respectfully submitted,
Faye Michels & Sharon Noonan



Presbyterian Women

The Presbyterian Women's organization of the church (PW) had a very productive and pleasant 2019. In November, we had our annual fundraiser with the Fellowship Social Events Sale, made possible by the generosity and creativity of members' offerings, and by fellow church folks' purchases. We are grateful to have been able to raise \$6,700, which enables us to once again make multiple donations to needs, both in our country and around the world.

PW is dedicated to women, children, and families' assistance. Mission is PW's purpose and we prayerfully follow God's direction as to where we can best help others.

The following is a list of some of the monies donated this past year:

Our sister church Iglesia Evangelica Presbyteriana Nueva Vida ~ Church World Service School Kits ~ Heifer International ~ Ecumenical Lay Council Food Pantry ~ Presbyterian Disaster Assistance (PDA) earmarked for Hurricane victims ~ PW USA Gives Day ~ PW USA Birthday Offering ~ PW USA Thank Offering ~ Save the Children ~ YDA Christmas family adoptions ~ Charles Skarda Memorial ~ Thanksgiving Table cornucopia ~ Weekday Nursery Mommy & Me ~ and Baptism gifts.

As you can see, "your" money raised by the Events' purchases, goes far and wide, always with loving help to others. The Events Sale each year is a fun fellowship way of doing good – for others – and for your enjoyment.

In December we hosted the annual Ladies Christmas Dinner in the Hartt Room. Dozens of women attended and enjoyed good food, fellowship, and singing. In the Spring we enjoyed a Ladies Day luncheon at a local restaurant. Throughout the year, at various homes, we have several thought-provoking conversations discussing chosen books.

PW is a wonderful part of FPC, attended by women with the common goal of helping others wherever the Lord leads us. It would be great to have you join in the book talk meetings. Your input would be most welcome.

Respectfully submitted,
Diana Montusi



Presbyterian Women Income Statement - 2019

Balance

-	General Fund as of January 1, 2019	6,178.16
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Receipts

	Donations	210.00
	PW Event Sale Fund Raiser	6,698.00
	PW Spring Luncheon tickets	524.45
	PW Birthday Offering	616.00
	PW Christmas Dinner tickets	560.00
	PW Thank Offering	589.00
	Total Receipts	9,197.45

Disbursements

Mission

	Church World Service School Kits	347.23
	CWS Global Food Security	800.00
	Family Medical Emergency	400.00
	Heifer International	600.00
	ELC Food Pantry	26.73
	Iglesia Evangelica Pres Nueva Vida	400.00
	Presby Disaster Assistance - Hurricane	1,000.00
	PW USA Gives Day	600.00
	PW USA Birthday Offering	750.00
	PW USA Thank Offering	1,000.00
	Save The Children	500.00
	Uganda Medical Mission	500.00
	YDA Christmas family	355.62
		7,279.58

Home Church

	Horizons Magazine	24.95
	Baptisms & Cheer	240.85
	Charles Skarda Memorial	400.00
	Kitchen donation (microwave)	112.47
	Thanksgiving Table	81.15
	PW Spring luncheon	616.59
	PW Christmas dinner	523.93
	Weekday Nursery Mommy-and-Me	200.00
		2,199.94

	Total Disbursements	9,479.52
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Balance

-	General Fund as of December 31, 2019	5,896.09
	First National Bank of Long Island	

New Covenant Balanced Growth Fund

	Balance as of Dec 31, 2019	\$2,605.73
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Respectfully submitted,
Peggy Denniston, PW Treasurer

Property and Maintenance

The mission of the Property and Maintenance Committee (P&M) is to keep all church buildings and grounds in good repair and appearance, and to provide budget oversight for utilities and all other services required to ensure that our buildings support the mission of our local and larger church.

Church property requires attention to all the same issues and little details we all deal with in our own homes including striving to keep costs within budget. This year the total utility and fixed expense cost for the church building and manse was approximately \$87 thousand dollars and within the allotted budget of \$97 thousand dollars. The expense for unplanned repairs at the manse and church was equal to the discretionary budget allotment of \$11 thousand dollars.

