



First Presbyterian Church of Yorktown



**2019 ANNUAL REPORT**

**February 2, 2020**

# LEADERSHIP OF THE CHURCH

2019

## Session of Ruling Elders

Clerk of Session: Gordon Braudaway      Moderators: Reverend Chip Low, Reverend Tami Seidel

The Session is the governing body of our Church. It consists of “ruling elders” elected by the members of the Church. One class of about six members is elected each year, serving for three years in a rotating membership arrangement. In addition, two Youth Elders are elected each year for one year terms.

### Class of 2019

Cheryl Burns (Communications)  
Arnold Cribari (Faith Formation)  
Marsha Henderson (Worship)  
Ellen Miles (Mission)  
Vinny Wallace (Operations)  
John Winget  
Natalie Swift, *Youth Elder*  
Jenna Shaughnessy, *Youth Elder*

### Class of 2020

John Bentley (Communications)  
Nancy Caswell (Congregational Life)  
Jeff Kephart (Mission)  
Liza Placido (Faith Formation)  
Matt Sheridan (Budget & Finance)  
Nance Thompson (Personnel)  
Luke Torres-Rossi, *Youth Elder*  
Ashley Leftwich, *Youth Elder*

### Class of 2021

Jane Amato (Stewardship)  
Beth Gruber (Budget & Finance)  
Matt Hager (Operations)  
Bill Herman (Worship)  
Barbara Humphrey (Stewardship)  
Emily Monk (Congregational Life)

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## Board of Deacons

Moderator: Andy Torres      Vice-Moderator: Patrick Burns  
Secretary: Katharine Frase      Financial Secretary: Tony Tomicich

In the Book of Order:

*“The Office of deacon as set forth in Scripture is one of sympathy, witness and service after the example of Jesus Christ. It is the duty of deacons, first of all, to minister to those who are in need, to the sick, to the friendless, and to any who may be in distress both within and beyond the community of faith.”*

The primary work of the Deacons involves responding to the needs of our congregation and our Food Pantry. Deacons also serve 3 year terms.

In addition, two Youth Deacons are elected each year for one year terms.

### Class of 2019

Katharine Frase  
Maura Delaney  
Martin Scatola  
Tony Tomicich

### Class of 2020

Patrick Burns  
Pam Darreff  
Jean Post-Winget  
Andy Torres

### Class of 2021

Carol Cornish  
Wanda Diaz  
Debra Farrell  
Ryan O'Hare

Ryan Chin, *Youth Deacon*  
Aiden McAuliffe, *Youth Deacon*

Ethan Brown, *Youth Deacon*  
Daniel Hager, *Youth Deacon*

# AGENDA

## OPENING PRAYER

### READING OF THE CALL TO CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

Clerk Gordon Braudaway

*“The Annual Meeting of the Congregation and Corporation of the First Presbyterian Church of Yorktown will be held on Sunday, February 2, 2020, in Fellowship Hall, following a single 10:00 AM Worship: To elect five Members-at-Large to the Nominating Committee; to review and approve the Co-pastors' Terms of Call; to receive the Annual Reports including the Annual Financial Review; and to conduct any other business which may properly come before the meeting.”*

### REPORT OF MINUTES READERS FOR 2019 CONGREGATIONAL MEETINGS

Minutes of February 3, 2019 Annual Meeting

Nancy Caswell and Ian Spence

Minutes of December 8, 2019 Special Meeting

Ann Timmons and Katharine Frase

### APPOINT MINUTES READERS FOR 2020 ANNUAL MEETING

### NECROLOGY REPORT (page 6) AND MEMORIAL PRAYER

### ANNUAL REPORTS

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### NEW BUSINESS

### ADJOURNMENT

### PRAYER AND BENEDICTION

## REPORT OF THE CO-PASTORS



**Grateful People Are...  
Inspired and Inspiring  
Gifted and Giving  
Generous**

This past fall we focused on growing in gratitude together as a congregation, and gratitude seems to be the most appropriate lens through which to review our ministry together in 2019.

At the center of our gratitude is this fundamental truth: we have an extravagantly generous God who showers us with blessings each day. The more we live out of this central truth, the more we are able to recognize the blessings that surround us every moment. The more we ground our lives in gratitude, the more we are able to move forward in faith, living our lives with a sense of God's presence and purpose and hope for the future.

As we look back over 2019, here's what we are grateful for:

- 1) First and foremost, **we are grateful for YOU** and to be serving in your midst. Every day you inspire us with your faith, your compassion, your many gifts and talents, your generosity of time and resources, and your desire to make this world a more just and peaceful place. There is no doubt in our minds that FPCY is a vibrant congregation, open to the Spirit's leading, seeking to live out our six ministry priorities with faith and dedication:

- Radical Hospitality
- Compelling Worship
- Lifelong Faith Formation
- Intentional Fellowship
- Transformational Mission
- Inspirational Stewardship

This Annual Report is a reflection of the many ways you all have done just that, and we are so very grateful.

- 2) We are grateful for your generosity to our ***Grounded in Gratitude, Forward in Faith Capital Campaign*** and for the ***Campaign Project Management Team*** which has shepherded us through the first year of building projects and renovations. From the solar panels on the new roof (that are now operational!) to the dry basement under the Sanctuary to the new office entrance, it's exciting to see visions and dreams become reality, and we look forward to seeing what comes next!
- 3) We are grateful for the 31 years of ministry to young children and their families that FPCY offered to our community through the ***Yorktown Presbyterian Preschool***. Gratitude often arises in the midst of grief, and it was with heavy hearts that FPCY ended this ministry in June 2019. We are so very grateful for all of the church members and staff who worked hard, giving of their time and talents, sharing their faith and care, over the past 31 years to make YPP such a nurturing environment for young children and families. We are also aware of the challenge this presents as we move forward: how will FPCY continue to minister to young children and their families in the future?

- 4) We are grateful for the work of the ***Director of Music Ministry Search Committee*** which brought ***Garrett Artman*** to us. Garrett began his ministry among us in August and is already helping us grow in our ability to worship and serve God through music, as well as to think about how we might expand our music ministries and reach out further into our community with this wonderful gift.
- 5) Finally, we are grateful to be your ***Co-Pastors*** and to explore this model of ***shared leadership and ministry*** with you. In December 2019, Chip completed ten years of pastoral ministry among you as both pastor and co-pastor, and Tami completed five years as co-pastor. As we said earlier, our time in ministry with you all has confirmed our initial desire to build a life and ministry among you. We are excited about where our ministry together will go next. We look forward to the twists and turns in the journey, the new directions and even to the challenges ahead. We are grateful that as a church, we can face them together with who we are and what we have, believing that God is leading us and will provide all that we need to be faithful in our response to God's call.

In your many wonderful gratitude reflections,  
we came across this quote from Melody Beattie:

“Gratitude unlocks the fullness of life.  
It turns what we have into enough, and more.  
It turns denial into acceptance, chaos to order,  
confusion to clarity.  
It can turn a meal into a feast,  
a house into a home,  
a stranger into a friend.”

Thank you for being a church community that  
welcomes everyone to the Lord's Table, builds and  
offers a spiritual home for so many, and shares the  
gift of God's love and grace and friendship to all in  
the name of Jesus Christ.

