



CHRIST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

2021 ANNUAL REPORT



There are two words that describe our life together since I began as your Interim Pastor on February 13, 2021: **change** and **trust**.

We have navigated more **changes** than I'm sure any of us anticipated when I began in February. You were already living into the **change** brought by Rev. Tom Schwartz' retirement. These are some of the major **changes** we've had since May:



- We adapted our staffing during Rev. Lanie Sipes' New Parent Leave, then received news that she accepted a new call, so we **changed** our plans in order to say, "thank you and farewell" to her in October.
- We hired three Parish Associates: Initially, they were hired to fill in during Lanie's New Parent Leave, but then we continued the position in order to right-size our staff after she left to accept her new call.
- We hired three part-time custodians, but family and health needs prompted each to leave.
- We prepared for the retirement of Terrie Knight, our financial secretary of 16 years, and interviewed several people before hiring Amalya Hartley as our new financial secretary, who began on January 6th.
- We had 10 deaths in the congregation with six funerals in eight weeks during the Summer.
- On May 9th, we returned to in-person worship with several restrictions and protocols. Over time, some of those have been lifted and we have navigated the **changes** so that we can gather together in worship as well as continue to offer our services online.
- We reviewed our membership rolls to more accurately reflect who we are at this point in time. Our membership on January 1, 2021 was 460, on December 31st it was 233. We mailed letters to people we haven't seen or heard from in several years and removed many from our Active Membership List while keeping many of them as Friends of the congregation. We continue to update our membership roles as we hear back from people, and we welcome the return of anyone who desires to keep their membership with Christ Presbyterian Church.
- We amended our congregational bylaws for the size of Session from 18 elders to no fewer than nine and no more than 12 Elders. This **change** more accurately reflects who we are and what our needs are.
- We decided to use Hansn Hall as a multipurpose room, which means removing the stage and some of the equipment that was part of the contemporary worship service.
- Several of our activities and events have **changed** in nature due to both Covid and reduced participation – this is all part of right-sizing our congregational life as fewer people are in leadership and involved in activities and worship.

Interim Pastor's Report continued...

Additionally, the congregation was invited to participate in the Congregational Assessment Tool, otherwise known as the CAT. This was our mission study in preparation for calling your new pastor. The CAT highlighted several concerns regarding leadership, engagement of the congregation, and commitment to the future. The session has heard these concerns and has begun addressing them. The first step was to offer seven Roundtable Discussions for members to share follow-up conversation. All of this seems to be a spark that has ignited some new energy and an invitation to reclaim our mission and focus as we continue to navigate these many changes.

Even our finances have **changed** for various reasons: some members had to find new ways to give when they weren't in the sanctuary most Sundays, other have moved to new communities or another church, some are managing **changes** with their own finances such as **changes** in the source of income, needing to provide for more health and personal care, or planning for retirement. All of these have **changed** our Pledged Income, which invites intentional planning and trust by the Session.

In November, the congregation elected seven members to serve on the Pastoral Nominating Committee. They are: Jeannine Crumley, Hattie Kate Howell, Chris Huffman, David Macpherson, Phil Mintun, Janet Brehm Taylor, and Howard Wharram. They have begun meeting with the guidance of Rev. Jeanne Gay, our liaison from Presbytery.

Through all of these changes, our wonderful staff have continued faithfully with their dedication, commitment, and flexibility in serving our congregation and supporting our ministry. We are blessed by their work!

This is a long list of **changes**, and it only indirectly reflects **changes** brought about by the pandemic. Time for a deep breath... and gratitude for having navigated all these **changes**. And I believe you have navigated these because of **trust**. It's not always been comfortable to trust in God's faithfulness in the midst of so much transition and **change**. Sometimes you've done so out of necessity because there's been nowhere else to turn. You have learned to **trust** the ways that God provides in times of need. You have been the church for one another as we have said goodbye to and grieved the loss of 10 church members in one year. You have welcomed and received the gifts of three Parish Associates.

