

ELMHURST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

2021 ANNUAL REPORT



ELMHURST

PRESBYTERIAN

CHURCH

-Table of Contents-

Mission Statement.....	3
Beliefs and Values Statement.....	3
Staffs, Lay Leadership, Session, Deacons & Trustees.....	4
Clerk of Session.....	5
Pastor's Report.....	6
Board of Deacons.....	7
Trustees' Report.....	8-9
Finance & Administration Report.....	10
Financial Statements.....	11-14
Budget.....	15
Mission Committee.....	16-18
Music Ministry & Director's Report.....	19
Faith Formation Committee.....	20
Congregational Care & Radical Hospitality Report.....	21
Human Resources.....	22-23
Communications and Technology Committee.....	24-25
Garden Ministry.....	26

Presented January 30, 2022

MISSION STATEMENT

We are a church called by Jesus Christ to proclaim, teach and serve.

BELIEFS AND VALUES STATEMENT

The articles of faith to which we turn for strength in time of confusion or stress:

1. God loves us unconditionally.
2. Jesus is our Lord and Savior through whom we have eternal life.
3. Grace is the basis of our relationship with God.
4. Our sins are forgiven through Christ's life, death, and resurrection.
5. The Bible reveals God's word.
6. God has a plan and purpose for us and we are not alone.
7. God hears our prayers and guides us.
8. There is nothing so evil that God cannot redeem it and use it for God's good will and purpose.

The positive, habitual behaviors that we are expected to demonstrate in daily living.

1. Welcoming people in the name of Jesus Christ.
2. Worshipping joyfully.
3. Transforming lives by connecting people to Jesus Christ.
4. Nurturing Christian discipleship.
5. Empowering people to serve through their spiritual gifts.
6. Working together in collaborative and accountable relationships.
7. Reaching out to serve a broken world.
8. Making every effort to preserve and restore God's creation.
9. Giving distinctively Christian care to individuals in need.



ELMHURST
PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH

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Elmhurst, Illinois 60126
(630) 834-7750
FAX (630) 834-1974

E-Mail: epc@elmhurstchurch.org
Website: <http://www.elmhurstchurch.org>

STAFF

Pastor – Traci Smith
Director of Children & Youth Ministry – Emily Culella
Music Director - Susan Smentek
Office Administrators – Kaleigh Corbett Rasmussen & Cristi Vander Naald
Custodian - Jesus Garcia
Technology Assistants – Keith Baumann & Mike Cammack

Clerk of Session
Tom Mason

Treasurer
Greg St. Laurent

THE SESSION
of
**Elmhurst Presbyterian
Church**

Class of 2022
Carol Ewert
Rob Kopecky
Faith Lee

Class of 2023
Pam Fuesz
Anna Pearson Lu
Peter Gough

Class of 2024
Jennifer Gordon
Mary Ellen Hayes
Pat Staats

REPORT OF THE CLERK OF SESSION
Submitted by Tom Mason

Total membership 12/31/20174

Membership Gains

17 and under	
by profession of faith	0
by reaffirmation of faith	0
by restoration	0
by certificate (letter of transfer)	0
other	0
18 and over	
by profession of faith	0
by reaffirmation of faith	2
by restoration	0
by certificate (letter of transfer)	0
other	<u>0</u>
TOTAL GAINS.....	2

Membership Losses

17 and under	
by death	0
by certificate (letter of transfer)	1
by other participant	0
by session action	0
18 and over	
by death	3
by certificate (letter of transfer)	2
by other participant	0
by session action	0
by recording error	<u>0</u>
TOTAL LOSSES.....	6

TOTAL ACTIVE MEMBERSHIP 12/31/2021 170

Baptisms (without confession of faith) 4
 Necrology: Dorothy Fisher, Bob Palmer, Richard White

PASTOR'S REPORT

submitted by Traci Smith

Be strong and courageous... for the Lord your God is with you wherever you go. Joshua 1:9

2021 Highlights

- A focus, not on ourselves, but others. (Year of Mission)
- Staying connected through tough COVID realities.
- Live-streaming, worship in the tent

Bloom Where You Are Planted

I've always loved the phrase "bloom where you are planted." Sometimes the soil is rocky or dry, but God is always faithful. This year continued to be a year of challenge as we asked for guidance through year two of a global pandemic. We responded by celebrating Easter in our parking lot, hearts full to overflowing with the good news of the gospel. Thanks be to God.

A Year of Mission

When the EPC Session stepped out in faith to call 2021 a "Year of Mission," we didn't know what the Spirit would bring to us, but (as it turns out) the Holy Spirit had plans we could not have anticipated. Our church was able to store and distribute furniture for families in need, along with clothes and other household items. We participated in two Pop up Food Pantries, distributed backpacks to children in d205, held a drive-through food collection event, brought diapers to our sister church in Chicago, increased our support to our partner church in Cuba, and helped refugees from Afghanistan. We asked God to help us look outside of ourselves and God answered our prayer. *Love your neighbor as yourself.*

Live Streaming and Technology

When I stop to consider that, prior to January 2020 we never even considered live-streaming our service nor dream of it as a reality, I'm in awe of everything we've accomplished. We now stream our services, live to YouTube, every week. Our community is connected, wherever we are. It's something to celebrate and give thanks to God for. May we never take it for granted.

What's Next?