Your partners in ministry,

Chip Tami

### FPC Yorktown Co-Pastor Responsibilities 2019

Commission/Task	Chip	Tami	Both
Budget & Finance	X		
Communications	X		
Congregational Life	X		
Deacons			X
Faith Formation		X	
Faith 4 Life		X	
Sunday School		X	
Confirmation	X		
Vacation Bible School		X	
YPP			X
Youth	X		
GreenFaith		X	
Mission	X		
Nominating			X
Operations		X	
Personnel			X
Session			X
Stewardship			X
Worship Design			X
Presbytery			X
Public Ministries - 50/50			X
Worship Leadership			X
Preaching			X
Weddings & Funerals			X
Pastoral Care			X

# REPORT OF THE SESSION

2019 Statistics

## MEETINGS:

Session: 10 Regular, 5 Special, 1 Session/Deacons Combined (retreat), 5 E-mail Advisory  
Congregational: 1 Annual, 2 Special

Active Members as of December 31, 2018: 411

<u>Gains (19)</u>		<u>Losses (23)</u>	
Profession of Faith	10	Deaths	3
Reaffirmation of Faith	8	Roll Removal	20
Letter of Transfer	1		

Active Members as of December 31, 2019: 407

## MEMBERS RECEIVED BY:

### PROFESSION OF FAITH

Melanie Burch  
Benjamin Asa Low\*  
Katherine MacDonald\*  
Anthony Mosca\*  
Theodore Phillips  
Emma Placido\*  
Deborah Szanto  
Anthony Thomas Vezzuto  
Jonathan Torres-Rossi\*  
Marina Karen Wheeler\*  
*\*confirmand*

### REAFFIRMATION OF FAITH

Christopher Behun  
Alessandra Maria Cirillo  
Courtney Lee (Cooper) Donnelly  
Bryan Philip Ekelund  
Kendra Lynne (Wales) Ekelund  
Kristy Jeffries-Berlin  
Jennifer Rowe-Bahun  
Danielle Nicole (Materaso) Vezzuto

### LETTER OF TRANSFER

Ruth Barton

## BAPTISMS

February 24 Avery Nicole Vezzuto  
July 21 Riley Steven O'Hare  
October 20 Julianna Rose Leslie

## DEATHS (\*= active members)

\*Joe Farrell  
Kay Lieberman

\*Squeegee Mills  
Leslie Mansell

Bette Grebe  
\*Gaia Bernardini

## REMOVED FROM MEMBERSHIP (\*= transfer)

Alex Beyer  
Katharine Caswell  
\*George Forbes Freeze  
\*Angelyn Forbes-Freeze  
\*Cynthia Fritz  
Alex Golematis  
David Golematis

Lilly Golematis  
Brian Hodgkinson  
Peter Hodgkinson  
\*David Lee  
Karen LaBonte  
Mark Linehan  
Darrin McAuliffe

Sean McAuliffe  
Nicole Mulcahy  
Kyle Nelson  
David Ramage  
Jocelyn Ramage  
Abigail Winsted

Respectfully submitted,  
*Gordon Braudaway, Clerk of Session*

## NOMINATING COMMITTEE

*Submitted by: Nance Thompson and Emily Monk, Ruling Elders*

*Members at Large: Sue Caruso, Judy Chessa, Deanna Collins, Fred Mintzer, Chip Low, Tami Seidel,  
Tony Tomicich, Bill Winsted*

*Clerk of Session: Gordon Braudaway*

### **Officers of the Corporation:**

President: Matt Sheridan  
Vice-president: Jane Amato  
Treasurer: Beth Gruber  
Secretary: Gordon Braudaway

### **Staff of the Session of FPCY**

Clerk of Session: Gordon Braudaway  
Co-Treasurers: Beth Gruber  
Tom Travis  
Financial Secretary: Lisa Flanagan  
Bookkeeper: Stephanie Hare  
Auditors: Caroline Awour (2020)  
Gregg Nelson (2021)  
Michele Mosca (2022)

Counters: Sue Caruso  
Ruth Deemer  
Pam Darreff  
Debbie Hager  
Donna Gresh  
Kathy Hodgkinson  
Nancy Paskin  
Noreen Radke  
Linda Swift

### **Ruling Elders Class of 2022**

Abby Cross  
Nicole DeCintio  
Lynn Edling  
Eric Kreuter  
Ian Spence  
Bill Winsted

### **Youth Ruling Elders**

Benjamin Low (09/01/20—08/31/21)  
Kate MacDonald (09/01/20—08/31/21)

### **Deacons – Class of 2022**

Diane Hawk  
Christine Lazarus  
Dana Mordue  
Nancy Paskin.

### **Deacons – Class of 2021**

Martin Scatola and Sue Caruso (2-year term)

### **Youth Deacons**

Daniel Hager (09/01/20 thru 08/31/21)  
Marina Wheeler (09/01/20 thru 08/31/21)

### **Food Pantry Co-Leadership**

Courtney Donnelly  
TBD

Thank you to all the hardworking members of the nominating committee and to the people who stepped up to serve.  
We are very grateful for so many positive responses.

Respectfully submitted,  
*Nance Thompson and Emily Monk, co-chairs*

## CAPITAL CAMPAIGN PROJECT MANAGEMENT TEAM

**The Capital Campaign Project Management Team (CCPMT):** *Katharine Frase, Chair; Matt Hager, Ellen Miles, Vinny Wallace, Elders; Chip Low, Tami Seidel, Co-Pastors; Randy Pratt, Jim Gerth, Donna Gresh, Kevin McAuliffe*

Our Capital Campaign's goals of enabling us to improve our efficiency, upgrade our facilities, design & implement new space options and enrich our capabilities to worship, serve, and grow in faith began to be realized in 2019. It is amazing to reflect on how much has already been accomplished through your generosity, sacrifice and faith.

The Capital Campaign Project Management Team (CCPMT) continues to oversee and coordinate projects associated with the Capital Campaign but directly managed by the appropriate commissions.

. All of these projects were completed at costs very close to our estimates, and the commissions (particularly Operations and Communications) have been able to do all of this work with FPCY available funds; no loans or debt have been required.

- the new roof and gutters
- the solar panel installation, which will start producing financial benefits to our operating budget in 2020
- the renovated & dedicated music room for our new music director, Garrett Artman
- the new accessible and attractive office entrance
- the welcome center in the Gathering Space
- an upgrade to the phone systems
- the Sanctuary moisture abatement project, enabling us to address root causes behind our peeling paint, improve the temperature control in the sanctuary, and reduce the risk of mold (with special thanks to those that kept us warm for worship during it!)
- updated CE building plans, and proposals for renovations
- and campaign expenses, including Tom Norwood's support from Horizons Stewardship

There are many more exciting projects ahead in 2020, as we live into the Capital Campaign goals around exterior lighting and paving, upgraded heat and air conditioning systems, reconfiguration of some of our rooms to enable larger classes and consistent meeting spaces, and improvements to our facilities for feeding ourselves and our

neighbors. We expect to find additional projects that will need to be prayerfully considered within our campaign objectives and budget. We continue to need your prayers, your suggestions and feedback, your support and your faithful completion of your pledges.

If you were not part of the original campaign pledges a year ago, we welcome your participation, not only to be able to complete more of our goals, but to have these new facilities represent all of us.



**Grounded in Gratitude**  
*Forward in Faith*



## CONGREGATIONAL LIFE COMMISSION

**Members:** *Nancy Caswell, Emily Monk co-chairs; Alyssa Bauer, Debbie Bernardini, Caroline Awuor, Sue Mintzer, Pat Prauda*

**Purpose:** We extend hospitality to our church members, visitors and strangers. We plan, participate in, and help organize events and activities for our extended church families to socialize, meet new people and unite our two services.

