First Presbyterian Church
of River Forest

**2025–2026**
JULY 1, 2025–JUNE 30, 2026

# ANNUAL REPORT

## GET INVOLVED.

*Your Presence. Your Purpose. Your Participation.*

## GROWING TOGETHER IN CHRIST

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FIRSTPRESRF.ORG

# GET INVOVLED

***Your Presence. Your Purpose. Your Participation.***

## A LOOK AT THE YEAR FROM PASTOR DONNA

Dear Members and Friends of First Pres,

I've noticed something over the years—those who show up on a Wednesday to stir a pot of soup or on a Sunday after worship to set up snacks for fellowship always seem to walk away with more than they gave. That's not a coincidence. That's God working through the ordinary stuff—the casseroles, the carpools, the choir rehearsals—to knit us together and grow us in faith.

Getting involved isn't just a slogan, it's where a lot of us have met God most clearly this year. As we look back on everything we did together, I hope you'll see it the way I do: not a list of events, but a list of invitations. Here's what *Your Presence, Your Purpose, Your Participation* looked like in action.

*Your Presence*. You showed up from the Lenten soup suppers warming us in body and spirit, to marching together in the Memorial Day parade and greeting onlookers with warmth and light. Our Chancel Choir, Worship Band, and Alleluia Singers lifted their voices week after week, rehearsal after rehearsal, and raised my spirits every time.

*Your Purpose*. When you fully engage, something amazing happens—friendships are formed, events get better, and growth happens for disciples of every age. It's the commitment behind Fall Fest, Kids' Nite, the Progressive Dinner, and especially our 100-Year Gala, where we celebrated a century in our church home at Quick and Lathrop. Again and again, we choose to show up for each other and for God.

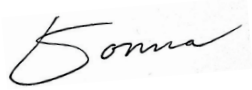
A hundred years of presence, purpose, and participation —that's something to celebrate.

*Your Participation*. Sunday volunteers quietly kept the church running—greeting, ushering, teaching, brewing coffee. You joined mission teams and rolled up your sleeves to put faith into action, out in the world where it matters. And purpose is perhaps no clearer than at Summer Bible Camp, watching God at work with the kids as they learn, laugh, and grow in faith. These are just a few examples of our purpose fulfilling Jesus' Great Commission and Great Commandment.

Looking back, I'm grateful. Grateful for God's provision, and grateful to be on this journey with you. Every evening you volunteer with the kids, every Sunday you pitch in, every dollar you give. It all makes a difference.

As we step into another year, let's all keep asking: where can I be present, what's God's purpose for me, where can I participate? There's a place for you.

Gratefully yours in Christ,



Pastor Donna

# INCOME & EXPENSES

| | Fiscal Year Ending June 30, 2026 | | | 2026-2027 |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| | Actual | Budget | Variance | Budget |
| **REVENUES** | | | | |
| Pledged | $ 466,267 | $ 484,703 | $ (18,436) | $ 492,203 |
| General—Unpledged | 352,387 | 379,415 | (27,028) | 393,042 |
| Plate Offering | 21,629 | 10,000 | 11,629 | 11,525 |
| Other Income | 4,475 | 0 | 4,475 | |
| Investment Income | 12,076 | 10,000 | 2,076 | 10,000 |
| **Total Income** | **$ 856,834** | **$ 884,118** | **$ (27,284)** | **$ 906,770** |
| **EXPENSES** | | | | |
| Staff Care | 498,890 | 543,048 | 44,158 | 528,000 |
| Discipleship | 16,915 | 19,475 | 2,560 | 20,425 |
| Member Care | 0 | 100 | 100 | 100 |
| Stephen Ministries | 156 | 250 | 94 | 250 |
| Fellowship | (5,109) | 5,750 | 10,859 | 5,750 |
| Worship | 7,117 | 13,950 | 6,833 | 14,350 |
| Session | 82 | 200 | 118 | 200 |
| Missions | 78,995 | 78,995 | 0 | 78,995 |
| Administrative | 29,184 | 34,300 | 5,116 | 37,700 |
| Promotion | 1,765 | 5,000 | 3,235 | 4,200 |
| Building & Grounds | 212,717 | 183,050 | (29,667) | 216,800 |
| **Total Expenses** | $ 840,712 | $ 884,118 | $ 43,406 | $ 906,770 |
| **Excess (deficit)** | **$ 16,122** | **$ -** | **$ 16,122** | **$ -** |

