



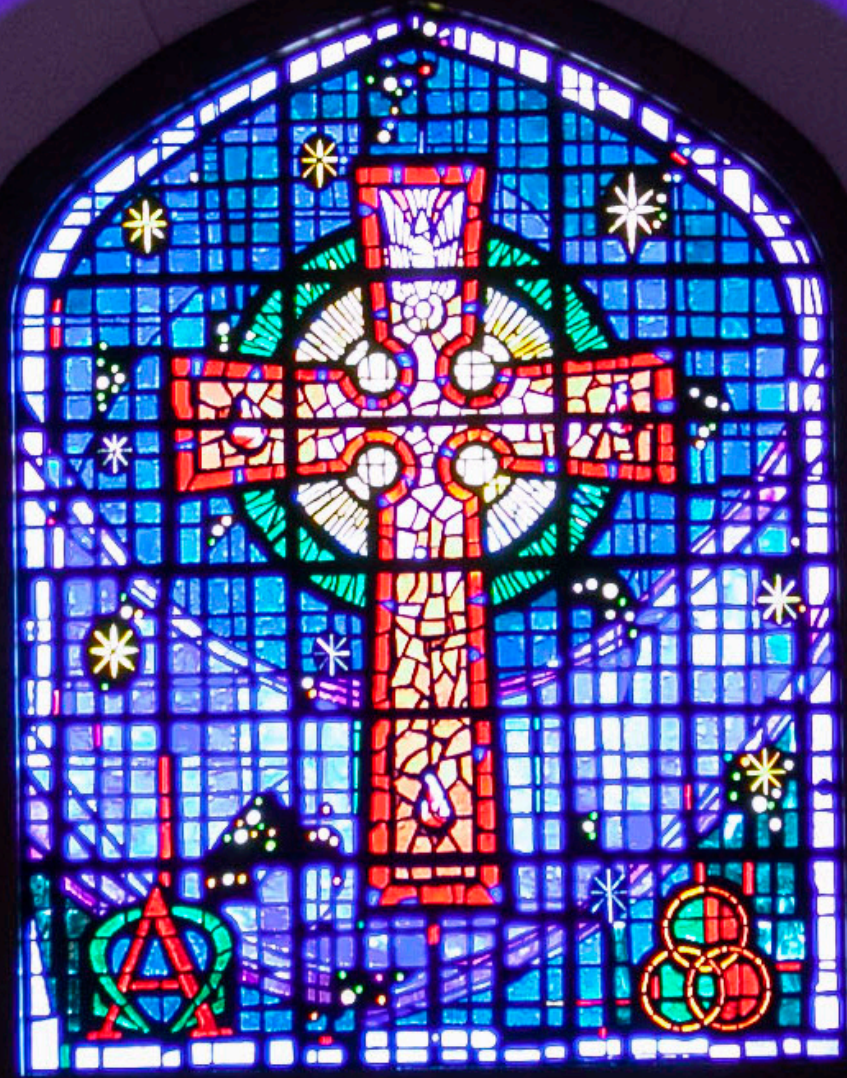
First Presbyterian  
Church of Edmond

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**2022**

**Annual Report**

**NEW LIFE,** through **JESUS,**  
for **EDMOND** and the **WORLD.**







## ERIC'S LETTER

2022 was a great year for First Presbyterian Church of Edmond. As we emerged from some of the fallout from the previous two years, we saw a congregation determined to pursue our vision of new life through Jesus for Edmond and the world. I wanted to share with you some of God's work through First Pres last year. It is some of the evidence of what Jesus is doing in our midst. Most importantly, as we begin 2023, many of us sense the Holy Spirit working in a new and more profound way.

In January, we welcomed Alisa Childers, who spoke about the perils of progressive Christianity and provided a Biblical response for this growing movement. She also taught parents how to speak with their children about important issues raised by progressive Christianity. This event drew people from Oklahoma, Missouri, Kansas, Arkansas, and Texas. The new year kicked off with an amazing lineup of classes, and we saw increasing numbers in those classes and in our 9:00AM Worship. We continued our partnership with César Chávez Elementary School with our monthly collection for their Food Pantry. Volunteers carried the donations down and prayed with families and leaders from César Chávez. First Pres gave nearly \$240,000 to missions in 2022, about 10% of our budget.

With the coming of March, the Alpha Course launched at Café Evoke in downtown Edmond. In April, we experienced huge crowds for Easter, the biggest in many years. Lots of people we haven't seen in a while returned following the pandemic. We welcomed Steven Curtis Chapman for a concert in our sanctuary. We also pioneered Serve Day with several local congregations, doing work projects at four different schools and blessing our community. Hundreds of people from First Pres and other congregations took part in this amazing event!

We took 22 people on a Footsteps of Jesus Pilgrimage in Israel, while our fifth and sixth graders went to Student Life Camp in Waxahachie, Texas. We hired some amazing new staff members in our Youth and Kids Ministries. Five amazing interns served in youth and communications over the summer in our internship ministry. We also welcomed 174 kids and 98 volunteers for Vacation Bible School. We launched Park Play Dates for families in our newly remodeled playground, and several of those families are now part of First Pres. In July, 45 youth and leaders went to Camp Generate in Estes Park, Colorado. We studied the Psalms together over the summer with a sermon series and daily readings for 100 days, from Memorial Day through Labor Day. Improvements continued in our building—including painting, flooring, new carpet, and an upgraded lock and security system for the building.