### 2019 On-going Ministry

Sunday Coffee Hour- after our Sunday services we share fellowship with our congregation and visitors. Coffee, tea and refreshments are provided by volunteers that set up and clean up. We appreciate everyone who signs up and helps out with this important ministry. Please consider signing up to support this special ministry!

### 2019 Highlight Events

We are grateful to everyone who supports our commission by hosting coffee hours, participating in pot lucks, assisting with sermons for lunch, coordinating refreshments for speakers, and the many hands that contribute towards set up/clean up of the annual picnic. We are blessed with a hospitable congregation of helping hands. Below are some events we've had the pleasure of supporting this year.

- **Annual Meeting of the Congregation** (Feb) Pot luck lunch for all.
- **Easter Sunrise Service** (April) Sunrise service in Downing Park followed by breakfast at the church.
- **Confirmation Dinner with Session** (April) Potluck dinner supplied by our Confirmation Class with sides and desserts provided by session
- **Confirmation Sunday** (May) Congratulations to our Confirmation class!
- **Progressive Dinner** (June) The evening welcomed FPCY members and friends, high school age and older. Appetizers were enjoyed at the church followed by dinner/dessert at a host home. Many thanks to Sue Nelson, Louise Fang, Jane Amato and Gloria Coccodrilli for coordinating.
- **TED Talks and Food Trucks** (July) Two evenings of food truck dining and TED Talk discussions.
- **Young Adult Volunteers** (Aug) Lunch was provided as we met the YAVs.
- **Parish Picnic** (Sep) The picnic moved to the church grounds. Intergenerational games and a bouncy house were enjoyed by all. It took many hands to move tables, chairs, carry supplies, grill, set up/clean up and swat the bees. It was an afternoon of fun and fellowship.
- **Turkey Mountain Hike** (Sept) Hikers carpooled to Turkey Mtn for an afternoon hike. Thank you Nicole DeCintio for leading the hike.
- **Guest Speakers** (Fall) Refreshments for Reformation Sunday, Legacy Sunday, Peace and Justice Weekend
- **Project Management Team Update/Advent Event** (Dec) Pot luck lunch event to hear from the Capital Campaign Project Management Team. Supplies to create advent ornaments were provided.

We continue working with the Capital Campaign Project Management Team to research and design a new, efficient kitchen which will enable FPCY to broaden our hospitality to our church community now and in future endeavors.

Thanks to our entire congregation for your support of these events!

**Respectfully submitted,**

*Nancy Caswell and Emily Monk*

## COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION

**Members:** Cheryl Burns (co-chair), Linda Swift (co-chair), John Bentley, Donna Gresh, JoAnne Marsh, Barbara Santagata, and Rev. Chip Low

**Purpose:** The Communications Commission manages the internal and external communications of our church. This includes the website, Facebook, Instagram, digital newspapers, banners at the corner of Routes 202 and 132, online event calendars, press releases, advertising, brochures, the TV monitor in the Gathering Space, and community fairs. We tell the story of the church's activities -- from worship, to concerts, to Sunday School, to mission projects, to the annual Stewardship Campaign, to congregational get-togethers, and to many other church events and church mission work.

### Highlights of 2019 include:

Website Report (from **Donna Gresh**) - Congregation members and the surrounding community can learn about what's going on in our church through our Connections Blog on the church website home page, posts from which are also shared to Facebook and Twitter. In 2019 there were on average 6 posts a week on topics from upcoming Adult Ed discussions, to youth meetings, to fellowship opportunities, to news about our mission and outreach activities. We encourage you to follow our blog (from the Get Involved link on our home page) and to "like" our Facebook page (@fpcyorktown). We also post candid photos from many church events on our Facebook page (with thanks to Tim Chin, who takes most of the photos we show there and on our Gathering Space monitor). As an example, in the last week of December, Facebook tells us we reached 2000 people and had 400 "engagements" (meaning some sort of action by a user on seeing our information)! The scripture and sermon portions of each week's worship service is live-streamed on Facebook, and available soon thereafter on our website. Catch up if you missed the service, or want to re-hear it. You can also subscribe to a podcast of that portion of the service; you can find instructions on each sermon posting.

Website Redesign - One of our main projects in 2019 was exploring the ways we could redesign the website to improve it both functionally and aesthetically. This includes making the visitor's guide more visible, keeping current events prominent on the front page, and achieving an overall simplified design with fewer menus.

Videography Opportunity! (from **Ben Low**) - If you or someone you know is interested in joining our Camera Crew, please contact someone on the Communications Commission. Our Camera Crew is responsible for livestreaming the 10:45 services on our Facebook page. No experience is required, and we will teach you everything you need to know to use the camera. It is not a weekly duty, and you would likely sign up for one Sunday a month to stream.

Streaming Sermons - This past year, in addition to the weekly 10:45 services, the 10:45 Easter service was live-streamed through the hymn and Apostles' Creed after the sermon. The entirety of the 7:30 candlelight Christmas Eve service was streamed as well. We were able to livestream a memorial service (for member Squeegee Mills) into Fellowship Hall to reach those in overflow seating, as well as online for those who were unable to attend in person.

Communications Center - After reviewing **Linda Swift's** extensive research, a wheelchair- and child-accessible desk was ordered and installed in the Gathering Space in September. Our goal for this Communications Center is to provide a welcoming space with brochures about committees and upcoming events to anyone who may be interested.

Monitor in Gathering Space - **Donna** ordered a replacement monitor for the Gathering Space and the accessories necessary to continue updating it remotely.

Transition to Realm - Following the switch from MyFPCY to Realm in 2018, we have been troubleshooting and fine-tuning aspects of the site to improve the user experience. This mainly focused on providing more information in the "Groups" section, which helps people sign up for various committees and activities within the church.

Many thanks to **Barbara Santagata & JoAnne Marsh** for creating so many beautiful graphics; to **Donna** for keeping our website polished and up-to-date; to **Donna and Cheryl Burns** for managing our Facebook and Instagram pages; to **John Bentley, Linda, Donna, & Cheryl** for posting the sermons to our website each week; and to **Linda & Donna** for promoting church events in community outlets. We would also like to thank **Linda** for all of her research into types of desks and brochure holder displays (still to come!); **Lisa Flanagan, John Harrigan & Jim Gerth** for getting the desk in place when it was delivered; **Chip Low** for keeping us posted on upcoming events; **Lisa** for creating the Disciple and Bulletin; **Tim Chin** for documenting so many church activities with his photos; the Camera Crew (**John, Ben, & Linda**) and **Tech Team** for recording and uploading the sermons; and **Walter Oudheusden** for making and putting up banners and signs.

Respectfully submitted,  
*Cheryl Burns and Linda Swift*

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## REPORT OF THE DEACONS

Being a Deacon is a call to service. We are the servants or caregivers of our congregation and community. As such we provide assistance to those who are in need, grieving, lonely, ill and/or facing a time where our ministry is welcomed. Being a Deacon means acting on God's call: "What good is it, my brothers, if someone says he has faith but does not have works? Can that faith save him? If a brother or sister is poorly clothed and lacking in daily food, and one of you says to them, *"Go in peace, be warmed and filled," without giving them the things needed for the body, what good is that? So also faith by itself, if it does not have works, is dead.*" James 2:14-17

The Deacons were again very busy in 2019. We reached out in so many directions: visiting the homebound, making meals, offering food with a smile at the Food Pantry, organizing the annual Toys for Tots distribution, bringing music to our homebound during Christmas, registering blood donors for the Red Cross annual blood drive—and more.

