

September 2022



# FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF CHAMPAIGN



## Rooted Together

Green Team Summit 2022

## Keynote Watch Party September 11, 2022

Featuring Katharine Hayhoe  
noted Climate Scientist,  
**in the Chapel, 4:45-7 PM**

Snacks provided.

Share with folks from other churches.

Free registration at

<https://www.greenteamsummit.org/watch-party>

Or just come to the Chapel!

Bring friends.

All are welcome at this worthwhile event!!

### 2<sup>nd</sup> SUNDAY BRUNCH

September 11<sup>th</sup>

10:10 AM

Come and enjoy brunch

Centennial Hall

2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of each month

We will have an array of brunch items each month prepared in our new kitchen by volunteers led by trained cooks. Select from different hot dishes, meats, fruits, pastries and beverages each month. Enjoy the fellowship right after the 9 AM service.

Donations are appreciated to help cover the costs.

Volunteers are needed to help with the brunches for the remainder of the year. If interested, please contact Jan Wittler, Gary Peterson or the church office.

# Fall Updates

## They're Back...

It's that time again! Chancel Choir is resuming rehearsals and participation in worship beginning the first week of September. We will meet on Sunday, September 4, at 8:15 AM to rehearse one of our familiar works for the 9 service that day.

On **Thursday, September 8, at 7:30 PM**, we will have our first full rehearsal in the choir room. Please read this carefully! **Thursday at 7:30!!** You will love rehearsing, singing and making music with **Sora Shepard** our new church musician.

Make a joyful noise to the Lord!! See you soon.

## The Gathering Resumes

The Gathering worship service resumes September 4 at 11:15 in the chapel. Be lifted up by word proclaimed by our preachers, prayers, weekly communion, and our smooth band leading us musically.

## Join a Small Group This Fall

Sign ups for Small Groups will be on September 11 during coffee hour following church. A brochure of all the small groups will be available for you to see then.

## From Children, Youth, Families (aka CYF)

**Mindy Watts-Ellis and Blaise Zamena and Samantha Nichols** have all started new stages of their

lives. We are happy for them and we miss them.

Meanwhile the CYF committee has begun the process of deciding how and what to provide for our children without their very able leadership. We are open, in fact welcome, input from parents (no matter the age of your children!), teachers (past and present), and any other interested participants.

Our children are important! How will \*you\* impact their growth, development, and understanding of their faith? Contact **Mary Gritten** ([maryhg3@sbcglobal.net](mailto:maryhg3@sbcglobal.net) and/or 217-398-9920) with ideas, support, names.

Let's do this - together!

## You Are Worthy!

**Presbyterian Women Synod of Lincoln Trails** invites you to their Fall Gathering on ZOOM September 10, 2022 from 10 - 11:30 AM.

How God sees you...You are precious. You are worthy. You belong. Join the group for an uplifting spiritual experience as they thank God for the beautiful creation of YOU and share God's promise of "life to the full" in the presence of the Holy Spirit.

Presentations from **Angela Stephenson**, co-founder of *Living Abundantly Ministries* and developer of the *Come Alive!* Small Group Program and **Susan Jackson-Dowd**, PW Executive Director.

Contact the church office or **Clemmie Ackermann** [coletta.ackermann@gmail.com](mailto:coletta.ackermann@gmail.com) for the ZOOM link.

## Presbyteryan Women

As we see the days getting shorter and summer activities ending, PW is coming together again for a year of fellowship, Circle Bible Studies, mission and committee work and the three Gatherings that are held in October, December and May.

To start the year, there is a Lincoln Trails Synod Gathering on Saturday, September 10 (see preceding article.). Our Circles meet on the 4th Thursday of the month (except for November).

The first meeting in September will be held on September 22. Our Bible study for the year is a PW/Horizons Study called *Celebrating Sabbath*. The Circle of Joy meets at 10:30 AM. The Circle of Faith meets at 1 PM and the Circle of Peace meets at 7 PM. Specific information about Zoom or hybrid (Zoom and in person) meetings will come from the Circle leaders.

Finally, please put Saturday, October 1, on your calendars from 11 AM – 1 PM for our Fall Gathering. It will be held at the church in person (masks recommended). More information will follow.