Our Connection Sunday event in August gave us opportunities to become part of ministries, classes, and small groups at First Pres; we welcomed nearly twenty mission and community partners into our Great Hall. We once again served Central Middle School with the Apple Tree program, providing teachers with much needed supplies and teaching materials. The Wednesday Night Gathering continued in the Fall with small groups, classes, and, of course, the wonderful meal. We collected thousands of dollars' worth of supplies for Infant Crisis Services, who were in dire need of assistance. At the same time, another group from First Pres traveled on the Footsteps of Jesus experience in Israel. Our youth experienced Celebration at Canyon Camp.

The Session voted to approve a maintenance and improvement campaign to address some facility needs as well as repurpose and renew the original 1962 building. First Pres continued to serve through the holidays. We played a big role in pulling off the Edmond Community Thanksgiving Meal, and we packed 135 Operation Christmas Child boxes.

December was packed with Advent events including the J.S. Bach Oratorium at Rose State College, Jingle Jam, Night of Worship, Sunday morning worship led by Jami Smith, a kids and youth event snow-tubing at Bricktown Ballpark, Christmas Eve worship, and finally a Christmas morning worship led by our elders.

As we wrap up the first quarter of 2023, we continue to see many of these great trends continue. The Holy Spirit is at work and it is great to see! Thank you for your willingness to play a part in His great and exciting work!

In Jesus,  
Eric Laverentz

# DIACONATE

Greetings to you in the love of Christ,

The Holy Spirit worked powerfully in 2022 in encouraging the congregation to serve the Church and community! In telling you some of the things that happened in hospitality and care, I am hoping you will say a prayer of thanksgiving for the following ministries that wonderfully inspire us to share new life through Jesus for Edmond and the world.

I've been asked what it was like to lead the Diaconate (board of Deacons) in 2022, and my answer is that it was incredible to work with such a dedicated group. Gratitude was expressed as the deacon class of 2022 rolled off the board and the class of 2025 was ordained and installed. Here are the names of those from the last four deacon classes:



## **Class of 2022**

Amy Aldridge  
Debbie Bower  
Beth Hall  
Rich Hammervold  
Melinda Norton  
Frank Smith  
Jackie Stafford  
Anita Wilson

## **Class of 2023**

David Dude  
Carolyn Duvall  
Jeffrey Eckert  
Bill Moguein  
Donna Plewes  
Terri Winblad

## **Class of 2024**

Chris Hardwick  
Heath Heine  
David Hull  
Mary Port  
Kristi Roberts  
Gina Sewell  
Mary Shipp

## **Class of 2025**

Henry Boecking  
Bobbie Hiltbrand  
Bob Launhardt  
Lee McCart  
Melinda Norton  
Jason Port  
Thomas Webber

Deacons met several times over the course of the year; they prayed, worshiped and planned together to serve the people of our congregation and others. Deacon teams prepared and cleared away the table each time The Lord's Supper was served on the first Sunday of each month, and they served at the table during a wonderful Maundy Thursday celebration. Shut-in members were visited and served homebound communion on a regular basis. Deacons helped provide hospitality at the Welcome Center and at the refreshment window on Sundays and during holiday worship services. Meals and receptions for grieving families after memorial services were provided by the deacons. The benevolence team helped those in need of rent and utility bill assistance. And the Deacon Angel Tree returned during Advent to enlist the help of our congregation to provide tangible gifts to needy families and individuals at Central Middle School, Sunset Elementary School, and the Timbers Assisted Living Center. Deacons were the hands and feet of Christ in so many ways in 2022!

In the ministry of care, church members stepped up to visit people in hospitals and assisted living centers. Stephen Ministers met for training meetings throughout the year to remain solidly equipped for grief care. The care/prayer card ministry provided an outstanding way to reach out to those who requested prayers over the course of the year. Our church stepped up in a big way with meals prepared for families dealing with illness or bereavement and for those in Edmond who experience hunger. Many funerals/memorial services were held in the church last year, and each one required musicians, technicians, and pastoral care. All these teams are undergirded by prayer, so please keep praying for them as they pour out the love of Christ.

With wonderful hearts, the hospitality teams made a difference in how everyone, especially first-time guests, were made to feel welcome in our church building last year. It began as church attendees were greeted by volunteers from the parking lot to the entrances, to the sanctuary, to classes and to spaces like the Great Hall, refreshment window, and Welcome Center. Coffee and donuts were served during times of worship and Wednesday evening Gathering meals were served to facilitate fellowship. Seventeen people were welcomed into membership in 2022.

In all these things, hundreds of people worked to make hospitality and care happen. Bringing many and various gifts of the Spirit, the workers in God's harvest field make a tremendous impact for the Kingdom of God.

I am very, very thankful for the life we share together at First Presbyterian Church. As we worshiped, prayed, and served together in 2022, I was continually in awe of our God, who is good to us all the time. As the Apostle Paul wrote to the church in Philippi, "I thank my God every time I remember you. In all my prayers for all of you, I always pray with joy because of your partnership in the gospel from the first day until now, being confident of this, that he who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus."

