

First Congregational Church Meredith, NH

2022 Annual Reports



Presented at the Annual Meeting

January 29, 2023

**4 Highland St
Meredith, NH
603-279-6271
www.fccmeredith.com**

Page

1	Notice of Annual Meeting	14	Scouts
2	Agenda	15	Christian Ed
2	Rules of Procedure	15	Horton Center testimonials
3	2021 Annual Meeting Minutes	10	Church Community Happenings
4	Pastor's Report	16	Mission Board
5-6	Trustees Report	17	Other Missions
6	Diaconate	17	FCCM Women
6	Heart and Hands Thrift Shop	18	Nominating Committee
7-8	Digital Ministry Webmaster	19	Treasurer's Report
7	Clerk's Report		2022 Brief overview of the year and
8	Music		2023 Proposed Budget
9-12	Joyful Noise Music Series	20	Review of the 2022 budgeted year
13	Pastor's Discretionary Fund	21	Annual balance statement

COUNTY OF BELKNAP
STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE
CALL TO MEET
TO ALL MEMBERS OF
FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH, UCC
MEREDITH, NH

You are hereby notified to meet at the:

**First Congregational Church, U.C.C.
4 Highland Street, Meredith, NH
this will also be a hybrid meeting
Zoom link in our webpage**

on Sunday, January 29, 2023 at 11 A.M.

to take action on the following subjects:

1. To receive reports of officers and committees and take action thereon.
2. To elect all necessary officers and committees and take action thereon.
3. To vote on the budget for 2023.
4. To transact any other business brought before the meeting.

Chris Whitcher, Moderator
Wanda Miller, Clerk

**FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH, UCC MEREDITH
AGENDA
ANNUAL MEETING**

JANUARY 29, 2023

1. Call to Order
2. Determination of Quorum
3. Reading of Notice of Annual Meeting
4. Invocation
5. Adoption of Rules of Procedure
6. Minutes of previous meeting
7. Receiving and acting upon reports
 - a. Pastor
 - b. Diaconate
 - c. Meredith Congregational Church Women
 - d. Pastor's Discretionary Fund
 - e. Clerk
 - f. Trustees Report
 - g. Mission Board
8. Adoption of Budget for 2023
9. Election of Officers, Boards, and Committees for 2023
10. Commissioning of Officers, Boards, and Committees for 2023
11. Other Business
12. Benediction
13. Adjournment

RULES OF PROCEDURE

For called meetings of First Congregational Church UCC
Reviewed and approved for presentation by the Church Council

- Robert's Rules of Order shall be followed at called meetings of the church.
- Those wishing to address the meeting shall use one of the available microphones.
- New motions, and amendments to existing motions, shall be presented to the Clerk and Moderator in writing at the time they are moved.

First Congregational Church, UCC Meredith, NH
2021 Annual Meeting Minutes

January 29, 2022

Moderator Mark Clark called the meeting to order at 11:09 a.m. He declared a quorum was present.

Mark Clark read the notice of the Annual Meeting.

Pastor Peter gave the invocation.

The rules and procedures were not read. Robert's Rules were followed. The meeting was on zoom and in person.

Pastor Peter moved and Russ Roland seconded to accept the minutes of last year's meeting. **It was so voted.**

The annual report was reviewed.

Mark Clark reviewed the reports in the annual report packet. No discussion insured. Doug Emmons moved and Connie Ryan seconded to accept annual report. **It was so voted.**

Deb McNeish presented the budget and commented on treasurer's report for the 2021 budget. We came out with a surplus and she thanked everyone for the efforts to achieve this accomplishment. Most of our expenses go to salary and benefits. Our expenses are on line. Maintenance and repairs were small this year.

Deb McNeish presented the budget for 2022. We have a projected budget of \$149,414 and expenses \$148,684. Some expenses change, like oil, but most are usually targeted corrected. Projected pledges for the year 2022 are \$84,700 for the new budget.