If you would like more information about PW, please contact the membership co-chairs **Claudia Kirby** [claudia.a.kirby@gmail.com](mailto:claudia.a.kirby@gmail.com) or **Annilee Shaul** [dave\\_shaul\\_212@comcast.net](mailto:dave_shaul_212@comcast.net) or **Clemmie Ackermann** [coletta.ackermann@gmail.com](mailto:coletta.ackermann@gmail.com).

## Face to Face with Steve & Jane Tock



**Steve is a governing elder and Jane is a deacon.**

### What brought you to First Presbyterian Church?

We met at Hanover College. Eight years later we married and moved from Chicago to Champaign. Steve took a job at First National Bank in Champaign, the town in which he grew up. We visited First Pres. **Frank Burns** and **Jim and Leland Andrews** were inviting and compelling. We have been here since.

### What has been the highlight of your church experience?

We are family oriented, so I think our most active time was with the youth group when our children were young. We were very involved and loved it. The people of First Pres continue to be important to us. For example, when our daughter returned from a youth club Go and Serve trip and we asked her what the highlight of the trip was, she said, "Jim Andrews."

### Tell me about your family? Your work?

Our daughter, Annie, is a social studies teacher at Academy High School. Our son-in-law, Adam, is a public service archaeologist with the U of I. They recently returned to Champaign from Maine. Our son, Johnny, lives with his wife, Leanna (who he met at Sunday Night Youth Club!), and daughter, Addie, in Spain. They run a business called SpainAbroad.com, a study abroad program for college students. Jane's college degree was in elementary education. She worked as a flight attendant for five years but has dedicated most of her adult life to family and volunteer work. Steve has worked in banking for 45 years and plans to continue his passion for this work as long as he can. He currently serves as Senior Lender for Hickory Point Bank in downtown Champaign. What do you do in your free time? Steve likes to fix things- identify the problem, solve the problem and make the repair. I guess you would call him a handy man. Jane serves as the family manager and spokesperson. Jane says, "We love to travel."

### What are your favorite Bible characters?

We can't say Jesus? Well then, I (Steve) will say Moses because he was strong leader. For me (Jane), I will say Mary the mother of Jesus.

### What advice can you give on how to be the church? Or, how can the church best be the church?

We agree on keeping things simple. Focus on the model of Jesus and follow him in the real world. Also, reach out to others and care for the community.



**Look at God!!! The North boys each brought a pair of shoes for DREAM. Over 600 pairs of shoes were donated for school-age youth through the program's recent shoe drive in honor of founder Tracy Dace's birthday. Thanks be to God!**

**If you or a loved one is in the hospital or in need of a pastoral visit, please let the church office know.**

**Our pastor, staff, and hospital visitors keep this information confidential. Your church wants to be in touch.**

**Bless be the tie that binds.**



# The Heart of Mission

## Cuba Forum



This year is the 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary year for Cuba. We began our celebration with our sister congregation in Luyano in May. On November 20, Iglesia Luyano will have another celebration in Havana. We are taking a delegation to Luyano that weekend to extend our love as brothers and sisters in Christ. In the meantime, there is plenty for those of us staying here in Champaign to do! We moved the Cuba Forum to October to correspond with one of our own travel anniversaries, the first one! Ten years ago, in October 2012 FPCC took its first trip to Cuba. We will be taking our next congregational trip in February 2023.

We always study before we go on a trip so our next Cuba study will be Monday nights 9/26 and 10/3. This is part of our covenant of mutual forbearance of one another. We must understand the particular challenges of our sister congregation before we enter their household.

(See *Winter in Havana* by Bob Kirby in this newsletter!)

In addition, we are very excited to announce that our new mission coworkers, **José Manuel Capella-Pratts and Vilmarie Cintrón-Olivieri**, from the Caribbean which includes Cuba will be speaking Thursday night September 29 from 6:30-8 PM for our Cuba Forum/Annual meeting. Their



topic will be “A Church that works in unity for a new heaven and a new Earth.”

Everybody will be able to join us on this zoom meeting with them. We will have in person seating in Mae Chapin Parlor. We have included their most recent mission newsletter (see following).

Finally, October 2 is World Communion Sunday. Let us remember Cuba and all of our mission partners across the globe on this special day that we celebrate our unity in Christ.