During 2019 P&M undertook several improvement projects. The church sidewalks at the front steps were replaced, water sprinklers were installed for the church lawn areas, the concrete handicap ramp at the rear of church school was replaced, the main level hallway carpet was replaced, and 99% of the church's lighting has been converted to LED bulbs including the sanctuary chandeliers. In addition, a planned replacement program was initiated to replace all the failing toilet automatic flush-valves with manual valves, and the stairway down to Fellowship Hall was structurally repaired. All the nursery school/church school classrooms have been connected to air conditioning. Electrical improvements throughout the building were made replacing faulty sensors, timers and switches. Furnaces and air conditioners were serviced and filters replaced, and condensation discharge water pumps were repaired or replaced. In addition, a variety of other systems in the building were repaired, and the grounds of the church building were attended to.

The manse interior and exterior were repainted, front storm door replaced, landscaping and new lawn planted, a sprinkler system installed in the front lawn and a major clean-up of the back yard was accomplished. The original smoke detectors and CO-2 sensors have all been replaced.

P&M is starting to prepare for 2020 projects by getting proposals to replace the decaying steps at the front entrance to the sanctuary, and exploring the project details expected to be encountered as we prepare to repave the parking area. We expect to have budget available for the steps, but the repaving project will require special funding. We will also have to coordinate with the Village of Northport since a portion of the parking area is an abandoned Village street. We also are seeking to solve the problem of debris being washed down from the upper portion of Sea View Terrace into the parking lot. We hope the Village will be able to assist us in this endeavor.

The committee wishes to acknowledge Fred Mosher for his years of service with P&M. The Mosher's have moved to Pennsylvania and Fred's participation will be missed. Thanks Fred for all your help.

Submitted by your Property and Maintenance Committee: Harold Armet, Jim Denniston, David Dickman, Carole Gandy (Chair), Steve Keller, Harry Newman, Steve Siegmann, Bob Van Deusen, James Zima.

As this report indicates, there is a lot of activity behind the church walls that most of the congregation does not see, and a relatively small group of men and women getting the job done. We welcome new "comrades in arms" to help us maintain the manse and church buildings in the manner we all want for First Presbyterian Church of Northport. We meet the second Tuesday of each month at 7:00 PM for a short meeting. Come join us as we tend to the Lord's home on earth.

Respectfully submitted,
Bob Van Deusen

Stewardship Ministry

Making a Difference

We have moved into the 2020 church year facing our normal operating costs but we hope to retire our mortgage debt soon. Current pledge information shows that we have received pledges for \$343,700 for 2020. This compares to \$380,374 pledged by this time last year. Our goal is to reach \$400,000 in pledges to plan for 2020. We are 86% of the way to our goal. We recognize that additional income will come from non-pledged giving and other sources. However, the Finance Ministry faces great difficulty in preparing an annual budget when adequate pledges are not made and they have to deal with estimated income sources.

The per capita assessment this year is \$38.05 per member. We encourage everyone to add these expenses to their pledge giving to help defray the costs.

The Stewardship Ministry is working to develop additional means of communicating with all members of our congregation. We recognize that continuing information regarding how the church is both receiving its revenues and how it is spending its money is not only meaningful but necessary.

We encourage each member of the congregation to accept his or her personal responsibility in providing the income necessary to permit our church to continue its work in our community as well as the world. Our ministry and mission calls for us to do this both joyfully and spiritually. We must all accept this responsibility seriously. All that we have is from God. This is a way for us to say "Thank You". We need to commit to the fact that giving to our church must be a part of our spiritual growth in response to the gift of Grace we receive from our God. Giving of our time, talent, gifts and service is a way to serve our Lord.

You can now make your donations by text (text "fpcnpt" to 73256 click the link, and complete the gift) or on line (<https://www.fpcnorthport.org/give>).

We urge all of our fellow church members to increase their generosity in supporting our church's work by giving of your financial resources, time and talent. Consider participating in a group you haven't worked with before. Not only will you be assisting others but you will feel in your heart the reward of giving time as well as giving money.

The Stewardship Ministry is not only involved in the yearly "estimate of giving" campaign, we also encourage giving of time, talent and money throughout the year. In addition we have articles in Highlights and Happenings and Minutes for Mission.

The Stewardship Ministry wishes to thank Barbara Kaifler, Administrative Assistant and Kevin McKerr, Financial Assistant for their assistance in carrying out our work.

