



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
OF RIVER FOREST

2023-24

ANNUAL REPORT



Youth Sunday 2024

Together, growing as
apprentices of Jesus Christ
to reflect God's love.

www.firstpresrf.org



Alive and Growing

LETTER FROM PASTOR DONNA

"I am the vine; you are the branches. If you remain in me and I in you, you will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing. John 15:5



What a year of change this was for First Pres! We experienced the bittersweet change of a pastoral transition, ushering in the well-earned retirement of Pastor Paul Detterman and Debbie Detterman after eight years of faithful service here, and ushering in my family's arrival from Washington, DC. I am so grateful for the warm welcome!

Christmas Eve 2023



One of the joys of being new is seeing what is familiar to others with fresh eyes. It's a chance to appreciate the unique blessings and beauty of this congregation, and to ask questions about how we can become even stronger in our faith and witness. Sometimes this means noticing small things that convey a powerful message. For example, I love the First Pres logo. The bright green tree connects us with the names of the surrounding communities where our members live, but more importantly, it conveys the vitality of our life in Christ. He is the Vine, and we are the branches. The logo also alludes to other rich Scriptures, including Colossians 2:6-7, which urges us to continue to live our lives in Christ, rooted and built up in him. Everything about our logo says, "We are alive and growing!" and the church I see with my fresh eyes is very much alive and growing stronger by the power of the Holy Spirit.

In the pages of this annual report, you will see the evidence of a church with deep roots in God's Word, whose people care deeply about being connected to the living God and to one another. You will see the evidence of faithful giving, heartfelt prayer, and countless hours of service, all in support of sharing the Gospel. That sharing may come in a close friend's darkest hour, in answering a child's open-hearted questions, or in the brave work of mission partners around the globe.

As you turn these pages, you will almost be able to hear our voices singing in praise of our Lord Jesus Christ, and hear the laughter of children in our hallways.

This is the evidence of a church that is very much alive. On a practical level, your presence and your support help this church to flourish. We need you, and we are grateful for you.

On a spiritual level, we know that we bear fruit only when we remain in Christ, and he in us. Apart from him, we can do nothing. In him, we are alive and growing!

Gratefully yours in Christ,

Pastor Donna Marsh

Easter Sunday 2024



Fall Fest Carnival





Income & Expenses

FISCAL YEAR ENDING JUNE 30, 2024

	Fiscal Year Ending June 30, 2024			2024-2025
	Actual	Budget	Variance	Budget
REVENUES				
Pledged	\$ 448,136	\$ 406,488	\$ 41,648	\$ 426,354
General-Unpledged	297,636	442,380	(144,744)	408,864
Plate Offering	12,044	3,600	8,444	8,000
Other Income	12,289	0	12,289	0
Investment Income	12,205	0	12,205	8,000
Total Income	782,310	852,468	(70,158)	851,218
EXPENSES				
Staff Care	451,164	538,048	86,884	538,048
Discipleship	8,616	18,475	9,859	19,475
Member Care	0	100	100	100
Stephen Ministries	0	250	250	250
Fellowship	2,062	3,250	1,188	3,250
Worship	8,473	13,200	4,727	13,950
Session	347	100	(247)	200
Missions	78,971	78,995	24	78,995
Administrative	73,486	73,700	214	39,900
Promotion	1,541	2,000	459	2,500
Building & Grounds	154,882	124,350	(30,532)	154,550
Total Expenses	\$ 779,542	\$ 852,468	\$ 72,926	\$ 851,218
Excess (deficit)	\$ 2,768	\$ -	\$ 2,768	\$ -



In Memoriam

JULY 1, 2023 - JUNE 30, 2024

Betty Tilton, 1944 - 2023

George Van Verst, 1935 - 2023



Terms of Call

PASTOR DONNA MARSH, 2024-2025

Cash salary	\$ 69,277
Cash housing allowance	5,196
Non-cash housing (manse)	15,587
Total Cash and Non-Cash Compensation	90,060

Social Security contribution (7.65%)	6,890
Medical	27,989
Death and disability	1,351
Pension	7,655
Total Benefits	43,885

Reimbursed medical allowance	2,500
Reimbursed study and book allowance	2,500
Reimbursed auto and other work expenses	5,500
Total Reimbursed Expenses	10,500