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While it has been a challenge to have so much **change** in pastoral leadership, it has given you the opportunity to experience different styles of worship leadership, preaching, and pastoral care – all of which are important as you begin the search for a new pastor. You have learned to **trust** yourself with the gifts and skills you bring to the life and leadership of the congregation, and you have begun to share them in important and vital ways. You have navigated the many and often **changing** protocols for gathering because being with one another is a core value of the congregation, so you're willing to wear the masks and make the necessary **changes**. Many of you have learned how to use Zoom and join worship online; likely these are skills that three years ago you may not have ever imagined needing, but you've done it. All of this reflects your deepening **trust** in God's guidance and provision.

Sometimes, we need to take the time to look back and see how much we have learned and grown in order to appreciate where we are now. That's one of the things that our Annual Meeting helps us to do. I see that you are becoming a more confident, relaxed, willing to serve, and engaged congregation – and there is more of this to come as you prepare, individually and congregationally, to call your new pastor. I am grateful to share this time with you as we continue **trusting** God through the many **changes** in our life together as Christ Presbyterian Church.

In Grace,
Rev. Cathy Johnson-Paine



Stewardship & Finance

2022 Budget

Income	2021	2022
1100-00 · COLLECTIONS	\$ 463,000.00	\$ 415,746.06
1103-00 · YOUTH CHRISTIAN EDUCATION	\$ 2,750.00	\$ 3,000.00
1103-50 · CHILDREN'S CHRISTIAN EDUCATION	\$ 500.00	\$ 500.00
1105-00 · TRANSFER FROM ENDOWMENT FUND	\$ 53,000.00	\$ 56,000.00
1105-01 · OTHER INVESTMENT YIELD-NET	\$ 50.00	\$ 50.00
1107-01 · MISSION OFFERINGS	\$ 4,000.00	\$ 1,200.00
1109-00 · RENTAL	\$ 500.00	\$ 2,000.00
1110-00 FUND TRANSFER	\$ 34,000.00	
1110-00 SESSION HELD FUNDS	\$ 7,000.00	
1115-05 · OTHER INCOME	\$ -	
1107-12 · PER CAPITA OFFERING	\$ 2,000.00	\$ 2,000.00
1150-00 · WORSHIP AND MUSIC INCOME		
1190-75 · ADULT ED./CHRISTIAN DISCIPLESHIP	\$ 200.00	
1180-00 · COMMUNITY LIFE	\$ 200.00	\$ 300.00
4701-00 · DEACON - INCOME		
Total Income	\$ 567,200.00	\$ 480,796.06
Expense		
4100-00 · ADMINISTRATIVE/PROGRAM- PERSONNEL	\$ 234,701.00	\$ 218,689.00
4140-00 · PASTOR'S TERMS OF CALL	\$ 102,920.00	\$ 114,666.45
4141-00 · NEW PASTOR RECRUITMENT	\$ -	\$ 20,000.00
4150-00 · PARISH ASSOCIATE	\$ -	\$ 13,250.00
4200-00 · ADMINISTRATION - OFFICE	\$ 23,100.00	\$ 25,400.00
4300-00 · CHILDREN CHRISTIAN ED	\$ 4,200.00	\$ 5,000.00
4325-00 · YOUTH MINISTRY	\$ 4,573.00	\$ 10,100.00
4400-00 · WORSHIP AND MUSIC	\$ 5,900.00	\$ 10,700.00
4500-00 · MISSIONS	\$ 14,700.00	\$ 24,925.00
4600-00 · BUILDING AND GROUNDS	\$ 72,380.00	\$ 82,480.00
4326-00 · ADULT ED./CHRISTIAN DISCIPLESHIP	\$ 500.00	\$ 550.00
4700-00 · COMMUNITY LIFE	\$ 1,300.00	\$ 850.00
4800-00 · HOSPITALITY/NEW MEMBER OUTREACH	\$ 500.00	\$ 500.00
4850-00 · COMMUNICATIONS	\$ 3,500.00	\$ 2,750.00
4900-00 STEWARDSHIP EXPENSE	\$ 500.00	\$ 500.00
5100-00 · DEACON MINISTRY	\$ 950.00	\$ 1,450.00
5400-00 · PER CAPITA APPORTIONMENT	\$ 17,733.00	\$ 17,733.00
Total Expense	\$ 487,457.00	\$ 549,543.45
Net Income	\$ 79,743.00	\$ (68,747.39)

Youth Ministry

2021 was a year of challenges, not just due to the pandemic, but also with the loss of both Tim Huffman and Lanie. The Youth Group relied heavily on the area metroparks and the excitement of Janet and Bob.

