



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
OF RIVER FOREST



ANNUAL REPORT

2022-2023

ACTIVITIES & EVENTS

From concerts to campfires, this past year has been a robust return to fellowship activities and events at First Pres. No matter your age, there is a place to jump right in.



BARN DANCE

March 2023



MISSION TRIP

June 2023



CARNIVAL

September 2022



EARL MUSICK

July 2023



MOVIE NIGHT

February 2023



CHRISTMAS CONCERT

December 2022



CONFIRMATION

April 2023



LENT SOUP SUPPERS

February 2023



CHRISTMAS PAGEANT

December 2022



WINTER RETREAT

February 2023

VBS | RSG | TNT

July 2023



FIRST PRES RIVER FOREST

As I write this, I'm remembering our first Annual Meeting together in 2016. I especially remember Keith Lertsburapa's testimony about what First Pres meant to him, and Rich Nitzsche's presentation that made some pretty dry statistics come to life! We've shared a lot of life since then.

- We've seen individuals and families, staff and ministries come and go.
- We've weathered a global pandemic and more than our fair share of political and societal crises.
- We've celebrated and laughed, worshiped and prayed, pondered and cried, shared lots of food and fellowship, sang and served, and made significant memories.
- In just the past fifteen months, we've worked together to complete a full mission and ministry study of the congregation and the surrounding communities, a project that is helping to shape and refine our future based on the things we value most.

We're growing. We're changing. We're tightly tethered to our Savior. Together we're sharing in and supporting the mission God is calling us to fulfill.

Then there's the year coming up:

- Our next pastor is arriving November 1, giving us seven months before I retire for you to get to know her, and for her to get to know you. We will share everything equally: preaching, teaching, moderating Session, leading staff, pastoral calls and conversations. "But wait, there's more!"
- Yes, there will be concerts, carnivals, retreats, campfires, soup suppers, and undoubtedly more.
- We grow and change, and are committed to meeting people where they are: revising, revamping, renewing, rewriting. We are starting with our largest children's ministry outreach—VBS/RSG/TNT. So much has changed for children and families. We need to make sure we're offering the Good News of Jesus Christ into the world they live in today.
- This fall we are updating the decades-old sound technology in the Sanctuary that will dramatically enhance the sound of both live and livestreamed worship.
- We welcome Josh Ring as our new Associate for Music Ministry, working both with Jane and the choir, and the worship team.

And those are only the things we can see now!

I am so heartened by seeing God's hand at work here and am excited to watch what unfolds. While Debbie and I may be retired in Louisville starting next summer, we will never be far from the hearts and prayers of each of you. We have the amazing privilege of serving as apprentices of Jesus, taking our place in the 136-year history of a church called First Pres in a village called River Forest.

Thank you for making this journey special!



PAUL DETTERMAN
Pastor

MINISTRY TEAMS

Ministry Teams at First Pres are in place to guide our mission and ministry. Our elders and deacons are each part of a Ministry Team to allow us to shepherd and care with greater effectiveness, leveraging the unique gifts of the individuals in our midst.

MINISTRY AREA	DESCRIPTION
ADMINISTRATION	Responsible for overseeing real property, endowments, insurance, and finances of First Pres, including budgeting and stewardship.
DISCIPLESHIP	Responsible for nurturing lasting growth in the knowledge and love of the Lord Jesus Christ for all ages. Specific areas of focus are: small groups, growth opportunities for adults, youth, and children; retreats; and visitor/new member orientation.
OUTREACH	Responsible for connecting First Pres with the surrounding community in order to live and share the gospel. This includes analyzing and assessing needs and opportunities, planning outreach strategies, nurturing a spirit of hospitality and welcome, and assisting in the assimilation of visitors and new members.
MISSION	Responsible for local and global mission connections, recruitment for hands-on mission participation, interpretation of mission causes to the congregation, and administering the financial support for mission partnerships of First Pres.
STAFF CARE	Responsible for the care and supervision of the church staff, including advice and counsel for the Senior Pastor in all aspects of staff supervision, monitoring of salaries and benefits, insurance, resolution of staff issues, and prayer.
WORSHIP	Responsible for assessing the worship needs of First Pres, helping the staff design and implement meaningful, appropriate worship services, promoting the worship ministry, and coordinating volunteers for worship support.