**Bereavement**—The Bereavement ministry hosts receptions for grieving families after a memorial service for a loved one; and mails bereavement booklets (six series of booklets meant to provide comfort and connection for the families.) Families supply the food, and the Deacons host the reception. This year we were honored to host 2 receptions and 18 bereavement booklets were mailed to families in 2019 who are mourning the death of a loved one. Bereavement has expanded to include living with cancer resource books and is exploring mental health resource books as well.

*Carol Cornish*

**Blood Drive**—The Deacons, in conjunction with the Red Cross, held our annual blood drive on August 17. The drive resulted in 33 units collected, amounting to 99 lives potentially impacted. Thanks to all who donated and supported the Blood Drive cause.

*Wanda Diaz*

**Card Ministry**—A total of 342 cards were sent in 2019. Cards are sent to those who are ill, recovering from surgery, or celebrating a special birthday or anniversary. Cards are also sent to our college students and to our seniors on various holidays.

*Tony Tomicich*

**Contact to the Homebound**—Our visitation team, comprised of past and current deacons, visits and contacts church members and church friends at their home, in the hospital or in nursing homes. The team, in consultation with the pastors, reaches out with visits and calls to those who are unable to attend services, who are ill, recovering from surgery or who are experiencing uncertain times in their lives. Approximately 122 calls and visits were made in 2019. Members of the team, accompanied by the pastors, also celebrated communion with persons who requested it during several of the visits this past year. Thanks to Sue Nelson, Terri Froehlich, Christine Lazarus, Marianna Sherman, Chuck Radke, Heidi Haring, Carol Myers and Debbie Farrell for their continuing devotion to this ministry. *Jean Post-Winget*

**Transportation**—Our Deacons provided round trip transportation to 11 church members. Nine rides were for medical appointments and two were for church. The Deacons want you to know that we are here to help.

*Marty Scatola*

*(Continued on page 12)*

## **Loaves and Fishes**

Deacons Maura Delaney, Pam Darreff, Wanda Diaz, Jean Post Winget and Tony Tomicich shared this ministry in 2019. The congregation provided over 23 meals to those recovering from surgery, experiencing an illness or personal difficulties. Thank you to the congregation for your “hands-on” support of this important ministry.

## **One Pantry**

Starting in 2019, we have combined several ministries under the One Pantry umbrella, recognizing that all of them work together to reduce food insecurity for our neighbors. The One Pantry construct enables us to manage Hats and Mittens, Diapers, Eldercare, School Supplies, and Toys 4 Tots as well as Food as a portfolio rather than as isolated topics. It also means that we only ask for support for a single entity (One Pantry) and all your donations go to fund all the ministries in the umbrella.

Food: on average, we are helping 110 families, about 400 people, per pantry. For the year, our totals were 2679 (419 unique) encompassing 9900 individuals, the equivalent to 3900 bags of food. Our clients come from about a 10-mile radius from the church, and the vast majority of them are working (many of them more than one job) but cannot afford to feed their families after the cost of rent, transportation & healthcare. We continue to operate in a Choice model, where clients shop for the items their families like. We also offer fresh vegetables and fruit once per month, and eggs, bread and frozen meat each time. We continue to receive excellent support from Feeding Westchester (formerly the Food Bank for Westchester), in advice as well as food and monetary support. We have received wonderful food and financial support from local politicians, businesses (particularly Yorktown Acme, Polymedco, JV Bagels, Panera and BJ's), schools, religious groups and individuals.

Diapers: We provided a 5-day supply of diapers to an average of 51 Food Pantry clients once a month with a total of 611 packages. We are so grateful to Pat Prauda for doing our buying, and to the congregation for cutting coupons for us. It is a great help!

School Supplies: We helped 181 students (an increase of 16 children) during the two August Food Pantries because of the generous donations from Office Max/Office Depot and financial gifts from our church family.

Hat and Mittens: on two Saturdays in December we distributed over 200 hand-knit items for adults and children, thanks to our own Knitters and community donations.

Toys for Tots: The Deacons once again worked with the USMC Reserve Toys for Tots to distribute toys and coats on December 14. We assisted 118 families (388 children) in the following distribution percentages: 15% for children 0-2 years; 22% for 3-5 years; 29% for ages 6-9; 19% for those 10-12 and 15% for over 13 years. Thanks to the generous support of the congregation, we also distributed winter coats to over 100 children in the community. Many thanks to those who gave so generously and to the volunteers who worked so tirelessly to bring the joy of the season to those in need.

The Elder care initiative is new this year. While we have delivered food to the Beaver Ridge facility in Yorktown for many years, we have expanded to also deliver to the Wynwood Oaks facility in Shrub Oak, and to add incontinence products and Ensure to those deliveries (and to our in-pantry clients over 65) once per month. This was made possible by a grant from the Field Hall Foundation. All told, we help about 50 elderly clients by delivery per month in addition to 20 or more who come to the pantry themselves. Since June we have distributed 360 packages of incontinence products and 920 bottles of Ensure. We have two wonderful church members who make the deliveries. It only takes about an hour on 1 or 2 Saturday mornings per month. We could really use some additional people as backups so our two stalwarts can take a day off now and then!

Financials: The combined budgets construct for One Pantry is running well. We are very careful shoppers and take advantage of coupons and grants to offset the costs of all our ministries. For example, we have recovered over 60% of our food costs in 2019. Thanks to your generosity, we have reached the \$10,000 target for matching funds to enable our 2020 operations.

We could not operate without the congregation's support, and the support of dozens of volunteers from inside and outside our church family who are here, week after week to help our hungry neighbors. *Katharine Frase*

### **THANK YOU and FAREWELL**

Thank You and Farewell to our outgoing Deacons: Tony Tomicich, Katherine Frase, Carol Cornish (has moved and has resigned) your contributions to the Deacons ministry have been filled with energy and compassion in all that you do for others. We extend a warm welcome to the new class of Deacons: Susanne Caruso, Diane Hawlk, Christine Lazarus, Dana Mordue, and Nancy Paskin, The Board of Deacons is extremely grateful to the congregation for its support, caring, and generosity.

Respectfully submitted,  
*Andrew Torres, Moderator*

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## **MISSION COMMISSION**

***Members:** Jeff Kephart, Ellen Miles Co-Chairs, Jennifer Burns, Stephanie Hare, Heidi Haring, Frank Hodgkinson, Chip Low, Lynda Spring, Nance Thompson, Andy Torres.*

In 2019, the Mission Commission continued to live into the mission framework of Hands-On, Empowered Partnerships and Advocacy, by trying to strike a better balance between the three. We recognized the need to do more in the areas of Empowered Partnerships and Advocacy. We also wanted to place more focus on local mission opportunities and engage a broader portion of our congregation; expanding our impact, while continuing to support activities fundamental to who we are as a church.