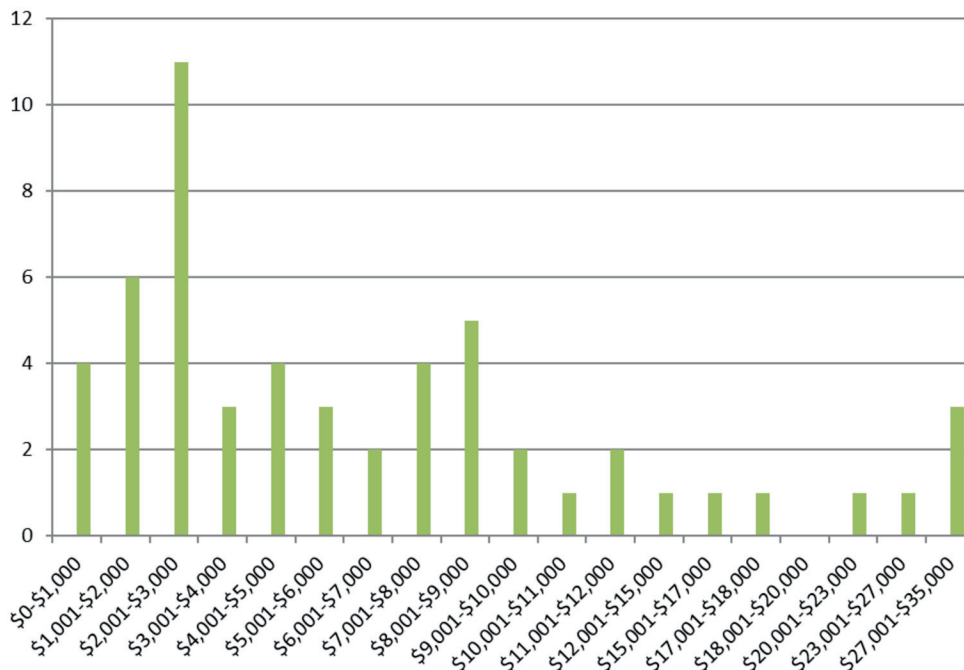
Total Compensation, Benefits, and Expenses \$ 144,445



Pastor Donna Marsh

Pledge Summary

AS OF SEPTEMBER 30, 2024



Sacrament of Baptism

55

Total Number of Pledges

\$426,354

Total Amount Pledged



Balance Sheet

FISCAL YEAR ENDING JUNE 30, 2024

Alleluia Singers Children's Choir



	June 30, 2024	June 30, 2023
ASSETS		
Cash		
Operating	\$ 47,600	\$ 63,061
Designated/ Restricted	572,516	505,307
Fixed Assets	2,446,925	2,446,925
Other Assets	4,747	1,250
Total Assets	\$ 3,071,788	\$ 3,016,543
LIABILITIES AND FUND PRINCIPAL		
Current Liabilities	\$ 7,320	\$ 22,052
Designated Funds	270,711	267,892
Restricted Funds	301,805	237,415
Fund Principal	2,491,952	2,489,184
Total Liabilities & Fund Principal	\$ 3,071,788	\$ 3,016,543

Designated Funds

FISCAL YEAR ENDING JUNE 30, 2024

Administration	2,993
Adult Events	5,384
Benevolence	20,248
Building/Grounds	33,265
Capital Fund	60,820
Children's Ministry	39,707
Endowment Fund	187,641
Kovic RSG Scholarship	10,017
Manse Fund	52,715
Memorial Fund	45,376
Missions	22,861
Scholarship Fund	61,449
Women's Bible Study	6,588
Worship	2,237
Youth Ministry	\$ 21,215
	\$ 572,516



