REPORT TO THE CONGREGATION

AUGUST 2016 - JULY 2017 First Presbyterian Church

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INTRODUCTION

In the coming year at First Pres, we will again focus on a theme from the prophet Micah, in particular, Micah 6:8. We will use the seemingly simple fundamentals of this verse to guide the ways in which we live out our call to be disciples of Jesus Christ.

Although the content is different from last year's Annual Report, this year's report is again organized by Micah's three-fold summary of God's expectations. Rather than attempting to enumerate everything we do at First Pres, this year's report highlights a few events that are representative of how we as a community walk the path Micah sets forth.

The Annual Report not only gives examples of how we have done justice, loved kindness, and walked humbly with God over the past year, but also serves to encourage us to continue our purpose and mission as a faith community in the coming year. Micah challenges us to keep questioning how will we work for fairness and equality for all, particularly the weak and powerless? How will we ensure love, loyalty, and faithfulness are the cornerstones of our relationships? How will we consider our life's journey with circumspect rather than with knee-jerk reactions? And how will we carefully put Christ first in all the moments of our lives?

"He has told you, O mortal, what is good; and what does the LORD require of you but to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God?" Micah 6:8



DOJUSTICE

Preparations begin weeks before: the meal is planned, volunteers solicited, and the call for food donations is made. Then, in many different capacities, First Pres members come together to host the Thanksgiving

Meal, continuing this long-standing tradition of serving The Blue Ridge House, a rehabilitation center serving those recovering from the impact of mental illness.





Strengthening and building upon our already long-standing relationship with Habitat for Humanity, First Pres youth proudly make a commitment to regular build days-the first church in the area to begin a lasting relationship between youth and Habitat's service to the community.







More than twenty First Pres members gather on the Sanctuary steps prior to the July KKK Rally. Together, they walk to the Justice/Jackson Park, praying that love is stronger than hate. The racial events in our area challenge us to explore what it means to "stand firm in our pursuit of justice and the honoring of all peoples...united in our common humanity as beloved people of God."



LOVE KINDNESS

Twice a year, in a combined service at 10 o'clock, we welcome new members and confirmands into our congregation. Gathered on the lawn, we celebrate and eat together, learning about one another, becoming closer as a community, and building intergenerational relationships that can last a lifetime. This spring, we said goodbye and express our gratitude to Kendall Pearson after her long tenure with our youth.





For four weeks, people of all ages join together for a unique intergenerational class, exploring Advent through self-guided stations using scripture, crafts, and activities. Each week, energy and happiness permeate the rooms as members and families enjoy the time to connect with one another and learn together. Concluding the series, St. Nicholas makes a memorable visit, teaching children of all ages the historical account of Christmas.



Loving Kindness Within the Church

Teach on Sunday morning Host fellowship time Lead the youth Serve and prepare communion and extended communion Host or provide food for funeral receptions Serve as ushers and greeters Deliver flowers Knit prayer shawls Bake or serve at soup kitchen Provide 30 minutes of care assistance before worship Lead the conversation with children Work in the memorial garden Help with property and maintenance projects Help with children's activities

Serve on the chancel team Assemble worship bags Record weekly attendance Make AGAPE visits Serve as a Stephen minister





WALK HUMBLY WITH GOD

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The congregation joins together in one combined service to celebrate the welcoming of new members and the ordination of Aram Bae. Aram's ordination and installation is the culmination of months of work by the Associate Pastor Nominating Committee.



How can a worship service be reimagined and redeveloped to meet today's needs? The community is invited and new faces arrive through open doors for the entirety of Ash Wednesday. Pastors place ashes on foreheads and people linger at prayer stations, coloring in prayer, lighting a candle, silently reflecting, and reading.





Each week, the members of First Presbyterian's music ministry come together and rehearse, preparing to help lead the congregation in worship. Music is a special offering of worship helping us all to walk humbly with God.





Do justice, Love kindness, Walk humbly with your God



Godly Play is introduced to children on Sunday mornings. Through powerful language and wondering, leaders invite children to enter into Bible stories and relate them to their personal experience. After listening and watching, children choose from multiple ways to recreate and respond to the story, be it drama, artwork, figure play, or reflection.





Active Members

1,071

Average Worship Attendance

354

Services with Communion

63

New Members

45

Baptisms

Music on Park Street Concerts

Adult Sunday Morning Classes

Book of the Month Club Art in Action Resourcing You for a Spiritual Summer New Members Scripture of the Day **Biblical Historical** Lenten Studies—Forgiveness Faith Engaging Politics Faith Through the Lens of Jewish Writings Parenting in the Pew Preparing the Way Advent Intergenerational Class The Bible and the Challenge of Defining a **Religious Identity** Issues and Opportunities in Aging Addiction and Grace Ask a Jew Faith-Full Parenting Walking Together Through Grief The Elements of Worship

