



**First Presbyterian Church**  
LEWISTOWN

**2022**

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**ANNUAL  
REPORT**





**Docket for Annual Meeting**  
**First Presbyterian Church**  
**215 5th Avenue South • Lewistown, Montana**  
**February 12, 2023**

Call to Order

Opening Prayer

Approval of Minutes

A Word from Your Pastor

Report of the Nominating Committee

See report of the Nominating Committee, page 12

1. Election of Elders
2. Election of Deacons

Annual Meeting of the Corporation

1. Call to Order
2. Business of the Corporation
  - a. Corporate Officers
    - i. Chair: Gary Slagel
    - ii. Secretary: Lisa Sanders
    - iii. Treasurer: Jan Waltenbaugh
3. Motion to Adjourn the Annual Meeting of the Corporation

Presentation of 2023 Budget

Rev. Kimmy Briggs Terms of Call

Motion to Adjourn and Closing Prayer





# A MESSAGE FROM PASTOR KIMMY

*"Continue to live your lives in Jesus, rooted and built up in him and established in the faith, just as you were taught, abounding in thanksgiving." (Colossians 2:6b-7)*

I started 2022 with hope and anticipation for what God was going to do in and through First Presbyterian Church. I finished 2022 overwhelmed by gratitude.

It wasn't that long ago that many felt something like seeds that had been buried deep in the soil showing little signs of life. Today, just about everywhere we look, there are signs of growth, signs of tiny seeds that have sprouted.

As I've worked with our Elders and Deacons to compile the details contained in this report, I've stood in awe of everything we have been able to do this year. The pictures and the facts highlighted in this report are just a glimpse of the growth we have experienced this year. It is true that we have grown numerically, in the number of people engaging in the life of our church family and in the numbers of programs we are offering. But far more importantly, we have grown in faith, as we continue to root ourselves in Jesus Christ.

It would be impossible to share every detail of 2022, but I hope as you turn through the pages of this report that you see the growth. And I hope it fills you, as it does me, with gratitude, gratitude for the people, for the time, for the talents, for the resources that have enabled us to be part of God's work in this community and beyond.

Growth doesn't just happen. Throughout this year our Elders and Deacons have tried new things and taken risks. Some of those ideas have flourished, which you'll see reflected on these pages. Other ideas have struggled or maybe didn't work at all; we also tried to acknowledge that on these pages. Whenever we try something new, there is always a risk of failing. But that's okay, we will never grow if we aren't willing to risk failing.

And so, as we look ahead to 2023, we are committed to continuing to grow. As you look through this report, you'll see some of our specific hopes and dreams. They represent a picture of where we are going, of how we will continue to move towards God, forward in faith, and outward as disciples of Jesus Christ.

And here's what I believe, what began as planted seeds, is being nurtured into tiny sprouts. And those sprouts will, in time, grow into flowers. And each flower is becoming part of a garden that we call First Presbyterian Church.

And so, may these pages give you hope for all that is ahead for us, for this church that we call First Presbyterian Church of Lewistown.

I give thanks that I get to be on this journey with you! I can't wait to see how we will grow together!



# 2022 BY THE NUMBERS

**6,982**

people reached on Facebook



**175+**

hymns sung by our congregation

**250+**

doves folded  
for Pentecost  
representing our  
prayers for First  
Presbyterian  
Church



**100+**

interactions with children and youth



**1**

Chili Cook Off  
Champion in the  
Inaugural Chili  
Feed Contest

**\$7,500**

donated to South Moccasin Fire Relief through  
a grant from Presbyterian Disaster Assistance



**\$4,051.48**

donated to local and global mission projects

# TODAY: WHERE WE ARE. WHO WE ARE.

We do a lot here at First Presbyterian! In 2022, we've watched seeds become sprouts and we give thanks for the ways that God continues to multiply our work.

What you see here is only a snapshot of the incredible things that have been done in the last year! These represent a glimpse of the ways your dollars have been at work, but also the ways your time and talents contribute to the work and ministry of First Presbyterian Church.

