At the heart of San Rafael, First Presbyterian Church is a vibrant and inclusive community growing together in faith, hope and love. We humbly seek to understand and respond creatively to the needs of our brothers and sisters here in our city, in Marin County and throughout the world.

1510 Fifth Ave. San Rafael, CA 94901 | 415-456-6760 | www.fpcsr.org
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Many thanks to Stephen Sarhad and Sandra Fisk for photographs


CHURCH OFFICERS – JUNE 2020 - MAY 2021

SESSION

Class of 2021
Linda Adams — Mission
Susan Bryant — Stewardship
Jerry Current — Facilities
John Hinman — Outreach
Lynn MacDermott — Finance

Class of 2022
Susan Isler — Membership and Adult Education
Grant Pritchard — Personnel
Mary Pritchard — Worship
Michael Stone — Clerk

Class of 2023
Erin Berta — Worship
David Morales — Hispanic Liaison
Ginny Schultz — Outreach/Church Life

DEACONS

Class of 2021
Kris Castle
Rosa Chuc
Lee Eckles
Marj Robinson
Laurel Stevenson
Barbara Tjernell (Co-Moderator)

Class of 2022
Penn Mullin
Elaine Reichert

Class of 2023
Shari Byrnes
Marcia DeZwarte
Carolyn Eitel
Dinah McClure (Co-Moderator)
CHURCH STAFF

Rev. Cynthia Cochran-Carney • Pastor

Rev. Kay Collette • Parish Associate

Rev. Bob Hirni • Parish Associate

Rev. Nancy Wiens • Parish Associate

Ann Pope • Operations Manager

Nicole Cuzzi • Senior Communications Designer

Lorna Wuertz • Pastoral Care Associate

Alan K. Choy • Senior Musician

John Steiner • Senior Musician

Martha Wall • Chancel Choir Director

Marquise Usher • Sounds A'pealing Handbell Choir Director

Hector DeLeon • Senior Facilities Technician
Our church is a community of faith who started 2020 with a rich buffet of offerings of worship services with beautiful music, spiritual nourishment, service projects and social justice opportunities, small groups, adult education classes, and much more. Our building was in use seven days a week. The calendar was full. We had the fabulous Crabaret dinner and concert fundraiser in February. A new members’ class was held in early March. Being together in the sanctuary, the chapel and Canoles Hall every week was our norm. As I look back at January and February, I remember serving this congregation with all the energy, intelligence, imagination, and love I had (words from the PCUSA installation questions). That did continue, but in some very different ways.

On Friday, March 13, the session made the decision to cancel in-person worship for March 15 because of the rising threat of something called the coronavirus. Life changed. Worship services changed. Jeffrey and I quickly figured out how we could film our sermons at home and upload the videos to the church YouTube channels. We were even featured on the front page of the Marin IJ as two pastors who had to suddenly pivot and offer online worship. The Spirit gave me strength, patience, and perseverance as I designed online worship services to send out in a weekly Enews and filmed sermons and music at home. Over the year our online services evolved. Eventually I could meet with our musicians and readers in the sanctuary, following COVID-19 protocols. It was wonderful to find videographer Karyn Kleinman in July and work with her on worship videos for the next seven months.

Our Roofless Church services in the fall on the patio were wonderful and gave us a chance to experience some of the joy of being together. Thank you to those who worked on plans to have these outdoor services, which were safe and meaningful. The two sermon series — “Spiritual Redwoods” in September and “Light in the Darkness: Christmas Carols” in December — were well received and generated good discussions in the Sunday Zoom gatherings. Special thanks to all the music staff — Martha Wall, John Steiner, Marquise Usher, and Alan Choy — and to guest musicians for filling our services with inspiring music.

The session created a Re-Opening Task Force to continue to look at the ever-changing realities of the pandemic and what it meant for our building use and congregation. I am grateful to Susan Isler, Linda Adams, and John Hinman for their leadership and attention to detail. We met frequently on Zoom over the first few months of sheltering-in-place, discussing various updates from Marin County Health and Human Services and other relevant information. When numbers improved, some activities could resume in the building, including Tuesday night Street Chaplaincy dinners (take-out only). Eventually we wrote a Site-Specific Protection Plan (SPP) and posted it in the building.