*Dear friends,*

*The end of 2021 marked a new time in our lives. After 25 years in parish ministry (José Manuel) and after a time away from teaching and serving the church at large (Vilmarie), we find ourselves in ministry together, in a dual position, as regional liaisons for the Caribbean.*

*For the past few months, we have been getting acquainted with the work of partners and fellow co-workers in the region, with the inner workings of Presbyterian World Mission, and with the processes that encompass beginning in a new position while*

*still living in COVID-19 times. Our schedule has been framed by orientations and training, introductions and interviews, and (quite a few) videoconference meetings. My second day on the job (José Manuel) had us on a plane flying to Cuba for a 10-day trip. We were grateful to have been invited to attend the Iglesia Presbiteriana-Reformada's first synod meeting since 2020. In those 10 days, we were able to visit congregations and related entities throughout the three presbyteries, seeing first-hand the mission and social ministry our sister church does in their communities.*

*Living into this amazing ministry has been joy-filled yet intense. Pondering what our very first newsletter would look like, we weren't quite sure what to share. We are still very much in that “getting started” stage. So, why not start at the beginning? Who are we, and why did we say “yes” to this ministry?*

*We are Vilmarie Cintrón-Olivieri and José Manuel Capella-Pratts, beloved children of God and life-long Presbyterians. Married for 25 years, we were born and raised on the beautiful island of Puerto Rico. From opposite sides of the island —José Manuel is from Aguadilla and Vilmarie is from San Juan— we met at camp... Presbyterian camp, to be exact, Campamento El Guacío, in the town of*



*San Sebastián. Since getting married there in 1996, we have shared life and ministry in multiple ways.*

*I (Vilmarie) am an educator and a ruling elder and have served in different councils and committees at regional and national levels of the denomination. With degrees in education, I have taught English as a second language and English literature to teenage and adult students from all over the world; my first formal teaching experience was as a Sunday School teacher. Along with the Rev. Cindy Kohlmann, I served as co-moderator of the 223rd General Assembly (2018), the first Hispanic Latina and first Puerto Rican person to be elected to this office. I (José Manuel) am a Minister of the Word and Sacraments. With degrees in psychology and theology, as well as graduate studies in pastoral care of the family, leadership and preaching, I have also served the PC(USA) at large in different roles at regional and national levels. For the past 25 years, my main service to the church has been in parish ministry. In our life together, we enjoy music, reading, technology, all things Star Wars and Star Trek, art and watercolor painting, often relaxing over a good cup of Puerto Rican coffee.*

*Accepting this new call to serve as regional liaisons, as we shared at World Mission's commissioning service, was one of those "If not us, who? If not now, when?" moments, to quote John Lewis. In the discernment process, we considered who we are, where we've been, our gifts, and this moment in time: A teacher and a pastor, a ruling elder and a teaching elder, both born in the Caribbean, serving in the Caribbean, bilingual and multi-cultural, and fluent in "Presbyterian" as well. Most importantly, we listened to the Holy*

*Spirit in us, considered the history that had preceded us, and pondered on the possibilities that lay ahead. We realized that it was indeed "us," and the moment was definitely "now." We said "yes" to ministry as individuals and said "yes" to ministry together for such a time as this.*

*It is exciting to serve in this role. As regional liaisons, our role is to listen, connect and accompany our church partners in Cuba, the Dominican Republic, Haiti and other island nations in the region, as well as serving with the Caribbean and North American Council for Mission (CANACOM). Our work will enable us to witness and assess opportunities for engagement in mutual mission with our Caribbean siblings as they bear witness to God's grace, love, and justice in their communities. Among the common and mutual visions of ministry are promoting church vitality and education, food sovereignty, equity, and environmental, social and economic justice. It is an honor to support other mission personnel in the region and to resource our PC(USA) congregations, councils and partner networks. We can't wait to delve into the richness of this ministry!*

*As we close this first newsletter, I (Vilmarie) would like to share some thoughts I began recording in a journal entry about our first night in Cuba. Before traveling to Matanzas, where the synod meeting would take place, we stayed the night at the Iglesia Presbiteriana-Reformada in Luyanó, La Habana. Our conversations on the bus on our way to Matanzas about our experiences the first night in Cuba touched on themes at the core of what it means to engage in mission in partnership, on how listening with intent can inform perspectives, open*