In summary, we are who we are, because of you, the people of First Presbyterian Church.

## MUSIC & WORSHIP HIGHLIGHTS



*My faith grows every week by being surrounded by a loving congregation who doesn't judge you for the week you've had, if you're running late to service, if you can't stay for coffee hour.*



### WORSHIP

8 sermon series, 6 special worship services, ie.: Ash Wednesday, Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, Thanksgiving, Longest Night, & Christmas Eve



### TECH TEAM

Our newly established Tech Team faithfully provided sound and visuals for those in the sanctuary and helped livestream our services to Facebook and YouTube. 23.8K minutes were streamed



### CHOIR

20+ choir members sang 14 anthems and led the congregation in more than 175 hymns



### MUSIC

Music leadership provided by more than a dozen individuals, including pianists, organists, and guitars



*When I come to worship each week, I am always reminded that God loves me. So, no matter what happened last week or what will happen next week, I find hope.*



# EDUCATION HIGHLIGHTS



## SUMMER SPECTACULAR

15 kids joined us for a day long Vacation Bible School with lessons, music, snacks, lunch, crafts, games, an obstacle, and homemade ice cream



## CHRISTMAS PAGEANT

16 children and adults helped tell the Christmas story, featuring a musical rendition to the tune of Baby Shark



## MOVIE NIGHTS

Monthly Family Movie Nights this Fall, with 72+ cups of Jell-O consumed and 45+ children and adults participating throughout the Fall



## PARENTS NIGHT OUT

We had the kids for a fun-filled evening, featuring dinner, snowball fights, snowman crafts, hot chocolate, and a movie, while their parents had a date night



## EGGSTRAVAGANZA

Crafts, lunch, and a reverse Easter Egg Hunt in celebration of Easter



## FALL FEST

12 kids, plus their families joined us for lunch, pumpkin decorating, and carnival games



## P-ZYG

We joined Zion Lutheran for weekly youth group, providing dinner, fellowship, games, and scripture for 8-12 youth each week



## KIDS SUNDAY SCHOOL

In the spring and in December we offered Sunday School, teaching kids Bible stories, playing games, and doing some crafts

*Our Bible Study series make you think about faith, life, and scripture in new ways!*



“

*I'm glad we started hosting Family Movie Nights and Parent's Night Out!!! I love the opportunity to spend time with my family in a loving environment and the chance to get to know other parents with Christian values.*



### **NURSERY**

The nursery re-opened, providing a safe and loving environment for kids during worship



### **BACKPACK BLESSING**

50 backpack tags blessed and given to children, teachers, and school staff to begin the school year



### **8 ADULT BIBLE STUDY AND SUNDAY SCHOOL SERIES TAUGHT**

45+ people participating in adult Bible Studies at some point throughout the year



### **BUILDING FAITH**

Following Family Movie Nights, Building Faith discusses how popular movies relate to our faith. Most weeks we have 6-10 participants

## **FELLOWSHIP HIGHLIGHTS**



### **INAUGURAL SOUPER BOWL**

donating 209 pounds of food and supplies to Community Cupboard



### **2ND ANNUAL DECK THE HALLS**

with 40+ people decorating the sanctuary for Christmas



### **INAUGURAL CHILI FEED COMPETITION**

featuring seven different chili recipes and won by Will Briggs



### **MOTHER'S DAY BRUNCH**

was a delicious meal prepared by the men of the church



### **FALL FEST**

lunch and treats for the congregation with witch finger hot dogs, ghost cake pops and spider cookies



### **WIENER BEANER LUNCHEON**

celebrating Father's Day with franks and beans



### **30+ BAGS FILLED**

and delivered to homebound members and friends of the church



### **12+ FELLOWSHIP EVENTS**

including Christmas UnDecorating, Palm Sunday lunch, a baby shower, and craft nights



### **SUNDAE SUNDAYS**

too many ice cream Sundaes and root beer floats to count!

