



**FIRST
PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH
FORT COLLINS**

NARRATIVE BUDGET
2021



Our mourning will turn into dancing...



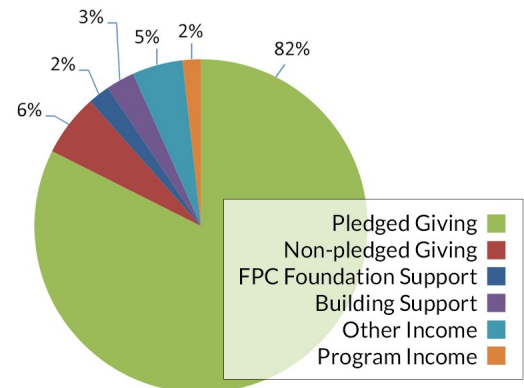
We are both excited and a bit humbled that First Presbyterian Church will celebrate its 150th anniversary in 2022. We joined our church in 1968 — meaning, we have been members for over a third of those years! We arrived in Fort Collins on a sunny Saturday afternoon and attended FPC the very next morning. From that very first Sunday, we were warmly welcomed and stayed all these years, challenged, helped in many ways, and enriched by our church family. Our three grown children were born into and nurtured by kind and caring members. We are very grateful for the role FPC has played in our whole family's lives.

We have witnessed many physical changes to our campus over those years. What hasn't changed is the congregation's dedication and faithfulness to scripture and service. We are a resilient, God-loving and diverse group that has great respect for those who have gone before us. Their wisdom, perseverance and contributions have made possible all that we enjoy today. As we celebrate this special historical time in the life of our church, we do so with a look to the future. What will the next generations say about us? How and what, as a congregation, did we do in preparation for their spiritual growth? How did we use our resources to impact the community and minister to those in need? It's exciting to think about what God has in store for the future of First Presbyterian Church!

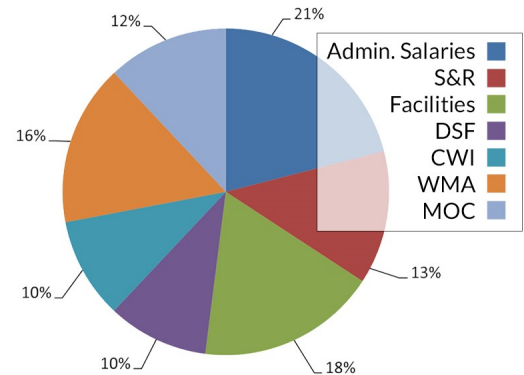
—Grant and Pat Sherwood

Financial information

2021 Estimated Income



2021 Estimated Expenses



For those who appreciate "the numbers," we offer this overview of our anticipated income and expenses for 2021 by category. A few important insights to note include:

- The majority of our income is received from those who make an annual pledge. This provides leaders at FPC with valuable information as they prayerfully and responsibly create a balanced budget for the coming year.
- The FPC Foundation supports both the operating budget (shown here) and additional designated ministries.
- Our expenses represent the core values and ministry areas of our church. Program staff salaries, including the Senior Pastor, are represented proportionately within the ministry area(s) that they serve.

Our mourning will turn into dancing

Dear Church Family,

This year as we consider where we have been, where we stand today, and where we believe God is leading us, we are taking our cue from King David, the songwriter who knew what it was like to be in the depths of despair and to plead for God's help. We know that God heard David and delivered him, time and time again. This was David's testimony recorded in Psalm 30:

You have turned my mourning into dancing; you have taken off my sackcloth and clothed me with joy, so that my soul may praise you and not be silent. O LORD my God, I will give thanks to you forever.

When this year began, I had high hopes, like you, that we would be mainly through the COVID pandemic by now and returning to familiar rhythms of worship and fellowship, study and service. But like David, we trust God to hear our pleas, wipe away our tears, and give us help and healing. May we be so bold as to even look forward to a future of dancing with joy – which doesn't sound very "Presbyterian," but God does work in mysterious ways!

We choose to face 2022 without fear, in the strength of courage and expectation—and with gratitude. Now in our 150th year as a family of faith in Fort Collins, we will, like those who have gone before us, give God thanks and be forever grateful!

We hope. We pray. We trust—because we believe God's faithful promises!

In the pages that follow here, our shared story marks 2021 with the challenges we faced as well as our adaptations and innovations, our blessings and new opportunities. Our shared story also proclaims that our Almighty God moved in and through our lives and is leading us forward into 2022 for his kingdom of justice, peace, and love.

As you reflect on the life of our church and its future, we invite you to prayerfully consider how you can continue to generously support our ministry and mission in the year to come. You'll receive a separate mailing this week with a 2022 pledge card and information about the many ways that together, we can look forward to more dancing with joy in the year to come.