Many in the congregation learned how to Zoom and soon it became an important way to stay connected, offer study opportunities, and experience movements of the Spirit. At first, Wednesday Zoom gatherings were a time to see each other and check in. Then we had various topics for sharing — a video, a poem, holiday memories from childhood, etc. Eventually it became a time for a church-wide book study of Rebirthing God: Christianity’s Struggle for New Beginnings by John Phillip Newell. Over the summer, we read and discussed how Newell’s topics are helping us rebirth the church in this liminal season of the pandemic. The Sunday Zoom gatherings...
were a time to share personal reflections on the sermon and service. Then, in the fall, we resumed adult education classes with guest speakers two Sundays a month. Kay Collette led the Centering Prayer group on Zoom every Thursday morning, continuing to nurture people’s contemplative spiritual lives. I am grateful for the ways our church engages people’s hearts and minds.

I have held grief and gratitude throughout the year. Grief for the loss of beloved church members Chuck and Binny Fischer, Dolly Dohn, and Grant Pritchard, and for Darlene Nickel and others dear to members of our community. Grief for the all the suffering of so many because of the pandemic. Grief for those who had COVID-19 and recovered, but still suffer from lingering symptoms. Grief over the deep divisions in our country and the explosion of hate, racism, and violence. Grief over the loss of my brother Jim just a few weeks ago.

Gratitude for our congregation and growing online community. Gratitude for our staff — Ann Pope, Nicole Cuzzi, and Hector DeLeon — who have shown tremendous perseverance and dedication throughout this past year. Gratitude for the session and all the leaders who not only maintained the ministries, mission, and building, but were open to God’s leading to new ways of being the church. Gratitude for the deacons and the ways they helped people in our congregation feel connected to the Holy One and one another. Grateful for our parish associates and pastoral care associate — Rev. Bob Hirni, Rev. Kay Collette, Rev. Nancy Wiens, and Lorna Wuertz — for their leadership and friendship.

I miss being with you in person. We will be back together sometime in 2021 as people receive the vaccine, hopefully by late spring. What a joy that will be! May the Holy One continue to open us each day so that something new will be born in us and the world when we begin to live life fully again.

Grace and peace,

Cynthia Cochran-Carney, Pastor
Clerk of Session’s Report

2020 offered significant challenges and opportunities for FPCSR. We missed many activities and worshipping together, and created new formats and practices. As the numbers below show, more people shared our worship services this year, including people from outside our community who found us online. This Annual Report tells how our talented and dedicated staff, deacons, session, committees, choirs, members of the congregation, and friends found opportunities to serve imaginatively, diligently, and faithfully; to support each other’s welfare and spiritual growth; and to minister to our wider community and world.

Michael K. Stone, Clerk of Session

Annual Statistical Report

Membership:
Membership December 31, 2019............................................. 155
New/reinstated members 2020............................................. 7
Deaths/transfers out 2020.................................................... 7
Moved to inactive status 2020 ............................................. 9
Membership December 31, 2020.......................................... 146

Attendance 2019:
8:30 worship service average attendance per Sunday.... 20
   Total 8:30 attendance (48 services) .................................. 940
10:00 worship service average attendance per Sunday... 73
   Total 10:00 attendance.................................................... 3,807
SoulSong average attendance................................. 18
   Total SoulSong attendance (5 services) ......................... 88
Christmas Eve service attendance.................................... 283
   Grand Total.............................................................. 5,118

Attendance 2020:
8:30 worship service average attendance per Sunday ...... 16
   Total 8:30 attendance (10 services) ................................. 155*
“10:00 worship service” average attendance per Sunday.. 107
   Total 10:00 attendance .................................................. 5,373**
SoulSong average attendance................................. 18
   Total SoulSong attendance (3 services) ......................... 54
Christmas Eve service attendance.................................... 171***
   Grand Total.............................................................. 5,753

* 8:30 service was discontinued after March 8, due to COVID-19 pandemic.
** “10:00 service” includes in-person worship at 10:00 through March 8 and various combinations of Hispanic worship 9/20 –12/13, outdoor worship 9/6 – 11/15, and views of services on Vimeo and YouTube 3/15 – 12/20.
*** Christmas Eve includes in-person online service and viewings of recorded service.

In Memoriam: Lois (“Dolly”) Dohn, Grant Pritchard, Lavinia (“Binny”) Fischer
# 2020 Balance Sheet

First Presbyterian Church of San Rafael  
**Balance Sheet (Preliminary)**  
December 2020