### **Hands-on**

- Mission Trip to the Dominican Republic (Stephanie Hare)  
A group of 16 members of our congregation went to the Dominican Republic this summer with Bridges to Community. During their week in the community of La Guama, they built a house, painted other houses, and met with committee leaders to learn about the hopes and dreams they have for their community, which include building a school for 7th and 8th graders. It was an eye-opening experience for all who went. We thank the congregation for their generous support of the mission trip.
- Knit Togethers (Noreen Radke & Lois Ostling)  
We have 12 members plus 3 at-home knitters. In 2019 we gave 310 hand knitted items to Arch Care Nursing Services, Deacon's Mitten Tree at the Food Pantry, Paramount Care at Somers, and Veterans Transitioning.
- Garden of Hope Community Garden (Heidi Haring)  
Working together with several other organizations in our community, garden workers raised over 3000 pounds of vegetables and distributed them to our Food Pantry and others in our area.
- Jan Peek monthly dinners (Pat Prauda)
- Noon-time Meal preparation (Pat Prauda)
- Midnight Run (Heidi Haring & Nance Thompson)

*(Continued on page 14)*

### **Empowered Partnerships**

- Partnered with Faith Formation Commission to bring Don Gaffney to FPCY for a community discussion and Peace & Justice Sunday
- Continuing to discuss ways to partner with Rural & Migrant Ministry

### **Advocacy**

- Mental Health Sunday Nov. 17th (Jen Burns)
- Gun Violence Prevention (Jeff Kephart & Abby Cross)  
On November 9th and 10th, the Mission Commission and the Faith Formation Commission co-sponsored a special Peace & Justice weekend visit from Rev. Donald Gaffney, a Sandy Hook alumnus and author of the book "*Common Ground: Talking about Gun Violence in America*". On Saturday evening, Rev. Gaffney led a community discussion entitled "Searching for Common Ground: Christian Perspectives on Gun Violence". On Sunday, Rev. Gaffney preached at both services, led an adult education discussion, and led a sermon for lunch that was attended by over 30 of our congregants. Recommended to Session that FPCY endorse the overture "Re-affirming our Commitment to Gun Violence Prevention" made by the Presbytery of Chicago to the 224th General Assembly of PC(USA).

We are grateful for the unwavering support of the congregation both financially and spiritually. Thank you for your participation, financial support and all the prayers. Many thanks to **Barbara Humphrey**, who organized the Craft Fair, and to **John Winget**, who organized the Talent Show, our major fundraising events.

### **Special Offerings**

- One Great Hour of Sharing – 100% to PCUSA
- Easter Offering – 100% to our mission trip to Dominican Republic
- Pentecost Offering – 60% to Presbytery and 40% to FPCY camp scholarships to Holmes
- Peace & Global Witness – 75% to PCUSA; 25% to Presbyterian Peace Fellowship to support Gun Violence Prevention efforts
- Thanksgiving Offering – 100% to our Pantry to supply pork roasts
- Christmas Joy Offering – 100% to PCUSA

**Special Thanks** — We are extremely grateful for the guidance that both Chip and Tami provide. They continue to challenge us to think about mission in new ways, connect us with church leaders in transformational mission and prepare us all to be transformed by our experiences.

**Coming in 2020** — We are organizing a mission trip to Puerto Rico, hosting a Talent Show fundraising event, and working towards becoming a certified Hunger Action Congregation. As a commission we have also been reading & discussing "Neighborhood Church; Transforming Your Congregation into a Powerhouse for Mission" so watch for more exciting transformational mission opportunities.

Respectfully submitted,  
*Ellen Miles, Co-Chairs*

## WORSHIP DESIGN COMMISSION

**Members:** Jane Amato, Garrett Artman, Debbie Amorese, Cheryl Burns, Karen Gerth, Marsha Henderson (co-chair), Bill Herman (co-chair), Christie Herman, Rev. Chip Low (co-pastor), Sara Mann, Barbara Santagata, Rev. Tami Seidel (co-pastor) Ann Timmons.

The Worship Design Commission oversees the needs of our faith community as it gathers for worship. The Commission serves as a resource and support to the pastors in developing themes for worship and to design and implement meaningful, thoughtful and experiential worship. This includes, but is not limited to, reviewing the content and structure of worship, planning and implementing worship themes, designing special services, overseeing the Usher Ministry and lay leaders, making arrangements for the serving of the Lord's Supper, providing for the technical, audio-visual aids to worship, and planning for appropriate decoration of the Sanctuary (such as banners, candles, flowers, themed decor, and greens). Additionally, the Worship Design Commission oversees the musical life of our congregation, including service music, the Adult Choir, the Adult and Youth Bell Choirs and the Concert Series.

The following special worship themes, events, and services highlighted our year:

We began the year with the theme of **Lift Every Voice – Looking at Race, Privilege, and Faith.**

Followed by **Lenten worship** focused on **The Apostle's Creed**. The Ash Wednesday, Lenten services, Palm Sunday, and Maundy Thursday services designed to help the congregation memorize the Apostles' Creed for recitation in the total darkness of Good Friday. Easter services culminated with the scrawled words of what we believe surmounted by a banner celebrating the "Resurrection of the Body".

**Growing in Gratitude** – in cooperation with the Stewardship Commission and Capital Campaign

**Advent:** A Living Nativity. A special thanks to our "guests" who shared their surprising news.

Other Special Services throughout the year included worship focused on:

- Individualized "Star Words" to focus on through the year
- Earth Day Worship led by the Green Faith Team
- Women of the Church Sunday
- Confirmation Sunday
- Pentecost and Children's Sunday
- Men of the Church Sunday
- VBS Celebration Sunday
- Stewardship Celebration
- YAV Sunday
- Labor Day Weekend – Blessing of Hands
- Annual Parish Day Picnic this year held in our outdoor worship space
- Blessing of the Backpacks
- Mission Trip and Triennium Reflection Services
- World Communion Sunday
- Blessing of the Animals
- Stewardship Sunday
- Reformation Sunday (Thanks to **Tim Lupfer** for bringing Luther to life)
- Peace and Justice Sunday – Donald V. Gaffney preaching
- Mental Health Awareness Sunday
- Longest Night Service on the Winter Solstice
- Christmas Eve Services (Family Service and two Candlelight Services)

### Highlights of 2019 include:

- Special highlights of this year included the decision to rename/redefine the position of Music Director to Director of Musical Ministry. As important as the rethinking of the position was, the selection by the search committee of **Garrett Artman** to gloriously fill it was the cherry on top. Thanks to the committee (**Beth Gruber** and **Christie**

*(Continued on page 16)*

**Herman** (co-chairs), **Debbie Amorese**, **Ryan Chin**, **Andy Cross**, **Nathan Perry**, **Ian Spence**, **Amy Wallace**, and co-Pastors **Chip Low** and **Tami Seidel**) for their hard work and to the **congregation** for approving Garrett. We must remember and thank again this year those who shouldered and ran with Interim responsibilities for maintaining and enriching our musical worship program: **Sophie Low** (Youth Handbells), **Carol Jensen** (Adult Handbells), **Katharine Frase** (conducting), and **Christie Herman** (music selection and keyboardist coordination). We are beyond grateful for the talents of **Cheryl Burns**, **Nathan Perry**, **Mariana Sherman**, and **Carol Thorne-Gaetani** as our interim keyboardists. You raised and enhanced the beauty and power of the worship experience. Thank you, thank you, thank you.

