

ANNUAL MEETING OF THE CONGREGATION  
AND CORPORATION

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH  
PENN YAN, NEW YORK

FEBRUARY 5, 2023  
11:00 A.M.

CALL TO ORDER

OPENING PRAYER

CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

Period for reading of Reports

Presentation of Budget

Review of Pastor's Terms of Call

Discussion

Adjournment

CORPORATION MEETING

Presentation of Trustees' Report

Adjourn Corporation Meeting

CLOSING PRAYER

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## Pastor's Report for 2022

As we enter 2023, we continue 200 years of ministry in Penn Yan, New York. We will have a variety of celebrations as we look back at the impact the congregation has had in our community. We will also focus forward on what God is calling us to do in the present and in the future.

Regarding worship, we are encouraging people to join the choir which is now starting up after a long absence due to COVID. We also welcome volunteers to participate in worship as a Lay Reader. This year we held our first ever Blue Christmas. This was an ecumenical service with a focus on providing support for people for whom the Christmas holidays are a sad time. It was well attended and I recommend we continue with this service in 2023.

In the summer of 2022, I led a three-part sermon series highlighting the Matthew 25 Initiative. The sermons addressed eradicating systemic poverty, dismantling structural racism, and building congregational vitality. Vine newsletter articles and bulletin board postings also informed the congregation about the ministry of Matthew 25 congregations.

We joined with other congregations in a monthly worship and prayer service. These services take place on the first Tuesday of every month. Please let me know if you would like to represent our congregation as a liturgist for one of the services. Our congregation participated in holding an ecumenical worship service at the Yates County Courthouse Park on Memorial Day and Labor Day weekends. This year St. Marks Episcopal Church also joined us.

We continue to connect during COVID for worship. The Digital Church Committee made great progress this year by providing excellent livestreaming worship services. We have received much thanks from family members for the livestreaming of weddings, baptisms and memorial services. Bulletins and Sermon Notes are sent out every Sunday morning. Hard copies are also mailed every week.

Sunday school classes are held for our youth before worship while our Adult Education Zoom Book Studies are held on Tuesday nights at 7:00 p.m. We had a summer backyard book group discussion for Kate Bowler's "Good Enough." Beginning in the fall, we met online for further classes.

I served as Co-Chair of the Presbytery's Committee on Representation. I also served on the board for the Once Again Shoppe, the Keuka Comfort Care Home, and the Council of Penn Yan Area Churches. I also serve on the Ethics Committee for Finger Lakes Health. As part of the local clergy, I am available as a chaplain to Soldiers and Sailors Hospital and our nursing homes.

I am grateful that the congregation is having a positive impact in the Penn Yan community and beyond. The Dreamcatchers after school program provides a safe, welcoming and inspiring place for middle-schoolers to meet here at our church. I look forward to continued outreach to our community in 2023.

Respectfully submitted by,  
Pastor Paul

## Clerk's Annual Statistical Report for 2022

This is our annual Statistical Report submitted to the PC (USA) and the Presbytery of Geneva. We had total loss of 6 members: 1 active, 4 inactive, 2 transferred out. We had 1 baptism and 2 new members join our church family.

Marriages: none

Baptisms: James Bernard Ayers (November 13, 2022)

New member transferring in: 1 Stephanie Piccone

New member profession of Faith: 1 Dan Irwin

Members transferring out: 2 Bob and Carol Worden

Deaths of members: Carole Whittaker (1/13/22), William Whittaker (1/22/22), Marshall Larrabee (3/19/22), Marilyn Fitch (4/24/22), Norm Snow (9/10/22)

Total Active members: ~~118~~ 120

Total Inactive members: 440

Baptized Members: 560

Total Adherents: 259

Average Sunday Attendance: 70-75 (combining average 40-45 in-person with the possible 30 on-line viewing). This total reflects a slight increase from 2021 due to the gradual increase with in-person attendance. Please note there is no verifiable method to count people watching on-line services.