## **DEACONS & OUTREACH**



**\$668.35**

in Christmas wreath sales to support the ministry of First Presbyterian Church



**156**

Christmas cards sent to congregation members and friends



**\$1,600**

given to Love INC of Central Montana and Clearing House to support work right here in Lewistown



**\$800**

to support Emalie K.'s work  
in North Africa with CRU



**\$400**

to support New Church  
Development in Egypt



**36 coffee hours**

hosted by the Deacons, overflowing  
the Sunshine Room most weeks



**\$1,151.48**

to bless our neighbors through the  
work of Salvation Army, Council on  
Aging, and the Angel Tree



**18 HOURS**

ringing the bell in support of  
Salvation Army's Red Kettle Drive



**500+ POUNDS**

donated to the Community  
Cupboard following our collections  
on the 1st Sunday of each month



**15+ BAGS**

stuffed with donations to bless  
families during the Christmas  
season for Love INC.



**INFINITE NUMBER**

of hugs and handshakes given  
while serving as greeters

**“**  
*The messages and  
ministry of FPC  
challenge me to go  
into my workplace  
and plant seeds of  
joy and love.*



# VISITOR FOLLOW-UP

New This Year! The Visitor Follow-Up Team focuses on connecting with people who visit on a Sunday morning



## 25+ WELCOME CARDS

returned, representing new visitors, updated contact information, and an abundance of prayer requests



## 6 NEW MEMBERS

welcomed into the church family



## 25 ONE-ON-ONE

personal phone calls made with members and visitors by the team

# BUILDINGS & GROUNDS



## NEW ROOF

We got 7000 square feet of new roofing on the sanctuary and education wing



## PARKING LOT

We began renting our main parking lot to One Health, helping support not only our neighborhood but our community by keeping parking available on Main Street



## FELLOWSHIP HALL

Work continued in the Fellowship Hall, including endless hours of electrical, plumbing, heating, framing, and insulation



## THE GROUNDS

Countless hours, and plants, beautify our grounds throughout the spring and summer. Thanks to Carol Huffine, and other volunteers for their faithful work!



# PERSONNEL



## ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT

We welcomed Amy to our church staff, who is not only a friendly face in the office, but has helped us improve our website and social media presence by leaps and bounds



## NURSERY WORKERS

Three high school students rotate to provide nursery care each Sunday and for special events



*Becoming a part of this church family has been one of the greatest blessings of my life. My family and I have been welcomed with open arms and a tremendous amount of love. Thank you!*

## 2022 CHURCH STAFF

Pastor – Rev. Kimmy Briggs  
 Clerk of Session – Lisa Sanders  
 Treasurer – Jan Waltenbaugh  
 Administrative Assistant  
 – Lisa Sanders & Amy Clarkson  
 Custodian – Linda Peterson  
 Interim Music Director  
 – Donna Byerly  
 Pianist – Donna Byerly  
 Organist – Brian Priest  
 Nursery – Jeanette Miller, Brooke Ruckman, Skylar Rutten, Allie Ueker

## 2022 SESSION

### Feb. 2020-Feb. 2023

Neva Crane (Worship)  
 Sandy Mikeson (Children's Education)  
 Deb Slagel (Fellowship)

### Feb. 2021-Feb. 2024

Brian Ash (Buildings & Grounds)  
 Don Jenni (Finance)  
 Jordan Stilson (Adult Education)

### Feb. 2022-Feb. 2025

Lisa Ash (Visitor Follow-Up)  
 Kevin Kepler (Personnel)  
 Gary Slagel (Fellowship)

## 2022 DEACONS

### Feb. 2020-Feb. 2023

Kathy Ault (Treasurer)  
 Sherry Cramer  
 Shelby Hill  
 Helen Hutchison

### Feb. 2021-Feb. 2024

Melissa Bell (Moderator)  
 Linda Bradley  
 Sherry Cramer  
 Helen Hutchison  
 Mary Kepler

### Feb. 2022-Feb. 2025

Nancy Barber  
 Abby Franks  
 Jean Raw  
 Barbara Smith





## REPORT OF THE NOMINATING COMMITTEE

*Nominating Committee: Lisa Ash, Kathy Ault, Richard Battrick, Donna Byerly, Sandy Mikeson*