The wind blows where it chooses, and you hear the sound of it, but you do not know where it comes from or where it goes." John 3:8

We walk into 2022 with faith and hope, trusting the Spirit to guide us.
Respectfully Submitted, Rev. Traci Smith

BOARD OF DEACONS REPORT

Submitted by Karen Fitzgerald

People Who Served As Deacons During Calendar 2021

Barry Benecke, Pat Campbell, Berlirce Menendie-Chetgna, Karen Fitzgerald, Dave Fuesz, Suzanne Legg, Suzanne Pitts, Ruth Schroeder, Ted Steiskal, Cheryl Turek, Alan West

2021 Objectives

Deacons are called to serve our faith and broader communities through service projects, prayer, and personal interactions. Our theme during 2021 was *Connecting & Serving*.

2021 Activities & Programs

Your Deacons undertook a number of projects during the year, including ...

- Helping to organize the church picnic, held in our tent on a Sunday in September. (Dave Fuesz revealed himself to be a superb grillmaster!)
- Helping to make Popsicles & Prayers a regular summer event during which people had an opportunity to gather to share, learn, laugh, and remain connected.
- Coordinating a Drive Through Food Drive in April. We invited members and community members to come through the circle drive in order to drop off (or have EPC members unload) much needed supplies. This allowed EPC to supplement our ongoing support of the Elmhurst-Yorkfield Food Pantry with a much larger donation. (Thanks to our electronic sign, we attracted a number of donations from community members.)
- Deacons made personal stops at EPC members' homes to drop off Advent kits, which included candles that allowed everyone to participate in the important Advent ritual involving lighting candles for hope, peace, joy, and love ... all in anticipation of lighting the Christ candle.
- Creating *Thinking of You* kits for seniors. These included items such as pens, notecards, batteries, tea, protein bars, and hot chocolate. They were distributed through Meals on Wheels.
- Deacons also worked in support of our year-end Fill The Stable Program, that saw the wonderful stable (designed by Ray Lee) stuffed with a variety of much needed hats, gloves, scarves, diapers, and soup.
- Throughout the year, Deacons also reached out to members, through prayer, phone calls, cards, and notes.

REPORT OF TRUSTEES

Submitted by Doug Fitzgerald

Trustees: Bill Berner, Doug Fitzgerald, Jeff Hughart, Ray Lee, Art Pitz, Diana Riekse
Ex Officio: Peter Gough
Treasurer: Greg St. Laurent

Trustees are elected from the congregation to serve as fiduciaries who manage EPC's finances. The Trustees also acted this year to coordinate projects through a team called Buildings & Grounds, assisted with Stewardship activities, and supported the Treasurer in the creation of a budget.

Financials

EPC concluded 2021 with total assets of \$1,108,285.96. The church's financial position benefited from favorable investment performance, pledge income that exceeded budget, the generous response of people who supported EPC through arranging to use parking spots in our lot, the ability to recognize the Payroll Protection Program loan granted in 2020 as forgiven, and careful oversight of expenditures.

Financial Reporting & Governance

EPC continues to benefit from the hard work done by Greg St. Laurent, our Treasurer, who has adjusted our accounting and reporting system to be appropriate for a non-profit organization. Our financial reports provide you and your Session with clear statements of performance and trends.

During 2021 EPC engaged with an outside accounting firm to review our financial procedures, to ensure that they are being conducted in good order, that we minimize the chance for anyone to misuse EPC funds, and that they align with generally accepted not-for-profit best practices. The firm's report, which focused on the most important parts of our financial systems and procedures, confirmed that your church's finances are being managed appropriately.

Buildings & Grounds



Three special projects were initiated during 2021.

Masonry work was undertaken to repair brickwork and caulking around the building. Restoration work that was begun in 2020 was completed as the tower on the Circle Drive had damaged bricks replaced and was re-tuckpoined.

Painting on the building's east and north elevation addressed badly peeling window frames that threatened to cause substantial rot. In addition, the overhang that you see if you look up when you enter the building on the east side was cleaned and repainted as well.

New replacement doors have been ordered for the main entrances to the Nelson-White



Room and to the Narthex on the Circle Drive side. They will be installed during 2022.

Much of the grounds work is done by a dedicated team of volunteers, who gather in all kinds of weather to support the vegetable garden, Certified Monarch Waystation, and other landscaping. Special thanks to all who give so generously of their time and talents to keep our grounds healthy and beautiful.

Among exterior/system projects still to be addressed are repaving the Circle Drive, replacing/upgrading the HVAC units that cool the sanctuary, concrete replacement and maintenance around the building, and routine evaluation and repair of brick work.

FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATION REPORT

Submitted by Peter Gough, Chair

The 2021 budget forecast an annual deficit of \$63k, but we came in at \$27k surplus, a differential of \$90k (k = thousands).

The main differentials are listed below:

- Pledges were \$45k above budget
- PPP loan was \$49k and was forgiven and became income
- Investment income was \$8k above budget
- Service income \$29k above budget (York HS parking)
- B&G spending 21k over budget
- Mission \$6k over budget
- Salaries \$6k less than budget

The above are rounded and I have not listed every item.

Please note that pledges include \$19k committed to the Afghan fund, this has not been distributed so does not show up in mission spending yet. So, this can be viewed in a couple of ways.

Firstly, that pledges were \$26k above budget and an extra \$19k was pledged to the Afghan fund, or secondly that Mission was \$25k over budget. Either way, the donations and distribution for the Afghan fund could not have been budgeted for at the beginning of 2021.