Youth Attending Montreat

Confirmands

9

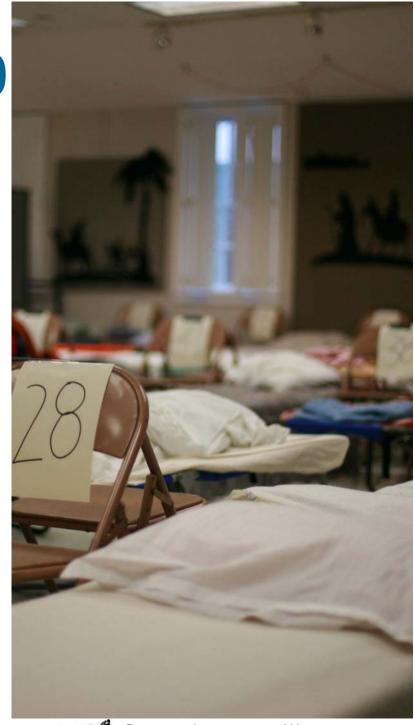


Yearly Outreach Contributions

\$140,000

Financially Serving Our Neighbors

Alliance for Interfaith Ministries Blue Ridge House Blue Ridge Area Food Bank **Building Goodness Foundation** Charlottesville Abundant Life Ministries **Emergency Food Network** Foothills Child Advocacy Habitat for Humanity IMPACT International Neighbors International Response to Improve Sight (IRIS) International Rescue Committee Love, INC Meals on Wheels PACEM Presbyterian Education Board Shelter for Help in Emergency (SHE) Soup Kitchen The Haven Union Theological Seminary



Our Building Supports...

Alcoholics Anonymous meetings American Needlepoint Guild meetings Arc of the Piedmont meetings and events Boy Scout leaders meetings Brownie Troop meetings Charlottesville Bar Association lunches Charlottesville Music Teachers' Association Charlottesville Special Needs Support Group meetings Charlottesville Symphony performances Fire concerts Homeschooled Teens dances Hospice of the Piedmont events Kiwanis Club pancake breakfasts Music by the Bedside performances Narcotics Anonymous meetings Oratorio Society performances **Piedmont Court Appointed Special** Advocate (CASA) training sessions **Region 10 Strengthening Families meetings** Ready Kids events and meetings Virginia Consort performances Virginia Glee Club performances Wednesday Music Club performances

Monthly Events Held at First Pres by Outside Groups

30





Rev. Dr. David G. Forney Rev. Liz Forney

Rev. Dr. Aram Bae Rev. Kendall Pearson

Dr. Jeremy Thompson Kathy Doby

Kathy Freer Judy Blair Susannah Fuller Susan Lawson Michael Joyce Donna Buchanan Cathy Dalton

Pastor **Covenant Pastor for** Congregational Care Associate Pastor for Youth & Mission **Covenant Pastor for Mid High Youth** & Their Families **Director of Music** Director of Ministry with Children & Their Families Member Involvement Coordinator Parish Nurse **Business Manager Communications Director** Office Administrator/Receptionist Facilities Maintenance Manager Preschool Director Assistant Preschool Director

LEADERSHIP

Class of 2017 Elders of the Session Ashley Schauer Bethany Farris Chris Kennedy Derik Rice John Meaney Kendall Cox Robin Halsey

Class of 2018 Elders of the Session Betsy Critzer Caitlin Dean David Hamer Bill Henderson Jocelyn Kelley Eleanor Maloney Kirk Pilkington

Class of 2019 Elders of the Session Jessica Ammons Downing Miller Deborah Rexrode Nancy Roche Jim Snead Mac Walker Bill vonReichbauer

Board of Deacons

Elias Awad Jeanne Busse Michael Kidd Liza Sackson Julie Sparks Richard Stairhime Jocelyn Thach Joseph Warden

Board of Deacons

Elizabeth Best Leigh Critzer Sam Haas Jeannette Halpin Joyce Katstra Richard Lutz Donna Nunley Katherine Warren

Board of Deacons

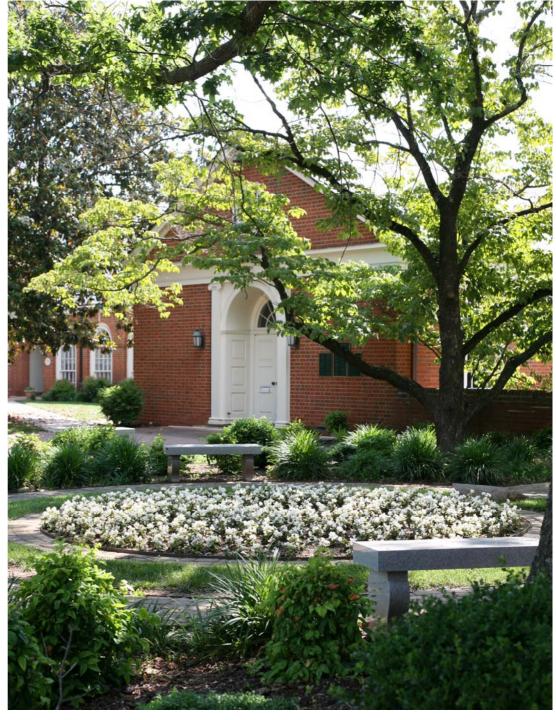
Charlie Chadwick John Dillery Elaine Knight Diane Schmidt Wanda Towberman Polly Wehmann



Do justice, Love kindness, Walk humbly with your God

IN MEMORY

George Grattan Lee VandenBerg Margaret Fowler Maggie Potts Margaret Carter Ralph Stoudt Jim Garnett Sally Carpenter Vernon McMinimy **Bill Isaacs** Luther Morris Joyce Locke Jean Carswell Eleanor Blattmann Todd Pullen **Ginny Paul** Tait Livingood





Do justice, Love kindness, Walk humbly with your God

"You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your strength, and with all your mind; and your neighbor as yourself." As brothers and sisters in Christ, we are called to:

WORSHIP God faithfully and joyfully, prayerfully seeking God's direction for our lives;
NURTURE our faith in Jesus Christ through education and fellowship, growing in wisdom, and deepening our relationship with God and one another;
SERVE one another, our community, and the world with humility and love, relying on the empowerment of the Holy Spirit to lead us in witnessing to the love of God in Jesus Christ.

