



First Presbyterian Church Midland
2021 Stewardship Report & 2022 Stewardship Campaign

Remember this: Whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows generously will also reap generously. Each of you should give what you have decided in your heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. And God is able to bless you abundantly, so that in all things at all times, having all that you need, you will abound in every good work. As it is written:

“They have freely scattered their gifts to the poor; their righteousness endures forever.”

Now he who supplies seed to the sower and bread for food will also supply and increase your store of seed and will enlarge the harvest of your righteousness.

You will be enriched in every way so that you can be generous on every occasion, and through us your generosity will result in thanksgiving to God.

2 Corinthians 9:6-10, NIV



Dear Church Family:

It is something of an experiment to have a “stewardship campaign” in February! Almost always, such things are done in the Fall. This year, we want to remove the central message from being about the budget. Instead, we hope to explore **stewardship** as the deeply formational practice that it is. We hope to cultivate a *spirit of generosity* that produces thanksgiving to God, as we see in 2 Corinthians 9.

In the pages that follow, you can learn a lot about what God is doing both inside our church and beyond our walls, as we serve and give both locally and globally. We want to be transparent and truthful about what we’ve done this last year. We also want to give glory to God. The stories and numbers contained in these pages represent a testimony to the faithfulness of God as we have journeyed together through the tumultuous last two years.

As you read this, we want you to consider how you are stewarding your relationships, time, and soul, as well as your money. Where might God be calling you to greater surrender? I also hope reading this will be an encouragement. Look beyond just the numbers; read the stories, remember the people, observe how God has supplied the needs, and rejoice with many thanksgivings!

Grace and peace!

A handwritten signature in dark blue ink, reading "Steve Schorr". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first letters of the first and last names being capitalized and prominent.

Steve Schorr

Loving and leading all people to deeper life in Jesus Christ
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Where we're going...

We believe pursuing the following objectives will help us live into God's call to love and lead all people to deeper life in Jesus Christ.

After a season of prayer, listening, and discernment, our church leadership identified these five key objectives as areas in which we want to pursue intentional growth. We've organized this report around these objectives.

Discipleship | page 5

Form, equip, and send disciples who make disciples.



Worship | page 8

Equip all people to glorify and enjoy God.



Mission | page 9

Unleash God's Kingdom by fostering relationships between covenant partners and our neighbors.



Prayer | page 13

Lead all people to engage in passionate prayer.



Welcome | page 14

Create a welcoming culture for all people with clear pathways for engagement.



Generosity | page 15

Many of the ministries of our church that you'll read about in these pages wouldn't be possible without the faithful tithes and gifts of our church family. Thank you for your faithful generosity.



Discipleship

We do not want to be a church filled with just members. Instead, we believe our core vocation as a church is to equip each person in our church family to grow in their own discipleship journey so that they can then go out and share their transforming life with others. Our prayer is to be a church of disciples who make disciples.

Right now, we're pursuing discipleship growth in our adult ministry in two primary ways:

Discipleship Training Cohort (DTC)



A 10 week class where a group learns together what it means to form, equip, and send disciples who make disciples. DTC challenges us to reflect on our spiritual development, our gifts, and our mission. Because we believe in the importance of this, we require all elders, deacons, and small group leaders to take DTC.

DTC has trained 100 people and catalyzed 13 Discipleship Groups with 100 small group participants.

Discipleship Groups



We know that we can experience the beauty and magnificence of God in community. Discipleship Groups help you become aware of God's constant presence, dive into scripture alongside your brothers and sisters in Christ, develop spiritual practices, and share your transforming life with others.

Discipleship Groups: 13 groups, 100 participants | Other Small Groups: 58 participants



2021 By The Numbers

32 Baptisms (4 were adults)

115 Nursery Families Served

25 Children's Choir Weekly Volunteers

197 First Pres Kids Participants

120 ECEC Families Served

70 Middle School Participants (Avg. 50 per week!)

13 Adult Weekly Volunteers in Middle School Ministry

9 High School Confirmands



Answered Prayer - Female Pastor

As a church that affirms women participating in all ministry roles, we prayed God would bring us a female pastor to ensure the daughters of our church grew up seeing this value modeled. Around the same time, longtime FPC covenant partner Charlotte Bosecker felt God calling her to full-time ministry. She began the lay pastor training program through our denomination, ECO, and is scheduled to complete her studies in the summer of 2023.