*our minds, and bring people together in mutual understanding. The journal entry went something like this...*

*We closed the day with dinner and then headed to our room. Luyanó has dorm-like facilities for visitors. As we were getting ready to go to bed, I could hear the voice of a woman at a neighboring house. Children were laughing and responding to what the woman was saying. I couldn't quite understand what was being said or what was happening. I just wanted to go to bed after a long day, tired and, frankly, a little annoyed by what I considered "noise." But then, for a moment, I paused. I could then hear clearly, "Y sopló y sopló..." "And he huffed, and he puffed..." I recognized the words. The woman—who might have been the children's mother—was reading aloud Los tres cerditos, The Three Little Pigs. When I paused for a moment and truly listened, I realized this wasn't "noise" at all. It was a mother reading a bedtime story to her kids.*

*In the hustle and bustle of busy lives, are we being intentional and taking time to pause, listen and notice what is happening around us and to God's work in our midst? It is our prayer that, as we engage in this new call, this new time in our lives, this holy work, we continue to listen, truly listen, to the Holy Spirit in our midst and to our partners and fellow co-workers as we walk together and witness to God's love, grace, and justice. Así nos ayude Dios.*

*Please enjoy this video link: [https://youtu.be/Xag4pEB\\_sLU](https://youtu.be/Xag4pEB_sLU) (from the PC(USA) Presbyterian Mission Agency, <https://www.presbyterianmission.org/ministries/missionconnections/jose-manuel-capella-pratts-and-vilmarie-cintron-olivieri/>)*



## Winter in Havana

Ready for some winter sun, warm smiles, and fellowship? Interested in enriching your life and growing your faith? Join your First Pres friends for our congregational trip to our sister congregation in Havana in February. A prerequisite for travel is attendance at two introductory overview meetings offered on Mondays September 26 and October 3 from 6:30-8 PM.

Those who remain interested in the trip will have opportunity for several subsequent preparatory sessions. Contact **Rachel Matthews** now to reserve your place in our fall Cuba Study.



Vacation Bible School was celebrated at our sister church in Havana for the first time in three years due to the pandemic. Many of the children of the church are neighborhood children whose parents are not active in the congregation. The Presbyterian Church in Cuba continues to grow. Learn more about the church in Cuba at our Annual Cuba Forum on Thursday, September 29 at 6:30 PM. Contact the church office for the zoom link. 217-356- 7238.

## From the Cuba Partners Network...August 10, 2022 Call for support for the Cuban people after the devastating explosions Matanzas

Dear family,

Together with our colleagues in advocacy, the Cuba Partners Network issued the following press release yesterday calling on the US government to support the Cuban people in the wake of the devastating explosions at the Matanzas fuel facility.

We pray for the victims of the catastrophe and for everyone affected by the developing environmental disaster and energy shortage. We also call on the US to provide immediate disaster relief, enhanced bilateral cooperation and suspension of sanctions to make it possible for us to respond to this crisis.

*We are blessed to work with devoted partner organizations to amplify all of our voices, especially in emergency situations. Our prayers are with the Cuban people.*

Peace,  
The Advocacy Committee

## The Republic of Cuba

The Presbyterian Reformed Church in Cuba (PRCC)

BY BOB KIRBY, CUBA PARTNERS

Our congregation partners with The Presbyterian Reformed Church in Cuba through our PC-USA mission co-workers for the Caribbean. Gifts to our sister congregation at Luyanó, the seminary in Matanzas and the national camp near Santa Clara enhance the work of Cuban Presbyterians who are bringing the gospel to the people of this recently atheist nation.

"The PRCC has approximately 15,000 members in 33 "organized churches" in three presbyteries – Central, Matanzas, and Havana. In addition to the organized congregations, there are 21 "dependent churches," missions and house churches. For historical reasons, all these are in the central part of the nation. There are a total of 36 pastors, with 23 pastors directly serving congregations.