- The **Usher Ministry** under the coordination and ministry of Karen Gerth is now in its sixth year has grown to 21 ushers serving the 8:30 service divided among 6 teams, and 30 ushers for the 10:45 service divided among 7 teams. Fifteen congregation members are willing to serve as substitutes. The Elders and Deacons of the church provide ushering and Communion service. Members of the Wednesday night Disciple Group provide monthly preparation of the communion elements. Many thanks to all who serve in this vital ministry of hospitality.
- Many thanks again to **Lynn and Ken Shulman** for their leadership in the **Blessing of the Animals** service. This outdoor worship service drew approximately 50 people and their pets from the church and community. The pets enjoy treats, and their families express gratitude for this service that acknowledges the importance of animals in our lives.
- The Tech Team is responsible for running the sound board during worship services, operating the worship lap top computer, recording the services and sharing them on our website (audio and video) and livestreaming to Facebook (new this year!). Special thanks to our camera men and women **John Bentley**, **Ben Low**, and **Linda Swift**. Tech team also supports audio requirements for concerts and large meetings. Tech team members include **Karen Gerth**, **Benjamin Low**, **Bill Herman**, **Bill and Kathy Winsted**, **Marina Wheeler**, **Louise Fang**, **Gordon Braudaway**, **Sara Delaney**, **Dan Hager** and **David Golematis**.
- Thanks to the congregation for our annual Greening and de-greening of the sanctuary for Advent and Christmas. With special thanks and gratitude to our Greening coordinators, now in their second year, **Debbie** and **Matt Hager**. Many thanks to the **Wilkens/Pratt** families for the gift of Christmas Trees, wreathes and garlands. The Christmas Eve Family Worship and Pageant moved to a new, new afternoon time on Christmas Eve, and the two evening Christmas Eve services offered a traditional Lessons and Carols worship.
- The Worship Design Commission oversees **The First Presbyterian Church Concert Series** which is currently in hiatus but will soon appear in a reconstituted form led by **Garrett Artman** and a new Concert Series Task Force.

The Worship Design Commission is deeply grateful to the talents of those on the Commission as well as the spiritual leadership, support, and talents of Chip Low and Tami Seidel. We are thankful for the office support of **Lisa Flanagan**. We are tremendously grateful for **Carol** and **Erik Jensen** and **Sophie Low** who provided all the behind the scenes work for the adult and youth bell choirs prior to Garrett's arrival and beyond.

Special thanks to **Barbara Wilkens** for selecting and hanging Banners and the creation of a new Easter banner, **Pat Prauda** for her care of the Paraments, **Barbara Santagata's** insightful and beautiful graphic designs, and **Bill Herman's** disturbing graffiti for Lent as well as the re-leaving tree for stewardship. We are blessed by the gifts of **Connie Knapp** for providing coverage and leadership in our worship. This year we re-invigorated our Lay Liturgist program which is a great boon through the summer or when we are down a pastor. The Worship Design Commission also recognizes with thanks all those who have ushered, set and served the Lord's Supper, created and provided signs, banners, and webpages to communicate our message to the community, donated the materials and decorated our worship space, provided lay leadership, and those who have stepped in to assist in countless ways; -- all of which contribute to the powerful worship experiences with which we are so blessed. We are thankful to have the energy, enthusiasm, and commitment of our vibrant faith community.

Respectfully submitted,  
*Bill Herman and Marsha Henderson, Co-Chairs*



## MUSIC MINISTRY

Although I have been with this church a fraction of the time as many of you, I feel it's important to give you my "annual" report on the music ministry here at this church. You've hired a new director and we've made it through Christmas! I have strived to keep the integrity of time-honored traditions while also adding my own spiritual flair. As a painter approaches a blank canvas and visually guides our eyes, emotions, and thoughts; a musician must decorate time and space to guide our ears and spirit. Duke Orsino said in Shakespeare's Twelfth Night, "If music be the food of love, play on..." and it is with these thoughts I'd like to introduce what I have been happening over the past five months.

### What we've done:

- The choir roster has steadily been increasing, as a music director, I am overjoyed at the amount of space I DON'T have and have happily surrendered my folder slot for new and returning members. We had over 32 choir members on Christmas eve in addition to a 5-6 octave Bell choir.
- We've received a new drum kit, and even invested in new choir microphones.
- Two new chamber groups have been created here at the church, a Men's(Bass) Chorus and a Women's (Treble) Chorus.
- Our Bell Choir performed at the "Blessing of the Garden" interfaith service for Yorktown's community garden.
- We had a cabaret Christmas concert for the Lunch Bunch in December
- Members of our choir sang Christmas carols for the community and shut in members and participated in the annual MLK service at Antioch Baptist Church.
- Our youth sang a brand new anthem at the Christmas Pageant
- There have been preliminary meetings regarding the "Concert Series" and how to go about restructuring concerts here at the church.

### Our Future Goals:

- We are looking to expand the youth music program beyond the "Good SamariTones" bell concert and looking to have a youth choir perform at least once during the spring.
- Have regularly scheduled drum circle groups.
- Equalize the temperature and humidity for both the sanctuary organ and piano.
- Create a digital library of choir performances, accessible to you through the church website
- Expand our music ministry into the community through various programs such as community open mic nights, talent shows, interfaith collaborations, etc.
- Offer musical classes studying the history of hymns, composers, church music, and how/why it's an integral part of the Church
- We are preparing a large choral concert in April featuring local schools, professional choirs, and our very own church choir.

I would like to thank all of those who gave their time and talents to the Music Ministry here. For Cheryl Burns and Nathan Perry who have offered their keyboard accompaniment skills whenever needed. A special shout out to Christie Virtue-Herman for being our music librarian; Carol Jensen for being the assistant director to Adult Bells, and Erik Jensen for being the assistant director to Youth Bells and stage manager of Adult/Youth Bells. Finally, I would like to thank all of you for being so supportive of the changing music world, allowing growth, new perspective, and new ideas into this ministry.

Respectfully submitted,  
Garrett Artman

## FAITH FORMATION COMMISSION



**Members:** *Liza Placido and Arnold Cribari, Co-chairs; Bridget Bentley, Kristy Berlin, Stephanie Hare, Heidi Haring, Carol Jensen, Connie Knapp, Rev. Tami Seidel, Michele Mosca, Abigail Cross, Andrew Cross.*

**Overview:** The Faith Formation Commission is responsible for the development, implementation, and administration of educational programs that address the needs and interests of our entire church family. The various subcommittees endeavor to provide new and innovative programs that will capture the interest of the congregation from the youngest child to the oldest senior and to help each person advance in their own faith journey. Those subcommittees are: Childcare; Yorktown Presbyterian Pre-school; Youth; Sunday School; Faith4Life(formerly know as Adult Education); Confirmation; Vacation Bible School, and Library.

### **Childcare Room**

Our church offers consistent and dependable childcare on Sundays, and during special services, an important consideration for parents of young children. Childcare is available to children from birth through kindergarten age in our childcare room by caregivers Donna Saccavino, Kaitlyn Kretschmar, (and Ryan Mansell during the summer months). Many thanks and appreciation go to Michele Mosca, Child care Coordinator, for all of her hard work and enthusiasm in providing a safe and nurturing environment for our youngest church members and for her persistent efforts in keeping our child care room running with a team of caring and qualified staff.

### **Yorktown Presbyterian Pre-school**

It is with great sadness to say that our Yorktown Presbyterian Pre-school (YPP) closed this year. A YPP evaluation team consisting of Jean Winget, Heidi Haring, Emily Monk, Cathy Outhousten, Aloha Hicks, Rev. Tami Seidel, Rev. Chip Low, Sharon Larsen, and myself was created to discern the future of YPP. After much discussion, tears, thought, prayer, and grief, the decision was made to close the preschool. A graduation ceremony for the children and a closing ceremony for the school occurred. The last day of class was June 15, 2019. Thereafter, the classrooms were broken down, a tag sale held, and rooms cleaned out. We are still grieving the loss of this ministry.