Peter Ayer moved and Lisa Clark seconded to accept the 2022 budget. **It was so voted.**

Karen Truberg presented the nominating committee report for 2022. We have three new members joining the boards. Several members have stepped down from council.

There are still some positions to be filled. There is no moderator. It has been suggested that members take turns each month as moderator. There will be continued efforts to find a moderator. –See attached list of new and returning members.

Doug Emmons moved to accept to elect officers and boards by approving the nominating committee report and Anne Welch seconded. **It was so voted.**

PASTOR PETER'S REPORT FOR 2022

ANNUAL REPORT, REVEREND LOVETT

JANUARY, 2023

In my office there's a large piece of thick plastic; the kind used to cover a boat for winter storage. I wanted to create a sign, so I recycled this white plastic and painted the words "Come and See" in black letters. Voila, a free, eye-catching welcome sign. "Come and See" are the words of Jesus spoke to those curious followers in the early days of his ministry. It's that "Come and See" spirit of Jesus Christ which motivated my preaching in autumn and some other efforts in 2022. There are many signs this "Come and See" spirit has had an impact. We have:

Welcomed several new members,
Engaged the larger community through music, worship, volunteerism, etc.
Conducted a very successful Giving Campaign,
Taken Missions to "higher ground"
And so, so, so much more!
We hosted the Merrimack Association Autumn Meeting.
Proudly conducted my Service of Installation,
Filled St. Charles for "The Voices of Christmas" choir concert.
Packaged 10,000 meals for the hungry in Laconia with 2,000 shipped to Ukraine.
Participated in a 5 hour "How to Be an Environmental Ambassador" workshop.
Delivered a "ton" of food to the Meredith Food Bank on Souperbowl Sunday.
Commissioned Everett Witcher to Boston with the regional youth group,
Sponsored a few kids on a summer adventure to Horton Center, a UCC camp.
Both strengthened our relations with our partner UCC churches.

In this report you have a full, though not complete, picture of all the ways we've come back to life since the Pandemic shuttered our doors. We were knocked down, but not out!

I'm grateful to leaders who've volunteered their time and who have been open to trying new ideas. There have been many successes, led by you. As your newly installed pastor, I'm grateful to so many of you for your care, dedication, and commitment to First Congregational Church, UCC.

Mahatma Ghandi once said, *"I like your Christ, I do not like your Christians. Your Christians are so unlike your Christ."* Today, as I watch the rise of Christian nationalism (code for "let's keep USA white and Christian") near and far, I'm increasingly nervous. Historically, we've been down this road and there's nothing good that comes from xenophobia and hate. It's unlike the Christ to scapegoat "the other" to solve societies complex problems. The Christ we serve doesn't shy away from complicated problems, rather calls us to "come and see" with objective truth and a clear bias for the underdog. The Christ we serve is loving of all people, reflects deep reverence for the natural world, and calls us to pursue justice. This isn't to say the demands Jesus' teachings aren't inconsequential. They are demanding! And, and though we "miss the mark" (I know I do) to follow Jesus is a heavenly path.

Being a "come and see" church means that we must return Christianity to Jesus and give the church universal back to a love that is free and unconditional; to a love that finds its heart in service and radical transformation of systems that exclude and cause suffering. After all, this is the nature of love.



I am grateful to be your pastor and thank you for your support and prayers. God bless our efforts as we, together, discern God's will for our future.

Pastor Peter

TRUSTEES ANNUAL REPORT, 2022

Role of the Trustees

Church bylaws state that "The Board of Trustees, acting on behalf of the First Congregational Church, UCC of Meredith, NH has charge of the Church's business and financial affairs and oversees and maintains the Church property." Our church Treasurer, Deb McNeish, works closely with the Trustees.