Elmhurst Presbyterian Church
Statement of Financial Position
As of December 31, 2021

	<u>Dec 31, 21</u>	<u>Dec 31, 20</u>
ASSETS		
Current Assets		
Checking/Savings		
103 - FSA Account	0.00	300.00
102 Wintrust Bank - Checking	49,608.01	47,958.49
Total Checking/Savings	49,608.01	48,258.49
Other Current Assets		
108 PCS	624,984.13	559,452.16
120 Permanent Fund	433,693.82	400,730.33
Total Other Current Assets	1,058,677.95	960,182.49
Total Current Assets	1,108,285.96	1,008,440.98
TOTAL ASSETS	<u><u>1,108,285.96</u></u>	<u><u>1,008,440.98</u></u>
Current Liabilities		
Other Current Liabilities		
2200 - PPP Loan	0.00	49,210.00
Pension Liability	412.52	721.28
201 Interest received	14.25	14.25
2110 - Direct Deposit Liabilities	0.00	-695.91
2100 - Payroll Liabilities		
Dependent Care FSA	1,875.06	1,875.06
Medical FSA	-1,505.53	64.19
2100 - Payroll Liabilities - Other	3,516.92	3,362.04
Total 2100 - Payroll Liabilities	3,886.45	5,301.29
Total Other Current Liabilities	4,313.22	54,550.91
Total Current Liabilities	4,313.22	54,550.91
300 Unrealized gain/loss	185,806.48	150,084.87
PERMANENTLY RESTRICTED FUNDS		
501 Permanent Fund	433,693.82	400,730.33
PERMANENTLY RESTRICTED FUNDS	433,693.82	400,730.33
TEMPORARILY RESTRICTED		
505 - Time Restricted Fund	167,212.18	75,000.00
500 Mission	109,362.87	120,825.61
503 Youth Ministry	0.00	6,142.10
504 Deacons Fund	4,044.25	3,359.25
506 Education fund	67,710.15	71,710.15
507 Capital Facilities Fund	225.13	22,872.61
502 - PADS Fundraiser	8,413.49	8,413.49
Total TEMPORARILY RESTRICTED	356,968.07	308,323.21
Total Restricted Funds	976,468.37	859,138.41
	980,781.59	913,689.32
Unrestricted Funds		
3900 - Unrestricted Funds	100,006.25	59,076.23
Change in Unrestricted Funds	27,498.12	35,675.43
	127,504.37	94,751.66
TOTAL LIABILITIES & FUNDS	<u><u>1,108,285.96</u></u>	<u><u>1,008,440.98</u></u>

Elmhurst Presbyterian Church
Statement of Financial Activity
December 2021

	<u>Dec 21</u>	<u>Budget</u>	<u>Jan - Dec 21</u>	<u>YTD Budget</u>	<u>Annual Budget</u>
Sources of Funds					
PLEDGES					
801 - 801 Pledges Current	29,253.08	11,643.00	273,991.67	177,230.02	177,230.02
802 - 802 Pledges - stock	15,000.00	0.00	15,000.00	67,000.00	67,000.00
803 Release of Restrict Pledges	2,083.57	2,083.33	25,002.64	25,000.00	25,000.00
Total PLEDGES	<u>46,336.65</u>	<u>13,726.33</u>	<u>313,994.31</u>	<u>269,230.02</u>	<u>269,230.02</u>
OTHER CONTRIBUTIONS					
810 - Contributions - Loose	56.50	170.00	1,340.50	2,040.00	2,040.00
813 Miscellaneous	0.00		85.00		
Total OTHER CONTRIBUTIONS	<u>56.50</u>	<u>170.00</u>	<u>1,425.50</u>	<u>2,040.00</u>	<u>2,040.00</u>
OTHER INCOME					
865 - PPP - Other Income	0.00		49,210.00		
Total OTHER INCOME	<u>0.00</u>		<u>49,210.00</u>		
INVESTMENT INCOME					
870 Permanent Fund Income	0.00	0.00	10,000.00	10,000.00	10,000.00
850 Investment Income	12,659.81	585.00	15,604.65	7,020.00	7,020.00
Total INVESTMENT INCOME	<u>12,659.81</u>	<u>585.00</u>	<u>25,604.65</u>	<u>17,020.00</u>	<u>17,020.00</u>
SERVICE INCOME					
828 - Building Rentals Incl. Parking	0.00		27,000.00		
821 Buttons & Bows	0.00	1,500.00	17,828.60	16,600.00	16,600.00
822 AA	0.00	24.00	226.00	288.00	288.00
823 Step AA	0.00	12.50	60.00	150.00	150.00
824 SA Step	0.00	65.00	150.00	780.00	780.00
826 Catacombs - AA	160.00		1,060.00		
827- Narcotics Any	20.00		140.00		
829 Miscellaneous	80.00	100.00	1,155.00	1,200.00	1,200.00
Total SERVICE INCOME	<u>260.00</u>	<u>1,701.50</u>	<u>47,619.60</u>	<u>19,018.00</u>	<u>19,018.00</u>
x ASSETS RELEASED FROM RESTRICT					
856 - Education	0.00	0.00	4,000.00	4,000.00	4,000.00
850 - 850 Program, Mission & Benev	959.02	2,366.74	11,462.74	28,400.00	28,400.00
851 - 851 Capital Facilities	1,000.00	0.00	22,647.48	23,000.00	23,000.00
852 - 852 Youth Ministry	511.86	858.33	6,142.10	6,200.00	6,200.00
853 - 853 Deacons	-645.00	0.00	-645.00	3,359.25	3,359.25