Peace and grace,  
Reverend Matt Jones



# FPCE SESSION

## Class of 2022

Blaine Bolding | Mark Britton | Amy Reid  
Crystal McGee DePue

## Class of 2023

Jennifer Attebery | Brian Horner | Jim Hartzog  
Elizabeth Koester

## Class of 2024

Tim Hast | Kari Galliard | Kay Denny  
Andrew Harris | Marsha Williams (*partial term*)



## Class of 2025

Marsha Williams | Emily Blaess | Bob Stafford  
Ben Meek

# PARTNERS

The Covenant Partners who were welcomed into membership in 2022 are:

Barbara Emanuelson | Suzanne Harris | Ben Harris  
Phil Krum | Ileana LaTorre-Krum | Ilean Krum  
Philip Lyons | Deborah Myers | Tim Pedersen  
Jon Peterson | Sandra Peterson | Emily Hendryx  
Dwayne Schmidt | Susan Schmidt | Bobby Simma  
Dayna Simma | Dana Wilkerson



# FPCE DEACONS

## Class of 2022

Amy Aldridge | Debbie Bower | Beth Hall  
Richard Hammervold | Melinda Norton  
Frank Smith | Jackie Stafford | Anita Wilson

## Class of 2023

David Dude | Carolyn Duvall | Jeff Eckert  
Bill Moguin | Donna Plewes | Terri Winblad

## Class of 2024

Kristi Roberts | Chris Hardwick | David Hull  
Gina Sewell | Heath Heine | Mary Port  
Mary Shipp

## Class of 2025

Henry Boecking | Bobbie Hiltbrand  
Lee McCart | Melinda Norton | Jason Port  
Thomas Webber | Bob Launhardt

# BAPTISMS

Our new brothers and sisters in Christ who were baptized in 2022 are:

Delilah Dunn | Leila Dunn | Lexi Bath | Paisley Little  
Cameron Cahalan | Sutton Zimmerman  
Kurt Denning | JoBi Heath | Will Jones

## The Church Triumphant:

Dina Pedersen | Pat Nichols  
Gene Wilson | Ben McCarley  
Vickie Nichols | Judy Gross  
Ruthanne Love | Evelyn Moots

## Endowment Fund

Any of us with an IRA, 401k, or other invested money know that 2022 was a difficult year. Neither was our endowment portfolio immune to declining market forces. We saw a change in value of -16.41%. As I have reported in previous years, endowment funds are invested with a long term approach in a balanced portfolio of 60% stocks and 40% bonds. The Board of Trustees continues to maintain that position. Below is the year-end financial statement.

While the investment world was experiencing declines, endowment donors made contributions totaling \$5,830. We admire your faithful support of this aspect of God's financial plan for FPCE.

Also, on a positive note, during the Church Improvement and Maintenance Feasibility Study undertaken in 2022, it was reported that 35 families have included the church in their estate plans. This is a wonderful example of stewardship in the larger sense. Returning a portion of God's blessings is a wonderful tribute to a Christian life.

Respectfully Submitted,

Paul M. Thomson  
President, Endowment Board

### Undesignated Fund

#### Asset Composition

Cash Equivalents	\$352
TPF Balanced Pooled Fund	\$58,181
<u>Market Value at 12/31/22</u>	<u>\$58,533</u>

#### Summary of Activity

<b>Balance at 12/31/21</b>	<b>\$64,192</b>
Contributions	\$5,830
Income	\$4,560
Change in value	(16,049)
<b>Balance at 12/31/22</b>	<b>\$58,533</b>

**YTD Return Calculation**                      **-16.41%**

## Property Committee

The Property Committee is responsible for the oversight of all Church property, grounds, and vehicles, including maintenance and upgrades. Additionally, the Property Committee is responsible for establishing building safety and security policies and procedures.

The committee had a challenging year dealing with supply chain issues resulting from the pandemic. The hard work and conscientious diligence of our Facility Manager, Joe Nusz, helped us overcome these obstacles. In July, Nick Wein was hired to assist Joe with his many tasks around the Church property.

During the year, the Great Hall and Level One rooms were carpeted, Level One was repainted, a new HVAC was installed for the important part of the Church and new outside directional signage was installed. The major accomplishment was the purchase and installation of a new security system for the Church.

## Finance Committee

The purpose of the Finance Committee is generally to ensure that the church's financial resources are managed with a high standard of stewardship, that Session, staff, and other leaders are provided with timely and useful information regarding the income and expenditure of funds, that the congregation is encouraged to generously support the church's mission with their giving, that the church's mission plans are supported by achievable annual budgets and longer term fiscal planning, and that the church's financial resources are safeguarded by appropriate insurance coverage and effective internal controls.

The committee is accountable to Session, which approves the appointments of all who serve on the committee. Session delegates certain responsibilities to the Finance Committee and reserves its authority to review and change the committee's decisions. In 2022, the committee did an extensive review of the roles of both the Committee and Church Treasurer-







-(who has the role of overseeing, in conjunction with the Finance Committee, the business integrity of the church body and faithfully stewarding the resources that God has entrusted to the church).

An extensive review was also performed on FPCE's internal control structure, which is designed to provide reasonable assurance to the Session, Session Committees, and to the congregation that assets and resources are protected and managed appropriately.

The internal control structure includes policies and procedures to provide reasonable assurance that records, in reasonable detail, accurately and fairly reflect the transactions of the entity, transactions are recorded as necessary to facilitate accurate preparation of financial statements, receipts and expenditures are valid and in accordance with appropriate authorization, use of FPCE property is appropriate, and detection / correction of unauthorized use, if any, is timely.