*\*For Election*

### **Elders**

#### **Feb. 2021-Feb. 2024**

Brian Ash  
Don Jenni  
Jordan Stilson

#### **Feb. 2022-Feb. 2025**

Lisa Ash  
Kevin Kepler  
Gary Slagel

#### **Feb. 2023-Feb. 2026**

George Maruska\*  
Lisa Sanders (Clerk of Session)\*  
Deb Slagel\*

### **Deacons**

#### **Feb. 2021-Feb. 2024**

Melissa Bell (Moderator)  
Linda Bradley  
Sherry Cramer\*  
Helen Hutchison\*  
Mary Kepler

#### **Feb. 2022-Feb. 2025**

Nancy Barber  
Abby Franks  
Jean Raw  
Barbara Smith

#### **Feb. 2023-Feb. 2026**

Kathy Ault (Treasurer)\*  
Kandy Nielsen\*  
Will and Angela Schenk\*







## FINANCE REPORT

Our Finance Committee looks back on 2022 with a profound sense of gratitude. As a church, we paid our bills and finished the year in the black (the 10th year in a row that we have done so). That is a congregational accomplishment that we don't take lightly; many churches would not be able to make that statement.

This Annual Report includes information about 2022, so you can see where the money came from and where it went. Members of the Finance Committee are always available to visit about any questions or concerns you have about our church finances. This church believes in complete openness and transparency. All of this belongs to you and ultimately to the Lord.

We have worked and presented to the Session the 2023 budget. It includes a very modest increase in tithing as well as our best estimate of expenses, including appropriate pay increases for our staff. Now it is presented to you, the congregation, to review and hopefully approve at our Annual Meeting.

When we look at our hopes and dreams presented in this Annual Report, we are confident that our congregation – through special gifting, as so many times through the years – can and will step up to meet not only our needs, but our future hopes, if our Session and we as a body call for it.

We are grateful to Amy Clarkson for her work in our church office, to Dale Huffine for his financial review of our 2021 books, and to treasurer Jan Waltenbaugh for her continuing outstanding work on behalf of the church.

If you ever have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact any member of the Finance Committee: Don Jenni, Dave Byerly, Jim Phillips, and Jan Waltenbaugh.

Thank you!!!!

# 2023 PER CAPITA

Presbytery: 45.15

Synod: \$3.00

GA: \$9.85

**Total: \$58 per member**

Each year Presbyterian churches around the country pay something called “per capita.” In our case, these funds are used to support the work of the PC(U.S.A.), the Synod of Rocky Mountains, and Yellowstone Presbytery, the three bodies we are part of as First Presbyterian Church of Lewistown. As a church, we are responsible for paying per capita according to our active membership (93 members x \$58/member – \$5,394). And we make this contribution joyfully!



So, you might be wondering exactly what our per capita dollars support and how those dollars impact our ministry here in Lewistown. There are countless intangible ways that our per capita dollars further our ministry in Lewistown, including providing staff at the Presbytery, Synod, and General Assembly levels. But I want to highlight three specific ways that our per capita dollars have benefited First Presbyterian Church and the Lewistown community:

1. The PC(U.S.A.) regularly produces worship liturgy, educational materials, and commentaries on scripture. I use these resources to teach Sunday School, lead officer training, teach new member classes, plan worship, and write sermons.
2. One agency of the PC(U.S.A.) is Presbyterian Disaster Assistance, which offers care to communities and congregations adversely affected by catastrophic events. At the end of 2021, we applied for and received a grant from the Presbyterian Disaster Assistance in the amount of \$7,500 to provide financial relief following the South Moccasin Fire, funds which were distributed to our neighbors in 2022.
3. The PC(U.S.A.) and its various agencies, including the Board of Pensions and the Presbyterian Mission Agency regularly provide free classes, webinars, and training opportunities for pastors that contribute my own growth: personally, spiritually, and professionally. In the last year, I have participated in retirement savings seminars, financial stewardship webinars, and listened to spiritual reflections on the “Along the Road” podcast.