# IN MEMORIAM

JULY 1, 2025–JUNE 30, 2026

Dorothy Wood, 1928–2025

Chuck Cozette, 1958–2025

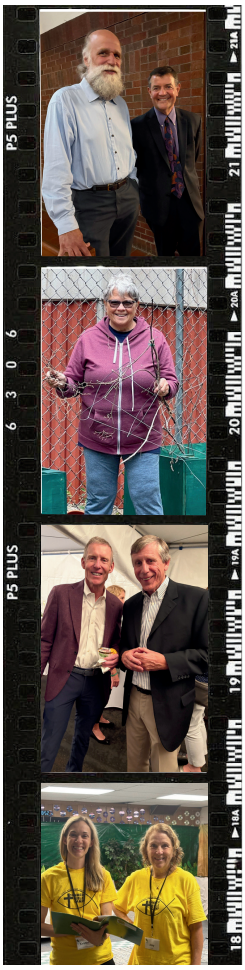
Dr. David Monson, 1938–2026

Kristen Colber-Baker, 1964–2026

Steve Bruner, 1941–2026

Martha Woods, 1936–July 28, 2026*

**In fiscal year 2026*



# BALANCE SHEET

FISCAL YEAR ENDING JUNE 30, 2026

| | June 30, 2025 | June 30, 2026 |
|---|---|---|
| **ASSETS** | | |
| Cash | | |
| Operating | $ 129,812 | $ 145,599 |
| Designated/ Restricted | 525,893 | 578,229 |
| Fixed Assets | 2,446,925 | 2,446,925 |
| Other Assets | 842 | 2,672 |
| **Total Assets** | **$ 3,103,472** | **$ 3,173,425** |
| | | |
| **LIABILITIES AND FUND PRINCIPAL** | | |
| Current Liabilities | $ 3,837 | $ 3,891 |
| Designated Funds | 265,466 | (291,265) |
| Restricted Funds | 260,427 | 291,265 |
| Fund Principal | 2,573,742 | 3,169,534 |
| **Total Liabilities & Fund Principal** | **$ 3,103,472** | **$ 3,173,425** |

# YOUR PRESENCE

Your presence is important. It makes a difference, it strengthens the life of the church. It strengthens you!

Whether you are ushering, lending a hand at a memorial service, praying in a small group, or hanging banners for the Memorial Day parade, in getting involved you become the hands and feet of Jesus and your presence blesses others.

Each time you attend a Sunday School class, a Bible study, or Adult Education; each time you volunteer for Kids' Nite, teach Sunday School, or invite a friend to come with you to church, you are building the Kingdom of God.

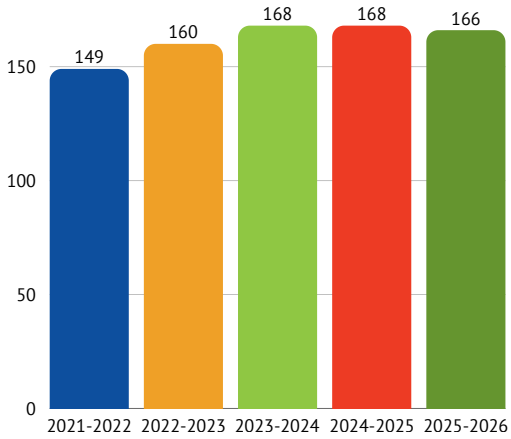
Each member of the Chancel Choir, the Brass Ensemble, the Carillon Ringers, the Worship Band, the Flute Choir, and the Alleluia Singers embodies the power of music, enriching worship through these amazing and consistent musical ministries.