#### **The Finance Committee membership in 2022:**

Bill Roberts – Committee Chair  
 Todd Cooper – Executive Pastor and Staff Representative  
 Rick McGee – Church Treasurer  
 Brian Horner – Session Representative  
 Lavaughn Carey – Secretary  
 Paul Haxton – Member  
 Ryan Siler – Member  
 Barbara Walke – Member  
 Ken Rees – Ex-Officio Member (non-voting)  
 Kristin Emerson – Director of Financial Services and Staff Representative (non-voting)

Rick McGee officially ended his service as Church Treasurer after faithfully serving for many years. We are so very thankful for all of the leadership and guidance Rick gave to the committee and church!

The financial condition of the church is excellent, and 2022 was a year where we were again tremendously blessed by the faithful giving of the congregation. The following is a summary of the year's financial results as submitted by Bill Roberts, Finance Committee Chair:

#### **Statement of Revenues & Expenses for 2022**

	Budget	Actual Prelim	Variance Fav (Unfav)
<b><u>Revenues:</u></b>			
Pledged Receipts	\$2,007,692	\$1,861,744	\$(145,948)
Unpledged Receipts	\$341,954	\$470,606	\$128,652
Nonidentifiable	-	\$10,513	\$10,513
Prepledge Gifts	-	\$38,800	\$38,800
Other	\$8,000	\$29,919	\$21,919
<b>Total Revenues</b>	<b>\$2,357,646</b>	<b>\$2,411,582</b>	<b>\$53,936</b>
<b><u>Department Net Expenses:</u></b>			
Front Office	\$12,500	\$12,278	\$222
Central Middle School Outreach	\$22,800	\$7,171	\$15,629
Adult Ministry	\$16,950	\$19,292	\$(2,342)
Kids Ministry	\$18,130	\$14,711	\$3,419
Youth Ministry	\$15,500	\$36,682	\$(21,182)
Israel Trip	-	\$20,675	\$(20,675)
Communications	\$46,534	\$43,130	\$3,404
Deacons/ Congregational Care	\$8,500	\$5,672	\$2,828
Hospitality	\$8,950	\$(6,095)	\$15,045
ECO Focus	\$34,679	\$33,391	\$1,288
Emerging Generations	\$53,000	\$57,528	\$(4,528)
Finance (excluding depreciation)	\$140,089	\$107,103	\$32,986
Missions	\$232,975	\$235,104	\$(2,129)
Music & Worship	\$27,250	\$(21,529)	\$48,779
Personnel	\$1,543,248	\$1,544,573	\$(1,325)
Property (excluding capital expenditures)	\$270,340	\$173,180	\$97,160
<b>Total Net Expenses</b>	<b>\$2,451,445</b>	<b>\$2,282,866</b>	<b>\$168,579</b>
<b>Net Surplus (Deficit)</b>	<b>\$(93,799)</b>	<b>\$128,716</b>	<b>\$222,515</b>



## Personnel Committee

In many ways, 2022 was a year of transition and growth at First Presbyterian Church. We welcomed many new faces in various ministries throughout the church. As we hope you have seen and experienced, they have helped us find new and exciting ways to share the gospel and the love of Christ.

As part of its core mission, the Personnel Committee supported Pastor Cooper in staff personnel actions and decisions throughout the year. The Committee participated in the hiring decisions that brought Jake McKinnon on as Director of Student Ministry, Brynna Duncan as Associate Director of Student Ministry, and Hannah McKinnon as Associate Director of Kids' Ministry. The Committee also worked with the efforts of the search team that recruited Erick Alexander as Director of Modern Worship and Sara Ledford as Team Lead of Traditional Worship.

In 2022, all staff at First Presbyterian participated in the 5 Voices communication training. The goal of the training was to help all staff discover their leadership voice, and to empower and equip them to use it effectively. The Committee met with trainers to get feedback on the training, and to look at next steps for the future.

The Personnel Committee has looked for ways to show our love and appreciation for every staff member at First Presbyterian. The Committee sponsored a holiday staff appreciation lunch at the restaurant Vast in Oklahoma City. We hope to do much more in 2023. The Personnel Committee is grateful for the commitment and dedication of every staff member at First Presbyterian.

In 2022, the Personnel Committee members were: Jennifer Attebery, Amy Reid, Amanda Stansberry, Sarah Timberlake, Jim Bower, Tim Hast and Andy Fugitt.





# 2022 FPCE STAFF

## Pastoral Staff

Rev. Dr. Eric Laverentz	Lead Pastor
Rev. Matt Jones	Hospitality & Care Pastor
Rev. Todd Cooper	Executive Pastor

## Support Staff

Jamie Mullings	Office Manager
Chelsea Smith	Administrative Assistant
Emma Miller	Front Desk Administrative Assistant
Jean Carroll	Church Hostess

## Finance

Kristin Emerson	Director of Financial Services
Karla Launhardt	Accountant

## Family Ministry

Brett Hardy	Director of Emerging Generations
Danielle Jones	Director of Kids Ministry
Hannah McKinnon	Associate Director of Kids Ministry
Jake McKinnon	Director of Student Ministry
Brynnan Duncan	Associate Director of Student Ministry