Elmhurst Presbyterian Church
Statement of Financial Activity
December 2021

	Dec 21	Budget	Jan - Dec 21	YTD Budget	Annual Budget
Total x ASSETS RELEASED FROM RESTRICT	<u>1,825.88</u>	<u>3,225.07</u>	<u>43,607.32</u>	<u>64,959.25</u>	<u>64,959.25</u>
Total Sources	<u>61,138.84</u>	<u>19,407.90</u>	<u>481,461.38</u>	<u>372,267.27</u>	<u>372,267.27</u>
	61,138.84	19,407.90	481,461.38	372,267.27	372,267.27
Uses of Funds					
ADMINISTRATION					
989 - Fund Raising and Services	0.00		2,288.00		
980 - Pension Expense	214.06	210.38	2,561.36	2,524.56	2,524.56
981 Office Expense	971.30	2,000.00	14,217.55	24,000.00	24,000.00
983 Telephone	292.72	300.00	3,320.20	3,600.00	3,600.00
984 Insurance	0.00	1,000.00	14,430.84	12,000.00	12,000.00
986 Stewardship/Membership	1,358.20		1,590.16		
988 Credit Card Expense	107.35	200.00	3,111.28	2,400.00	2,400.00
6560 - 989 Payroll Fees	12.25	15.00	155.75	180.00	180.00
990 Professional Fees	0.00		3,000.00		
987 Per Capita	0.00	0.00	6,249.00	5,500.00	5,500.00
ADMINISTRATION - Other	<u>1,393.97</u>		<u>3,372.05</u>		
Total ADMINISTRATION	<u>4,349.85</u>	<u>3,725.38</u>	<u>54,296.19</u>	<u>50,204.56</u>	<u>50,204.56</u>
DEACONS MINISTRY					
945 - Deacons Care	<u>0.00</u>	<u>500.00</u>	<u>0.00</u>	<u>5,000.00</u>	<u>5,000.00</u>
Total DEACONS MINISTRY	<u>0.00</u>	<u>500.00</u>	<u>0.00</u>	<u>5,000.00</u>	<u>5,000.00</u>
BUILDING AND GROUNDS					
992 Maintenance	1,430.00	1,900.00	31,455.88	22,800.00	22,800.00
993 Utilities	6,674.23	1,700.00	29,777.54	20,400.00	20,400.00
994 - Capital, Equipment & Upgrades	<u>1,000.00</u>	<u>0.00</u>	<u>26,097.48</u>	<u>23,000.00</u>	<u>23,000.00</u>
Total BUILDING AND GROUNDS	<u>9,104.23</u>	<u>3,600.00</u>	<u>87,330.90</u>	<u>66,200.00</u>	<u>66,200.00</u>
CHILDREN'S MINISTRY					
921 Curriculum	0.00	150.00	0.00	900.00	900.00
922 Supplies	67.88	75.00	1,689.44	900.00	900.00
925 Child Care	192.50	633.33	2,441.25	3,800.00	3,800.00
930 Pride Carnival	<u>18.43</u>	<u>0.00</u>	<u>1,403.50</u>	<u>600.00</u>	<u>600.00</u>
Total CHILDREN'S MINISTRY	<u>278.81</u>	<u>858.33</u>	<u>5,534.19</u>	<u>6,200.00</u>	<u>6,200.00</u>
COMMUNICATIONS					
961 Advertising	<u>0.00</u>	<u>85.00</u>	<u>0.00</u>	<u>1,020.00</u>	<u>1,020.00</u>

Elmhurst Presbyterian Church
Statement of Financial Activity
December 2021

	<u>Dec 21</u>	<u>Budget</u>	<u>Jan - Dec 21</u>	<u>YTD Budget</u>	<u>Annual Budget</u>
Total COMMUNICATIONS	0.00	85.00	0.00	1,020.00	1,020.00
HOSPITALITY					
949 Hospitality	0.00		200.00		
Total HOSPITALITY	0.00		200.00		
MINISTERIAL					
901 Ministerial Salaries	7,135.22	7,135.22	85,377.20	85,377.20	85,377.20
902 Ministerial Pension/Health	2,660.61	2,805.10	32,184.02	33,564.72	33,564.72
905 Continuing Education	0.00	0.00	600.00	2,750.00	2,750.00
Total MINISTERIAL	9,795.83	9,940.32	118,161.22	121,691.92	121,691.92
MISSION					
943 Elmhurst Walk in Assit	0.00	0.00	1,100.00	1,100.00	1,100.00
953 PADS	0.00	0.00	2,653.00	2,500.00	2,500.00
955 Children Up	0.00	0.00	2,000.00	2,000.00	2,000.00
957 Theological Education	0.00	0.00	1,000.00	1,000.00	1,000.00
958 Cuba	0.00	0.00	3,340.00	3,300.00	3,300.00
959 Presbyterian Disaster Rel.	0.00	0.00	2,000.00	2,000.00	2,000.00
951 Presbyterian Shared Mission	0.00	666.66	10,000.00	8,000.00	8,000.00
953 - Afghan Family Support	1,000.00		1,000.00		
941 - Other	5,263.75	500.00	11,469.47	8,500.00	8,500.00
Total MISSION	6,263.75	1,166.66	34,562.47	28,400.00	28,400.00
STAFF SALARIES AND BENEFITS					
910 Staff Salaries	5,745.58	5,254.66	57,825.93	62,875.18	62,875.18
911 Payroll Taxes	725.28	742.53	8,403.04	8,910.36	8,910.36
973 - Dir of Youth Ministry	4,497.36	4,497.35	53,813.64	53,813.50	53,813.50
Total STAFF SALARIES AND BENEFITS	10,968.22	10,494.54	120,042.61	125,599.04	125,599.04
WORSHIP COMMITTEE					
914 Church Adornment	0.00		817.62		
915 Worship Aids	24.87		85.00		
916 Music-Contractors	1,900.00	1,500.00	17,200.00	18,000.00	18,000.00
918 Pulpit Supply	0.00	0.00	102.24	400.00	400.00
920 Instrument Maintenance	0.00	0.00	295.00	1,000.00	1,000.00
931 Media	715.00	600.00	9,033.51	7,200.00	7,200.00
932 Music Supplies	22.80	0.00	2,302.31	500.00	500.00
Total WORSHIP COMMITTEE	2,662.67	2,100.00	29,835.68	27,100.00	27,100.00
Education					
988 - Education - Scholarship	0.00	0.00	4,000.00	4,000.00	4,000.00
Total Education	0.00	0.00	4,000.00	4,000.00	4,000.00
Total Uses	43,423.36	32,470.23	453,963.26	435,415.52	435,415.52
Change in Unrestricted Funds	17,715.48	-13,062.33	27,498.12	-63,148.25	-63,148.25