All of these efforts, individually and together, underscore a simple truth: sustained engagement is foundational to discipleship and to a thriving church community.

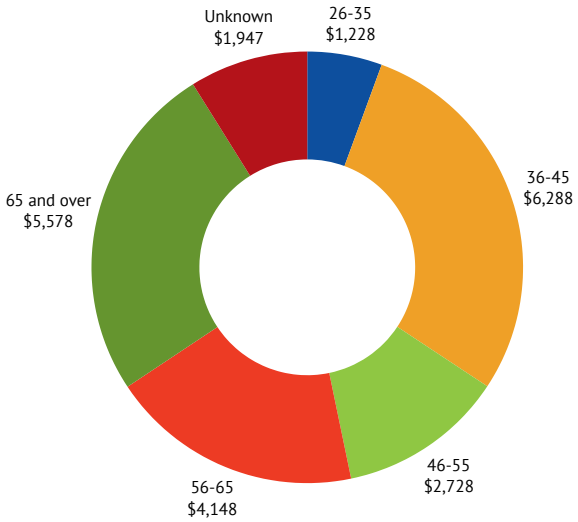
# GIFTS & TITHES

FISCAL YEAR ENDING JUNE 30, 2026

### NUMBER OF HOUSEHOLDS GIVING




### AVERAGE GIVING BY AGE




# YOUR PURPOSE

Your presence leads to something amazing. Time and time again, people say they begin to find their purpose. Purpose is something you discover with your hands busy, your heart open, and your mind trained on God's Word: as a Sunday volunteer to greet, teach, and serve each week, or working beyond our walls with mission partners to serve communities in need. Summer Bible Camp gave both our young campers, and our volunteers, purpose as they taught and learned what it means to follow Jesus. Purpose, it turns out, looks a lot like all of us growing together in Christ, doing what we do best to the glory of God.

# TERMS OF CALL

PASTOR DONNA MARSH, 2026–2027

| | |
|---|---|
| Cash salary and housing allowance | $ 74,881 |
| Non-cash housing (manse) | 22,464 |
| **Total Cash and Non-cash Compensation** | **$ 97,345** |
| | |
| Social Security contribution | $ 7,450 |
| Family Medical Insurance | 33,740 |
| Group Life and Disability Insurance | 1,216 |
| Pension contribution | 8,274 |
| **Total Benefits** | **$ 50,680** |
| | |
| Reimbursed out-of-pocket med. plan exp. allowance | $ |
| Reimbursed study and book/resource allowance | 2,500 |
| Reimbursed auto and other work-related expenses | 4,000 |
| **Total Reimbursed Expenses** | **$ 9,000** |
| | |
| **Total Compensation, Benefits, and Expenses** | **$ 157,025** |

# YOUR PARTICIPATION

Participation is the natural outcome of presence and purpose working together. Once you engage consistently and identify meaningful ways to contribute, that involvement takes visible form in your life and in the life of the congregation. This year, that progression was evident beyond Sunday mornings: shared presence and purpose brought members together in weekday small groups, for Fall Fest, for the Progressive Dinner, and more, all of which strengthened community bonds. That same spirit of participation shone in our Century at Home Gala, a milestone event made possible by generations of members who showed up, found their place, and contributed to the ongoing life of this congregation. Sustained participation of this kind does not happen by chance—it is the result of presence and purpose working in tandem, and it remains essential to the continued strength of our church and our faithfulness to the Lord.