## Property

Joe Nusz	Director of Facilities
Jim Pennington	Groundskeeper
Larry Shields	Custodian
Shayla Cooksey	Custodian
Patricia Herrod	Custodian

## Worship Arts

Erick Alexander	Director of Modern Worship
Sara Ledford	Team Lead – Traditional Worship
Tracy Gregg-Boothby	Director of Choral Music
Tom Boles	Sound Engineer
Marla Belcher	Accompanist

## Communications

Tyler Boren	Director of Communications
Laura Smethers	Graphic Design

## Interns

Chase McManis	Student Ministry Intern
Ruth Anne Dunn	Student Ministry Intern

Eduardo Martinez	After School Intern
Abigail Leach	After School Intern
Will Jones	EG/ Comm. Intern
Abbey Wetzel	Communications Intern
Meredith McKinnon	Communications Intern
Kim Thomas-Cobb	Worship Intern
Kurt Denning	Pastoral Ministry Intern

## Nursery

Chiqueta Shields	Nursery Provider
Kendra Blackwell	Nursery Provider
Sarah Blackwell	Nursery Provider
Cary Denzler	Nursery Provider
Hope Dunn	Nursery Provider
Mary Lopez	Nursery Provider
Deanna Nichols	Nursery Provider

## Early Childhood Program

Mary Singleton	Director of ECP
Kelli Pereira	Assistant Director ECP
Kendra Blackwell	Teacher
Sarah Blackwell	Teacher
Kayla Clark	Teacher
Holly Cole	Teacher
Michelle Curran	Teacher
Cindy Debenedictis	Teacher
Mary Jane Donohoe	Teacher
Denise Griffin	Teacher
Amber Loberg	Teacher
Holly Lopez	Teacher
Mary Lopez	Teacher
Amy Lovero	Teacher
Lindsey McBride	Teacher
Michelle McCormick	Teacher
Carol Melson	Teacher
Nicole Pearce	Aide
Andera Perkins	Teacher
Sheila Semsch	Administrative Assistant
Melissa Shatto	Teacher
Teresa Springer	Teacher
Kristin Stewart	Music Teacher
Leslie Sundberg	Aide
Erica Temple	Teacher
Tracie Van Vuren	Teacher
Kim Wagner	Teacher
Erin Walenta	Teacher
Jamie Watkins	Teacher

# WORSHIP

The year 2022 presented an unexpected challenge, which ultimately resulted in a fabulous outpouring of God's faithfulness to our church music program. Shortly before Easter, our minister of worship arts heeded God's call to serve in another church. In a cooperative effort led by our Pastor and session, we set about forming a search committee for a new worship arts leader. We proposed that the search committee could more promptly set about their work if they were not encumbered by finding an interim for the immediate needs of the music ministries.



***Instead, with prayer and commitment, a volunteer effort from within our church stepped forward to continue our music programs without interruption.***

Volunteers from the worship band, church choir, technical staff, and accompanists led by session and the worship vision team led their first service a week before Easter, and continued their services until a new worship arts leader could be found. Guest musicians were scheduled for Easter and several other ensuing Sundays, supported by the choir and worship band. Three Modern worship music teams were formed and were led by members of the worship band. Collaboration with the church choir and worship band for continuation of the Team Sunday program occurred on a monthly basis. Choir members and accompanists, including choir director Tracey Greg-Boothby, also served on worship teams and participated in modern worship. A wonderful sense of joyful unity resulted.

The search committee worked diligently and presented

four candidates for the minister of worship arts position during the summer. These candidates were presented to the church staff, worship band, choir, and tech groups (including auditions). It became apparent during this process that perhaps the future needs of all aspects of the music ministry might be enhanced by creating two positions to fulfill the future vision we had. These job descriptions were created by the Pastor and session, resulting in a leader for modern worship and technical aspects of ministry, as well as a leader for coordination of traditional worship and future projects.



The call for the contemporary worship and technical ministries director was extended to Erick Alexander in late July, and he assumed the position in August. He is familiar to FPCE in that he has assisted us with his many talents in the past. He is a man of faith with an array of musical skills and creativity. In addition to leading and coordinating modern worship, since his arrival, he has written original songs based on the scriptures of each new sermon series which have provided unique insight and familiarity.



The call for the traditional worship position was extended to Sara Ledford in the fall, and she assumed the position in November. She brings incredible musical training, experience, and creativity to her new position, as well as being an accomplished pianist and vocalist.

For the first time, a Christmas Variety Show was held that had participation from our music groups of all ages and styles, proceeded by a team gathering in the Great Hall. Two shared Christmas Eve services and an Elder-led Christmas morning service completed the season!

We are so thankful for God's faithfulness in our Worship Ministry! The year 2023 promises to be full of fantastic worship and more with God's leading!

- Tim Siler



I am truly so blessed to be at First Pres. This experience I've had here for the last 6 months is nothing short of a giant blessing. Still being the obvious "new guy", by the time the year was up, I thought it best that Tim Siler put his thoughts into words about the summation of a busy year of spirit searching. The only error in having Tim do this was the fact that he didn't take the spot light and shine it back around on himself.

So, let me tell you about the front row seat I was given to see a handful of servants (who are basically retired none-the-less!) give their time, efforts, and prayers to a music ministry that had no one in the driver's seat. People like Marla Belcher, Tim Siler, Ben Meek, Ryan & Alyssa Siler . . . you all kept this ship sailing! Thank you ALL for inspiring ME! Marla, thank you for loving on me and helping me get started here with no manual. I feel

very blessed to have shared your last few months with you (before your retirement).