## ASSETS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>BANK ACCOUNTS</th>
<th>LIABILITIES</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>ASSETS</strong></td>
<td><strong>LIABILITIES</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>BANK ACCOUNTS</strong></td>
<td><strong>Prepaid Pledge Income</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bank of Marin Checking</td>
<td>Security Deposits</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Savings Accounts</td>
<td>Accrued Study-Pastor</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Subtotal Bank Accounts</strong></td>
<td><strong>TOTAL LIABILITIES</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>INVESTMENTS</strong></td>
<td><strong>UNRESTRICTED</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vanguard - Krahl</td>
<td><strong>Unrestricted Net Assets</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vanguard - 1987 Fund</td>
<td><strong>Krahl Endowment</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vanguard - FPCSR Endowment</td>
<td>The 1987 Fund</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vanguard - Boyce Mission Endowment</td>
<td>Jan Reynolds Appreciation Fund</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Subtotal Investments</strong></td>
<td><strong>TEMPORARILY RESTRICTED</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vanguard - Pastor Housing</td>
<td><strong>Youth on the Move/Youth Service Team</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Funds Invested by Others</td>
<td><strong>Hispanic Worship</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pastor Housing</td>
<td>Undesignated Memorials</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Subtotal Fixed Assets</strong></td>
<td><strong>Special Music Fund</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Subtotal Other Assets</strong></td>
<td><strong>Deacons’ Offering</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Subtotal Permanently Restricted</strong></td>
<td><strong>Grant Pritchard Memorial</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Other Temporarily Restricted Funds</strong></td>
<td><strong>Other Temporarily Restricted Funds</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Subtotal Fixed Assets</strong></td>
<td><strong>Subtotal Temporarily Restricted</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Subtotal Other Assets</strong></td>
<td><strong>TOTAL NET ASSETS</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>TOTAL NET ASSETS</strong></td>
<td><strong>TOTAL LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

| **TOTAL ASSETS** | **$3,037,729** |

The following table outlines the financial status of First Presbyterian Church of San Rafael as of December 2020. The balance sheet displays the assets, liabilities, and net assets of the church, categorized into various sections such as bank accounts, investments, fixed assets, other assets, and temporarily and permanently restricted funds. The net assets are calculated as the difference between total assets and total liabilities, indicating the church’s financial health and resources available for ongoing operations and projects.
## 2020 Budget & Actual, 2021 Budget

First Presbyterian Church of San Rafael  
Income and Expense Statement (Preliminary)  
January 2020 - December 2020

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>2020 ACTUAL</th>
<th>2020 BUDGET</th>
<th>2021 BUDGET</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>INCOME</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Contribution Income</td>
<td>$286,244</td>
<td>$291,800</td>
<td>$289,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rental Income</td>
<td>79,652</td>
<td>125,000</td>
<td>100,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Investment and Miscellaneous Income</td>
<td>1,979</td>
<td>1,954</td>
<td>1,954</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5% Quasi-Endowment Transfers</td>
<td>23,700</td>
<td>23,700</td>
<td>28,260</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Paycheck Protection Program</td>
<td>40,170</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Income</strong></td>
<td>431,745</td>
<td>442,454</td>
<td>419,214</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>EXPENSES</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Personnel Expenses</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pastoral Expenses</td>
<td>144,819</td>
<td>147,892</td>
<td>149,227</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other Staff Expenses</td>
<td>160,387</td>
<td>168,940</td>
<td>167,200</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Employer Expenses</td>
<td>7,726</td>
<td>10,700</td>
<td>10,400</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Subtotal Personnel Expenses</strong></td>
<td>312,932</td>
<td>327,532</td>
<td>326,827</td>
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<tr>
<td>Administrative</td>
<td>29,705</td>
<td>27,435</td>
<td>30,435</td>
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<tr>
<td>Facilities</td>
<td>75,323</td>
<td>74,189</td>
<td>71,089</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mission</td>
<td>17,580</td>
<td>17,500</td>
<td>16,800</td>
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<tr>
<td>Christian Education</td>
<td>1,481</td>
<td>3,375</td>
<td>2,900</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Worship</td>
<td>2,579</td>
<td>4,000</td>
<td>5,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Outreach</td>
<td>4,679</td>
<td>5,000</td>
<td>4,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Church Life</td>
<td>300</td>
<td>600</td>
<td>400</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Disaster Preparedness</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>250</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Expenses - Budgeted Operations</strong></td>
<td>444,579</td>
<td>459,881</td>
<td>457,451</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>NET LOSS - Budgeted Operations</strong></td>
<td>$ (12,834)</td>
<td>$ (17,427)</td>
<td>$ (38,237)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>NON-BUDGETED OPERATIONS</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Endowment and Quasi-Endowment Income Reinvested</td>
<td>82,217</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Contributions to Endowment Funds</td>
<td>99,456</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Expenses for Programs, net of Contributions</td>
<td>(11,510)</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>NET INCOME / (LOSS) - Total</strong></td>
<td>$ 157,329</td>
<td>$ (17,427)</td>
<td>$ (38,237)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
We began last year’s 2019 Annual Report sharing that “in many ways, worship continued much the same in 2018.” This certainly cannot be said about 2020. We began our year in very much the same way as in 2019, with our pastor, Rev. Cynthia Cochran-Carney, our talented musical staff, our wonderful Chancel and Bell Choirs, and our early service cantors providing two worship services every Sunday (8:30 am and 10 am). This all ended in March when we found ourselves in the midst of the COVID-19 pandemic, which resulted in the church building being shut down and no group meetings allowed.