COMING SOON: High School Ministry Director

We've convened a search committee to begin searching for a new High School Ministry Director. We trust God will lead us to the perfect candidate in 2022.

Committee: Heather Lauer, Todd Lincoln, Brantley Harrington, Gary Douglas, Haley Edwards, Charlotte Bosecker, Dillon Ferguson

Stories of Transformation

As we commit to our own growth as disciples of Jesus, we can't help but follow him out into the world. From doctor's waiting rooms to virtual prayer, lives change when we pay attention to how the Spirit leads us.

Mayra's Story



When Mayra Thompson heard her childhood friend, Ida, had suffered a debilitating stroke in Belize, she began praying for her. One morning, Mayra felt God prompting her to share a devotional she'd read with Ida. Knowing that Ida didn't share her faith in Jesus, Mayra had always been cautious about such things, but she couldn't deny that God was leading her to share the devotional. Mayra was surprised, a few days later, when Ida told her she'd been re-reading the devotional

every day and it brought her a lot of peace. She told Mayra she'd begun praying. At that point in her recovery process, Ida could only stay awake for about 10 minutes per hour, so she was spending much of her daily time in prayer and reading scripture. This began to change her heart. She asked Mayra to send more devotionals and she and Mayra began talking about what she was learning. Then she asked Mayra if she could send materials in Spanish as well so she could more easily share it with others. Now that her recovery is well underway, Ida is no longer as home-bound as she was for much of the last year. God used this season of rest and recovery, time at home, and an online relationship with Mayra all the way in another country to change Ida's life. She knows, loves, and follows Jesus now.

Scott's Story

Scott Long had arrived at the office for his second cataract removal, and as he sat in the waiting room, he couldn't help but notice the young woman across from him who looked terrified and very alone. Prompted by the Holy Spirit to pay attention, he struck up a conversation with her. Her name was Natalie. She was waiting for her first eye surgery, hoping to correct her vision enough to be able to legally drive. Another older gentleman, a lawyer from Big Spring, soon joined the conversation. Alongside Scott, he tried to help reassure Natalie and calm her fears. Before long, all three patients had undergone their operations and were in recovery. That's when the doctor told Scott that the encouragement he and the lawyer had offered Natalie that morning soothed her anxieties enough for

her to go through with the surgery. When it was over, Natalie burst into relieved tears: "I can finally drive my children to school!" Scott never saw Natalie again, but a few weeks later he ran into the attorney at their post-op checkups. They struck up another conversation, recalling their morning with Natalie; both still impacted by the way God had used their presence to bring a stranger comfort. As they finished visiting, the attorney confided he'd made a donation to the doctor's office to help cover Natalie's second surgery. Scott did the same. Even the medical office staff were blessed by the way both Scott and the attorney had stepped into a stranger's story to offer encouragement, hope, and relief. When we pay attention to the people and opportunities God puts in our paths, we can be instruments of his love.



Worship

We desire for our worship to reflect these core values:



Gospel-Centered | Relentlessly focused on God's saving grace

Spirit-led | Drawing you into God's presence

Excellent | Cultivating technical, musical and artistic excellence

United | Building common themes and liturgies

Intergenerational | Bringing together children, students, and adults

Welcoming | Hospitable and accessible to newcomers

Ancient/Future | Honoring both traditional and contemporary practices

Compassionate | Keeping in view the world and its needs

Missional | Sending people out to bring God's Kingdom to the world around them

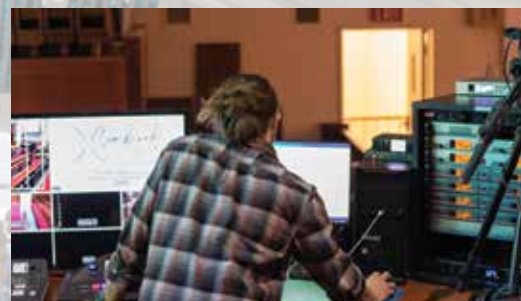


PROJECT UPDATE

AV Upgrade in Sanctuary and Chapel

\$425,000 from our Building Fund

In June of 2021 we started a major overhaul of our Audio Visual system. It was set to be complete in August 2021, but due to supply chain delays this project was completed in January 2022. In the sanctuary, we now have retractable screens, new projectors, speakers, computers, microphones, camera systems, a new soundbooth, and various other components that address our technical needs in worship. Our chapel received similar upgrades. We are thankful for the ways the upgrades enhance both in-person and online worship and allow us to be technologically agile.