I'd like to thank Tommy for his never-ending work with our tech challenges. I've played in a LOT of places over the years, and Tommy remains one of the best engineers I know. Though neither of us could do what we do without the help of our amazing team of people who volunteer their time and skills on the tech crew (Bob Brown, Keith Callihan, Philip Lyons, Josh Lee, Matthew Port, Jonathan Dunn, Nick Bath & Zach Morris)

Lastly, I'm grateful that God led Sara Ledford to us. Sara has been a joy to work with and is exactly the person that was needed to take traditional worship to wonderful new places.

-Erick Alexander







## Early Childhood Program

One of the greatest things about ECP begins at 9:15 each morning when the 30 members of the ECP staff gather in the hallway for devotions and prayer before the start of the school day. The outflow of this meeting is beyond measurable as we see our staff and families coming together around hurting families and individuals.

Families experiencing death have been comforted; children experiencing family turmoil or trauma have a consistent, loving place to come each day, and families and staff experiencing cancer diagnoses have had their practical needs met. ECP is more than just a school and much more than simple childcare. ECP is a family, and the list above is just a very small window into the ways in which God is alive and working.

2022 brought with it some exciting program additions. During the summer of 2022, ECP and Kids Ministry worked together to provide Park Play Dates on our beautiful playground to ECP and FPCE families. Several of these ECP families made connections with our church family during this time and have become active in FPCE.



Another exciting addition to ECP in 2022 was the addition of a "Discovery Lab." The Discovery Lab is a room fully devoted to hands-on STEAM learning. (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, and Math) This room is, by far, a favorite with our preschool students as they experiment in an open-ended fashion in numerous ways, including large-scale ramp systems, tinkering tables, building materials, art materials, and so much more. We like to describe this as our in-house version of a science museum!

Physical upgrades to the facility this year included the

removal of old mulch, the addition of turf to the nursery/CDO courtyard, painting of the ECP classrooms, replacement of numerous classroom rugs and furnishings, and a contribution of \$30,000 to the church to offset custodial costs for the year.

## Kids Ministry

### January

Wednesday nights and Sunday school were launched with an average of 30 kids in attendance at Sunday school and 35 on Wednesdays.

### February

Sunday School and Wednesday Nights stayed strong as we geared up for Lent.

### March

We kicked off the Lenten season with Ash Wednesday services and a pancake dinner. The dinner is a FPCE tradition that we all love! Our 3rd graders started their Bible Class this month as well. March also saw the resignation of Melina Owen, our Associate Director of Kids Ministry. Melina's heart for kids, Jesus, and organization were a beautiful addition to FPCE and her absence was felt in many ways.

### April

The 3rd graders finished up their Bible class and received their completion certificates in service. We had a fabulous Easter morning celebrating the beautiful truth that He is risen! Our Kids Ministry volunteers and Vision Team stepped up during the transition to keep our ministry strong and love on me, and I am so grateful for each of them.

### May

Spring Wednesday nights and Sunday School wrapped up nicely. Our new Associate Director, Hannah McKinnon, joined the team. Hannah is highly gifted in relational ministry, and her joy is evident in all she does. Next, we took 11 Studio56 kids to Waxahachie, Texas for Student Life 4 Kids camp where we worshipped, played, and learned that we serve an EPIC God who EPICLY loves us!



## **June**

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ECP and FPCE Kids teamed up to host Park Play dates at our playground. This was an excellent opportunity for friendships to blossom and for our staff to talk up our wonderful church. VBS came with a bang! We hosted 175 participants and 98 volunteers in an all-hands-on-deck week of crafts, games, worship and Holy Moments!

## **July**

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Studio56 spent the Wednesdays in July playing and growing together. They bowled, swam, attended a Dodgers game, and visited the movie theater. It was the perfect way to spend the hottest days of summer.

## **August**

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The school year kicked off with Connection Sunday where adults learned all about the opportunities for them at FPCE as the kids and their families bounced in the gym. Our Wednesday nights and Sunday School kicked off with an average attendance of 40 kids on Sundays and 35 on Wednesdays.

## **September**

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Our team attended the local Orange Tour where our leaders heard the heart of where our curriculum comes from. It was a wonderful day of team building and re-igniting our fire for ministering to the next generation.

## **October**

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Wednesday nights were at an all-time high. They always begin with a Gaga ball game. The children love this game and love being outside together. Thank you church for your generosity towards our facility!

## **November**

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The church packed over 100 Operation Christmas Child boxes for Samaritan's Purse. The Family Ministry team attended the RightNow Media conference in Dallas, Texas. Students and kids shared an amazing Wednesday night of Turkey bowling. This is sure to be a future fan favorite!

## **December**

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FPCE Kids and Students hosted the first Jingle Jam with many families enjoying silly games, music, the Christmas story, and staying after for cookies and fellowship. Our winter Sunday School wrapped up, and we closed out the year with a Christmas Eve service for the whole family.





# STUDENTS

We have had an awesome year in Student Ministry! We have seen our students come together as a community to worship together, study scripture together, serve together, and celebrate together.