Elmhurst Presbyterian Church
2022 BUDGET
January through December 2022

	Unrestricted Funds	Donor Restricted Funds				Total
	EPC	Capital Facilities	Mission	Education	Pads	
OPENING BANK AND INVESTMENT ACCOUNTS	922,799.45	0.00	109,362.87	67,710.15	8,413.49	1,108,285.96
SOURCES						
PLEDGES	303,390.00					303,390.00
2022 SPECIAL GIFT	50,000.00					50,000.00
OTHER CONTRIBUTIONS	2,400.00					2,400.00
OTHER INCOME	0.00					0.00
INVESTMENT INCOME	22,000.00					22,000.00
SERVICE INCOME	20,800.00					20,800.00
TOTAL SOURCES	398,590.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	398,590.00
USES						
ADMINISTRATION	50,424.00					50,424.00
DEACONS MINISTRY	4,044.24					4,044.24
BUILDING AND GROUNDS	60,000.00	100,000.00				160,000.00
CHILDRENS MINISTRY	6,900.04					6,900.04
COMMUNICATIONS	0.00					0.00
HOSPITALITY	600.00					600.00
MINISTERIAL	127,388.24					127,388.24
MISSION			42,450.08			42,450.08
STAFF SALARIES AND BENEFITS	135,730.56					135,730.56
WORSHIP COMMITTEE	34,140.00					34,140.00
EDUCATION				4,000.00		4,000.00
TOTAL USES	419,227.08	100,000.00	42,450.08	4,000.00	0.00	565,677.16
CHANGE IN FUNDS	-20,637.08	-100,000.00	-42,450.08	-4,000.00	0.00	-167,087.16
CLOSING BANK AND INVESTMENT ACCOUNTS	902,162.37	-100,000.00	66,912.79	63,710.15	8,413.49	941,198.80

MISSION COMMITTEE

Submitted by Anna Lu, Chair

2021 Team Members:

Pam Fuesz, Anna Lu, Diana Riekse, Carol Ewert, Karen Fitzgerald, Kathy Thompson, Alan West

The Year of Mission for EPC!!

This year, the congregation of Elmhurst Presbyterian Church dedicated their energy to mission work with great intention and with open hearts. The Mission Committee led the charge and church members showed up in so many ways to spread God's love!

As always, we, the Mission Committee, did our best to reach out to as many people as possible within our community and as far around the world as we could reach. We did this by gifts of Mission funds to organizations and individuals, by collecting donations and redistributing them to those in need, and by volunteering time and energy. We sought to be more "hands-on" in the Year of Mission in a few different ways, too. So below you'll find the highlights and accomplishments of our Mission Team for 2021.

- *Fill the Pews:* In January, we filled the pews with donated clothes. Many church members helped sort it all to be sent to the PADS guests that are currently residing in hotels.

- *Blanket Sunday:* In February, we donated \$200 to Church World Service.



- *Elmhurst Yorkfield Food Pantry:* Thanks to Alan West, who makes our monthly purchase, we donated 600 tubes of toothpaste and 600 bottles of laundry detergent to the Yorkfield Food Pantry this year. We also made a monetary donation of \$1,300.

- *Children Up:* We donated \$2,000 to Children Up. We are continuing to sponsor Lanyero Peasline and Olara Daniel. We were happy to hear that the first student we sponsored, Acan Rovister, is now a practicing midwife.



- *Cuba:* We gave our sister church in Cuba \$2,940 plus \$360 for the electricity of the well. We pay the transfer fee when we send these funds. We paid for part of their cell phone bill for 2021 and have committed to paying it (\$600) for all of 2022.



White Field Partners

- We helped Art & Suzanne Pitz's 503C organization *White Field Partners* to pay for the repair of a well in Sierra Leone. \$710 came from the congregation's donations and \$1,980 was given by Mission.

- *DuPage PADS*: While covid continued to change our world, our PADS site remained closed, but PADS continues to house those without shelter in hotels. They are also in the process of purchasing the Red Roof Inn in Downers Grove. Our site is currently used to store PADS supplies from other closed interim housing sites. We gave our annual donation of \$2500 to DuPage PADS. Diana Riekse, our PADS Site Coordinator, moved to Michigan. Pam & Dave Fuesz now serve as liaisons to PADS.



- *Presbyterian Disaster Relief*: We gave \$2,000 & it went to help those affected by Hurricane Ida.

- *EWAN*: We supported Elmhurst Walk-in Assistance Network with a gift of \$1,100.



- *Theological Support*: We donated \$1,000 to McCormick Theological Seminary.