Mission

God has placed First Presbyterian in Midland and given us the people and resources we have in order for us to join God in bringing his kingdom to people and situations within our reach.

Here's how we've done that this past year:

Local Mission Budget

\$220,500 | Local Mission giving helped fund 26 different community partner ministries, making the following possible:

- 103** Bikes distributed to Midland kids through Mount Moriah Disciples of Christ Christmas outreach.
- 355** Children participated in our church's Upward youth volleyball and basketball leagues.
- 885** Children who received low or no-cost medical care at Community Children's Clinic thanks in part to our support.
- 269** Beds and cribs distributed to vulnerable children through The Attic Foster Care Network.
- 456** Clients who were admitted and received treatment for drug and alcohol addiction at The Springboard Center thanks in part to our support.

Global Mission Budget

\$217,540

- 7** Individual missionaries/families supported, like the Roegner Family working with college students in Spain.
- 27** Ministry organizations supported, like Partners Relief and Development, China Aid, Naulakha Presbyterian Church in Pakistan, and New Vision for Life Children's Home and School in Thailand.

The Long Haul

For years, First Presbyterian has had a special place in our heart for digging water wells in Uganda and Free Wheelchair Mission. In 2021 we helped provide:

- **40** wells giving **323,000** more Ugandans reliable access to clean water, bringing the total to **777** wells serving more than **3.1** million people since 2007.
- **\$450,000** in contributions to Free Wheelchair Mission's annual fundraising campaign. When matched at the FWM office, it's enough to provide the gift of mobility to almost **9,000** individuals.

Mission Giving

Ten percent of our church budget, nearly \$440,000, is designated for Mission. When we include beyond budget giving, our church mission gifts exceeded \$1.9 million in 2021.

2021 Calendar Year (Beyond Budget Giving)

A total of **\$1,530,717** was given to FPC and designated for specific mission projects in 2021.
This includes things like:



Benevolence Ministry

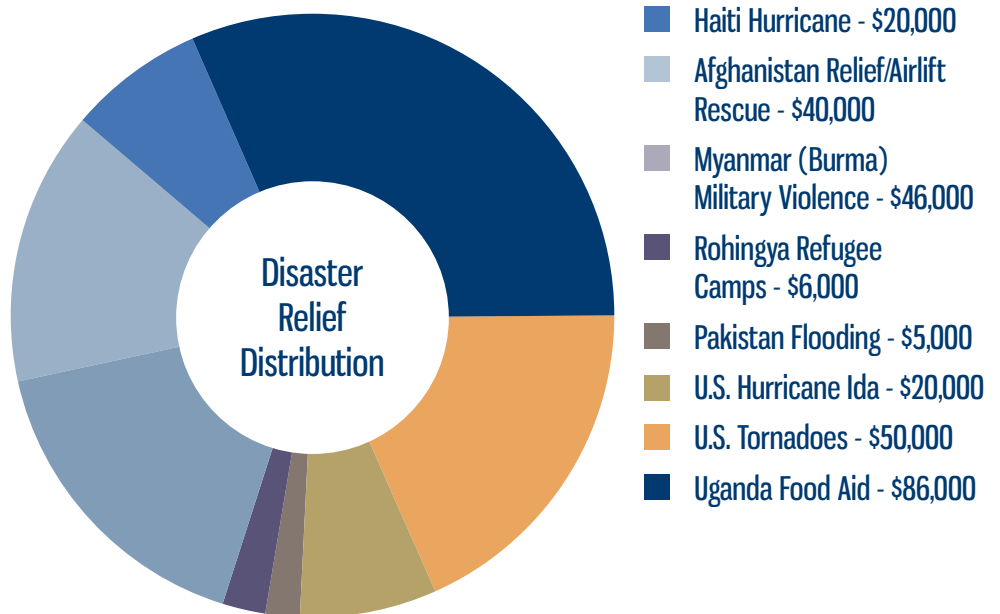
FPC has a decades-long history of supporting vulnerable Midlanders through the Deacon's Fund. 2021 was no exception:

- **\$207,000** distributed to help individuals and families in crisis stay in their homes, keep their jobs, pay for medications, etc.
- **306** Individuals/Families received not only financial assistance, but encouragement and prayer as they met with our Benevolence Counselor, Meredith McCord.