This year we took 40 students and 10 leaders with us to Camp Generate at the YMCA of the Rockies! Our students had a blast worshipping all week alongside fellow brothers and sisters in Christ from across the country. Our students and team loved our time there so much last year that we decided to go back to Camp Generate at YMCA of the Rockies in 2023. There are only 7 spots left for camp next summer! Don't miss out on this epic week to learn about our creator in the beautiful mountains of Colorado. You can sign up for camp on the FPCE website on the STUDENTS page.

Students gathered weekly for Sunday School, where we followed along and took a deep dive into different sermon series. We used the FPCE Sermon Study Guides to help make connections to the sermon and talk through biblical context and background. Our students also gathered 36 times for LIFT this year, where we played games, worshiped, listened to messages, and spent time in small groups learning about the Lord and his faithfulness and promises.

We also started back up our student worship band this year. We have so many incredible gifted students who have given up their time to practice together so that all our students could praise God on Wednesday Nights. The band even performed at the Christmas Night of Worship!

Student Ministry has also hosted events that were designed to bring the community together and create an easy avenue for students to invite their friends to join in on the fun and be welcomed to the community! These events included: Fried Food Night, Dodgers Game, Pool Party, Float Trip, Chicken and Pickle Night, Middle School Nerf Night, Turkey Bowling, White Elephant Christmas Party, and Operation Christmas Child Box Packing where our students packed 33 boxes to add to the grand total this year.

Lastly, we are so thankful for all our amazing families, volunteers, and small group leaders. We would not be able to do everything we do without your support! Huge shout out to our Sunday School Volunteers and LIFT small group leaders for the time you have taken out of your busy schedules to share God's love with the students! Again, we cannot express how much we appreciate our parents for bringing their students, providing supplies, and partnering with us to create a thriving student ministry where the students of the church can have fun and fellowship together while growing in their relationships with Christ together.



# AFTER SCHOOL

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2022 was another amazing year for our Afterschool Ministry, serving our neighbor across the street Central Middle School. Through the last couple of years, we have seen many iterations of what happens through this ministry, yet one thing has remained true: God is continuing to show up and make Himself apparent to students and our volunteers. Throughout the year of 2022, we hosted over 200 students who filled our space with community and various forms of fellowship. Through our Afterschool program, we put our 7 core practices at the center of what we do, and we can see many of them lived out. Like serving our community, sharing who we are, and creating and sending leaders.

**Serve Community:** Our church has a unique opportunity that lets us cater to our community. As a church, we are built and equipped for more than just opening our doors on Sunday mornings. Our Afterschool ministry has allowed us to open our doors to Central Middle School Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays to provide a space for students to come and have a safe place to go while waiting for their parents or rides home.



**Share Who You Are:** Each of us has a story about who we are, where we came from, and how we got to where we are today. And we have seen the importance of sharing that with the students that come through our doors each day. It is a favorite of ours at Afterschool, and we are continually seeing walls and borders being broken down. By sharing those stories and being honest with our students, we are showing the vulnerability of sharing who we are with them.

**Create and Send Leaders:** Our team consists of volunteers and interns from our student ministry team. Building up our interns and equipping them for what is next is one of our favorite practices. We love being able to build up the next generation of leaders for our church or elsewhere. You may recognize this with Jake McKinnon, who served as Afterschool Coordinator up until 2021 as he felt his call to ministry, accepting the role of Youth Director at Bonhomme Pres in St. Louis and now returning as Director of Student Ministries at FPCE in May of 2022. As well as our Associate Director Brynna Duncan moving from an Afterschool and Student Ministry Intern to accepting her call into Ministry in June 2022.



If you would like to get involved in Afterschool, you can contact Will Jones at [wjones@fpcedmond.org](mailto:wjones@fpcedmond.org)! We love welcoming new people to our team and are grateful for the time volunteered (and the snacks provided). Thank you to everyone who has contributed this past year. We are beyond thrilled to see what the Lord has in store for this Ministry as we kick off 2023.

# EMERGING GENERATIONS

2022 was an awesome year for our Emerging Generations. Personally, I have absolutely loved working with our Family Ministry team to bring more opportunities for our FPCE families to engage and grow spiritually, and I have been blown away by the ways that God continues to bring such incredible young adults to our internship program! Our young adult and college ministry continued its growth in 2022, not only numerically but also spiritually.

In 2022 our young adult and college ministry gathered on Thursday evenings all summer long at our home for food, fire pits, and community. We gathered each Sunday morning for a deep dive into God's Word, and our small group met every Wednesday evening under the leadership of Jim Hartzog to talk about Biblical application in the real world. God has been faithful at bringing new faces to this community and we believe He is just getting started.

In 2022 we also had an incredible year with our FPCE interns! First Pres invested heavily in our internship program in 2022 and God did some really great things in the lives and hearts of our team. We had Meredith McKinnon in Communications, Chase McManis in Student Ministry, Ruth Anne Dunn in Student Ministry, Kurt Denning in Pastoral Ministry, Will Jones in Emerging Generations, Eduardo Martinez in our After School Ministry, and Brynнан Duncan in our Student Ministry—who moved into a full-time role as our Associate Director of Student Ministry! Each week the interns met to grow in their spiritual lives, their leadership abilities, and to set personal growth goals. It was truly remarkable to watch God do some special things in their lives as they poured out their talents and passions in service to His Kingdom.