The PRCC is one of the founding members of the Cuban Council of Churches (CIC), whose immediate past-President is a Presbyterian layman, and is actively involved in the World Council of Churches (WCC), the World Communion of Reformed Churches (WCRC), the Latin American Council of Churches (CLAI), and the Association of Presbyterian and Reformed Churches in Latin America (AIPRAL). The church subscribes the Westminster Confession of Faith,

Heidelberg Catechism, Second Helvetic Confession, Apostles Creed and the Barmen Declaration." <https://www.cubapartnersnetwork.info/>

## Matthew 25 – Dismantling Structural Racism

*But what can I do?*

1. Check out businesses owned by people of color. Neil St. Blues at 301 N. Neil St is owned by Gayle Starks.

Southern style cuisine includes fried catfish, ribs, wings, jambalaya, fried green tomatoes, collard greens and more of your down-home favorites. Dine in or take out. Service and food are great. Restaurant can be a noisy.

\*\*\*\* <https://www.neilstblues.com/>

2. Watch these two short videos: When people ask, "Why aren't you talking about black-on-black crime and other myths". ([https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jQ\\_0bqWKO-k](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jQ_0bqWKO-k)) and Daryl Davis befriends KKK members. ([https://www.huffpost.com/entry/black-man-daryl-davis-befriends-kkk-documentary-accidental-courtesy\\_n\\_585c250de4b0de3a08f495fc](https://www.huffpost.com/entry/black-man-daryl-davis-befriends-kkk-documentary-accidental-courtesy_n_585c250de4b0de3a08f495fc).)

3. Read *Caste-The Origins of Our Discontents* by Isabel Wilkerson. Or better form a small reading group to discuss it.

4. Donate ten dollars or more a month to one of our funded ministries serving people of color. For example, DREAM, The Refugee Center, Habitat, Restoration Urban Ministry or Jesus Is The Way Prison Ministry.

## Welcoming America Week September 9-18

*Do not forget to show hospitality to strangers, for by so doing some people have shown hospitality to angels without knowing it.*

Hebrews 13:2

We are a Matthew 25 Congregation committed to "show hospitality to strangers". Champaign County celebrates our immigrant friendly community during **Welcoming America Week September 9-18**.

First Pres will do its part with the International Taste of First Pres on September 18 at 4 PM in Centennial Hall. Many other opportunities to meet people from around the world through free family friendly events will be available.

First Pres is a welcoming community. Did you know that we offer English as a second language instruction free of charge serving about fifty adults? We have first generation immigrant families in our congregation and are home to a French language worship service Saturday evenings. The Refugee Center is a mission partner.

The Welcome Center housed at University YMCA did an economic impact study of immigrants in 2016. It showed that there are more than 25,550 immigrants in Champaign County. Immigrants paid fifty-seven million dollars of state and local taxes and contributed hundreds of millions to our local economy.

For more information about events and volunteer opportunities see: <https://universityymca.org/welcome/ww22/>

## International Taste of First Pres

### ***Where We Belong***

Our First Pres Congregation will welcome the community to join us on Sunday, September 18 at 4 PM in Centennial Hall. Bring a food dish that represents your heritage and enjoy a taste of food from around the world.

International Taste is a part of Welcoming America Week in Champaign-Urbana. The theme this year is "Where We Belong". First Pres is a welcoming and affirming congregation. We will demonstrate that through food and conversation with friends we know and friends we will make.

Your Nurture/Outreach Committee welcomes your help as greeters, buffet servers and managers, set up and clean-up crews and more. Contact **Gary Peterson** 217-398-8504 or [amer\\_swede@yahoo.com](mailto:amer_swede@yahoo.com) for more information and to volunteer.

## Coming in November Welcome and Affirm

Mark your calendars for a four-session training on welcoming and affirming people from the LGBTQ community. We will meet via zoom with siblings from Powell Presbyterian Church in Powell, TN on Wednesdays, November 2, 9, 16 and 30 from 6 to 7:30 PM.



## English Language Learners News.

BY VAL SMITH, DIRECTOR  
VAL@FIRSTPRES.CHURCH



English Language Learners (ELL) are a diverse group of students. Some are international students, while others live and work in the Champaign/Urbana area. Each student has unique goals and reasons for attending English classes. Some hope to pass the entrance exam for the university while others want everyday English for daily tasks. Many hope to improve their job prospects. Whatever their goals, we seek to come alongside them and help them on their way.

One of the benefits of attending English classes aside from improving English is meeting new friends. Twelve students, family, and friends attended the all-church Fun in the Sun social at Centennial Park on Sunday evening, August 14. The students and families enjoyed the food, the games, swimming, and meeting people from the church.