Disaster Relief

273K

2021 saw disasters of every kind around our country and world. Here are a few of the places we were able to direct your gifts to help out:





Local Outreach Highlights

Breaking Bread Kitchen

Not only does Breaking Bread provide a free hot meal and word of encouragement every weeknight, they have also begun to dive deeper into relationships with some of the neighbors they serve. In 2020, they helped 26 friends who previously lived on the street find permanent housing and/or rehabilitation services. Volunteers with our Saturday Serve event in March painted some beautiful parking lot stripes.



Lynn Scholarship

A college education remains out of reach for a number of high school graduates in Midland. Thanks to generous donations over the years, the Lynn Scholarship at FPC helps hardworking students in financial need to attend college.

\$15,000 Amount awarded for 2021-2022 School Year

6 Students who received scholarship funds this year

Safe Place

FPC's longtime partner, Safe Place, provides just that: a safe place for women and children escaping domestic violence. This essential ministry in our city operates both a shelter and a hotline serving 15 counties in West Texas.

200+ Adults who stayed in the shelter

1,143 Calls to the Domestic Violence Hotline

\$5,000 FPC's beyond-budget gift to Safe Place to assist in purchasing a van



Global Outreach Highlights

Hope Invasion

Each year Hope Invasion hosts Christmas outreach events across the Mexico border in Juárez. After a big meal and a Christmas gospel message, attendees receive gifts, including backpacks stuffed with presents for children.



Christmas 2021

- 500** Backpacks prepared by First Presbyterian
- 10** Outreach events hosted by Hope Invasion in Juárez this Christmas season.
- +1** One final event on the street in a neighborhood to give away the rest of the backpacks and gifts.
- 900** Families attended the events
- 1725** Children received backpacks



Burma (Myanmar) Coup

In February 2021, Burma's military took over the country and since then, has been continually attacking its own citizens. Hundreds of thousands have had to leave their homes. FPC supports seven different ministries working inside Burma. The coup has drastically affected everything they do. Three ministries have had to leave the country, not knowing how long they must stay away from their homes and in exile for their safety. Others have retooled their ministry structure so they can continue to serve the ever more vulnerable people of Burma. Partners Relief and Development and Free Burma Rangers have been working in the conflict zones of Burma since their inception. This crisis has simply turned the clock back for them and they've been providing relief to those in conflict as they did prior to 2015. In spite of the uncertain times in Burma, we continued and even increased our support for these vital ministries to shine the light of God's Kingdom into a very dark place.



- 7** separate ministries we support in Burma
- 100%** of the people in Burma affected by this conflict

Pakistan, Naulakha Presbyterian Church

- 300** Presbyterian pastors in Pakistan who received a Christmas gift because of FPC's generosity
- 600** People who attended the latest Discipleship Essentials training held at the church in Lahore



Pastor Majid Abel, with whom FPC has worked for several years, was able to invite many local dignitaries and Muslim leaders to their Christmas Carol Festival, where they all were able to cut the traditional Christmas Cake together.



Prayer

We want our church family to pray without ceasing. Not just during a Sunday worship service, but around the dinner table and in the car on the way to school or on a sunset walk around the neighborhood. To encourage people to think about prayer creatively, we've begun different prayer initiatives...

Blessings Fall Down

In the fall of 2021, we filled the church ceilings with nets full of balloons as a tangible reminder of the myriad blessings God bestows on us, if we just pay attention to our everyday lives. The children gathered at the front of the church to lead us in a benediction, singing a blessing over our congregation.

“The Lord bless you, and keep you, make His face shine upon you and be gracious to you; the Lord turn His face toward you, and give you peace,” (Numbers 6:24-26)

After they sang, we released the nets of balloons and joined our children in their delight. As the balloons fell down, and we listened to the children laugh and watched them play, we remembered all the blessings God has given us and we gave thanks, overwhelmed with the joy of the Lord!



Blessing Boxes

We want to help our families pray together and we're launching a new prayer initiative in the form of a **Blessing Box** you can pick up starting Sunday, February 27. These small boxes are perfect to keep at your dinner table for your whole family to use as conversation starters with God.