## Footsteps of Jesus

Finally, in 2022 we were so incredibly blessed to be able to take nine of our FPCE young adults to Israel on our Footsteps of Jesus Pilgrimage! It was an absolutely incredible trip. I genuinely believe that this trip changed lives.

Not only did four of our young adults get baptized in the Jordan River, but every single one of them experienced a life-changing, Holy Spirit inspired moment at different points along our pilgrimage. I will never forget watching these young adults process the reality that they were tangibly walking and experiencing the very place where the events of the Bible took place!

God spoke to my heart as I watched this happen over and over again on our fourteen-day journey, and I believe that this trip was just the tip of the iceberg for how God will use future Israel trips to unlock something special in our young adult ministry here at FPCE.

- Brett Hardy



# ADULT DISCIPLESHIP



***“The proper study of a Christian is the Godhead. The highest science, the loftiest speculation, the mightiest philosophy, which can ever engage the attention of a child of God, is the name, the nature, the person, the work, the doings, and the existence of the great God whom he calls his Father.”***

***- Charles Spurgeon***

Adult Discipleship (Christian Education and Small Groups) focuses on improving and developing a closer relationship with Jesus Christ. On Sundays, we average nine Christian Education offerings with approximately 175 attendees. Class sizes range from 7 to 50. We strive to cover topics in a variety of formats, including a deep dive into the Bible with understanding and application, contemporary theological issues, personal relationships, and family issues.

All Adult Discipleship studies emphasize the 7 Core Practices and are approved by Session. We also continue to form micro-groups based on the sermon series. Pastor Eric authors study guides for each series, and those are distributed in person or online through the First Pres app or website.

On Wednesday nights, we offer Christian Education classes that run concurrently with our Kids and Student

Ministries. These classes follow “The Gathering,” which is our weekly meal. Wednesday night classes vary every semester, with offerings ranging from, “Jesus: Healer, Teacher, Savior; A Study of the Gospel of Mark,” taught by Pastor Matt Jones in Spring 2022, to “Discovering your Spiritual Gifts,” taught by Crystal McGee DePue in Fall 2022.



Friday Morning Men’s Group, which functions as a multiple small group ministry as well as fellowship and education, may be a DVD driven study, book study, or teacher-led study. This group averages around 30 participants, per week. The Women’s Ministry offers studies to approximately 80 women. The Women’s Ministry offers two different meeting times weekly, to build fellowship and provide education on the Bible.

We have an amazing “faculty” of experienced and dedicated teachers who are eager to mentor those who might be leaning towards teaching. If you feel led to teach a class at FPCE please reach out to Lee Schmidt or Jamie Mullings.



# MISSIONS

As we try to practice the Seven Core Values, the missions that we support with our prayers, time, and money seem to be focused on Care for One Another, Serve Community, and Create and Send Leaders.

We support missions that rescue people from the calamities of life. We pray for the staff, and fund missions that seek to restore people to dignity and productivity. We travel with missions that develop opportunities for multiple generations of people to thrive. In all these endeavors, the Good News of the Kingdom of God is proclaimed.

## **In 2022 we supported financially:**

Rescue Ministry: Edmond, OKC, Regional Disasters

Development Missions: Edmond, OKC, Africa

Pastoral Training: Egypt, Uganda, Arab World, USA

Proclamation: Edmond, OKC, Dallas Asian Community, USA

New Church: St Louis, Uganda

Restoration Missions: Edmond, Prisons, OKC

Student Ministry: France, Japan, UCO, OSU

Mission Interns: USA

Orphan Care: Kenya

Medical Clinic: Edmond, Uganda

## **Funds Expended in 2022 were:**

Donor Designated: \$ 11,609

General Fund: \$225,844

Local: 63%

International: 37%





# MINISTRY SUPPORT

The role of the Executive Pastor is to provide leadership for staff oversight and culture, stewardship, and communications, as well as oversight for the facilities and finance teams at FPCE. The Executive Pastor serves the Lead Pastor, assuming executive leadership, allowing the Lead Pastor to focus on his calling as Vision Catalyst, Lead Communicator, and Primary Teaching Pastor. The Executive Pastor provides creative leadership, teaching, and vision to partner with the Session to ensure the alignment of FPCE's ministries toward the successful execution of our mission and vision. I am grateful to be surrounded by such a great team of staff and volunteers. With those key servants helping lead the way, the Church will be blessed and the Kingdom will flourish.



# COMMUNICATIONS

2022 saw significant growth in our Communications Department. The team added two new members, which allowed them to create custom graphics, study guides, and videos to enhance what we already had in place. We saw our congregation continue to use our FPCE app as a tool to watch sermons and receive announcements. On Sunday mornings, our volunteer team grew in numbers to help with live streaming our services, lighting the chancel, running cameras, and operating the computer that shows our slides.

The team promoted events like Jami Smith, Steven Curtis Chapman, Alisa Childers, Serve Day, Alpha, and, of course, our big holidays like Easter and Christmas. We also promoted many of our Community Partners and local and international missionaries. Our Communications team continues to find creative ways to keep you updated with announcements about all that God is doing in our congregation.

**SHARE WHO YOU ARE**  
**CARE FOR ONE ANOTHER**  
**READ & PRACTICE SCRIPTURE**  
**PRAY TOGETHER**  
**INVEST IN PEOPLE**  
**SERVE COMMUNITY**  
**CREATE & SEND LEADERS**

