



October 28, 2020

Dear Family of Faith at First Presbyterian Church,

When you look back on 2020, what will you remember? In a year dominated by COVID-19 and its global pandemic, for many of us, our memories are likely to include lockdowns, losses, and laments.

If you viewed our 2020 Narrative Budget video after worship on November 1 or November 8, you saw how the Generosity Team told the story of our 2020 church year at First Pres. [The Narrative Budget video is also posted on FPC website Giving Page, [firstpresfc.org/giving/](http://firstpresfc.org/giving/)]

The year got off to a great start, and we were filled with gratitude for our growing, thriving, vibrant community of faith. Christ-centered growth, fellowship, worship, and outreach marked our church on the move.

We entered the season of Lent with sober repentance and humble hope. But in mid-March, COVID-19 slammed the brakes on “normal” for First Pres and most of the rest of the world. March 8, 2020, was the last time we gathered for worship in our sanctuary where the purple Lenten banner still hangs.

Nevertheless, as people of trust in our sovereign God whose first self-revelation was as Creator, our church made immediate and evolving creative adaptations to ways of living out our calling as Christ’s body in Fort Collins and beyond.

In the face of COVID-19 disruptions, we did not dwell on “why” but rather on “how.” How then do we worship, stay connected, do ministry, keep faith, grow hope, seek justice, and love our neighbors?

We trust you were touched by some of these creative adaptations to “our COVID life together.” Given the ongoing pandemic, creative adaptations are the continuing dynamic ministry work of our many leaders—Church Staff, Session, Deacons, and Centers—and so many others, too.

Now we hope and pray that you will join us, as God leads you, in our annual practice of stewardship by pledging your support for our continuing, creative mission and ministry in 2021—however that unfolds.



First  
Presbyterian  
Church

Carl Maxey, on behalf of the Stewardship and Resources Center, noted that next year's budget will most likely be different from prior years:

*As always, income trends at the end of the year will influence 2021 planning. We recognize that a number of factors impact giving, especially the loss of Sunday morning offering and changes in family circumstances due to COVID-19. While some members of our congregation may not be able to make gifts as they have in the past, we hope that others might be able to step in for those who cannot.*

**Yes, 2020 was disrupted in unimaginable ways by COVID-19, yet the momentum of First Pres pivoted in creative ways to continue serving needs within our congregation and, with our ministry partners, to serve needs in our Fort Collins community and beyond. The momentum of ministry goes on—advancing God's Kingdom of justice and peace.**

With God's grace and favor, we are convinced we will continue to be a generous people, a legacy community of faith—giving generously with our time, our abilities, and our financial means.

Enclosed with this letter is both a pledge card and a stamped return envelope. Please prayerfully consider your gifts to support and advance FPC ministry in 2021, pledging as you are able and returning the pledge card either by mail or dropping it by the church office during office hours [Call the church office for current COVID hours, (970) 482-6107].

Please join us on November 15 as we dedicate and give thanks for pledges received and those still on their way during our 9:00 a.m. livestream worship or archived for viewing later. Together, we celebrate God's grace upon grace at First Presbyterian Church for 148 years.

With gratitude from your Generosity Team,

Jinny De Jong (*Team Leader*), Doug Hunt, Charles May, Corey Nelson (*Staff Liaison*)