Trustee Members

There should be nine trustees. After the 2022 Annual Meeting, we had seven members: Rich Dudas, Steve Carleton, Doug Emmons, Connie Ryan, Jude Shea, Carol Zink, and Mark Tuckerman. Mark Tuckerman lives in Maine, Doug Emmons lives part time in Meredith and part time in North Carolina, and Carol Zink lives part time in Meredith and part time in Hawaii and California. Rich resigned in the spring, and Mark resigned in November 2022. Steve Carleton, Jude Shea, and Doug Emmons are all leaving trustees effective with the January 2023 Annual Meeting. Ceil Andrews joined Trustees in October 2022. Thus as of this writing, we have two trustees who live full time in Meredith (Ceil and Connie) and one who lives part time in Meredith (Carol). We fervently hope that we will have several new people on Trustees by the end of the annual meeting!

The trustees usually meet several times a month to discuss and decide on budget and physical plant issues. These meetings are usually a hybrid of in-person and Zoom.

Fiscal Budget for 2023

The trustees and Deb McNeish spent many hours and a number of extra meetings in person and via Zoom on the proposed 2023 budget.

Repairs and Refurbishments of The Church and Fellowship Hall

Note: Every single one of these required one or more trustees to assess the problem, call several companies to get bids, decide on the best one, schedule the work, and oversee the work! Whenever possible, trustees performed work themselves, and many of those projects are not included below.

Office and Telecommunications:

Thanks to the generosity of an anonymous donor, a new office computer was purchased to replace the extremely slow computer which often took as long as 45 minutes to boot up. Additionally, we arranged for bundling the phone and internet to reduce the costs of those, and had all alarm systems (fire, heat, building) checked and upgrades made as necessary. Additionally, the wiring for the internet connection in the Sanctuary was replaced as the previous set-up resulted in lost connections and time lags for Zoomed worship services. Also, an uninterrupted power supply plug was purchased for the office, Pastor Peter's office, and the organ (the UPS prevents loss of work and provides surge protection in the event of a power interruption). The big office project for 2023 is selecting software to better and more simply manage the church's finances and financial reporting.

Electrical:

Electrical improvements were made to the sanctuary, narthex, kitchen, basement, balcony, and second floor rooms, to address safety and illumination issues.

Plumbing:

The kitchen sinks and a bathroom toilet were repaired. We have a plumber scheduled to modify the water pressure at the intake valve in early January. (This project was carried over to 2023 because first an access hatch to the valve had to be built, and then we had to wait for an accurate bid from the plumber.

Exterior:

Shirley Stokes power washed the front of the church and the walls facing the patio area, getting rid of a spider infestation and the mold and mildew. Shirley, along with Paul and Denise Dellamano, repainted the lines of the parking lot. Our handyman weather stripped the exterior doors. The back ramp railing was replaced. Donovan Tree Experts, LLC removed several dead trees, as well as trees suffering from Emerald Ash Bore. These trees posed a threat to vehicles and humans.

Gardens:

As always, Deb McNeish does a beautiful job with planting, weeding and maintaining the FCC gardens around the church from spring through the fall.

Clean-Ups:

There was no spring cleanup due to a lack of volunteers, but the Boy Scout and Cub Scout troops affiliated with the church did some outside cleanup work in the fall; many thanks to them. The inside cleanup has not been done since Spring 2021.

5 Massachusetts Avenue (Parsonage) Property

After much debate, discussion, and an all-church vote, the parsonage was put up for sale, and within days three offers were received. The trustees selected a full price all cash offer from the owner of Hart's Turkey Farm Restaurant, who is modifying the house into a duplex to house restaurant employees. The church netted \$359,000 from the sale. Prior to selling the parsonage, our handyman replaced the front door and repaired water damage around the door caused by improper placement of the concrete steps, leveled the back door to the deck, repaired the banister and posts of the staircase leading to the lower level, repainted trim, fixed the dryer vent, and did other minor repairs to make the house more sellable. The concrete steps were also properly positioned and leveled to prevent future water damage.