We were forced to pivot quickly, and were faced with the unprecedented task of finding a way to continue to provide our congregation with worship in an entirely new way.

We immediately turned to the gifts that the internet could offer, and we began online worship. At first the worship services were pieced together with our pastor preaching and recording from her home, readings videotaped by members of the congregation, and prerecorded music. As the mandatory stay-at-home orders continued, our worship services developed with the addition in July of Karyn Kleinman, a wonderful videographer. Every Friday morning, all the parts of worship service were taped in the sanctuary, while following very clear safety protocols — only two or three people in the sanctuary at one time, all wearing face coverings unless speaking or singing. Music was provided by our gifted musicians, John Steiner, Martha Wall, Marquise Usher, and wonderful guest musicians. The addition of our own virtual choir, taped and edited by Martin Stevenson, was another gift to our worship services. Karyn brought all the videotaped parts together and the services was shared through YouTube and Vimeo. Our services were watched not only by many members of our congregation, but by guests from across the country.

As the year and the pandemic progressed, Marin saw a decrease in the number of positive cases and moved into the orange tier, allowing for outdoor worship opportunities. With the recommendation of the worship committee and the approval of session, outside patio services were planned to begin in August. RSVPs were required and physical distancing requirements carefully followed. September services focused on spiritual lessons from our redwood trees. The services were brief (40 minutes), but included music from John Steiner and guest musicians, readings, sermons, and even communion with small self-contained cups of juice and wafers. Weather, both very hot and very chilly, along with poor air quality caused by the historic wildfires throughout California, came into play and the decision to offer the outside service often came down to decisions made the day before. The county’s continued status in the orange tier for the COVID-19 pandemic, allowed for 15-percent indoor capacity. With the onset of cold weather, we planned to move worship back inside the building, but after only two weeks, the fears that accompanied the pandemic made it clear that we needed to suspend in-person worship.

Throughout this time of in-person worship, our online services continued, with Cynthia offering online communion via the Zoom internet platform on the first Sundays of each month.

The liturgical seasons of the church were celebrated so differently this year, beginning with Easter. While missing the sense of community that comes from in-person worship, we offered special services through Lent and Easter via the Zoom platform. Advent was beautifully celebrated each week through the focus on carols. John Steiner offered a special Christmas music livestream concert and we celebrated Christmas Eve with both an online videotaped service, and a Zoom service.

We are grateful to have continued to come together as a faith community in worship every week. This has taken tremendous commitment by our staff, with untold numbers of hours dedicated to the creation of each worship opportunity. So many people offer their gifts during this time:
• Nicole Cuzzi, who provided online information through emails and social media posts.
• Ann Pope, our operations manager, who worked from home and the church office to keep the business of the church running smoothly.
• Our parish associates, Kay Collette, Bob Hirni, and Nancy Wiens, who provided invaluable support during our patio worship services.
• Our gifted and talented music staff, Martha Wall, John Steiner, Alan Choy, and Marquise Usher, and Deborah Tisdale, whose creativity, flexibility, and gifts brought beautiful music to us every week.

It is with gratitude and deep prayers for the ending of the pandemic, that we will continue to move forward into 2021 as a strong, loving, faith community.

Sincerely,

Mary Pritchard and Erin Berta, Co-Chairs
The FPCSR Church Life Committee was founded to foster fellowship through social activities. In a normal year, events provide a variety of fun opportunities enabling our members to know each other.

This was a year of change and learning. We missed Supper Club dinners, hiking, potluck brunches, and the crab feed. But we learned to Zoom and reach out to each other one-to-one with masks on. Virtual coffee hour replaced response to sermons in the sanctuary and coffee on the patio.

We produced an informal church directory. Members sent in photos, took selfies, and photographed people in their town, and the result was a delightful candid directory. The addition of a few photos of life during the shelter in place will make this a directory to keep for years. Special thanks to Sandra Fisk, Steve Sarhad, Nicole Cuzzi, and more for their help.