Elder necrology: 4 (Marilyn Fitch, Marshall Larrabee, Norman Snow, William Whittaker)

Respectively submitted,  
Charlotte Gillespie, Clerk of Session

## Deacons Annual Report - 2022

Members of the Board of Deacons in 2022 were Beth Curtiss, Jean Constantine, Daisy Heller, Marcia Kneeland, Joy Pallischeck and Pastor Paul.

*It is the duty of deacons, first of all, to minister to those who are in need, to the sick, to the friendless, and to any who may be in distress both within and beyond the community of faith. They shall assume such other duties as may be delegated to them from time-to-time by the session as stated in the Book of Order.*

The Deacons have met in person and virtually.

This year the deacons have served the Church in the following ways:

- Congregation-wide mailings for Thanksgiving and Christmas
- A gift honoring the Congregation through the Presbyterian Giving Catalog
- Provided and distributed meals to those in need
- Mailed cards of condolence and support
- Placed flowers near the pulpit for births and deaths
- Financially supported the Dream Catchers after school program, the Girls Club, the Grandma's Kitchen program, the Grab and Go meals program, and expenses from and for receptions and celebrations of life

The Deacons continue to support 2 students in the EEF program in Africa with tuition monies and a health insurance plan. Thanks to Linda Bracht for processing the funds and keeping us informed on how our students are doing.

Deacons have established a program for individuals in need due to special circumstances as an extension of the Hattie Hardman funds designated for the Deacons committee. This year we have not had the opportunity to serve any individuals. Please keep this service in mind if you discover any member in need and contact Pastor Paul or a Deacon for confidential assistance.

Once again the Red Wagon campaign was handled through the Yates Food Pantry. We were able to assist the Food Pantry in providing components of the Thanksgiving boxes distributed from there. Thank You to all those who donated veggies, stuffing, potatoes, rolls and butter. The Food Pantry was very appreciative of the donations.

Thank you to all of the Deacons for their time and effort and to the congregation for its support.

Respectively submitted,

The Board of Deacons

## Christian Education Annual Report 2022

The Christian Education Committee Members for 2022 were: Daniel Martens, Jen Rouin, and Pastor Paul

### Children and Youth Christian Education

Sunday School classes took place in person before worship. Classes were held in the fall, winter, and spring. Daniel Martens and Jen Rouin selected the curriculum from the Presbyterian Church U.S.A. "Follow Me, Biblical Practices for Faithful Living."

Children's Bulletins are available each Sunday. Bulletins are also sent by mail to children and their families. We have received positive feedback about the mailings.

The Christian Education Committee is grateful for the consistent and excellent Nursery coverage for Sunday morning worship.

Youth Sunday was held on June 12.

### Adult Christian Education

This year's Adult Education Book Studies included Tim Chester's "The Busy Christian's Guide to Busyness." We also discussed Kate Bowler's book "Good Enough" Most of the classes were held via zoom. However, we enjoyed an in person gathering in the summer at the home of Mike and Laura Seppala. We are thankful for their hospitality.

The Christian Education Committee is most grateful for the Hattie Hardman Tithe Committee for establishing a fund to help offset the costs of purchasing books for the Adult Education books.

Respectfully submitted by

Pastor Paul

## The Edward L. Scherer Higher Education Fund

Thirty years ago, in November 1992 The Edward L. Scherer Higher Education Fund was established. The first gifts to college students went to 11 recipients in the Fall of 1994. This fund has distributed \$653,909.56, benefiting many members in furthering their education over the years.

Last year's recipients were Geoff Rouin, Amanda Pereira, and William Steele, and Elle and Sierra Harrison joined them in the Fall semester. This past year we were able to gift the students \$2,000 per semester.