Investing

The Trustees formed an Investment Subcommittee consisting of trustees Doug Emmons, Ceil Andrews, and Carol Zink, and treasurer Deb McNeish. After much research and discussion, the subcommittee decided to combine our investment accounts from Meredith Village Savings Bank, the UCC Investment company, and Raymond James into a low

TRUSTEES ANNUAL REPORT CONTINUED

fee Fidelity account. Currently the monies are being transferred, and will be prudently invested to ensure a portion is readily available for ongoing church expenses, with the rest in non-taxable, high yielding, low-fee bonds and a Standard and Poors 500 Index fund.

5 Practices for Fruitful Congregations

Trustees led a 7-week workshop for Church Council to discuss the book *Five Practices for Fruitful Congregations* resulting in a prioritized action plan for church staff, council, trustees, missions, and diaconate. Each group has begun working on key ideas to help strengthen FCC and its membership.

Respectfully Submitted:

The Trustees of the First Congregational Church, Meredith, NH

Ceil Andrews	Steve Carlton	Doug Emmons
Connie Ryan	Jude Shea	Carol Zink

DIACONATE REPORT 2022

When 2022 began, the doors to our church were open to anyone who wished to worship in the Sanctuary. Zoom was then and continues to be an important option for those who are infirmed, physically away from Meredith or choosing to be careful in gathered situations to connect weekly with First Congregational Church worship services. Weekly 'attendance' on Zoom (counted by computers not actual people) ranged from an average in January 2022 of 26 viewing computers per Sunday to a decrease over the summer with an average of 9 viewing computers. On Christmas Eve thirteen homes viewed our worship service via Zoom; on Christmas Day eleven homes present attended our services also via Zoom. 'In person' attendance has ranged from 45-65 with 89 in attendance on Christmas Eve 2022.

Beloved community groups have continued this year and are now in person whereas when it began in 2021 it was on Zoom. During Beloved Community group time, attendees learn more about one another and share their faith journeys. Participants who have been a member of a Beloved Community have found the 'meetings' to be most rewarding.

Bible Study via Zoom has continued to meet each week on Wednesday mornings. It is a wonderful time of fellowship and learning more about the Bible. Depending on individuals' schedules there can be a range of five to ten people who gather. Bible study is open to all!

Members of the Diaconate have continued to write notes, birthday cards, and Christmas cards to members and friends throughout 2022. Now that we are serving monthly Communion with bread and juice, we thank Paul and Denise Dellamano for the freshly baked bread and Evie Olsen for the juice. (much better than the packaged elements.)

In 2022 we welcomed several members to First Congregational Church:

Phyllis Krom, Paula Leonard, Dale Bauman, Sandy Ambrose, Jackie Dorge, Greg Dorge, Canna Falby, Pat Fish, Larry Gooch, Judith Gooch, Rich Corso, Tina Corso, and -----Shirley Moore.

Respectfully submitted, Diaconate members:

Susan Allen	Peter Ayer	Wendy Harkins
Elaine Kozlowski	Deb McNeish	Wanda Miller
Karen Truberg	Ann Welch	

HEART AND HANDS THRIFT SHOP

MISSION: To be the Heart and Hands of Jesus, by benefiting the community through the sale of affordable items and investing all profits into the local charities.

The retirement of the original Store Manager, and literal "Heart and Hands" of the shop, Lisa Stevenson, was most remarkable in 2022. Talented and beloved, she left enormous shoes to fill and a year full of adjustment for everyone from the store volunteers to the Board of Directors.

After an extended search, Cherri Lapoint was hired as Store Manager. Despite not having any thrift store pricing and managing experience, Cherri jumped in and started to learn the ropes during the peak sales season this summer.

2022 sales totaled \$166,291.49, down 12% from 2021 sales of 193,335.51. However, grants distributed to local nonprofits increased 13% to \$95,188.00, up from \$84,348.00. In addition to funding individual grants supporting various educational programs, performing arts and community services, regular quarterly grants are designated to the Meredith Food Pantry, Center Harbor Food Pantry, Isaiah 61 Café, New Beginnings, Hands Across the Table and Inter-Lakes Community Care Givers. Heart and Hands also helped fund the Belknap House Parent Initiative Program you may have read about in the local paper.