EDUCATION ALL AGES

As apprentices of Jesus, we are constantly growing and learning. The Word of God is our foundation. Biblical teaching at all ages helps us to nurture our faith to reflect God's love to those around us.

ADULT EDUCATION IN 2022-2023

Summer 2022

My Faith Journey: Where I Am and How I Got Here

Fall 2022

Exodus World Service Refugee Simulation: Looking through the eyes of a refugee

What Would You Say? Practicing conversations about your faith

The Holiness of God: Understanding the meaning and significance of God's holiness

The Incarnation: The biblical and theological basis for our belief

Winter 2023

Are You Smarter Than a Middle Schooler? 16 weeks of Confirmation in 56 minutes

Jonah: A Prophet on the Run

Spring 2023

Belief in Action: Exploring the various missions at First Pres

Growing Closer to God: A Lenten journey

Summer 2023

Pulling Back the Curtain: From Peter & Paul to You & Me

PARENTS

Parent Oasis

An *oasis* is a fertile area that sustains life, or a place of refuge and relief. All parents need an oasis, and that's what we offer parents of young children each Sunday morning during the school year. While their kids are learning about God in Sunday Kids Club, parents with children in preschool through elementary school gathered to connect with each other, develop their faith, and encourage one another. As a group, parents explored how the Bible speaks into their (very active) daily lives.

KIDS

Clubs, Programs, and Worship

During Sunday Kids Club, preschool through 5th grade children gathered to learn how Old Testament history and prophets point to Jesus through music, prayer, Bible stories, and games. During the second half of worship, children in kindergarten through 3rd grade join together for a special Children's Worship time with an age-appropriate message that aligns with the sermon their parents are hearing that day. In the summer, kids spent a week learning how God loves them and how to shine God's light in VBS.

YOUTH

Classes, Camps, and Retreats

High school and middle school students had several mid-week opportunities during the school year to study the Word of God in small groups. On Sundays, we re-started our middle school Sunday School class focusing on the Old Testament, and the high school students taught the Sunday Kids Club lessons to the preschoolers. This past winter, our popular middle and high school winter retreats to Camp Timber-lee in Wisconsin returned. During the summer, RSG camp was a week-long camp to learn about God's power and grace.

LEADERSHIP FIRST PRES

Leadership at First Pres takes the form of several groups of God-centered people. Our elders provide spiritual, operational, and financial oversight. Our deacons minister to many daily and weekly congregational needs.

ELDERS

Class of 2023

Roberta Gates
Ruth Johnson
Natalie Knox Heater
Bill Kooser
Heather Radzinski

Class of 2024

Steve Brenneman (2nd term)
Sally Gamble (2nd term)
Rick Hibbert (2nd term)
Laura Westcott
Larry Williams

Class of 2025

Jeremy Fine
Francis Kwakwa (2nd term)
Tim McAdam
Rosemary Pacyga
Kristen Schumacher

INCOMING Class of 2026

Lin Hancock
Ruth Johnson (2nd term)
Bill Kooser (2nd term)
Rich Nietzsche
Manny Yu

DEACONS

Class of 2023

Maryellen Betke
Amanda Ebersole
Lena Fagadore
Joe Hammon
Cindy Reynolds
Liz Winans

Class of 2024

Douglas Colber
Mary Ann Cooper
Jackie Kareb
Jean Kirk

Class of 2025

Mike Gates
Don Huber
Carly Jones
Mark Jurewicz

INCOMING Class of 2026

Maryellen Betke (2nd term)
Julie Heger
Sandy McAdam
Cindy Reynolds (2nd term)



“

All of the teachings here are straight from the Bible. We teach only scripture and Jesus' love, and through his love we build our church and community. Everything from the wonderful music, to the sermons, to the people of this church, shows God's love and draws me to this church. I am so grateful to have grown up at First Pres and I am so excited to see what the future holds for our community and church family.