Applications are located on the table in the back of the church. Please return the filled out form to the office or contact Char Gillespie in 1 of 3 different ways:

1. Email: [charlottegillespie41@gmail.com](mailto:charlottegillespie41@gmail.com)
2. Snail Mail; Char Gillespie 2888 Sherman Hollow Rd
3. Text at: 315-719-5558

Each year applicants need to re-apply and each semester one needs to supply Char with the list of classes and the number of credit hours prior to the disbursement of funds.

Submitted by, Char Gillespie

Committee: Jen Rouin and Judy Wilbert

## Nominating Committee report for 2022

We work together to find the best solutions to guarantee successful ways to carry out God's will. The issue of recruitment has become difficult in the last few years because we have sadly lost several active members.

Thankfully, many experienced Session members, Deacons, and Trustees continued on in their service to our church.

A special thank you goes out to Darlene Palmer and Daniel Martens for their service on Session.

The current Church Board members are:

Session:

Class of '24           Hanna Martens, Jon Burt

Class of '25           Bob Constantine, Char Gillespie, Mike Seppala

Deacons:

Class of '23           Beth Curtis, Joy Pallischeck,

Class of '24           Jean Constantine, Marsha Kneeland, Daisy Heller

Trustees:

Bob Gillespie, Bernie Spanneut, Phil Bracht,  
Peter Martens, Alan Doan

Respectfully submitted by the committee:

Joy Pallischeck (Deacons)

Jon Burt (Session)

Bob Gillespie (Trustees)

Judy Wilbert (Member at large)



## Personnel Committee Report for 2022

Pastor Paul's leadership has been and continues to be inspiring and steadfast. He is fully dedicated to our church family and to our personal spiritual needs, bringing God's words of guidance and reassurance to us in many ways including digital media. 20 years of his service to our church was gratefully celebrated in October. Paul has scheduled and hosted an untold number of Zoom meetings and on-line weekly book studies. Linda Malles' insights and keen humor are a joy to us all. We are thankful we have such a wonderful team!

Our church Secretary, Carolyn Maftciu, is a dedicated professional, possessing extensive skills with digital technology. We all enjoy the beautiful bulletin covers she prints each week. Now that we are in a more healthy time, Carolyn's warm, outgoing personality can be enjoyed in person.

Linda Bracht, our Treasurer, continues to tirelessly deal with the many financial matters of our busy Church. Linda also serves as our substitute Secretary when needed. Thank You, Linda, for your crucial and tireless service to our church family.

Chris Han's keyboard expertise makes us all feel we are at a concert! Chris, an Eastman School of Music Doctoral student, has proven himself to be extremely accomplished, playing the pipe organ or piano, depending on the suitability of the particular piece of music. He has also recorded Worship services on The Yamaha Piano so that we will always have a back-up for music when we are in a pinch. Idelle Dillon has skillfully filled-in when Chris was unable to attend. A big Thank You goes out to Chris and Idelle.

Megan Bailey's solos are a joy to hear, both in person and remotely recorded by her and uploaded. Megan's skill and enthusiasm always shines through in her dedication and beautiful selections. We are all blessed by her music and look forward to hearing the choir also, which Megan is organizing while pandemic concerns are lifting.

Chuck Georgia, our trusty Custodian, continues to look after the chores of cleaning, inspecting and maintaining our church building. Chuck's polite, thoughtful, and outgoing way is a great asset to us.

We recommend a 3% pay increase for Pastor Paul, Chris Han and Megan Bailey, \$1.00 per hour increase for Carolyn Maftciu and Chuck Georgia.

Respectfully submitted, Bob Gillespie, Judy Wilbert, Joy Pallischeck, and Jon Burt

## Stewardship Annual Report for 2022

**“Giving Together, Growing Together, Recommitting Together”** is our 2023 campaign theme. We wanted to give each person the opportunity to share the many gifts received from God, and to ensure our church family was well and connected.