- *Personal Missions*: Anna chose a student at her school who had just received a heart transplant. Carol chose an elderly neighbor who used to attend EPC who needed her spirits lifted. Alan chose a current EPC member who was struggling. All were given gift cards for gas, for McDonald's, or to Walgreen's.

- *Pop-Up Pantries*: We hosted 2 pop-up events in conjunction with We Pop Up for our neighbors in need in Bensenville-one in the summer and one in the winter. Each of these events is a massive undertaking requiring hours of planning, coordinating, resource gathering, and human power for the actual event. Our congregation showed up with *all* the requested goods *and more* in the weeks prior to each event. Mission committee processed the donations and our church family members put in time and energy on the day of to help run the event. We had the best time connecting with each other & the people we served!



- *Furniture Pop-Up*: We started this mission in partnership with We Pop Up, but then we took it on as a church community. We collected gently used furniture and found people in need to give it to. This was a less formal mission that still had a big impact on several families' lives.



- *Erie House Christmas*: We gave 40 children at Erie House gifts for Christmas. This was approximately \$1,400 worth of Christmas presents.

- *New Deliverance Diaper Ministry*: This year we made 2 large donations of diapers collected from church members to the diaper ministry at New Deliverance Church in

the Roseland neighborhood of Chicago. We also welcomed a group of their leaders to our service in the tent over the summer.

- *Elmhurst College*: In November, the Business students did a clothing drive with our space. Through We Pop Up, we distributed the collected donations to DuPage PADS guests.

- *Afghan Families Outreach*: Through the donations of our congregation, friends, and other organizations (and led by Cheryl Kopecky), we raised \$14,000 to help families from Afghanistan escape and come to the United States. We also received an additional \$5000 donation from United Methodist Church in Austin, TX to be put toward this cause.

- *Christmas Joy*: We collected \$650 in our Christmas Joy envelopes at the Christmas Eve service which will go to Presbytery.

- *Fill the Stable*: For our final mission of 2021, we filled the stable with gifts for Jesus and those in need. Our congregation gave 20 pairs of gloves, 32 hats, 2 pairs of earmuffs, 165 cans of soup, 12 packs of ramen, a McDonald's gift card, approximately 3500 diapers and 1800 wipes. All of these goods will be redistributed to organizations we partner with.

Goals for the Mission Committee in 2022

This last year has been a full, busy, blessed year for the Mission Committee. We want to commit to making 2022 the same! To be clear, we hope and plan:

1. To *continue our partnerships* locally and abroad and continue our traditional annual commitments/missions
2. To explore *strengthening our relationships* with added efforts potentially in our Cuba partnership, in our relationship with our Guatemalan neighbors, and/or with New Deliverance Church
3. To *fill our committee* with members and friends who are called to do mission work
4. To *maintain a balance of mission work* in regard to who we serve (local, PCUSA, and global) and how we serve (donation of goods or money, spending time or labor)

Budget: For 2022, we asked for our line-by-line Mission budget to remain the same. However, we asked for Mission's portion to increase from 6.6% to 7.5% of EPC's total 2022 budget. If we are given the funds, our committee will pray on it and follow the Spirit to meet the needs presented to us in the coming year. We will prioritize increasing our church's outreach to local youth in need, especially those who belong to historically marginalized groups.

MUSIC MINISTRY & DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Submitted by Susan Smentek, Director of Music

During 2021, I frequently used the lyrics of "Step By Step" as a guidepost to shape the musical direction of our Worship services.

Oh God, You are my God,
And, I will ever praise You.
I will seek You in the morning.
And I will learn to walk in Your ways.
And step by step You'll lead me,
And I will follow You all of my days.

Seek, learn, lead, follow. Every week during the year, our musicians and technical folk (including those who wear multiple hats), have been called upon to do all four of those things: seek, lead, learn and follow.

We sought continued inspiration during the period from January through mid-April, while we worked weekly to produce the online Worship video posted to EPC's YouTube Channel. The sanctuary was our video production studio. We then helped to lead the transition to the outdoor tent Worship service. Special thanks to Paul Heinz, Keith Baumann and Brian Collins for their leadership and involvement in the weekly set up and tear down of the music equipment in the tent.

During the months of outdoor worship, we maintained creating and posting videos to YouTube. At the same time, Keith Baumann took on the enormous project of learning, updating, wiring and setting up the entire livestream system. Keith's efforts, with support from Rob Kopecky and assistance from Mike on Sunday mornings, have made it possible for EPC to offer connection to our members and friends from anywhere in the world.

Thanks to Gayle Bisesi for learning how to craft hymns and worship song videos from her home, as she did from 2020 through April of 2021. Gayle's return to singing live, outdoors and now, inside the sanctuary, has been a blessing to us all

.
The cheerful, talented presence of pianists Charlotte Jackson and Phil Videckis also enhanced our Worship Services.

Thanks to everyone at EPC for their love of music and their constant support. As we move into 2022, we continue to follow God, step by step.

FAITH FORMATION REPORT

**-Formerly Christian Education & Youth Ministry Committee-
Submitted by Emily Culella & Faith Lee, Chair**

The purpose of our committee is to nurture, educate, and learn about the children and young people of EPC. We make it our mission to know the children and young people and to help them grow in faith and love.

2021 was a year of transition, change, and re-formulation.

This year, our team was made up of:

Emily Culella

Karen Fitzgerald

Erin Fitzgerald

Doug Fitzgerald (Doug left in October)

Faith Lee

With this team, and the help of other more specific-to-event committees, we've worked through another pandemic year. In the summer, we had Wednesday night kids' events on the lawn, we held our biggest yet Pride event, and we worked in the garden every Sunday to help harvest a record breaking 444 pounds of produce for the food pantry. Faith and Emily also took several bike rides with the youth to get ice cream and to talk with them. They will cherish these silly and deep conversations forever. Emily also met one-on-one with some of the youth and together, throughout the spring and summer, they cleaned out the storage room upstairs and reorganized the shelves.