Thanks be to our God of grace and hope—today, tomorrow, next year—always and forever.

Peace,

Corey



4 ways we were challenged:

1. After navigating through 15 months of COVID protocols, it seemed we were about to return to some familiar rhythms of life and community. However the Delta variant and rising numbers of infections and hospitalizations have raised concern and precautions once again.
2. We have experienced the loss of weekly rhythms and seasonal holidays, disrupting our worship, fellowship, and Christian education and challenging our calling to be an open and welcoming community.
3. At a time when pastoral care needs have been on the rise, some of our Deacon ministries have had to pause or pivot and it has been difficult to deeply connect with others when we cannot often be face to face.
4. Our local and national realities were marked by social and political unrest, as concerns related to poverty, racism, and other challenges called out for a renewed commitment to justice and peace for all God's children.





4 ways we saw God move:

1. While we were not able to gather in-person for part of the year and only in smaller numbers the rest of the year, the generosity of our church family has remained strong and faithful.
2. Church leaders prayerfully managed our income and expenses to continue supporting vibrant ministry while strengthening our foundation.
3. We prioritized our local mission partners by making sure their facility needs on our campus remained open and safe for their ministries and expanding our financial support.
4. The commissioning and world premiere of Divine Encounter, a musical trilogy by Craig Courtney, in honor of the lifetimes of music ministry by Marvin Crawford and Joe McConathy, survived two postponements due to COVID and will be presented on Sunday, November 7.

5 ways we adapted and innovated:

1. Adult spiritual formation remained relevant and vibrant using virtual and hybrid gatherings (expanding access for our homebound members). Studies included John's Gospel; the Belhar Confession (South Africa); MX forums, and book discussions deepening our awareness of critical community issues.
2. Worship invited us to new ways of coming before God: themes to strengthen our faith and fellowship; collaborations with other churches; and virtual choir presentations. This fall we transitioned to worship at 9:00 a.m. in-person and online and outdoor worship at 11:00 a.m.
3. Pastoral care teams, including our Deacons, delivered gift bags to those alone while regular phone calls from a wider group of volunteers created a network of compassion and care.
4. Going to family homes to deliver quarterly curricula gave meaningful interactions between Director of Children's Ministries, Pam Armstrong and the parents of the children we shepherd.
5. Without the possibility of large-group events, Director of Youth Ministries, Carlie Hoskins adapted to one-on-one and small group connections and conversations so that the faith development of our teens stayed the course.



5 ways God is leading us forward:

1. In spite of closed doors on Sunday earlier this year, people moving into Fort Collins discovered us online and a number of them have already stepped forward to become new members.
2. The providential founding of FPC almost contiguous with Colorado State University challenges us to learn more about student and faculty needs in the decade ahead.
3. We are attuned to the dynamic needs of the Fort Collins community and how we can continue to support partnerships that address critical issues including poverty, discrimination and the care of God's creation.
4. Staff transitions, including the retirement next year of Marvin Crawford, our Director of Music and the Arts, provide us an opportunity to recommit to and enhance our expressions of worship and ministry.
5. Now into our 150th year as a body of believers called First Presbyterian Church, we are not afraid to ask important questions about what lies ahead and to look forward with hope and courage.





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CLOSE to HOME

ADVENT & CHRISTMAS 2021
First Presbyterian Church
Fort Collins

During the Advent season, we journey through scriptures rich with home metaphors and imagery, where home is both something we seek and something we are called to build. Eternally, God is our home and resting place.

Close to Home acknowledges the “already but not yet” tension of our faith: Emmanuel is with us, and yet, God’s promise—our everlasting home—is not fully realized. We long for God to draw near and make a home on earth.

This Advent, may we be comforted by the One who dwells intimately with us. May we expand safety and sanctuary for everyone wandering far from home. May we come home—wherever home is found—to live fully with joy, hope, and courage.

ADVENT WORSHIP

SUNDAY | 11.28 | 9AM | Homesick (with communion)
SUNDAY | 12.5 | 9AM | Laying the Foundation
SUNDAY | 12.12 | 9 & 11AM | Christmas Music Festival
SUNDAY | 12.19 | 9AM | Seeking Sanctuary

NIGHTLIGHTS

WEDNESDAY | 12.1 | 6 PM | Realities’ Tree-lighting Event

BELLS OF CHRISTMAS

SUNDAY | 12.5 | 7 PM | 36th Annual Handbell Concert

A Way in a Manger

SUNDAY | 12.19 | 10:30AM | Children’s Nativity Play

LONGEST NIGHT

WEDNESDAY | 12.22 | 7 PM | Contemplative Worship

CHRISTMAS EVE

FRIDAY | 12.24 | 5 & 7 PM | Candlelight Service