—Alex Hibbert

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OFFICERS

President: Rob McAdam, Jr
Vice President: John Erickson
Secretary & Treasurer: Kim Wojack

NOMINATING COMMITTEE

Elders: Bill Kooser, Ruth Johnson **Deacon:** Lena Fagadore
At-Large: Steven Denny, Sandy McAdam,
Sarah O'Shea Muñoz, Ryan Schumacher, Mary Studer

CO-PASTOR SEARCH

With First Pres on a strong trajectory and Pastor Paul anticipating retirement, a co-pastor search began in April 2023 in order to avoid a protracted pastor-search process which could hinder our growth and forward momentum. By God's providence, in less than three months we were able to find an exceptional fit in Donna Marsh. Donna will work alongside Paul through June 2024.

PASTOR DONNA MARSH

—excerpt from the CPNC nomination letter for Pastor Donna

Donna is a spiritually mature Christian with significant leadership experience. Since 2008, she has served on the staff of The National Presbyterian Church in Washington, DC, most recently as the Executive Pastor. In this position, she regularly preaches, leads worship, leads staff, and coordinates all mission ministries. Donna has exceptional people and pastoral care skills, giving us confidence in her ability to lead our congregation faithfully at every level.

Donna's theology is clear and grounded in a deep love for Jesus and a reverence for God's Word. A lifelong learner, Donna has an impressive educational background. She holds degrees from Smith College and Princeton Theological Seminary, and is currently enrolled in the Doctor of Ministry program at Wesley Theological Seminary. Before seminary, Donna worked for Andersen Consulting and the U.S. Committee for Refugees.

We believe Donna's passion for nurturing people of all ages, strong preaching and teaching, putting belief into action, and her track record of shepherding God's people in the truth make her an ideal Co-Pastor for our congregation. Several references were united in their high regard for Donna, frequently mentioning her preaching ability, pastoral heart, strong leadership skills, and dedication to her calling.



It is my great joy and an honor to serve as your co-pastor beginning November 1, 2023.

CO-PASTOR NOMINATING COMMITTEE

Lynn Hancock, Laura Juliano, Francis Kwakwa, Keith Lertsburapa, Buff Martin, Ryan Schumacher (Chair), Laura Westcott



The music at First Pres allows me to worship God in the best and most expressive language I know. Participating in the music ensembles provides me an opportunity to invite others into that sacred worship place that I find myself in when I sing or play music. I am grateful that First Pres has so many different ways I can praise God through music!

—Laura Juliano

TERMS OF CALL

2023-2024

Paul Detterman & Donna Marsh, Co-Pastors

	<u>Paul Detterman</u>	<u>Donna Marsh*</u>
Cash salary	\$ 69,277	\$ 69,277
Non-cash housing (manse)	20,783	0
Cash housing allowance	0	20,783
Total Cash and Non-cash Compensation	90,060	90,060
Social Security contribution (1/2 @ 7.65%)	6,890	6,890
Medical	26,117	26,117
Death and disability	901	901
Temp disability plan	450	450
Pension	7,655	7,655
Total Benefits	42,013	42,013
Reimbursed medical allowance	2,500	2,500
Reimbursed study and book allowance	2,500	2,500
Reimbursed auto and other work expenses	5,500	5,500
Total Reimbursed Expenses	10,500	10,500
Total Compensation, Benefits, and Expenses	\$ 142,573	\$ 142,573

* Donna Marsh starts November 1, 2023



“ ———

One of the most important biblical teachings in a church is through the sermon. The sermons delivered by Pastor Paul are biblically sound and also evident of deep faith and compassion for "the flock". I always feel spiritually fed by his sermons. That is what has drawn me to First Pres.