One student at the picnic invited **Rachel Matthews** and me for a sandwich at their Greek food truck which is in town on Tuesdays and Wednesdays. Supporting student

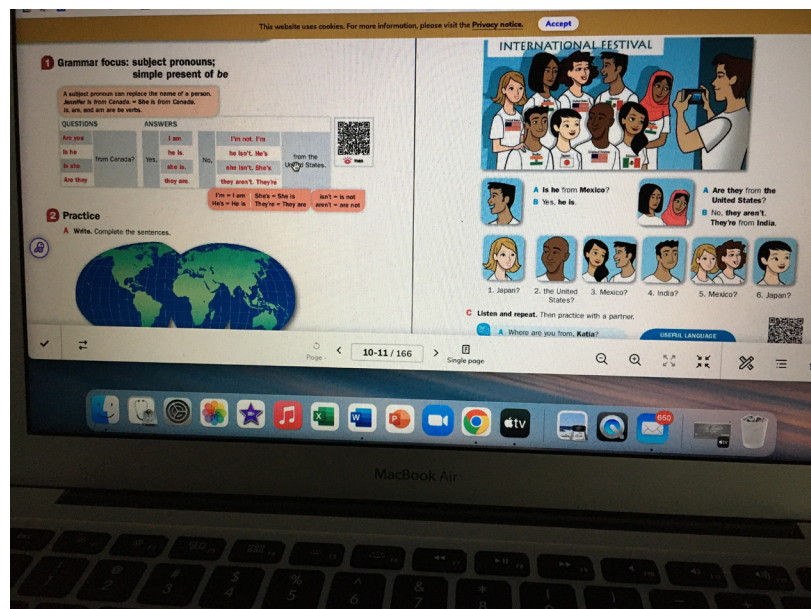
businesses is one way of encouraging our new neighbors. We hope many of you will attend the upcoming International Taste social here at the church on Sunday, September 18, and meet some of our new students who are sure to come.

During the month of August, students registered for Fall classes. So far, we have fifty registrations. Fall classes begin the week of September 13. In-person classes are on Tuesday and Wednesday from 9:30-11 AM. Zoom classes are on Monday and Thursday mornings and also on Monday and Wednesday evenings.

In preparing for Fall classes, curriculum organization and ordering

were able to purchase Venture, an online curriculum digital presentation too for our zoom classes.

Please continue to pray for this ministry. There are many doors of service, but like the Apostle Paul, we need wisdom to discern where the Lord is leading. In Acts 16, the Holy Spirit led Paul away from Bithynia and into Macedonia. Pray that the connection with English learners in need can be made.



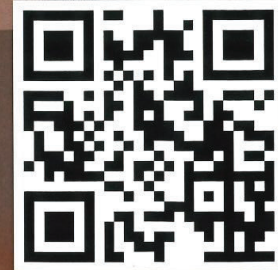
materials has been the priority. An empty filing cabinet from the office is now filled with our curriculum materials. Thanks to **Ritchie Drennen** for getting the file cabinet moved to the second floor. We also



**ALL YOU  
CAN  
ENJOY!**



**ORDER TICKETS**



RestorationUrbanMinistries.org

**PANCAKE & SAUSAGE  
BREAKFAST**

**SEPTEMBER 17, 2022**

**8AM - 11AM**

**\$8 PRE-SALE, \$10 AT THE DOOR**

**\$5 KIDS 10 & UNDER**

**HOSTED BY VINEYARD CHURCH:**

**1500 N Lincoln Ave, Urbana, IL**

**TICKETS: RestorationUrbanMinistries.org**

**THANK YOU TO OUR SPONSORS!**



# Finance

## Financial Update

BY ANN WEBBINK, FINANCE TEAM  
ANWEB2@YAHOO.COM

### Contributions

Total July contributions: \$83.5K from plate and pledge plus \$10.2K from prepaid= \$93.7K

This is \$37.5K more than last year and \$21.4K over budget

Total contributions YTD: \$544.4K which is \$60.3K more than last year and \$38.1K over budget.

At 58.3% of the year we have 68.6% of the budgeted contributions.

### Expenses

July expenses were \$78.6 K which is \$24.3K less than last year and \$6.6K under budget.