Christmas is a time when we like to gather and wish our friends a “Merry Christmas.” This year we did it via a Christmas video. Again, we produced Christmas greetings as selfies on our phones or laptops, or we videoed other members, and Martha Wall’s nephew put together a fun and heartwarming video with music to be enjoyed on Christmas Eve or anytime.

Everyone loves Christmas music and singing carols, but we couldn’t gather to sing. In December, Jennifer Miller helped organize caroling by phone. Jennifer, Dan and Dori Crawford, Ralph and Leslie Purdy, Cynthia and Jeffrey Cochran-Carney, and Marcia DeZwarte and Martha Wall each called other members to wish them Merry Christmas in song.

No one did more to keep us together and connected during the shelter-in-place than our pastor, Cynthia Cochran-Carney. Our heartfelt thanks go out to her.

Ginny Schultz, Chair
The FPCSR Board of Deacons started 2020 with Barbara Royall as moderator. Also serving were Kris Castle, Rosa Chuc, Glen Dickey, Lee Eckles, Binny Fischer, Penn Mullin, Elaine Reichert, Marj Robinson, Sue Rostoni, and Barbara Tjernell.

Midyear, Glen, Binny, Sue, and Barbara Royall completed their terms and were replaced by Shari Byrnes, Marcia DeZwarte, Carolyn Eitel, Dinah McClure, and Laurel Stevenson. Dinah and Barbara agreed to be co-moderators.

In general, the deacons minister to the congregation by ministering to those in need, to the sick, to the friendless, and to anyone who may be in distress. The year started out normally with the deacons involved in the following activities:

- Serving communion at the 10 am service
- Hosting or helping at memorial services
- Providing rides to church
- Cohosting the monthly Taize service
- Sending cards and notes to the grieving
- Delivering holiday flowers
- Maintaining the Maintenance Ministry
- Making pastoral care visits
- Seeing that materials from Pastor Cynthia are mailed weekly to those requesting them; Sue Rostoni is continuing to do this for us.

Then in March, COVID-19 hit!! Monthly meetings had been held through February, but suddenly the church had to close down for in-person gatherings. The deacons did not meet again until late June. During this time, we had seven folks who were ready to join the church and a new seminarian. In March, Dinah was asked to unofficially be the Special Coronavirus Deacon and to reach out to these folks to help them feel connected. She made weekly phone calls to them into late May and then less often. Some brand-new friendships developed.

Barbara and Dinah did a lot of preliminary work with Pastor Cynthia to update our FPCSR list of members and friends. In July, each deacon’s care group was updated. We held that meeting in Canoles Hall with our chairs six feet apart, with all the doors and windows open, and with our masks on! All our meetings since then have been on ZOOM.
Into the fall, we assisted Ginny Schultz, from Church Life, with the photo directory. We made many reminder calls, helped take pictures, and delivered some of the directories. We arranged and provided meals after the death of one congregation member and after accidents for others. It was a complete joy to host a baby shower for Isla and her parents, Nicole and Joel Cuzzi, on the patio in October. Later in the fall, we made available a few gas cards and Safeway gift cards for folks coming to the church asking for food or money for gas. No Easter flowers were given out as too much was unknown at that time about the virus, and we were not doing any face-to-face meetings. We did deliver Christmas poinsettias as we maintained our six-foot distances. Jennifer Miller, from our congregation, helped us organize caroling for some folks. The deacons created the list of those recipients. Then, due to the state's “stay at home” order, we pivoted from outdoor caroling to telephone caroling. That was extremely well received and enjoyed by the carolers too.

This has been a year where we have had more contact than unusual with those in our care groups. We have gotten to know people better, which has been fun. It is a silver lining to this pandemic.

We all thank Pastor Cynthia for her leadership, friendship, and support.

Dinah McClure, Co-Moderator
Barbara Tjernell, Co-Moderator
2020 was a year of learning for all of us! Maybe the educational experience was a bit outside of the course curriculum, but we have learned new ways to share ideas and stay informed.

We started the year energized by the celebration of our 150th anniversary and programs held in the chapel after our Sunday 10:00 worship service. Our adult education offerings before the pandemic changed church life included the following: We learned together how to improve our home energy efficiency from Kellan Damman of the Marin County Community Development Agency and about the Death Row Ministry at San Quentin from members of St. Paul's Episcopal Church. Erin Wiens-St. John presented ideas for reimagining church, with the focus of attracting young adults. Pastor Cynthia shared Celtic Christian practices and additional highlights of her travels to Iona. We were able to “attend” Sunday School with Barbara Tjernell and participate in a delightful Godly Play Bible story.