## DESIGNATED FUNDS

BALANCE AS OF JUNE 30, 2026

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Youth Ministry | $ | 21,215 |
| Worship | | 2,237 |
| Missions | | 27,521 |
| Building/Grounds | | 25,222 |
| Benevolence | | 20,096 |
| Administration | | 3,305 |
| Women's Bible Study | | 2,617 |
| Adult Events | | 6,613 |
| Kovic RSG Scholarship | | 10,017 |
| Children's Ministry | | 46,946 |
| Capital Fund | | 70,871 |
| Memorial Fund | | 50,304 |
| Scholarship Fund | | 88,694 |
| Endowment Fund | | 177,695 |
| Manse Fund | | 24,876 |
| | **$** | **578,229** |

## STEWARDING OUR SPACE FOR MISSION

You know the church is busy every Sunday, but did you know that in addition to music rehearsals and ministry meetings, First Pres also hosts a number of community groups during the week?

- Women's Bible Study
- MomCo
- L'Arche
- Pickleball
- American Red Cross Blood Drives

# MEMBERSHIP

CALENDAR YEAR ENDING DECEMBER 31

# MISSIONS FUNDED

FISCAL YEAR ENDING JUNE 30, 2026

| | Actual | Budget | Variance |
|---|---|---|---|
| Chicago Hope Academy | $ 11,000 | $ 11,000 | - |
| Circle Urban Ministires | 8,000 | $8,000 | - |
| Young Life OPRF | 7,000 | 7,000 | - |
| Last Frontiers | 5,500 | 5,500 | - |
| Frontiers | 5,500 | 5,500 | - |
| Opportunity International | 5,000 | 5,000 | - |
| Antioch Partners | 5,000 | 5,000 | - |
| Flourish Rwanda | 4,400 | 3,000 | 1,400 |
| By the Hand | 4,000 | 4,000 | - |
| PARS | 4,000 | 4,000 | - |
| MomCo | 3,595 | 3,500 | 95 |
| Encountering the Logos | 3,000 | 3,000 | - |
| Presbyterian Frontier Fellowship | 3,000 | 3,000 | - |
| Harmony Community Cares | 3,000 | 3,000 | - |
| Lower Wacker Homeless Food | 3,000 | 3,000 | - |
| Housing Forward | 1,500 | 1,500 | - |
| CRU- Moffatt | 1,500 | 1,500 | - |
| General Missions Expenses | 1,000 | 2,000 | (1,000) |
| Homeless/Needy | - | 495 | (495) |
| **Total Missions Expenses** | **$ 78,995** | **$ 78,995** | **$ -** |

# LEADERSHIP & STAFF

AS OF JUNE 30, 2026

## ELDER BOARD

**Class of 2026**
Lin Hancock
Ruth Johnson (2nd term)
Bill Kooser (2nd term)
Rich Nitzsche
Manny Yu

**Class of 2027**
Peter Chen
Jess Hwang
Larry Williams (2nd term)

**Class of 2028**
Jeremy Fine (2nd term)
Tim McAdam (2nd term)
Jason Perez

## DEACON BOARD

**Class of 2026**
Maryellen Betke (2nd term)
Julie Heger
Sandy McAdam
Cindy Reynolds (2nd term)

**Class of 2027**
Joe Cesarini
Jackie Kareb (2nd term)
Jean Kirk (2nd term)

**Class of 2028**
Don Huber (2nd term)
Mark Jurewicz (2nd term)
Jennifer McAdam (2nd term)
Cheryl Rotundo (2nd term)

## CHURCH OFFICERS

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

## NOMINATING COMMITTEE

**Elder:** Tim McAdam (Chair) **Deacons:** Don Huber, Jennifer McAdam
**At-Large**: Jennifer Cozette, Joe Hammon, Douglas Colber

## CHURCH STAFF

**Full-Time Staff**

Donna Marsh
Senior Pastor
donna.marsh@firstpresrf.org

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

**Part-Time Staff**

Terri Benno
CPA
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Rich Nitzsche
Facilities Manager
facility@firstpresrf.org

Jane Holstein
Director of Music Ministries

Konrad Mahler
Weekend Facilities

Sharon Moran
Office Coordinator
office@firstpresrf.org

Julia Potter
Communications Manager
julia.potter@firstpresrf.org

Josh Ring
Associate for Music Ministry

Kimberly Tenhor
Technology Manager
kimberly.tenhor@firstpresrf.org