Christmas Eve Worship



Summer Bible Camps



Missions Funded

FISCAL YEAR ENDING JUNE 30, 2024

	2023-2024		
	Actual	Budget	Variance
Missions Expenses			
Antioch Partners	5,000	5,000	-
By the Hand	4,000	4,000	-
Circle Urban Ministries	\$7,000	\$7,000	-
CRU- Kovic	1,500	1,500	-
CRU- Moffatt	1,500	1,500	-
Frontiers	5,500	5,500	-
General Missions Expenses	10,871	10,595	(276)
Harmony Community Cares	3,000	3,000	-
Homeless/Needy	-	300	300
Hope Academy	9,000	9,000	-
Housing Forward	1,500	1,500	-
Last Frontiers	5,500	5,500	-
Lower Wacker Homeless Food	2,600	2,600	-
Mothers Of Preschoolers (Now MomCo)	2,500	2,500	-
Opportunity International	5,000	5,000	-
PARS	4,000	4,000	-
Presbyterian Frontier Fellowship	3,500	3,500	-
Young Life OPRF	7,000	7,000	-
Total Missions Expenses	\$ 78,971	\$ 78,995	\$ 24





Leadership & Staff

FISCAL YEAR ENDING JUNE 30, 2024

ELDERS

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

Class of 2026

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

INCOMING Class of 2027

Peter Chen
Jess Hwang
Larry Williams (2nd term)

DEACONS

Class of 2024

Douglas Colber
Mary Ann Cooper
Jackie Kareb
Jean Kirk

Class of 2025

Mike Gates**
Don Huber
Carly Jones
Mark Jurewicz
Jennifer McAdam*
Cheryl Rotundo*

Class of 2026

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

INCOMING Class of 2027

Bill Breinig
Joe Cesarini
Jackie Kareb (2nd term)
Jean Kirk (2nd term)

* partial term

** concluded service November 2023

Nominating Committee

Elders: Ruth Johnson, Tim McAdam (co-chairs) **Deacon:** Don Huber
At-Large: Karen Brammer, Jon Ebersole, Edith Gomero, Jennifer McAdam, Terry Studer

OFFICERS

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



CHURCH STAFF

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

Terri Benno*
CPA
cpa@firstpresrf.org

Bethanie Clopton
Office Coordinator
office@firstpresrf.org

Paul Detterman
Co-Pastor
(through June 30, 2024)

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

Lin Hancock*
Facilities Manager
facility@firstpresrf.org

Jane Holstein*
Director of Music Ministries

Konrad Mahler*
Weekend Facilities

Donna Marsh
Co-Pastor (Nov. 1, 2023-current)
donna.marsh@firstpresrf.org

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





Highlights

GROWING AS A FAMILY OF FAITH

EDUCATION FOR ALL AGES

Children

From infant through 8th grades, age-appropriate classes help children build a lifelong relationship with Jesus. This year, children looked at God's workings in the lives of His people, from the exile of the Jews through the start of the Christian Church.



Parent Oasis Potluck

Parents

Parents with children ages birth through middle school gather each Sunday for Parent Oasis, a time of Bible study, teaching, discussion, and fellowship. Last year the Parent Oasis class studied Proverbs, gaining insight and inspiration on the essential roles of parents.



Christmas Eve Worship

Teens

Students in 6-12th grades have a variety of classes, events, and studies to help them continue on their discipleship journey. This past year, teens studied questions they could ask themselves to help interpret and apply the lessons that God teaches us through the Bible.

Adults

Adults of all ages gather Sunday mornings for a biblically based hour of education as we each continue to grow as apprentices of Jesus.

Last year, we learned ways to keep scripture in our hearts, looked at biblical views of life transitions, learned how to live out our core beliefs as a church, looked at various aspects of biblical hope, Hesus in the Bible, hell in the Bible, and learned about our various mission partners' work around the world.



Lenten Soup Suppers

CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROJECTS

Since we last reported in 2021, our church building, technology, and yard have undergone significant improvements.

Building Interior

- Plaster repair
- Steam boiler overhaul
- Kids' bathroom renovation
- Music Room remodel
- New HVAC rooftop unit
- Indoor lighting upgraded

Technology

- Updated Social Hall A/V (phase 1)
- Sanctuary Sound System
- Second Smart Room for hybrid meetings
- Sanctuary lighting for livestream

Outdoors

- Concrete stair repair
- Fence and landscape*
- Outdoor lighting upgraded

*privately funded

CONNECT WITH US



office@firstpresrf.org



(708) 366-5822



firstpresrf.org



@firstpresrf



@firstpresrf



/firstpresrf