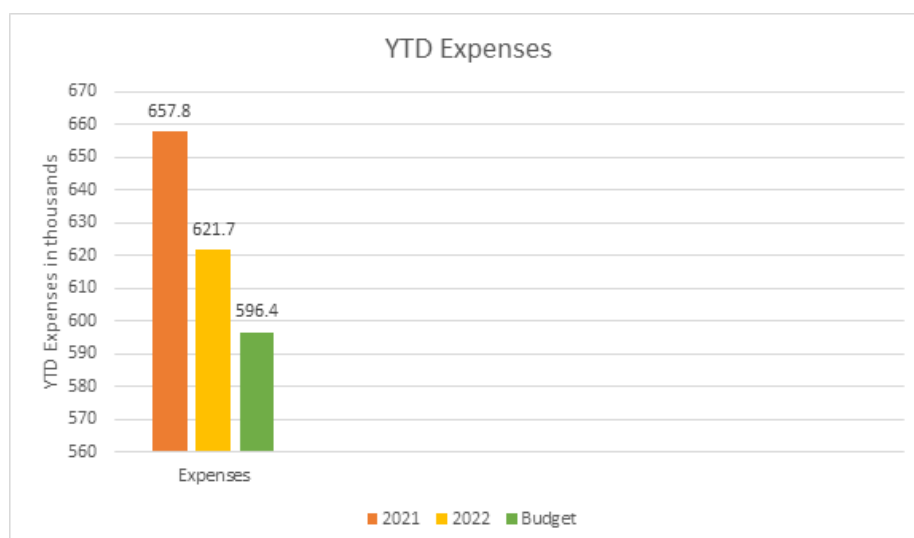
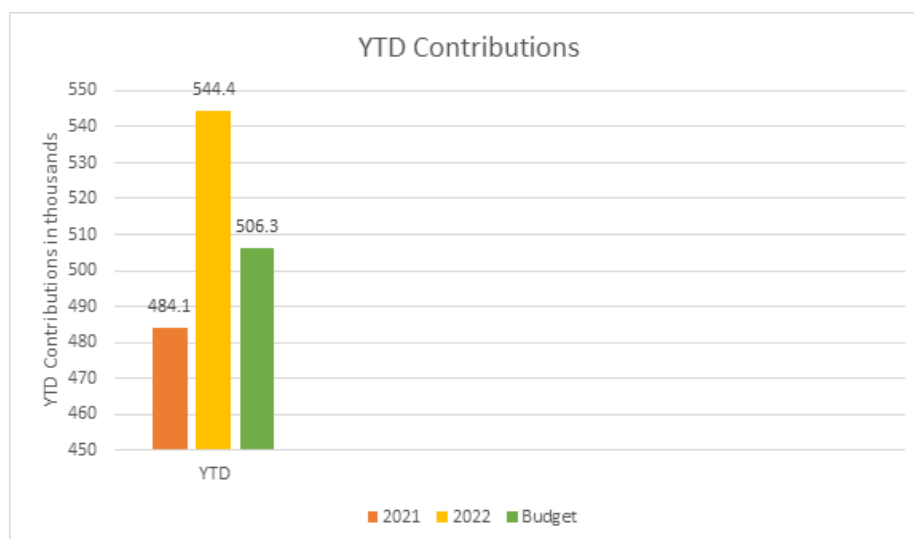
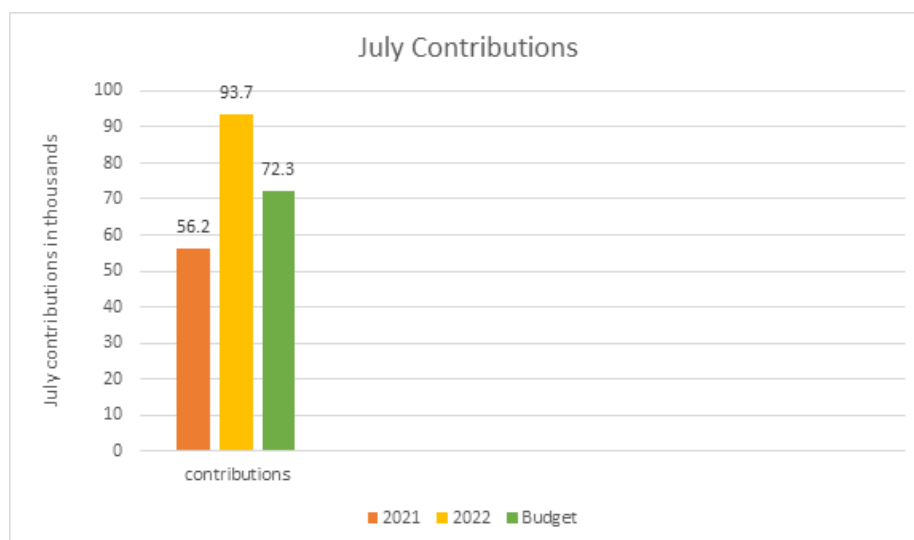
Expenses YTD were \$621.7K which is \$36.1K less than last year and \$25.3K over budget.