February 2021 – The Youth held a bonfire at Olander Park and while it was VERY cold, we had 12 kids attend. We had fun walking on the ice and riding around in Tim's truck. A general sense of fun and community was felt by everyone.

Late Spring 2021 – Youth Help Squad assisted community members with chores in the area.

Mid Summer – Youth outing at Oak Openings Metro Park and Salem Lutheran Church.

Late Summer - We lost Tim Huffman, this loss will be felt not only in our Youth Group, but in our entire community for a long time to come.

October 17th – Janet and Bob took the Youth Group to Trabbic Pumpkin Farm. We got terribly lost and muddy trampling through a corn maze, and had a wonderful time trying to find our way out. Not only did we get to hang out and get to know each other better, but we got to pick our own pumpkins and experience a very Manly God Sighting of pure Diesel Power when our hayride got stuck in the mud. The biggest John Deer tractor I have ever seen showed up to pull us out of the mud. I personally have never seen a grown man almost come to tears over a truck, but Bob came very close. We then were treated to homemade doughnuts and apple cider. It was a truly miraculous day.

Early November - Lanie and Mike left and we experienced another lull in activity. However, we ended the year on a high.

Dec. 4th – We baked cookies and Communion bread. We raised \$207, which we used for our final event of the year.

Dec 18-19th: YOUTH LOCK IN – This was the best event we have had in a long time. We had 15 youth attend, plus Janet and Bob. We wrote prayers for the people, played games, got to know each other, shared stories and redecorated the Youth Room.

We also have a new Youth Group Mascot, Isolde "Izzy" Elizabeth Taylor, better known to the youth as "Monster" who comes to almost every meeting, event, and church service. She is enamored with Ryan Bossenbroek, and has adopted the Youth Room and the Youth Group as her own pack.

Christian Discipleship

The Christian Discipleship team offered several opportunities for Christian growth and fellowship throughout the year. We hosted several 2nd Sunday events, some online and some in person. We had a trivia night with the youth, conversations about immigration and faith with our guest Sister Attracta Kelly of the Adrian Dominican Sisters, an inspirational talk and discussion by Rev. Cedric Brock, explored the major tenets of the Buddhist faith with a local practitioner, and ended the year with a heart-warming carol sing led by Music Director Mark Mathias. For most of the year, we offered opportunities for spiritual growth on Wednesday evenings, led by Reverend's Sipes and Johnson, Jon Bossenbroek, and Jeanine Crumley. We look forward to providing more opportunities in the coming year.



Worship, Music & The Arts

In January of 2021 we held Worship services on Zoom due to Covid 19. Rev. Lanie Sipes (our Associate Pastor) was leading the church due to Rev. Tom Schwartz' retirement at the end of 2020.

The first Sunday of each month Communion was served. Ash Wednesday was observed on February 17th on Zoom with our new Interim Pastor, Rev. Cathy Johnson. In February and March our Worship services continued on Zoom with Music Director, Mark Mathias preparing and taping the music. Good Friday service was held on April 2nd. Easter Sunday, April 4th had two services. The 8:00AM service was a drive-up held in the parking lot with Communion elements served in baggies and coffee and donuts provided by the Deacons. The 10:00AM service was on Zoom with Mark providing brass music, Hallelujah Chorus and handbells recorded on tape.

During May, we observed Pentecost on the 23rd and also celebrated our youth who graduated from high school. Our Worship service was finally held in-person but with Covid-19 protocols observed, such as temperature-taking, masks, contact tracing, social distancing, and having the windows open. Mark arranged for one or two Cantors to sing, and on June 20th we heard the Handbell Choir on tape. We also celebrated the Fankhauser children's Baptisms.