### **Youth** (see Youth Ministries report)

Many thanks to our fearless Director of Youth Ministries, Stephanie Hare for her dedication, love, support, and care of our youth population at FPCY.

### **Sunday School**

Our Sunday school program offers a unique educational experience from pre-school through middle school. A cornerstone for the children's faith formation. Our Sunday school is comprised of three sections to best serve the education and spiritual needs of our young children. We use the Sparkhouse curriculum for Pre-school through 4th Grade (Spark); 5th and 6th Grade (Connect); and 7th and 8th Grade (Re:form). Each Sunday pre-school through 4th Grade start off with Gathering Time in the Sanctuary before attending their rotation schedules in Science, Art, and Cooking. Many thanks to all the staff and volunteers that make our Sunday School the wonderful program that it is. We wish to express our sincere appreciation to co-superintendents Abigail Cross and Andy Cross who completed their terms in June 2019, and for Bridget Bentley and Kristy Berlin our current co-superintendents who tirelessly organize, enrich, and staff our Sunday school program.

### **Faith4Life (formerly known as Adult Education)**

Our focus in Faith4Life is on faith formation in adults as individuals and as a community. Our groups provide a safe place for participants to share questions, hold discussions, learn about different topics, and support each other as we grow on our individual faith journeys.

Many thanks to Connie Knapp and Rev. Tami Seidel in leading our Faith4Life program. Studies this year include (but are not limited to): *Creed, What Christians Believe and Why* by Adam Hamilton; *Waking up White* by Debby Irving; Tim Luper's talk about his trip to Germany; *Short Stories by Jesus* by Amy-Jill Levine; *Painting the Stars* from Living the Questions; *Common Ground: Talking about Gun Violence in America* by Donald V. Gaffney; *Race in a Post-Obama America: the Church Responds* by David Maxwell, and *Disciple 1*.

### **Confirmation**

Confirmation is a young persons initiation into the life and ministry of our church. Students are led on this important journey by Gordon Braudaway, Pam Darreff, Suzy Rishel, Rev. Chip Low, Rev. Tami Seidel, and Stephanie Hare. The curriculum was new for 2019: "Big God, Big Questions", the new Confirmation curriculum from Presbyterian Church (USA). The students attended services of different traditions including a Synagogue, and an Interfaith Service. The class had an in-house retreat here at FPCY and participated in outreach ministries of our church including a Midnight Run, serving at the Pantry, and cooking/serving at the Pancake Supper. Confirmation Sunday was on May 5, 2019.

### **Vacation Bible School**

This years Vacation Bible School (VBS) was held at St. Andrews Lutheran Church July 8-12, 2019 with the theme of "To Mars and Beyond". VBS continues to be a cooperative program consisting of FPCY, United Methodist Church, and St. Andrews Lutheran Church.

### **Library**

The Church library is a valuable resource that is open to all members of our church family. Many thanks to Carol Jensen as she continues her service as our Church Librarian. There is a link to three versions of the library catalog on the church web site -- look for the "Library" link under "Connect with each other" and "Education." There are three files: author, title, and subject (call number) listings. Our church library is a phenomenal resource for current reading and Bible study. Carol works hard to keep the collection up to date. Feel free to browse and take out a book.

### **Christmas Pageant**

Many of the children from Sunday School brought to life the Christmas Story on Christmas Eve where they told the story of Jesus' birth so long ago. Many thanks to our director-Bill Herman, assistant directors - Alice Chin and Jessica Mayes, Music -Garrett Artman and Sophie Low, Sound and Technical Support-Ben Low, and the Pageant Planning Team- Bridget Bentley, Alice Chin, Bill Herman, Jessica Mayes, and Tami Seidel. Special thanks to all of the children, the wonderful helpers, the parents and the grandparents!

Respectfully submitted,  
*Liza Placido*

## YOUTH MINISTRIES

In 2019, we had for the second year in a row, participation in our Youth Programs of students from 6th all the way through 12th grade. This was a milestone that we accomplished in 2018 and are pleased to see this continue.



We carried on what have become annual fun activities in Youth Group such as Ice Skating at Bear Mountain and another bowling night with Youth from other faith communities that was made possible through the Yorktown Interfaith Council. In addition to bowling, our Youth connected in many other ways with folks from other traditions. Ryan Chin from our congregation, participated as a speaker in the Annual Interfaith Service of Thanks put on by the Interfaith Council in November, which was followed by Youth fellowship time. Our teens have also provided hours and hours of service to our ecumenical

Cooperative Vacation Bible School over the years, and 2018 was no different. Even though VBS was hosted by St. Andrew's Lutheran Church this past summer, our teens featured prominently in the leadership of VBS by leading the Science and Recreation Centers and well as being responsible for the technology, and so many other details that helped make VBS successful.

Our older Youth made strong connections and positive impressions a little later in July as the largest subset of the Hudson River Presbytery's delegation to the 2019 Presbyterian Youth Triennium at Purdue University where they worshiped, danced, played, learned along side over 4,000 Presbyterian youth from across the country and the world. Our Adult Advisor team for Triennium was also overwhelmingly represented by folks from FPCY: Alice Chin, Matt Hager, Steph Hare, Tami Seidel, and Linda Swift. And our summer activities were rounded out by the hard work of Herculean proportions of our youth that traveled with our intergenerational team to the Dominican Republic, both in physical labor and in the time spent building connections across cultural boundaries.



PRESBYTERIAN YOUTH TRIENNIUM 2019  
July 16-20, 2019 • Purdue University

This fall we resumed our Youth Group activities with renewed energy in our Middle School group from our new 6th graders. The Middle Schoolers have shown a particular interest in caring for God's creation in the environment, which we hope to delve into more deeply as the school year goes on, while our High Schoolers continue to have a passion for service, outreach, deep conversations, and the world around them.

In the fall we also had to say goodbye to several of our most active High School Youth from the past several years as they moved on to college, but we were elated at their return and involvement in church activities during the holiday break. Looking into 2020 and beyond, we hope to find more ways to engage and build on our connections with the young adults of our church family.

Respectfully submitted,  
*Stephanie L. Hare, Director of Youth Ministries*

## STEWARDSHIP COMMISSION

**Members:** Jane Amato, Gloria Coccodrilli, Pam Darreff, Barbara Humphrey, Connie Knapp, Rev. Chip Low, Tim Lupfer, Nancy Paskin, Rev. Tami Seidel, Marianna Sherman, Lynda Spring

### **Stewardship Campaign:**

In the fall of 2019, the Annual Stewardship Campaign's theme was "Growing in Gratitude." In 2019, \$443,059 was pledged by 144 pledgers. We received all but \$8,218 (less than 2%) of pledged giving! We also received \$16,431 from givers who surpassed their pledge goals bringing our pledged gift total to \$451,272. Together with non-pledged gifts of \$45,113 (including loose plate offerings of \$5214) we received \$496,385 in 2019. All forms of giving in 2019 totaled \$503,876. We are grateful for the generosity of our members and their commitment of financial resources.

**Planned Giving:** In 2013 Session approved the establishment of an endowment fund for FPCY to support planned giving. Tim Lupfer has information on how members may consider long-term giving.