On Sunday, October 9<sup>th</sup>, we had our Kickoff for Stewardship 2023 with a stirring ‘minute for mission’ about how ‘giving together’ with our church family meant so much to them. On Sunday, October 16<sup>th</sup> we had another ‘minute for mission’ on the topic of ‘growing together’ and how our church community influenced the person they are today. We mailed a letter and pledge card to our church members. We asked each person to consider thoughtfully how they can put their talents and resources to use to help our church family and our local and global community. The committee also mailed notes to our youth and to our church family friends.

On October 23<sup>rd</sup>, Consecration Sunday, if you attended service in-person, pledge cards were available and time was set aside for completion of your card. After service, everyone enjoyed brownie sundaes as a thank you for their thoughtful consideration for their support of church family.

As in past years, this is a voluntary process carried out confidentially. We are pleased to continue to offer the choice of using an automated electronic procedure for pledged offerings. If you wish to take advantage of this method, please contact Linda Bracht, our church Treasurer and team member. She will need your bank account and routing numbers, the amount and frequency you desire for your offering. Of course, the usual method of presenting offerings continues to be available. We make no follow-up visits for completion of cards so we encourage your attendance and participation in our Stewardship event.

We continue to celebrate the generous response from the Church’s members and friends. The total pledge so far for 2023 is \$126,698.00, with 54 responses. We are thankful for all those who have pledged or increased their pledge. There is no expiration date to a stewardship campaign, so we welcome any pledges at any time.

The Stewardship committee is grateful to all of you and to those who helped with our campaign to make it a success.

Thank you to our committee: Phil Bracht, Bob Gillespie, Marcia Kneeland,  
and Pastor Paul Malles

Sincerely,

Co-Chairs: Linda Bracht and Char Gillespie

### Mission Statement of the Outreach Committee

“The mission of the Outreach committee is to lead the congregation toward awareness and ministry of meeting the needs of the community beyond our own congregation. This ministry includes people in Yates County, the Nation and the World. We will recommend to Session those activities and ministries which demonstrate Christ's teaching us to love all people from every socioeconomic level, nationality and human condition.”

This year the Outreach Committee has supported the following Mission Ministries:

Keuka Pantry Pennies, Millie's Pantry Backpack program, Safe Harbors, PY Council of Churches, and Doctors without Borders in the total budgeted amount of \$1350.

The special offerings and collections of Keuka Pantry Pennies, Christmas Joy Offering, One Great Hour of Sharing have been generously donated by the members of the First Presbyterian Church. These offerings and collections generated close to \$3500.00 A special note of thanks to our Church Family for the support of all these programs during this year.

Looking forward to 2023, we are considering an assistance program for a missionary in the Dominican Republic. This will be assisted by our Hattie Hardman Fund.

Special thanks goes to every member of the First Presbyterian Church of Penn Yan for their generosity toward Outreach benevolences; local, national, and international, that have been supported this year and into the future.

Respectfully submitted,

Joy Pallischeck  
Chair - Outreach Committee

## **Hattie Hardman Tithe Committee**

### **2022 Congregation Report**

While we say good bye to 2022, let's be thankful for many of the ways life is returning to normal. As you stroll around Penn Yan you see new businesses opening alongside so many that have been here for many years. With the church being reopened, we once again share greetings on Sunday mornings and groups are meeting for exercise classes. Youth are now coming to the church three days a week for a new after school program. It's as if 2022 was a perpetual spring as we all continued to move back to a normal life and come out from under the dark cover of COVID.

The task of this committee, BREAKING THE CYCLE OF POVERTY, is still ongoing and the support to the community has not changed over the five years it has existed. Many of the programs we have reported on in the past are still supported by this committee. They include Habitat for Humanity, Camp Whitman, Milly's Pantry, The Well, Literacy Volunteers, Pro Action Hope Kitchen, Our Town Rocks and Reads and the Excel Education Program in Tanzania.