The church building was closed in mid-March, and it was immediately apparent that to remain connected we were going to have to rely on technology. As awkward as it was, our adult education programming adapted to Zoom, and online gatherings started to happen very quickly. Our Sunday Zoom programs alternated between congregational conversations on sermon topics and presentations.

Nick Morris, executive director of the Marin Interfaith Street Chaplaincy, updated us on the status of our unhoused neighbors and the Street Chaplaincy’s work. SFTS faculty member Greg Love presented on COVID-19 and suffering. Ruah Bull offered an introduction to contemplative life. Doug Huneke led a conversation on our calling to social justice and action. Jana Childers, dean at SFTS, updated us on recent developments at the seminary. Our friend Chitoka Webb, an SFTS student, shared the spiritual journey that led her to the seminary.

The idea of increasing our programming as a way to stay connected expanded to Wednesday mid-day sessions. In late May through mid-August Pastor Cynthia led an all-church book read and conversation about John Phillip Newell’s *The Rebirthing of God*. Bob Hirni offered a several-week “Journey through Revelation.” Congregation members including Michael Stone, Leslie and Ralph Purdy, and Lisa Olson presented and led discussions. During Advent, Kay Collette, Bob Hirni, and Cynthia presented reflections based on Scott Erickson’s *Honest Advent*.

The adult education committee is dedicated to bringing topics of interest and challenging ideas to our gathered community on Sunday and Wednesday. A special thank you to Cynthia Cochran-Carney, Kay Collette, Lorna Wuertz, and Michael Stone for ideas and their contribution of time to make it happen.

Susan Isler, Chair
We offer the Godly Play curriculum, which dramatizes familiar stories from Christian and Hebrew scriptures, to a small but interested group of younger children, ages 3 to 10. We are delighted that this small group is energetic and enthusiastic. When older children join the group, the lesson is expanded.

Due to the pandemic, we were unable to meet in the building beginning in March, so we found Godly Play lessons online and sent them out to the children. We also delivered Advent calendars with sticker activities to each child. We look forward to the time when we can hold children’s worship services again. We are grateful to the teachers who offered lessons in early 2020: Barbara Tjernell, Janette Meza, Mariel Kauil, and Lorna Wuertz.

Lorna Wuertz, Chair
Our Spanish-speaking community provides mutual support on our spiritual journeys and shares in the advancement and care of the Latino immigrant population of Marin County. Before the COVID-19 pandemic, the Spanish-speaking community of FPCSR worshipped with the whole congregation on first Sundays, when we celebrated Communion together. On other Sundays worship was conducted in Spanish in the chapel at 10:00 am. When Health Department requirements permitted, we were able to worship together in Canoles Hall in the fall, until new restrictions were announced in December.

In our worship services, we sing songs by Latin American composers and Presbyterian hymns in Spanish. Our worship leaders in 2020 were David Morales and Virginia Perez.

Most persons who attend the Spanish-speaking service are recent and visiting Spanish-speaking immigrants and their children. While the service is entirely in Spanish, everyone is welcome. Prior to the pandemic, many of our children attended Sunday school in English while the adults were worshiping in Spanish.

We have also been involved in social justice issues affecting the Hispanic immigrant population in Marin, partnering with Marin Organizing Committee.

David Morales, Hispanic Liaison
MISSION AND SOCIAL JUSTICE

The Presbyterian Book of Order calls us to healing, reconciling and binding up wounds; ministering to the needs of the poor, sick, lonely, and powerless; and engaging in the struggle to free people from oppression, hunger, and injustice. Although many activities were planned in 2020 towards meeting these goals, the COVID-19 pandemic caused us to alter many of those plans.

Our year begins with the crab feed, which is a popular event to fund our annual mission trip. In February 2020, we enjoyed an exciting Crabaret with a change in venue and style. It was held in the sanctuary with an all-women’s band, Mary Lou’s Apartment, playing jazz for us from the works of Mary Lou Williams and Melba Liston. Deborah Tisdale, a frequent, much-loved soloist for our church, was their soloist. We managed to raise over $7,000 in funds for the mission trip. Unfortunately, the mission trip to Omaha was cancelled after the pandemic hit. In November, the Mission Committee decided to donate all the funds to Presbyterian Disaster Assistance/Omaha and multiple local organizations. We further determined that any mission trips in 2021 may not be feasible.

Our collaboration with the Marin Interfaith Street Chaplaincy dinners has remained active. In view of new guidelines from the health department, a weekly to-go burrito dinner is prepared in our church kitchen by a few people specifically trained to meet those health guidelines. Our church provides the kitchen and funds for food. This will continue until the pandemic is under control.