We came back into the building in October, holding Sunday school in person and on Zoom. The difficulty of a one-room Sunday school with ages from 4-13, while also being in a hybrid format, cannot be understated. With the addition of new families from our community, our total amount of children has more than doubled. Sunday school, while being a challenge, is also helped by professional teacher Allison Thoms. And the additional children make it a very joyful experience!

For this year's Christmas Pageant, we used puppets for the Holy Family and performed with the rest of the children and adults! We had over 25 kids and adults in our play.

Faith and Emily are planning the upcoming and re-imagined Confirmation class. Instead of focusing on Presbyterian polity and policy, Confirmation will examine what it means to be a Christian, who God is, and what belief is. This exploration feels timelier than Confirmations of earlier times. Now that the loudest Christians can be outright bigoted and uncaring for the stranger, it is our duty to be louder in our own faith and to teach what Jesus taught.

We are also putting together a Progressive Parents Bible Study for the spring that focuses on what the Bible says, as opposed to what some infamous Christians with loud megaphones have said in the media. The Committee has already approved the cost of childcare, so now we are on the hunt for a midday babysitter, for once a week.

CONGREGATIONAL CARE AND RADICAL HOSPITALITY REPORT

Submitted by Jennifer Gordon, Chair

Committee Members: Connie Nestler, Berlice Menendie-Chetgna, Michelle Mason, Alan West, Ted Steiskal, Rita Steiskal

Friends of the committee who also assist: Carol Ewert & Karen Fitzgerald

2021 was a year that started with everyone still being in lockdown for the Covid Pandemic. The committee was challenged with providing fellowship while everyone was in their own homes attending church on zoom. As the pandemic started to see some recovery, our tent was put up from Easter through October.

The opportunity to have fellowship outside during the warm months was a blessing. The sun and fresh air was a welcomed invitation to have treats. Coffee, juice, donuts, coffee cakes and fruit were a regular occurrence 2-3 times a month.

Besides having fellowship after worship, the committee also supported two separate baptisms and three funerals.

The plans for 2022 will be to have fellowship after Sunday Worship for several weeks of the month. A schedule is to be decided at our first meeting of the year.

Since the kitchen is a little out of shape, the focus will be to clean up the “homeless items” left in the kitchen and get rid of the items not being used. The committee is working with the Buildings & Grounds committee on getting the kitchen walls & cabinets painted. The focus will also be on getting rid of the stoves, ovens and freezers that are broken and don’t work.

As a reminder to those using the kitchen, if you make a dirty dish, please wash it, dry it and put it away. There should be no dishes left in the drainer. If you have used food in the kitchen, please make sure to take it with you that it is sealed in the fridge. There has been an uninvited guest (mouse) pooping in the drawers. It is being taken care of but we need to do what we can to prevent any other issues. If towels were used, please wash and return them. Many hands make light work!

I am so glad to be chosen to lead this great group of people in what I love so much. I enjoy visiting with each other and seeing everyone’s smiles when they see a treat they love.

Thank you for all your support of making EPC the best place to be!

HUMAN RESOURCES TEAM REPORT

Submitted by Patti Berner, Chair

2021 Team members (6): Patti Berner (chair), Ray Lee, Bob Miller, Cheryl Kopecky, Steve Reckley; Greg St. Laurent, Trustee representative.

Summary

HR is well, the “People” People :) Sometimes we just provide counsel and other times we get right into the thick of the work.

This year was the year of Full-Life Cycle Recruiting and Talent Acquisition for our Office Assistant. What does that mean? Well, in general terms, it means examining what EPC and our Pastor truly need in administrative support and then figuring out how to find someone (or more than one individual) to do that job(s). Sounds easy, right? In reality, in one of the most challenging job markets for employers in decades, nope, this was far from easy!

Together, with a lot of help, grace, patience, time and encouragement, we actually accomplished a great deal (please read on.) And yes, there’s always more work to be had - we have a great team and with your support we expect to have another productive and blessed year.

Highlights:

- By early second quarter of 2021 Office Assistant, Jasmyn, resigned prompting a closer examination of what EPC needed in an assistant.
- HR purchased (session approved) shortly thereafter an admin laptop to allow for more robust remote admin help.
- Annual staff reviews were informal and focused on goal setting, led by the head of staff.
- Over seven months of weekly full life cycle admin recruiting, sourcing, temporary and temp-to-possible hire occurred from the end of April through mid November.
- The extended recruitment period was a real blessing. Temporary employees provided the opportunity to truly learn what EPC and the Pastor needed in a support person. The title, job description, pay and benefits (ex. \$200 referral bonus), were all examined and revised.
- How support was provided became more flexible, adding a remote part-time assistant, Kaleigh Corbett.
- Through the admin recruitment efforts, allowed us to identify and hire our Sound Technician, Mikey Cammack.
- By mid-November, Cristi Vander Naald joined us as our part time, regular, “Pastor Assistant & Communications Assistant.”

Special thanks to:

- Karen Miller for EPC job posting content o. EPCs website and FB page plus securing “summer intern!” Katie Hilt (onboarding 5/17-8/9 then remote part-time work.)
- Doug Fitzgerald for regular “help wanted” electronic sign postings.
- Greg St. Laurent for multiple temp payrolls.
- Emily Culella for training help on numerous occasions!
- And anyone else who’s slipped my mind!