July and August Worship services continued with the same protocols and Communion elements were once again sealed in baggies. Also, Andrew Puskala was Baptized. The Deacons continued to provide Coffee Hour outside the Sanctuary doors, and this time our 10:00AM service was streamed live on Facebook.

September was a busy month with the introduction of the "Pray Ground", located in the front pew for children to use during the Worship service. Celebration Sunday was held on September 26th and we resumed the 8:00AM service at that time.

October started with World Wide Communion on Sunday, October 3rd. We used pre-filled Communion cups with a wafer included for the elements, and stood in a large circle around the Sanctuary. The service was very moving. We proclaimed October as Stewardship Month, culminating on October 31st when we observed Reformation/Heritage Sunday. All members of 25 years or so were honored.

November was designated Gratitude Month. November 7th was All Saints Day along with Communion. We honored all of the members who had passed away during the last year by placing a white rose in a vase in front of the Communion table. Rev. Chris Schilling joined us this month as Rev. Lanie Sipes moved to the Columbus area. The Hanging of the Greens was started on November 21st after the morning service and continued in the evening with the youth assisting.

Worship continued...

Advent started on November 28th and a small stable was placed in the front of the Sanctuary where children could place a stuffed animal. Coffee Hour also returned indoors to Scott Hall. The choir resumed and the bell choir practiced for Christmas. Jen Juhasz featured a children's message each week during the 10:00AM service. Rev. Chris Schilling also conducted a Blue Christmas service during the afternoon of December 19th. Rev. Cathy set up an Advent Reflection area in the Chapel for reading and devotion with LED candles and a CD player to play music. In Room 9, a Labyrinth was set up for thoughtful prayer and meditation. The Advent theme used was "A Wonder-Full Life". Two services were held for Christmas Eve. The 4:00 PM Family Christmas service "An Unrehearsed Christmas Pageant" and the 7:00PM Candle Light & Communion service, where the youth had baked the Communion bread. December 26th there was only one service at 10:00 AM.

Respectfully Submitted,
Carole Gildemeister

Deacons

2021 was once again a very difficult year for the Deacons due to the continuing pandemic. The Community Life team continues to do what is physically and morally safe within the confines of all health recommendations.

This year, we continued to stay in touch with our parishioners through our Affinity Lists. We send monthly cards and birthday cards every month. Thanks to the hard work of Susan Burklow and David Macpherson, a monthly newsletter has also been going out and has been well received.

We were able to start up coffee hour again, first holding it outside and now inside, since the weather is now cold. Jan Whitaker does a fantastic job getting people to sign up to host Coffee Hour.

The church picnic was held in September with Karen Wharram taking the reins. Second Sundays also resumed with some taking on a hybrid model and others held all in-person. Also, a reception was held for Lanie as she left Christ Presbyterian for a new calling.

Respectfully Submitted,
Joni Pinkham
Deacon Secretary
Chair of Community Life

Mission

2021 was a slow year for mission due to the Covid virus and decreased ability to gather and be around people. We had one individual request for money from the community support funds, and it did not go very well. It was our first attempt and the individual lived all the way up in Adrian, MI. He was also unable to come down or email us the necessary things. We do have a team to evaluate the request set up now, in addition to actual forms for them to submit for financial assistance, so hopefully the next request will go much more smoothly.

We fed approximately 85 people at Saint Pauls in March and were able to donate some additional funds to them for the running and buying of much needed supplies. A group of individuals went down to Compassion Health Toledo and did some maintenance work such as touching up paint on the walls, putting a film on the windows to screen out the sunlight and other small tasks.

We looked into the making of beds for children in the Toledo Let's Build Beds. They wanted too many beds to be made, too many people and the final cost placed it out of our financial ability to contribute. We inquired if the synagogue would like to join us in this, but they did not wish to do so.

The Community Garden for The Corner was also continued. We had a lot of tomatoes, peppers, cucumbers, herbs and other vegetables. We would love for more members to assist with this project.

We were unable to do a meal build for Feed Your Neighbor this year due to Covid. We are hoping that we will be able to do one in 2022 when Covid settles down.