—Linda Parker

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INCOME & EXPENSES

FISCAL YEAR ENDING JUNE 30, 2023

	2022-2023			2023-2024
	Actual	Budget	Variance	Budget
INCOME				
Pledged	\$ 645,380	\$ 628,053	\$ 17,327	\$ 406,488
General-Unpledged	226,800	182,045	44,755	427,829
Plate Offering	5,643	1,000	4,643	3,600
Other Income	5,783	300	5,483	0
Investment Income	4,092	0	4,092	0
Total Income	887,698	811,398	76,300	837,917
EXPENSES				
Staff Care	503,133	519,792	16,659	524,792
Discipleship	6,248	18,425	12,177	18,475
Member Care	258	100	(158)	100
Stephen Ministries	302	250	(52)	250
Fellowship	2,237	5,500	3,263	3,250
Worship	10,070	12,650	2,580	13,200
Session	102	100	(2)	100
Missions	76,666	77,700	1,034	77,700
Administrative	67,544	66,050	(1,494)	73,700
Promotion	1,784	1,000	(784)	2,000
Building & Grounds	160,138	118,600	(41,538)	124,350
Total Expenses	\$ 828,482	\$ 820,167	\$ (8,315)	\$ 837,917
Excess (deficit)	\$ 59,216	\$ (8,769)	\$ 67,985	\$ -

IN MEMORIAM

JULY 1, 2022 - JUNE 30, 2023

Betty Williams (1944-2022)
 Lorese Hill (1936-2022)
 Nancy Arends (1937-2022)
 Dale Rider (1931-2022)
 Melva Gage (1937-2022)
 Dorothy Peoples (1942-2022)
 Elaine (Blondie) Kirk (1925-2023)



“

I'm drawn to First Pres because we cherish Christ like a little kid does his blankie. He takes it with him everywhere and wants to share the comfort and security it gives him with others. We want to know Jesus better so we can share him better.

—Mary Williams

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BALANCE SHEET

FISCAL YEAR ENDING JUNE 30, 2023

	<u>June 30, 2023</u>	<u>June 30, 2022</u>
ASSETS		
Cash		
Operating	\$ 63,061	\$ (23,006)
Designated/ Restricted	505,307	528,391
Fixed Assets	2,446,925	2,446,925
Other Assets	1,250	9,425
Total Assets	<u>\$ 3,016,543</u>	<u>\$ 2,961,735</u>
LIABILITIES AND FUND PRINCIPAL		
Current Liabilities	\$ 22,052	\$ 3,227
Designated Funds	267,892	310,548
Restricted Funds	237,415	217,843
Fund Principal	2,489,184	2,430,117
Total Liabilities & Fund Principal	<u>\$ 3,016,543</u>	<u>\$ 2,961,735</u>

DESIGNATED FUNDS

FOR THE 2022-2023 FISCAL YEAR

Administration	\$ 18,254
Adult Events	5,384
Benevolence	25,958
Capital Fund	60,820
Children's Ministry	41,976
Endowment Fund	160,999
Kovic RSG Scholarship	10,834
Manse Fund	21,565
Memorial Fund	57,157
Missions	9,697
Scholarship Fund	54,851
Women's Bible Study	11,120
Worship	2,508
Youth Ministry	\$ 24,184
	<u>\$ 505,307</u>



“ In this busy, time-is-money world, First Pres has been a cornerstone to remind us that God loved us so that we could love others. Not in a vacuum, not in a bubble, not with the expectation of receiving anything in return. Through our witness at this church, truly loving others in Christ's image is all about relationship building— which requires curiosity, empathy, vulnerability and trust.