Welcome

Welcome Team

Drawing on a pool of over two dozen volunteers, each Sunday we have ten Welcome Stations around the church where greeters wearing bright orange lanyards are ready to open doors, help guests find the nearest bathroom, direct new families with little ones to First Pres Kids and nursery check-in, and pass out bulletins. We're always looking for more smiling faces to join our team. Contact Becky Holmes at the front reception desk if you'd like more information.



What's IMPACT?

Unless you've been around for a while, you wouldn't immediately know that IMPACT was our Sunday Morning children's ministry. In an effort to make things more clear, especially for newcomers, IMPACT is now First Pres Kids.

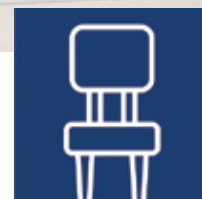


Improving Communication

Out of our listening groups, we learned staying connected to the church and knowing how to get involved was challenging for many covenant partners. Sometimes announcements came like a flood, and rarely did we ever take a moment to reflect on how God was moving in our church family. In an effort to streamline our church communications, and focus our attention on what matters most, we hired Carrie McKean as our Communications Director in 2021.

COMING SOON: The Wayfinding Project

Have you ever had trouble finding a parking lot? Where is Room 216? Could you find the Community Room? How do you explain to a friend where to find the front entrance of FPC? After helping countless lost parents, guests, students, teachers, and community members navigate our 140,000 square foot facility, we decided it might be time to get some professional help. Coming in 2022 is an interior and exterior wayfinding project which will help us welcome newcomers to our building and help them find their way.



Generosity

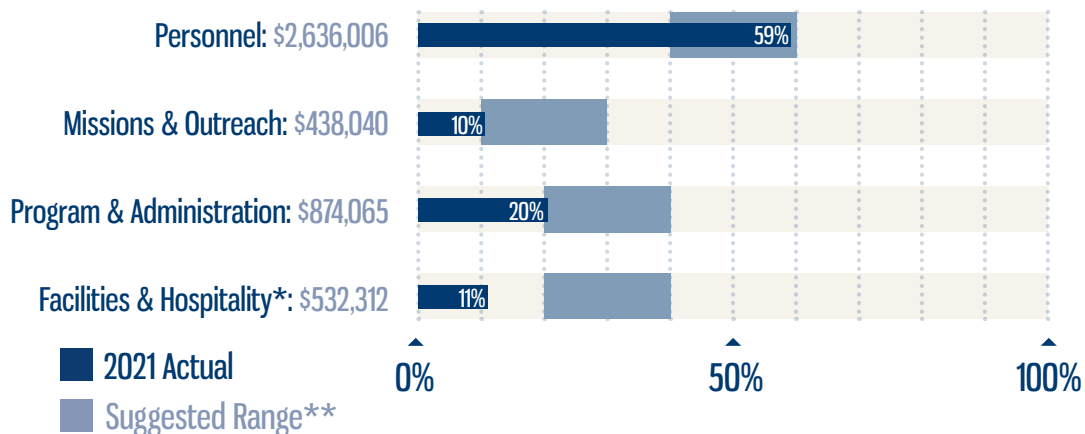
Everything you've learned about in these pages – plus so much more – is possible because of your generous gifts.

2021-22 Budget (July 1, 2021 - June 30, 2022)

Total: \$4,480,423

General Giving (through 12/31): \$3,280,775

According to a study by Evangelical Covenant Church, our actual expenses for 2021, and our budgeted expenses for 2022, fall near the suggested range for church budgets.



*Due to our lack of debt and an annual endowment distribution that goes toward building expenses, the facilities and hospitality portion of our annual budget is lower than average.

**Source: Evangelical Covenant Church

Did you know?

➡ Even as medical insurance costs have sharply risen over the last few years, First Presbyterian Church has continued to pay 100 percent of the medical insurance premiums for all full-time staff members and their dependents.

➡ Outside of our general fund contributions, which cover the church budget as described above, we also received contributions totaling \$1,530,717 in 2021. These beyond budget gifts support partner outreach ministries and bring our total Mission & Outreach giving to over 1.9 million dollars, and that's not counting beyond budget giving we may still receive this budgetary year. *Please see p. 10 for more information*







*Loving and leading all people
to deeper life in Jesus Christ.*



First Presbyterian
MIDLAND