We did host an Ice Cream Social in July to help raise some funds for the Mission Group.

The Thanksgiving & Christmas basket donations were very generous this year, allowing us to meet our commitment to Sylvania Family Services.

We are looking for additional members to join the Mission Group. We meet once a month for about an hour, sometimes on Zoom and sometimes in person. We are in need of fresh ideas for mission projects and how to get more of the congregation involved with the projects.

Mission continued...

The Corner continued to serve 90-110 hot three to four course meals every Monday in drive-thru fashion from under the porte cochere due to ongoing Covid considerations. Many served are regular guests, but many more new guests came as they had need to. Kroger has been so generous with donations (largely due to relationships nurtured by three of our members), that our now four freezers are always full, and any excess is being shared with Olivet Lutheran Church and Sylvania Area Family Services.

This year we also added the delivery of any excess prepared food to the St. Paul Community Center, who welcome it for their guests.

Having a healthy group of dedicated member volunteers each week to prepare and serve the meals has allowed us the joy once again of fellowship after the long separation due to Covid. Hoping that Omicron dissipates soon, we are preparing to come back inside to serve our guests in early Spring 2022, provided we can safely do so. Last but certainly not least, the new kitchen and dishwasher are awesome!

Building and Grounds

2021 was a quiet year for our building. The only major project was a new air filtration system for the Sanctuary air handling system. It now has the ability to filter out particles as small as the Covid virus, which allows us to meet on Sundays with the windows closed and the heat on. Financially, we were under budget or near budget in the various Building and Grounds categories. For 2022 this may be harder to achieve due to the rising costs of utilities, repairs, and supplies.

Ron Kleopfer, our Facilities Manager, did a wonderful job of keeping the building clean, all systems running well, and taking care of landscape duties. If you see Ron, please thank him for all the hard work he has accomplished for the church.

Respectfully submitted,
Bob Burnett

Children & Family Ministry

Prayground: Ground Breaking News!! Our prayground was approved by Session this year. This space was created in the Sanctuary to invite children to be present in an engaging way at our worship services. We welcome the movement and sounds little ones bring to our service while they learn what it means to belong, to be loved and to participate.

CPC Tuesday School: We were excited to once again offer our one morning a week "preschool program" this year to six children in our community. This is a 24 week program that offers biblical lessons using the Frolic curriculum. Each week, the children hear a bible story and spend the day learning that story through hands-on activities and play. We offer this program, with volunteer teachers, requesting a \$30 donation from each family to help cover the cost of supplies for the year.

CPC Artist: We continue to offer an instructor led canvas painting class to children in our church and in our community. The class is free and allows children ages 5 and up to create an art piece to display at the church for a month. Our members enjoy seeing God's message to us come alive in these pieces.

Tweens Events: This year we offered a "Tweens Event" each month for children in the 3rd, 4th & 5th grades. We wanted to be able to connect with this older group of kids in engaging ways as we prepare them for Youth Group. We have enjoyed a variety of activities together, such as game nights at the church, wildwood park outings, a corn maze, and ice skating! Each week friends have been joining us, which adds to the fun.

VBS WEEK: In June we had 26 children join us for a journey "To Mars and Beyond". This was an amazing week of adventure and filled with fun activities. We focused on the verse Ephesians 3:20 "glory to God, who is able to do far beyond all that we could ask or imagine by his power at work within us."

Community Events: This year we offered three specific community events. Easter Eggstravaganza, Super Saturday Carnival, and Trunk or Treat. We are the church wanting the community to know that we are here for them. We hope events like this will help the community see our church in an inviting and welcoming way.

Children & Family continued...

Parents Group read "Home Grown" by Karen DeBoer together and met once a month to discuss the book.

Worship: We have invited children to remain in worship with their families. They are given a lesson/ coloring page each week and information about different pieces of our worship service. We offer "Family Faith Formation" opportunities, beginning last fall, to help families to grow in their faith together. We meet for a shared meal and lesson.



Hospitality Team

The Team continues to greet any visitors and presents them with a CPC mug. Their names/email addresses are forwarded to the church office for follow up contact.