These are just three examples of how per capita provides for our work and ministry right here in Lewistown. Then, our per capita dollars combine with the dollars of Presbyterians around the country to ensure that the good news of Jesus Christ continues to spread into every corner of our lives and communities.

Our 2023 budget reflects First Presbyterian’s commitment to paying our full per capita (\$5,394). The Finance Committee invites you to participate in that commitment by contributing specifically to our per capita fund. If you would like to contribute towards per capita, please send in a check based on the number of members in your household. Check can be mailed to the church or dropped in the offering plate on Sunday morning. Please note “per capita” in the memo line.



# 2022 STATISTICS

## New Members

Cheryl Boyle  
Abby Franks  
George Maruska  
Angela Schenk  
Will Schenk  
Rosemary Youderian

## Weddings

Melisa and Rob Grove – July 2, 2022  
Angela and Will Schenk – August 6, 2022

## Deaths

Violet Larson – July 30, 2022  
Robert Keller – September 24, 2022  
John Peterson – November 16, 2022







# OUR DREAMS: WE CONTINUE TO GROW

In just the last year, we've seen tiny seeds begin to sprout and we believe that God will continue to be at work so that those sprouts become flowers, and that those flowers become a garden.

We will continue to experiment, to try new things, to risk failure. But to always trust that we serve a God who has been and will be faithful.

So, these are our dreams. They represent the 250+ prayers we wrote before Pentecost. With your help, there's no reason our dreams can't become our reality.



## FELLOWSHIP HALL

Construction will continue in the Fellowship Hall. We give thanks for \$61,372.15 we have to continue that work



## SIDEWALKS & PARKING LOT

Repair sidewalks along education wing and office, repairing the damage of the tree roots. Re-pave the education wing/office parking lot. Estimated cost: \$41,000



## KITCHEN

Eventually we hope to finish the other half of the kitchen to match the already completed side. We have \$11,918.82 in the bank



## ELEVATOR

We give thanks for our elevator but recognize it will need to be entirely replaced in the future. \$30,000 minimum



## KID'S SUNDAY SCHOOL ROOM

Create a multi-use space to provide our children with a fun, safe and interactive space to grow in faith, including flexible seating, a reading corner, and a puppet stage. Cost To Be Determined



## REVAMPING THE CHAPEL

We dream of a place to accommodate small groups, small worship services, and family gatherings, in addition to a comfortable place to fellowship. Cost To Be Determined



### UPDATE THE NURSERY

As we continue to care for families, we need a safe and comfortable place for infants through toddlers.

Cost To Be Determined



### WORSHIP BAGS FOR KIDS

Not every child can sit still for the full hour of worship, so as we welcome kids to worship, bags provide simple, quiet activities that they can use during the worship hour. \$30/bag



### NEW BIBLE SET FOR ADULT EDUCATION

A new set of Bibles to have available for Bible Studies and Adult Education opportunities \$15/Bible



### NEW BIBLES FOR CHILDREN'S MINISTRY

A set of children's Bibles and a set of story book Bibles for children of all ages to learn and grow in faith. \$25/Bible



### WELCOME BAGS

As we welcome visitors on Sundays, we long to have tangible items to give away; \$200 for brochures; \$500 for gifts



### SUMMER FELLOW

We've been matched to a Fellow (intern) from Whitworth University! \$3,200 for the summer.



### FAMILY NIGHT

We'd love to offer a bi-weekly Family Night, providing dinner, Parent's Bible Study, and Children's Education opportunities to support families in our community. Cost To Be Determined



### GLOBAL MISSION

We believe God is calling us to partner with a church in Egypt! A trip is being planned for the future. Cost To Be Determined



### SOLAR POWER

In 2022 we applied for a grant from Northwest Energy to install solar panels on the church. While an investment up front, overtime this would reduce our monthly electric bill. We're still waiting to hear the results of the grant application, but we estimate we would need to raise \$14,000.