However, this year we are very excited to add The Dream Catchers to the list. This is an after-school program for Junior High students who can come to this church and enjoy a healthy snack and time to socialize with their peers. This program was developed by The Well and many other groups within the community. This committee has provided the funding for Director of the Dream Catchers, an employee of The Well. While the attendance varies it normally has 20 or more students attend and has been up to 50. A very exciting new program, in a safe place.

In 2022 Karen Montgomery stepped aside from the committee to take care of other obligations. Karen has been with the committee from the start and we miss her support. Bill Turner has joined the committee, welcome aboard.

On the following page is the financial document of the committee's funds for your review. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me. If you have any recommendations for a program we should review please contact any of the committee members.

Peace to All,

Robert Constantine, Chairperson

The Hattie Hardmen Tithe Committee

Jen Rouin, Bill Turner, Linda Bracht, Phoebe Baker, Judy Wilbert, Bernie Spanneut, Mark Foerster, Pastor Paul Malles, Robert Constantine

**First Presbyterian Church of Penn Yan**  
**Year End 2022 Investment Committee Report**

During the year of 2022 the accounts of this church, managed by Forte Capital working with Charles Schwab, had a negative growth year. The total loss due to investment results and deductions for church needs was 23%. While this represents a substantial loss, it is consistent with other reporting groups on the markets during 2022. The deductions, which are made up of withdrawals for the church and service fees, are 4% of the 23% total loss. The remaining 19% loss was due to investment results and gains from dividends received.

The majority of the deductions removed from the accounts was applied to our church. Funds were used for the church budget, support the work of the Session, Trustees and Deacons, and the project to replace the badly worn flat roof of the church. In addition, there are five church members receiving gifts for higher education programs from the Scheer Education fund. Service fees that were paid by the accounts totaled less than 1% of the total loss. COVID continues to impact our church and we continue to upgrade the system that distributes the church services via the internet. Please see the financial reports on the next page.

Daisy Heller, a long-time member of this committee, has decided to take a break. The committee members will miss having her input at the meetings but, she will still be around so we can ask her questions. Thank you, Daisy, for your special service to this church.

If you feel called to be a part of this committee, please contact Bob Gillespie.

Committee Members 2021:

Daisy Heller, Linda Bracht, Laura Seppala, Jon Burt, Robert Constantine, Pastor Paul Malles

## Church Life's Annual Report

This past year Church Life's had the weekly Coffee Hour with delicious cookies and treats provided by our church cookie bakers. It has been a great time to reconnect with others.

We had a Palm Sunday Brunch with different egg casseroles, muffins and cinnamon rolls. It is something we hope to do again this year.

Our picnics returned this year. July's picnic was out at Keuka Lake State Park and in August we had it in our air-conditioned Crosier Hall. Then in October we joined forces with the Presbyterian Women and had a successful celebration of Pastor Paul and Linda's 20 years of service to our church! We are so grateful to have them with us.

2023 marks our 200th year of the founding of our congregation. If you have any historical information please share it with us. We will be needing volunteers for a committee to celebrate this occasion. Please consider joining and making this special.

Sincerely Church Life Committee,  
Rachel Doan, Joy Pallischeck, Bob and Jean Constantine and Char Gillespie

## Worship and Music Committee Annual Report for 2022

COMMITTEE: Char Gillespie, Megan Bailey, Chris Hann, Jean Constantine and Pastor Paul Malles.

With our responsibilities as a committee to work directly with Pastor Paul, the Worship service, the music program, Communion, and preparing special worship services we worked hard to adjust to the new normal life of 2022. We all enjoyed the ability to worship without masks and sit nearer to our friends and fellow worshippers each Sunday. Coffee hour was back and everyone enjoyed the ability to visit after Church for cookies, coffee and lemonade.

Our Worship Service is now being live streamed every Sunday. It is also available through various networks to be watched at your convenience at home any time after the service. This is a wonderful way for our snow birds as well as anyone not in Church on a particular Sunday to stay connected. This is a true blessing that everyone is enjoying.

