

First Presbyterian Church

Santa Rosa



I am thankful for:

*170 Years as a congregation to
worship and praise God's name.*

2024 ANNUAL REPORT

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2024

"It was the best of times, it was the worst of times, it was the age of wisdom, it was the age of foolishness, it was the epoch of belief, it was the epoch of incredulity..." Charles Dickens

2024 will be a year that forever stands out in the history of First Presbyterian Santa Rosa. Our congregation underwent monumental changes with the departure of not 1 but 2 beloved pastors. While it was difficult to say goodbye to Pastor Dale and Pastor Emily, the unity and love within our congregation reminded us that we truly are a church family. In January, FPC welcomed Dan Price as Temporary Pastor. Dan was met with many challenging tasks throughout the year, including staff and budget cutbacks, but managed them all with grace and compassion. In 2024, FPC introduced a QR code as a new way of giving and worked hard to give its website a fresh look and more interactive features. The FPC Connect can now be viewed monthly on the home page, and upcoming sermons can be found on the website calendar. As the year ended, excited anticipation and hope were felt by all at every Prayer Gathering for the Pastor Search. As the place to belong, believe, and love like Jesus, the church family at First Presbyterian Santa Rosa grows in God's faith with open hearts. The best is yet to come!

CHILDREN'S MINISTRY – Darcy Fluitt

Sunday mornings are always the centerpiece of Children's Ministries. Children gather to hear a Bible story and engage in concrete activities that provide the framework for conversations about faith. A welcome addition to Kids' Church this past year was worship led by Doug Wiggers.

In 2024, events that happen on Friday evenings emerged as a growing part of the ministry to children and their families. The Friday Night Supper Club, initiated in the fall of 2023, gained



momentum in 2024. This is a casual opportunity for the entire family to gather for a meal in someone's home on the first Friday of every month. EPIC, the preteen youth group, meets on the third Friday of every month. Known for crazy games, generous slices of Little Caesar's Pizza, and a safe place to ask questions about their faith, an average of fifteen 4th-6th graders look forward to this monthly event. The Friday Night Experience has become an anticipated quarterly

event in the life of the church. Marked by a different theme at each gathering, those in attendance can always expect lively worship, a Bible story, a shared meal, and a chance to play and connect with one another. Darcy Fluitt and Soo Tee Lim are grateful for another year of being part of the lives of our children and their families at FPC.

YOUTH MINISTRY – Cory Myers

Youth Ministries has been busy creating opportunities for students to experience Christ's redeeming love and convey that directly with their lives to the world they live in. This last year's highlights have been our students' engagement in international missions through our Spring Break Mexico trip as well as locally connecting through service to our local community with our Monthly Sunday Service day. We have worked hard to change from an event mentality to an ongoing living faith reality. God has been hard at work in the hearts and lives of our high school and middle school students.

The Youth have been involved in Bible study, regular fellowship evenings, special trips, service opportunities, and summer camp, to name just a few. Highlights from youth events in 2024 include:

- January ski trips
- Housebuilding mission to Mexico
- Westminster Woods summer camp
- Monthly "Sunday Service" to people in congregation
- Christmas and Superbowl gatherings
- Summertime trips to Discovery Kingdom, Water World, and Magic Mountain



HIGHLIGHTS - Pastor Dan Price

A salient highlight in March was the Mark Labberton weekend in cooperation with our daughter church, the Cove. Mark's messages encouraged us to avoid small-minded bickering and grow into the vast truth of the Gospel. His goal was to encourage and strengthen faith in uncertain times, and that he did. Equally important, the fellowship between our two congregations was deepened and broadened.

One of the great strengths of this congregation is deep love for one another. The compassion of Colleen and Deacons (and many others) provides quiet consolation to many in time of need. Another of the great strengths of this congregation is intentional discipleship. The Enlighten-Up series proved that Presbyterians can return on Sunday nights to discuss an interesting topic. Cory and Darcy used their creative skills to rebuild children and youth programs pinned to the mat during COVID-19. Several classes that foster growth were well-attended, including Kent's, Allie's, and a course on the Enneagram. We heard sermons on grace in late summer and fall, and Advent was beautiful--for many, reaching a crescendo in the Christmas concert. The committed staff of FPCSR worked hard to cut expenses and persevered through all the changes. We were all delighted to end the year with the budget deficit erased!



ADULT DISCIPLESHIP –Allie Shoulders

Christian discipleship is the process of orienting the whole self around the person of Jesus, his life and actions, as well as his teaching. Adult Discipleship endeavors to offer solid Biblical teaching (Sunday classes and lectures) as well as opportunities to consider how we can live out our faith everyday (Soul Training Workshops, small groups, EnlightenUp, movie nights, Connecting Through Nature events, Dinners for 7 or 8.).