Youth on the Move has been inactive during the pandemic, but plans are to reactivate when the schools and associated programs are allowed to be fully functioning.

The Mission Committee has continued to work with the Adult Education Committee. We provided a film hosted by Rick Steves and Bread for the World which addressed food insecurity worldwide. Ralph and Leslie Purdy facilitated discussion about addressing this social problem.

Mill Street Center’s emergency shelter continues to be one of our church’s activities, providing meals to those in need. Much has changed due to COVID-19, but plans are to remain involved.

Marin Organizing Committee now conducts its meetings on Zoom. Bob Hirni and Ralph Purdy continue to represent our church in this organization. Other members attend whenever possible and keep our committee advised on activities. MOC has been active in housing issues in Marin County, along with mental health, tenant rights, and support for the aging.

In 2020, we have managed to support local and national organizations involved in social justice issues. We donated $8,500 for programs of the regional and national Presbyterian Church and budgeted $8,300 for support of the following: Marin Interfaith Council, $1,000; Karla Koll, who is on mission in Central America, $1,000; Ecumenical Association for Housing Marin, $200; Marin Interfaith Street Chaplaincy, $1,000; Westminster Woods, $400; Marin Organizing Committee, $2,000; Bread for the World, $300; Homeward Bound, $500; Interfaith Power and Light, $150; Spahr Center, including Trans Heartline, $200; Project Avery, $300; Youth on the Move, $750; and San Francisco Theological Seminary, $500.
MISSION AND SOCIAL JUSTICE
Pedal for Protein this year was changed to a different format because of the COVID pandemic. Instead of riding long distance in a large group, participants rode short trips alone or in pairs, or even at home on stationary bikes, logging in miles for donations. We were successful in involving more people and collected about $3800 to donate to Northern California food banks.

Our church participates in all four special offerings by our denomination. These are One Great Hour of Sharing; Christmas Joy; Peace and Global Witness; and Pentecost. We have managed to send in significant donations to all four, thanks to the congregation’s generosity.

The Mission Committee has arranged an Advent/Alternative Gift Market event for many years. It was not possible to conduct an in-person event this year. We encouraged the congregation to shop online at several organizations we have used in the past. These organizations are Heifer International, Homeward Bound, Opening the World, Presbyterian Hunger Agency, Boy Scout Troop 2000, Seeds of Learning, and SERVV We are hopeful that in December 2021 we may be able to have an in-person Alternative Gift festival.

A new project that we started in 2020 provides meals to Trans Heartline, which offers food and housing to people who are healing after gender confirmation surgery. Barbara Royall has been the lead for this program.

A final group that we supply meals to is Young Moms of Marin. This group of young mothers used to get together at our church for emotional support and counseling. Their leader has continued to provide counseling telephonically during the pandemic, and food is delivered to their homes now instead of enjoying a meal together. They are eager to resume group meetings at the church when the lockdown is eased.

Your Mission Committee is dedicated and active in meeting the objectives as written in the Book of Order.

Linda Adams, Chair
The year of 2020 will be remembered as the time of COVID-19 and our church having to actually close the front doors. We continued to have a presence on the corner of 5th & E, and reached out to our congregation and community. Granted, the shape of our reach took on a different look, but we adapted to the Marin health care mandates and adopted an online presence that keeps many of us connected and has attracted new followers.

Our outreach this year was virtual, and symbolic. Our weekly online services and Wednesday gatherings were well attended and enjoyable. Our signage at 5th and E and holiday decorations sent the message that the congregation is active and involved in the community.

In early March, we held a new members’ class, and seven church attendees expressed their desire to continue their walk of faith with our community. These individuals were welcomed into our church family in July via videoconference. Sadly, we grieved the deaths of three very dear church members and several close friends of our church family.

We continue to rethink measures of our church’s vitality beyond the traditional counting of church membership and Sunday attendance. We realize that our presence in the community via the numerous individuals and families we are helping with shelter and food assistance, our Mission projects, and the use of our building by numerous community organizations, as well as statistics reporting online viewing of our recorded worship services, are all useful indicators. Our vitality is reflected in our commitment to offering support and maintaining a welcoming community presence.

Session committed to supporting the Street Chaplaincy as a project of the congregation. Canoles Hall on Tuesdays is the site of weekly food distribution events, and the Street Chaplaincy has been actively serving the homeless and disadvantaged community all year and will continue to do so throughout 2021.

First Presbyterian Church of San Rafael has begun our 151st year; we were a strong community during the 1918 pandemic and a stronger community during the 2020 pandemic.