**Veterans Recognition:** Stewardship celebrates Veterans Day and Memorial Day by recognizing members of our church family who serve/served in our country's military. Tim Lupfer organized the names, photos and information for their recognition.

**Outreach:** College students and active military personnel receive care packages during the year. Pam Darreff coordinates this project, working hard to update accurate addresses and timely mailings.

Barbara Humphrey has reorganized the "Welcome the Visitor" teams for each church service. Offering a warm greeting, a loaf of bread and a copy of the Disciple to our visitors, members include Sue Nelson, Terri Froehlich, Eric Kreuter, Alice & Tim Chin, Matt & Debbie Hager, Bud & Gloria Coccodrilli, Dick Mills, Christie & Bill Herman, John & Judy Chessa, and Marsha Henderson. A newly formed Team of Bakers supplies the homemade loaves of bread. Members are Sue Nelson, Donna Gresh, Jessica Mayes, Kathy Hodgkinson, Deanna Collins, and Nancy Caswell.

**Prayer Shawl Ministry:** Besides knitting and crocheting prayer shawls, blankets, scarves and hats, this group prays for those who request prayers. Through prayers of intercession we remember joys and concerns of members. If you have a request contact Marianna Sherman.

**Green Faith:** Connie Knapp reports the Green Team's activities. In November 2017, we completed the requirements to become a Green Faith certified congregation; that process also certified us as an Earth Care congregation in PC (USA). Earth Care congregations are recertified annually. During this past year, we coordinated Earth Day worship service, held labyrinth walks, and made recycling easier in our church by providing marked bins. Our newest endeavors include: installation of solar panels as part of our Capital Campaign Project and the new Garden of Hope which harvested fresh produce that was donated to local food pantries.

**Membership and New Members:** Two new member classes were held in 2019 for a total of 19 new members. Six of which were confirmands. Twenty members were removed from the rolls in 2019.

**Stewardship Seminar:** Rev. Tami Seidel, Rev. Chip Low, Beth Gruber and Tim Lupfer attended the Kaleidoscope Conference in October 2019 in San Diego, CA.

Faithful stewardship has the power to shape and mold our understanding of our lives. Grateful stewardship encourages generosity and care giving for all God's creation.

Respectfully submitted,

*Jane Amato and Barbara Humphrey, co-chairs of Stewardship*

## OPERATIONS COMMISSION

**Members:** Tami Seidel, Kendra Ekelund, Rob Baddeley, Don Blaney, John Chessa, Bud Coccodrilli, Deanna Collins, Pete Eagleton, Jim Gerth, Matt Hager, Walter Oudheusden, Ian Spence, Tom Travis, Vinny Wallace.

**Purpose:** The Operations Commission is responsible for maintaining and improving our facilities and properties; and in doing so, support FPCY's work in our community and beyond.

- Special thank you to **Jim Gerth** for continuing to share his experience and enthusiasm with the operations team. In addition, the special time was put in on a number of projects by **Dick Seymour, Bud Coccodrilli, Jerry Amato** and **Matt Hager**.
- Fall and Spring cleanup days were successful. Special thanks to **Deanna Collins** for reaching out to wrangle our volunteers.

### 2019 Highlights:

- Pitched in on snow removal as needed & available.
- Supported the CPMT on roofing and solar projects.
- Worked with Mt. Kisco Mechanical and CT Basement Systems to create new Sanctuary basement moisture-abatement plan. (Special thanks to Dick S. and Bud C.)
- Coordinated with CLEMCO on gutter on west side of sanctuary to improve drainage/ fascia board issues.
- Updated first aid kits and AED packs. (Thanks Deanna C.)
- Saw Significant improvement pest control issues.
- Organized various work parties for painting, clearing of sanctuary basement & wiring of new thermostats. Also laid out a plan for painting projects in spring of 2020.
- Directed traffic & parking at various large events at FPCY.
- Resurfaced the north gravel parking lot.
- Continued ongoing tree maintenance programs.
- Removed fencing and old swing set in rear entrance yard. (Special thanks to Matt H.)
- Took on the prepping of coffee hour once a month via the Men's Breakfast crew.
- Began reviewing plans for improved HVAC, boilers, paving and outdoor lighting to be completed with the CPMT.
- Operations continues to work with the Capital Campaign Project Management Team on solar project, new roof, exterior of the sanctuary and interior spaces throughout the FPCY campus.
- Ops continues to keep Sanctuary and buildings running properly with minor (and not so minor) repairs to doors, locks, pipes, outlets, indoor lighting, outdoor lighting.

Our sanctuary is over 175 years old and other parts of the facility range in age from 20 to nearly 70 years. Thanks to diligence of many ensuring its upkeep over the years, we do not face any known crises at this point. However, going forward, that could change at a moment's notice. We do have a maintenance reserve fund to for expensive improvements but are not currently replenishing this fund due to the Capital Campaign. Operations will continue the regular upkeep items and work to transform our spaces as operations is well represented on the Campaign Project Management Team.

Respectfully submitted,  
*Vinny Wallace, Co-Chair, Operations*  
*(and Matt)*



# THE FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF YORKTOWN

2880 Crompond Road  
Yorktown Heights, New York 10598  
Phone: 914-245-2186  
Worship Services: Sundays at 8:30 and 10:45am  
Sunday School and Adult Education: Sundays at 9:30am  
Office Hours: Monday through Friday, 9:00am-5:00pm

**[www.FPCYorktown.org](http://www.FPCYorktown.org)**

Chip Low and Tami Seidel, Co-Pastors  
Garrett Artman, Director of Music Ministry  
Stephanie Hare, Director of Youth Ministries  
Lisa Flanagan, Office Manager  
Jim Gerth, Caretaker  
John Harrigan, Custodian  
Bridget Bentley, Kristy Berlin, Sunday School Superintendents  
Gordon Braudaway, Beth Gruber & Tom Travis, Treasurers

## THE SESSION

### **Class of 2020**

John Bentley  
Nancy Caswell  
Jeff Kephart  
Liza Placido  
Matt Sheridan  
Nance Thompson

Luke Torres-Rossi  
(09/01/19—08/31/20)  
Ashley Leftwich  
(09/01/19—08/31/20)

### **Class of 2021**

Jane Amato  
Beth Gruber  
Matt Hager  
Bill Herman  
Emily Monk  
Linda Swift

Kate MacDonald  
(09/01/20 thru 08/31/21)  
Benjamin Low  
(09/01/20 thru 08/31/21)

### **Class of 2022**

Abby Cross  
Nicole DeCintio  
Lynn Edling  
Eric Kreuter  
Ian Spence  
Bill Winsted

Clerk of Session: Gordon Braudaway  
Moderators: Chip Low, Tami Seidel

## THE BOARD OF DEACONS

### **Class of 2020**

Patrick Burns  
Pam Darreiff  
Jean Post-Winget  
Andy Torres

Ethan Brown  
(09/01/19 thru 08/31/20)  
Daniel Hager  
(09/01/19 thru 08/31/20)

### **Class of 2021**

Susanne Caruso  
Wanda Diaz  
Debra Farrell  
Martin Scatola

Daniel Hager  
(09/01/20 thru 08/31/21)  
Marina Wheeler  
(09/01/20 thru 08/31/21)

### **Class of 2022**

Diane Hawlk  
Dana Mordue  
Christine Lazarus  
Nancy Paskin

Moderator: Jean Post-Winget  
Secretary: Christine Lazarus