In the beginning of 2022 Communion was being offered every month with disposable, individual cups. By September it was decided that we could offer Communion through intinction with homemade bread and grape juice. It has taken a couple of months of trial and error, but we believe we have a safe way to do this. The congregation is very happy to have Communion served and this special time back in our service.

We had an Easter Sunrise service at the park and then a wonderful Easter Service in our Sanctuary. Our Sanctuary was decorated with beautiful Easter Lilies and the banners were a beautiful addition.

This year we were happy that Pastor Paul and Linda had the opportunity to take a well needed vacation. We filled the pulpit on three different Sundays with different guests. Eric Deter and the students from Keuka College gave a sermon on their mission trip. This was supported by our Hattie Hardman Fund. We had a guest minister who was a joy to listen to and we had two congregational members do a dialog on the Lord's Prayer. All were well received by the congregation. It was also great as a congregation to share in a community dinner to celebrate Pastor Paul and Linda being at our church for 20 years. What a wonderful evening that was. We feel so blessed to have them here with us each Sunday.

Our Ecumenical Services were again held this year. It is always a joy to worship with the community. We also celebrated World Communion Sunday and All Saints Day. All Saints Day is always a special day and a warm remembrance of our friends that have passed away in the last year.

Megan and Chris continued to provide the music for this year. The talent of these two individuals is unbelievable. Whether you were in Church or watching on line, having them together in Church was truly a blessing enjoyed by everyone. Toward the end of the year Megan started going into the Sunday School classroom, and working with the kids on a song to sing in Church. Adults joined them and they have sung together in the service a couple times. It is such a joy to have this happening. Megan is exploring the opportunity to try and start an adult choir again as well.

With Advent and Christmas here, it was determined Megan and Pastor Paul would again light the advent wreath each week. For Christmas Eve we had a wonderful service and used our battery powered candles as we sang Silent Night.

With the help from the Memorial Committee, we added to our library of new banners for the Church. What a joy having these banners decorate our Sanctuary. We also purchased 3 banners for the outside pillars. They add to the beauty of our outside building.

Respectfully submitted,

Jean Constantine, Char Gillespie – Co chairs Worship and Music Committee



## Trustees Report – Year Ending 2022

The Trustees oversee the wellbeing of the church property, working with a budget that is thoughtfully researched. We have met mostly via Zoom and email, but we met in person in Crosier Hall when we needed too. Individual and small groups of Trustees worked on projects as they arose throughout the year to maintain the integrity of the church and its property. We would like to express our thanks to Nellie Beecher and Susan Baxter for maintaining our garden areas.

### The following are projects and maintenance that took place in 2022:

Windows washed  
Flat roof replaced  
LED lighting installed throughout the church  
Piano humidifiers serviced  
Reviewed insurance, inspections of church property incl. fire extinguisher, back flow valve tested, and smoke alarm battery replacement  
Secured Howard Sloane for lawn and shrub maintenance  
Secured Andrew Jensen for plowing and salting of parking lot and walks  
Purchased signage for winter overnight parking restrictions  
Inspected and tuned pipe organ  
Marilyn Fitch Memorial tree planted and watered regularly  
Sanctuary fan adjusted  
Parking lot drain cleaned - Thank you Phil Bracht  
Completed annual boiler maintenance  
Front fascia cover replaced  
Front door latch repaired  
2 Picnic tables installed (funded by the Memorial Committee)

The community use of our building was impressive in spite of curtailment due to pandemic concerns. The following groups used our church building:

Exercise group	Daisy Girl Scouts	Counseling by Scott Steele
Pathstone	Girls Club	Yates Christmas Program*
PYTCO Theater Group	Dreamcatchers after school.	Yoga

\*Our Church's Christmas Program give away was a remarkable achievement.

Trustees: Bob Gillespie, Peter Martens, Jon Burt, Phil Bracht, Bernie Spanneut, Jack Wilbert