Our group meets on the second Wednesday of the month at 7:00 p.m. and we invite you to join us in our work.

Members of the Stewardship Ministry in 2018 are Jeff Barasch, Jane Hudson, Christine Spiller, Bob Spiller, Jack Coleman and Rev. Rachel Vione (*ex officio*).

Respectfully submitted by
Jack Coleman, Chair

Sunday School

The Sunday School program kicked off on September 8th with regular Sunday School classes and the Welcome Back Barbecue, which was organized by the Membership Ministry this year. We continue to use Sparkhouse curriculum; Holy Moly for Pre-k and Elementary and Re:Form for Mid Highs. We have one classroom for Holy Moly and when attendance dictates, we can pull out preschoolers to a separate classroom. Usually, however, preschool through Grade 5 are together and activities accommodate all ages. Classes are taught by parent volunteers and Lisa Nikrant. The children still enjoy the Holy Moly videos and lesson preparation is simple for teachers, so the curriculum works well. Students in grades 6 through 8 are together in the library for their video and activities. Mid Highs are taught by a rotating trio of teachers; Frank Dentrone, Wayne Louis, and Shelley Pierce. We continue Family Sunday on the first Sunday of the month where children stay in worship with their families and share in the sacrament of communion.

A highlight of the Sunday School year is always the annual Children's Christmas Pageant, which took place on December 15 during the morning worship service. We used our familiar script but a new cast emerges every year. This year we had many younger cast members in key roles, supported by Youth in many roles. It was a true joy to see such a wide range of ages working together on the performance. A special thank you to John Kennedy, as always, for his behind the scenes work, to Nancy Hogan for directing the Carol Choir, Marge Margolf and Brenda Clark for accompanying the children on the piano and organ, and Tony and Jake Bruno for setting up the sound system. Many thanks also to the many volunteers who helped with costumes, rehearsals, and chaperoning during the pageant.

The Senior High classes are meeting in Fellowship Hall, in the Youth area on the stage and at tables. They continue to be led by Jeff Barasch, in his 30th year. We appreciate his commitment and the kids continue to enjoy his class every week.

We continue to provide nursery volunteers most weeks in the nursery for infants and toddlers and greatly appreciate those dedicated volunteers.

Thank you to all the Sunday School teachers and volunteers who help make our Sunday School program run smoothly each week.

Respectfully submitted,
Lisa Nikrant





Weekday Nursery School

Weekday Nursery School continued growing in 2019. We began the calendar year with 106 students. We had four full classes of two-year olds, one on Monday, Wednesday and Friday and the other on Tuesday and Thursday. We also increased to two three-year-old classes and three four-year-old classes. Our staff also increased to accommodate the new classes. We ended the year with 22 staff members on payroll.

We held a couple of successful fundraisers to support the school further during the 2018-2019 school year. We began by having a Pancake Breakfast with the Church on February 9th. It raised money both for Weekday Nursery School as well as the ELC Food Pantry. Our next fundraiser was a school-wide Read-a-thon. Each class logged 10 minutes of reading a day for two weeks and got pledges from family and friends based on the total amount of minutes spent reading at home and in school. This effort was a huge success! We raised \$6700 dollars towards the installation of central air conditioning in our upstairs classrooms.

We were able to install central air conditioning in all of our upstairs classrooms during the summer of 2019. This addition is a much more economical way to cool the classrooms on the hot spring and summer days.

We were able to add an enrichment class during the school day every day for our three and four-year-old classes. We currently offer Fine Art, STEAM, Music and Movement, Yoga and Spanish classes. We also offer a monthly Chapel, run by Pastor Rachel one time a month for a half hour for our three and four-year-old students. We have had wonderful special events for our students and families, including a performance by the Circus Guy, puppet shows, indoor planetarium visits and a visit from none other than Mrs. Claus! We also had a presentation on fog and bubbles by Mad Science and Green Meadows Farm at Weekday for all our students.

We are very grateful for the guidance of the Weekday Nursery School Board, as well as the continued support and encouragement of Pastor Rachel and the church members and look forward to wonderful years to come!