—Jess Hwang

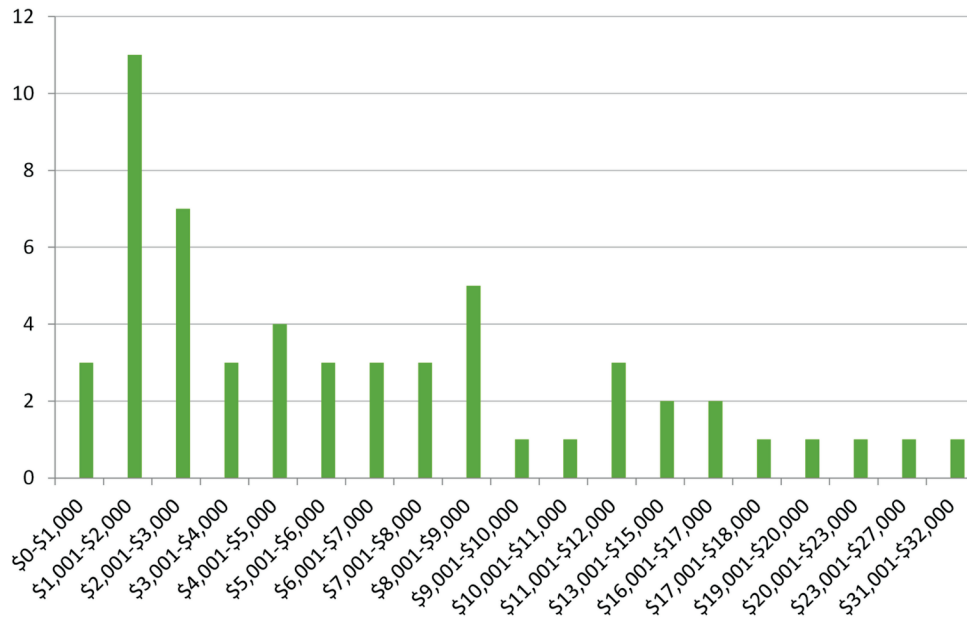
MISSIONS FUNDED

FISCAL YEAR ENDING JUNE 30, 2023

Missions Expenses	2022-2023		
	Actual	Budget	Variance
Antioch Partners	\$ 5,000	\$ 5,000	-
By the Hand	4,000	4,000	-
Circle Urban Ministires	\$7,000	\$7,000	-
CRU- Kovic	2,500	2,500	-
CRU- Moffatt	2,500	2,500	-
Frontiers	5,500	5,500	-
General Missions Expenses	4,201	9,700	5,499
Harmony Community Cares	2,500	2,500	-
Homeless/Needy	-	300	300
Hope Academy	11,000	7,000	(4,000)
Housing Forward	1,500	1,500	-
Last Frontiers	5,500	5,500	-
Lower Wacker Homeless Food	2,365	2,600	(235)
Mothers Of Preschoolers (MOPS)	2,000	2,000	-
Opportunity International	5,600	5,600	-
PARS	5,000	4,000	(1,000)
Presbyterian Frontier Fellowship	3,500	3,500	-
Young Life OPRF	7,000	7,000	-
Total Missions Expenses	\$ 76,666	\$ 77,700	\$ 1,034

PLEDGE SUMMARY

AS OF AUGUST 31, 2023



56

Total Number of Pledges

\$406,488

Total Amount Pledged

STAFF CURRENT

Jack Bell*
Director of Youth Ministries
jack.bell@firstpresrf.org

Marty Bell
Facilities Manager
facility@firstpresrf.org

Terri Benno*
CPA
cpa@firstpresrf.org

Paul Detterman
Pastor
paul.detterman@firstpresrf.org

Maggie Downs
Director of Children's Ministries
maggie.downs@firstpresrf.org

Jane Holstein*
Director of Music Ministries

Konrad Mahler*
Weekend Facilities

Donna Marsh
Co-Pastor
(starting November 1)

Julia Potter*
Communications Manager
julia.potter@firstpresrf.org

Josh Ring*
Associate for Music Ministry

Kimberly Tenhor*
Technology Manager
kimberly.tenhor@firstpresrf.org

* indicates part-time



“

What we believe as a church is shown in tangible and visible demonstrations of what we do within our church, community, country, and world. Nearly the entire congregation is involved with their talents, time, or assets with the many organizations we, as a church, directly support or one of countless others they have a heart for. This community of believers truly projects God's love.

— Traci Melcher

”

THANKS to those who helped move our ministry forward during the year!

Maria Agozo
Interim Office Coordinator

Alex Hibbert
Contemporary Music Leader

Corinne Lopez
Office and Ministry Coordinator

Debbie Detterman
Interim Office Coordinator


Stephen Lake
Interim Research & Office Coordinator

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office@firstpresrf.org

(708) 366-5822

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