Susan Isler, Chair Membership
John Hinman, Chair Outreach
PERSONNEL

The Personnel Committee worked on a number of matters during 2020, including but not limited to the following:

- Reviewed and resolved confidential personnel issues as required;
- Worked with staff on workers' compensation and property/casualty insurance issues;
- Met (in person and then Zoom) with Head of Staff Cynthia Cochran Carney;
- Worked with staff re response to multiple issues that arose due to the COVID-19 pandemic;
- Participated in staff annual reviews;
- Reviewed salary information for recommendation to session on all staff compensation for 2021;
- Worked with Budget Committee on 2021 budget proposal to Session.

The members of the 2020 personnel committee were Bill Schultz, Leslie Purdy, Dan Crawford, and Grant Pritchard (Committee Chair)
STEWARDSHIP

We want to begin by expressing our gratitude for the congregation’s ongoing financial support and for your thoughtful consideration of your pledge commitments for the coming year. THANK YOU!

For 2020, our stewardship campaign focused on the difficulties of the shelter-in-place brought on by the COVID-19 pandemic and on supporting the resiliency of the congregation coming together to move forward as we discern our vision for the church’s next chapter. We continue as stewards of a heritage of people who have made it through hard times, supporting our community, both fiscally and emotionally, while learning, growing, and rebounding. We learned how giant redwoods grow from small seeds and how their roots interconnect to help all thrive.

We continued to include a narrative budget with our stewardship letter, so that everyone in the congregation could understand our priorities for 2020 and 2021, how pledges fit into the overall financial picture of the church, how funds are used to support our programs, and how the rental program of our facility supports other community and religious organizations and programs.

The Stewardship Committee also implemented a few operational changes to support the move to more online giving, including adding an option to debit a checking or savings account through ACH as well as the ability to cover the church’s processing fees for credit card payments.

For 2021, we are budgeting $280,000 in pledges, up 3.7% from our 2020 budget. Repeat donors increased their pledges by $29,648, and we received $7,380 in new pledges. Each pledge is important to us and critical to our future financial health.

For over 150 years, the generosity of our members has enabled First Presbyterian Church of San Rafael to make a profound difference in the lives of those around us. Thank you for your generosity and support of God’s work in the world.

PLANNED GIVING

In 2020, the church was the beneficiary of a new bequest from Chuck and Binny Fischer designated for the FPCSR Endowment. Investment income will help support the church’s programs in perpetuity. In addition to the FPCSR Endowment, planned giving, including legacy gifts (e.g., through wills, trusts, and IRA distributions), can help support church programs such as Youth on the Move and other mission programs or to improve the church facility. Since our church building is aging, we have a wealth of opportunities such as fixing the roof or replacing the front doors that are one-time costs, but hard to pay for in the operating budget.

During the year, the Planned Giving Committee also updated materials on the FPCSR.org website to provide resources to educate the congregation about ways to plan your giving to the church.

Stewardship and Planned Giving Committee:
Steve Astle, Susan Bryant (Chair), Cynthia Cochran-Carney, Leslie Purdy, Ralph Purdy
Planned giving focused: Bill Schultz, Suzie Pollack
A painting company has proposed a project to repair some building paint on the south wall.

The city of San Rafael is requiring us to repair some cracked sidewalk areas. The $22,000 required has been identified from some gift funds.

Jerry Current, Chair

Property rentals have been remarkably stable considering the limited access to the building due to the COVID-19 pandemic, although we were down about $45,000 below budget for the year. Fortunately, we were able to secure a $40,000 Payroll Protection Program loan, which should be forgiven. It has been several years since any rates have been increased, so we are considering some increases.

Many thanks to Ann Pope for keeping track of maintenance issues in our aging building by using a group of reliable contractors. We also thank our volunteers, including John Robinson, Ralph Lunan, Jim Redpath, Bill Schultz, Martin Stevenson, Kay Collette, Gordy MacDermott, and Glen Dickey. I apologize for being missing while minimizing my exposure to the pandemic.

The new office phones have worked out well, after some trouble shooting.

Some of the front flowers were replaced with some annuals to give them a little spark.

Some new signs around the building are helping people to find their way around the building. The sign in front of the building blew down and has been replaced and the sign light repaired.

Outside lighting in the redwood trees and along the roof line over the front stained-glass window was installed for the Christmas season. These lights may be used for other celebrations. Many thanks to the team that drove this project.

The security company walking around and taking pictures and some added fencing has reduced the problem of people defecating on our property in the absence of downtown public restrooms. We should all be aware that there is a bathroom in Boyd Park that should be open again until 9:00 pm and open at 5:30 am.

The parking lot was resurfaced and relined, which made a big improvement in its appearance.