- Two Churches - One Heart - We experienced the joy of partnering with The Cove to host a special weekend of learning and joint worship with Dr. Mark Labberton in March. It is hoped weekends like this will become an annual event.
- Presbyterian Women has been blessed with an enthusiastic and thoughtful leadership team, strong studies that have encouraged spiritual growth and in creative service earning donations for handmade items that benefit Redwood Gospel Missions women’s ministries.
- Excellent classes that challenge assumptions and increase our love for God. Several examples are: Our Hope in Christ of Resurrection with Rev. Kent Webber, Science Declares the Glory of God with Bob Gardner, Bob Shoulders and Jack Swearingen, Missiology in the 21st Century hosted by Bev Swift, and Enneagram classes taught by Laurel Quast and Carlyn Knight.



WORSHIP THROUGH MUSIC

Chris Studer & Doug Wiggers

First Presbyterian Santa Rosa continued making beautiful music in 2024 with its choir, handbells, and talented musicians. One of The highlights in 2024 was the “Sounds of Christmas” concert.



MISSIONS & COMMUNITY SERVICE

FPC continued to contribute 11% of donations to global and local missions. We support seven mission partners and associates around the world, and several mission partners in Sonoma County, including the Redwood Gospel Mission and Catholic Charities. In addition, our Oleari scholarship fund is helping five individuals get further training in ministry in Africa, South America and the Middle East. Our mission committee will lead a "mission Sunday" on March 30 to celebrate our call to God's mission.

BUILDING & GROUNDS

Our beloved building that is home to First Presbyterian Santa Rosa continues to receive improvements at a steady pace. The largest project in 2024 was the patio roof replacement outside of Ingram Hall. The deteriorated flat roof was replaced with new, and the rain gutters were relocated to drain water away from the building.



This year, we also saw the addition of lighted wreaths and holiday banners on Pacific Ave. The banners were well received and helped welcome some new visitors, and the wreaths made our entrance festive and inviting.

CONGREGATIONAL LIFE AND CARE – Colleen Soldate



Congregational care is a ministry that promotes, encourages, and nurtures a caring environment throughout the many challenging events of life. As our guide, we focus on how Jesus extended love to others.

So many moments of love and care unfolded in 2024. One highlight this past year was an unexpected visit from Navy Chief Petty Officer Josh Landreth, his wife, Megan, and children, Rori, Anabelle & Addison, after being away for 10 years.

Our church family has surrounded this family with prayer and encouraging messages in Christmas cards for 15 years. The family prioritized visiting the church to say hello and thank you for your many years of ongoing support. During their sharing time during worship service, they said, “Thank you for thinking of our family and continuing to include us in the Christmas Cards tradition. We all enjoy them year after year, and thank you for helping us to feel connected to First Pres.”

This is just one of the many individuals and families serving in the military to whom you have sent encouraging messages and cards at Christmas. It was an absolute delight to see the Landreths, but what a powerful example of how the love Jesus taught his disciples cascades onto others.

GENERAL OPERATING BUDGET SUMMARY

	2023 ACTUAL	2024 ACTUAL	2024 BUDGET	2025 BUDGET
CONTRIBUTIONS & DEPARTMENTAL INCOME				
Contributions	\$1,113,173	\$1,026,084	\$1,103,200	\$1,052,276
Investment Income	18,078	10,397	6,500	7,800
Facility Fees & Departmental Donations	17,489	16,239	27,230	16,640
TOTAL INCOME:	<u>\$1,148,740</u>	<u>\$1,052,720</u>	<u>\$1,136,930</u>	<u>\$1,076,716</u>
BUDGETED EXPENSES				
Ordained	\$239,448	\$196,934	\$266,187	\$190,670
Misc. Personnel	4,109	7,336	8,000	7,510
Children's & Family Ministries	71,247	65,158	83,508	57,550
Youth Ministries	91,674	74,760	94,602	68,520
Caring Ministries	87,809	88,551	97,872	93,020
Adult Discipleship	36,363	33,461	41,095	34,600
Music & Worship	144,281	156,149	174,946	171,080
World Missions	101,111	100,400	100,670	95,910
Community Service	21,221	21,020	21,070	23,090
Building & Grounds	155,706	132,161	163,104	144,010
Administration & Finance	202,688	<u>191,895</u>	<u>254,863</u>	<u>190,670</u>
TOTAL EXPENSES:	<u>\$1,155,657</u>	<u>\$1,067,825</u>	<u>\$1,305,917</u>	<u>\$1,076,630</u>
INCOME OVER EXPENSES:	<u>-\$6,917</u>	<u>-\$15,105</u>	<u>-\$168,987</u>	<u>\$86</u>
DESIGNATED MISSION GIVING (Above and beyond operating budget)				
World Missions	\$26,185	\$25,480		
Local Mission Community Service	6,766	6,000		
PW Mission Project Sales Proceeds Donated	4,076	4,900		
TOTAL DESIGNATED MISSION GIVING:	<u>\$37,027</u>	<u>\$36,380</u>		
DISASTER RELIEF FUND BALANCE:	<u>\$15,263</u>	<u>\$15,263</u>		
RETAINED INCOME	<u>\$390,404</u>	<u>\$383,488</u>		
	2023	2024		