Respectfully submitted,
Christine Mulholland, WNS Director



Worship Ministry

The Worship Ministry has once again been busy seeking new avenues to make our worship services more meaningful. We are vigilant in keeping our beautiful organ and grand piano tuned and serviced regularly. Our other pianos are also on a tuning schedule. Our Flower Guild has purchased some more wreaths for the outside of our church. They continue to collect for Christmas and Easter flowers as well as guest soloists. Both holidays continue to fill two services, Christmas Eve 4:00 and 8:00 PM and Easter morning 9:00 and 11:00 AM. Our children's pageant was once again very successful, bringing all the children in the Sunday school together.

Some more highlights:

- Renewal of the Baptismal covenant
- Imposition of ashes on Ash Wednesday: service of Tenebrae on Maundy Thursday.
- Flowering of the cross on Easter Sunday, Brass accompaniment.
- An infusion of red in the sanctuary for Pentecost
- Nancy Hogan and Marge Margolf have announced their retirement from the Youth choirs.
- As we continue to upgrade and expand our seasonal banners, we have begun a search for additional Ordinary Time banners. A Fall banner for Ordinary Time was purchased with a very good response from the congregation.
- We have put all the ushers email addresses in place so that scheduling announcements, safety procedures etc. can be quickly sent out.
- Ringing of the Church Bell - We have added the Ringing of the Church Bell to the beginning of the worship service. After the Pastor and choir have entered the sanctuary, the church bell is rung three times to signal that the worship service is beginning. At this time Shelley Pierce has volunteered to ring the bell.
- The new sound system from the funds in Memory of John Michels has been installed.
- We added a special candle lighting service on the second Sunday in Advent. Congregants were asked to come forward to light a candle to symbolize the light that overcomes the darkness.
- Our youth provide worship leadership each year in June. We have heard some wonderful sermons from our youth!
- There have been special Postludes and other musical offerings throughout the year. Music has always been an important part of the life and ministry at FPC. The choir continues to enhance our worship services under the direction of Dana Warren.
- Trumpet soloists at Christmas Eve services.
- We had more Baptisms, new members and a July wedding in 2019.

Yours,

Vicki Field, Worship Committee Chair

Members of the Worship Committee are: Joan Armet, Brenda Clark (staff), Barbara Healy, Sharon Noonan, Bob Shevlin, Rev. Rachel Vione (staff)



Youth Ministry

The FPC youth group (grades 6-12) began 2019 preparing and serving dinner for the HIHI guests in Huntington. The group met at the manse to prepare the meal and have fellowship together. The senior high youth brought the meal to the UCC where they served dinner and had conversation with the guests. This is a popular event for our youth as they are able to learn about how our community supports those in need and how they can be a part of that caring community.

Another popular event is “Firepit Night.” We gather for a night of games and food in the Hartt Room and then have a campfire on the patio to reflect on a devotion and experience some spiritual time together. The kids enjoy the warmth of the fire, the warmth of friendship and the warmth of God’s presence. Of course, the s’mores are also a big hit!

The youth shopped for Adopt-A-Family in December, participated in Souper Bowl of Caring in February, sorted and bagged shoes for Soles 4 Souls in March, and did Midnight Run. The program ended in June with the Senior High Lock In at the church. In addition to fellowship with each other they prepared to lead the Youth worship service. The kids did a fantastic job organizing and the service and leading the congregation in worship.

We look forward to trying a new mission experience in Philadelphia where the kids will see how another city ministers to and cares for its homeless.

Respectfully Submitted,
Elder Kim Gilbert
Rev. Rachel Vione



Ministry Leadership

Clerk of Session – Marcia Mercer

Assistant Clerk – Carole Gandy

All Church Nominating Committee – Joan Armet

Board of Deacons Moderator – Carolyn Louis

Corporation Officers

President – Marcia Mercer

Corporate Secretary – Carole Gandy



Meaning of Membership in the Presbyterian Church (USA)*

Membership in the Church of Jesus Christ is a joy and a privilege. It is also a commitment to participate in Christ's mission. A faithful member bears witness to God's love and grace and promises to be involved responsibly in the ministry of Christ's Church. Such involvement includes:

- proclaiming the good news in word and deed,
- taking part in the common life and worship of a congregation,
- lifting one another up in prayer, mutual concern, and active support,
- studying Scripture and the issues of Christian faith and life,
- supporting the ministry of the church through the giving of money, time, and talents,
- demonstrating a new quality of life within and through the church,
- responding to God's activity in the world through service to others,
- living responsibly in the personal, family, vocational, political, cultural, and social relationships of life,
- working in the world for peace, justice, freedom, and human fulfillment,
- participating in the governing responsibilities of the church, and
- reviewing and evaluating regularly the integrity of one's membership, and considering ways in which one's participation in the worship and service of the church may be increased and made more meaningful.