At 58.3% of the year we have spent 60.8% of the budget.

### Balance YTD

Revenue exceeds expenses by \$41K which is \$35.5K less than last year.

Summary of Restricted Accounts:  
\$9121.98 was donated to various funds in July. \$4935 was donated to the Benevolence Fund.







**Acts 16:25** Around midnight Paul and Silas were praying and singing hymns to God.

“Prayer creates a pathway for God’s presence and power. Praising Him is like rolling out a red carpet for Him in the middle of our circumstances”.

**Exodus 14:14** The Lord will fight for you and give you peace.

**Mark 4:39** He got up, rebuked the wind and said to the waves “Quiet! Be still!” Then, the wind died down and it was completely calm.

“He cares. Trust Him to speak to the storm”.

## *Jays & Concerns*

*We extend our sympathy to...*

- the family of **Ken Rowland and Nancy Fay** on the death of Ken’s mother, **Jean Rowland**, on August 9, 2022.

*We rejoice...*

- Dale and Ginny Tutje** celebrated their 70<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary on August 19.
- in the baptism of **James Arthur Gloe, son of Dave and Nancy Gloe** on Sunday, August 7, 2022.
- Prayers are answered for **Jean René Balekita** and family reunited after separation of seven years, 7,000 miles and the Atlantic Ocean. Welcome home!



**Pastor Matt and James on the morning of the baptism.**



**Jean René Balekita and family... Kiese, age 9 is in front between Yvette and Jean René. In back are Tevi, age 17 and René, age 12**





**FIRST PRESBYTERIAN  
CHURCH** OF CHAMPAIGN

302 West Church Street  
Champaign, IL 61820

Change Service Requested



**FIRST PRESBYTERIAN  
CHURCH** OF CHAMPAIGN

302 West Church Street  
Champaign, IL 61820

**P:** 217.356.7238

**F:** 217.356.7242

**E:** [info@firstpres.church](mailto:info@firstpres.church)

[www.firstpres.church](http://www.firstpres.church)

**Sunday:**

9 AM Worship/Sanctuary

11:15 AM The Gathering/Chapel  
(resumes September 4)

Online Worship is also available at 9 AM on Sunday mornings thru YouTube, Facebook, and our church website. Go to FirstPres.Live.

Contact the church office for more information.

**Pastor:**

Matt Matthews.....Senior Pastor/Head of Staff, Ext 213

**Staff:**

Ritchie Drennen .....Facility Manager, Ext. 237  
Patty Farthing.....Office Assistant, Ext. 211  
Robert Ferrer .....Audio-visual Technician  
Fred Foster ..... Evening Custodian  
Marcia Franks .....Office Administrator, Ext. 210  
Judi Geistlinger..... Commissioned Lay Pastor  
Jason Gordon..... Technology Support  
Joe Grant..... Director of Music  
Rachel Matthews Mission Coordinator/Parish Associate, Ext. 219  
Ann Petry.....Accounting, Ext. 224  
Shane Redmon ..... Facility Assistant  
Sora Shepherd..... Organist/Pianist  
Val Smith .....ESL Director, Ext. 235  
Libby Sternhagen..... Bell Choir Director  
Kelsey Stremplewski.....Director Contemporary Worship Band

Staff email addresses are the person's first name followed by @firstpres.church. For example, [matt@firstpres.church](mailto:matt@firstpres.church).

The newsletter is published monthly.

Deadline is the third Monday of the month for the following month's edition.

Send submissions to [marcia@firstpres.church](mailto:marcia@firstpres.church).