2022 Goals:

- Hold recurring monthly meetings between Pastor Traci and HR.
- Continue building opportunities to celebrate staff accomplishments.
- Resume traditional annual employee reviews.
- Meet as needed, as an HR Team, and at all-church leadership breakfasts.
- Continue offering grace and patience for all :)

COMMUNICATIONS AND TECHNOLOGY COMMITTEE

Submitted by Rob Kopecky, Chair

Team Members: Erica White, Bill Berner

Adjectives:

In reflecting on 2021, several words aptly summarize this committee's work:

- Inventiveness
- Visualization
- Persistence leading to Mastery

When it became evident in early 2021 that COVID mandated restrictions would prevent worshipping indoors, members of this committee brainstormed with the pastor about an alternate worship alternative. Through conversations, deliberations, research, and out-of-the-box thinking, it was recommended to the Session of Elmhurst Presbyterian Church that a large tent be purchased and erected in a portion of our parking lot for conducting worship services during widespread lockdown. (*Inventiveness*)

The fact that the sanctuary was unoccupied throughout most 2021 allowed a small task force of church members to visualize how worship would be conducted when gatherings were again allowed, and how to broadcast our message to a new audience in a new way. (*Visualization*)

In person gatherings were again allowed during the fourth quarter of 2021 with an additional element ---

live-streaming the Sunday services over the Internet while simultaneously conducting in-person worship. Many church members were involved in the multiple tasks necessary to accomplish this goal, which included:

- Researching vendors who manufacture commercial grade audio and video equipment for broadcasting via the Internet
- Securing formal presentations of selected vendors on how their equipment met our needs
- Verifying references of users (churches) that currently utilize live-streaming equipment
- Requisitioning and ordering equipment from a reliable vendor
- Choosing an installation company with experience of dealing with churches that often lack the necessary sound and lighting apparatus required for live-streaming
- Upgrading the Internet service to accommodate simultaneous in-house and live-streaming presentations
- Researching, purchasing, and installing additional lightbanks in the sanctuary for enabling quality videotaping of live-streaming services

- Installing blackout shades in the band area to cover the stained-glass windows (during worship services only) that allows for a properly exposed view of the band during worship services
(Persistence leading to Mastery)

The Communications and Technology Committee recognizes the valuable contributions of Jeff Hughart and Keith Baumann.

Jeff Hughart

As a member of EPC and a former owner of a scaffolding company, Jeff coordinated, assembled, and donated large amounts of scaffolding needed to enhance the lighting in the church sanctuary. Accessing heights 40 feet or more above the ground could only be accomplished by a movable scaffolding platform. Jeff facilitated this entire project on a very tight timeline due to previously scheduled church activities requiring use of the entire sanctuary. It would not have been possible without Jeff's contacts and generosity.

Keith Baumann

Keith, (also a member of the band), spent countless hours in researching and learning about the church's new audio and video equipment to optimize the live-streaming experience. Additionally, he trained several non-church members how to simultaneously operate both the video and audio components for in-person and live-streaming transmission. Because of Keith's technical ability and sheer determination, Elmhurst Presbyterian Church is now capable of providing high-quality live-streaming broadcast to anyone with a good Internet connection. We are monitoring the number of attendees who join the weekly broadcasts and I'm happy to report the numbers are increasing.

Future

Due to advancements in technology, the church has adapted new methodologies in reaching out to people. The Communications and Technology committee will strive to keep a tab on new ways to disseminate the teachings and beliefs of Elmhurst Presbyterian Church and to faithfully communicate those new pathways to our membership.

GARDEN MINISTRY REPORT

Submitted by Ruth Schroeter, Garden Coordinator

Children's Vegetable Garden: "We Grow to Give"

The Children's Vegetable Garden was created in 2007 as part of Heaven & Earth Growers, a not-for-profit ministry conceived by Jan Happell and a few other members of Elmhurst Presbyterian Church. Ours was the charter garden and was later followed by two other gardens in Elmhurst. Those latter two gardens have stopped producing, but Jan Happell has since created a huge one in Wisconsin where she now lives. Altogether since their inception, the H&E Gardens have donated over **10,000** pounds of produce to food pantries!

In 2021 our own garden at EPC produced and delivered **444** pounds of organically-grown vegetables to the Elmhurst-Yorkfield Food Pantry—**our best year ever!** And although we had to wear masks for safety, it was great to have the children of our church back in the garden this summer after a year off due to COVID.

Beds and Borders/Lawn

In spring, we cut back perennials, transplanted and installed new plants, sowed grass seed, and started many days of weeding. We also amended the soil in the Memorial Garden as recommended by the previous fall's soil testing. In summer, we maintained the gardens, trimmed shrubs, removed invasive plants, and arranged for the leveling and sealing of the patio in the Memorial Garden. In fall, we raked leaves, collected seeds, and planted more daffodils. Throughout the many weeks of drought we kept everything watered.

Thank you, Volunteers!

Here are the amazing people who helped care for the gardens and grounds this year: The core team (in alphabetical order) consisted of Bekah Berner, Karen Fitzgerald, Mary Ellen Hayes, Faith Lee, Barb Mueller, Mary Mueller, Connie Nestler, Ruth Schroeter, Ted & Rita Steiskal, and Alan West. Many others joined in for special projects like watering the grass seed. Thanks to one in all!

Future Plans

Ideas are circling around in my head and heart for ways to make our church be even better caretakers of our property. Can we become a beacon to the community for new efforts in Earth stewardship? We **must** try.