*From *The Constitution of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), Part II. Book of Order*, 2013-2015.

2019 MINISTRY TEAMS

Finance

Peggy Denniston (chair)
Harold Armet
Dennis Crowley (elder)
Lisa Huntley
Kevin McKerr (staff)
Steve Nikrant
Bob Spiller

Memorial Garden

Carole Gandy (chair) (elder)
Harry Newman (elder)
Jim Denniston
Jane Hudson
Steve Keller
Gerry Walford
Krista Mellinger-DeRoma
Jennifer Paterson
Peggy Denniston

Memorial Fund

Jane Hudson
Carole Gandy (elder)
Art Shaw

Personnel

Carole Gandy (chair) (elder)
Richard Huntley
Diane Lobaugh
Marcia Mercer

Property & Maintenance

Harold Armet
Jim Denniston
David Dickman
Carole Gandy (chair) (elder)
Steven Keller
Harry Newman
Bob Van Deusen
James Zima

Stewardship

Jack Coleman (chair)
Jeff Barasch
Jane Hudson
Bob Spiller
Christine Spiller (elder)

Adult Education

Christine Spiller (chair) (elder)
Jack Fink
Tim Gladding
Audrey Van Deusen
Bob Van Deusen

Children's Ministry

Lisa Nikrant (SS Director)

Youth Ministries

Kim Gilbert (chair) (elder)
Stephanie Lee (youth elder)
Rachel Vione (staff)

Mariners

Marcia & Ron Mercer
Faye Michels

Membership

Nancy Hogan (chair)
Marilyn Barker
Peggy Denniston
Susanne Haffner
Barbara Healy
Carolyn Louis
Diana Montusi
Shelley Pierce
Barbara Sanderson
Libby Yoskowitz

Pioneers

Faye Michels (chair)
Sharon Noonan

Presbyterian Women

Pat Bell
Diana Montusi

Local & Global Missions

Marilyn Fox (chair)
Jane Hudson
Florence Ogg (elder)

Peacemaking

Cathy Coleman (chair)
Barbara Healy
Anne Mateer
Pat Reeves
Alan Schorn
Bob Shevlin (elder)
Gloria Valsamis
Audrey Van Deusen

Weekday Nursery School

Amanda Carnesi
Dana Laughlin
Cindy Mies (elder)
Christine Mulholland (Director)
Melissa VonSalzen

Music & Ministry

Deidre Gehrke
Nancy Winkler
Cathy Coleman
Jack Coleman
Brenda Clark (staff)

Sanctuary Guild

Cindy Mies (elder)
Sharon Noonan

Worship

Joan Armet (elder)
Vicki Field (chair)
Barbara Healy
Bob Shevlin (elder)
Brenda Clark (staff)
Rachel Vione (staff)

Nominating

Joan Armet (chair) (elder)
Kathi Landi
Anne Mateer
Claire Newman
Jeannie O'brien
Nancy Winkler

Congregational Dinners

Nancy Hogan
Ron Mercer
Diana Montusi
Paul Schrader (elder)

Clerk of Session

Marcia Mercer

Assistant Clerk of Session

Carole Gandy

Board of Deacons Moderator

Carolyn Louis

Pastor Nominating Committee

Dennis Hartin (Chair)

Carole Gandy (elder)

Kim Gilbert (elder)

Wayne Louis

Diana Montusi

Anita D'Amico Stambouly (elder)



Our Mission Statement

First Presbyterian Church of Northport is a welcoming community that invites all people to learn about and respond to the Word of God as found in the Old and New Testaments.

Our mission is to be shaped by, proclaim, and live out the good news of Jesus Christ. We are committed to supporting the spiritual development of our congregation by feeding the spiritually and physically hungry, caring for the sick and lonely, nurturing children, and reaching out to those in need in our local and global communities.