All this funding would not be possible without our team of dedicated volunteers. Heart and Hands volunteers are from the area and include but are not limited to members of St. Charles Catholic Church, Trinity Episcopal Church, and FCCM. Whether working with the public on the register or on the floor, or behind the scenes sorting items, making Planet Aid runs, or serving on the board of directors, volunteerism is essential to our success. In that spirit, volunteers were celebrated with a luncheon, Yankee Swap and raffle on December 13, 2022, at Trinity Episcopal Church.

Looking ahead to 2023, the Board is looking into freshening up the shop this Spring with new paint and lighting, scheduled for completion during Cherri's vacation in March while the shop is closed.

Thank you all who have donated and/or shopped at Heart and Hands, thereby contributing to the collective success in fulfilling it's mission.

Wendy Harkins, Ann Welch, and Samantha Lazazzera, who replaced Toni Brown in August, currently represent First Congregational Church of the Heart and Hands Thrift Shop Board.

Respectfully submitted,

Wendy Harkins, Ann Welch, and Samantha Lazazzera



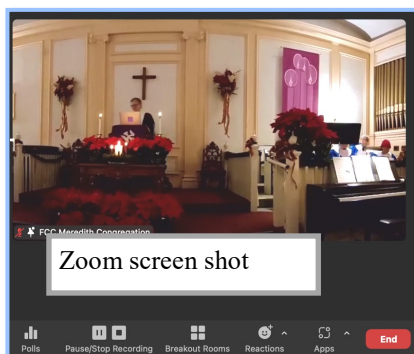
Christmas luncheon

DIGITAL MINISTRY DIRECTOR/WEBMASTER

With the ongoing support of our "Tech Angel" (as Nancy Narducci likes to say!) 2022 was the year of NEXT Level. This year, we set out to build on our existing hybrid Zoom Worship format so the congregation could continue to participate in the events of the church. Nara Derapelian, the Digital Ministry Director/Webmaster used her many talents to do just that!

Here's a look back at our accomplishments & upgrades:

- Change of Domain: Keeping the website live (Now www.fccmeredith.com)
- Maintaining the church website: *Special shoutout to Carol Zink, Annie Welch and Shirley Stokes for their ongoing watchful eyes, to make sure the church calendar and events pages stay up to date!*
- New Computer: Thanks to several donations, the church office has a new and improved HP Desktop. *Special Thanks to Doug Emmons and Jude Shae for their coordination and supports efforts to Nara so that the files and data transfer went smoothy.*
- Are you or someone you know planning to get married? We now have a weddings page on our website with an Application Form: <https://www.fccmeredith.com/weddings.html>
- Promoting the 1st full Year of Events for the Joyful Noise Music Series on social media (via Facebook/Groups)- Showtunes Supper, Blue Grass Sunday, Voices of Christmas, to name a few. Check it out here: <https://www.fccmeredith.com/past-events.html>
- Tech/Zoom support for The Merrimack Association Annual Meeting (in-person/zoom) and Official Installation of Pastor Peter Lovett!
- A record number of attendees via zoom (with several new faces!) in 2022, including our hybrid Christmas Eve Service. ***



Zoom screen shot



Pastor Peter's service of installation

What's Next- 2023: it's all about *Visibility*

In our mission and re(newed) commitment of Radical Hospitality we aim to reach beyond the 4 walls of FCC and into the community. A few goals for the upcoming year include:

- Expanding our *What's happening at FCC* section on our website
- Growing our Facebook Page presence (posting regularly, followers, foster engagement)-*Have other/new ideas? Reach out to Nara Derapelian or Peter Lovett.*
- Launching of a Virtual Hug (Stay tuned!)

Respectfully submitted, Nara Derapelian

Sunday Worship attendance on Zoom 2022

Date	# on zoom
January 2	23
January 9	33
January 16	24
January 23	24
January 30	28
Monthly total	132
February 6	33
February 13	22
February 20	25
February 27	17
Monthly total	97
March 6	18
March 13	19
March 20	13
March 27	16
Monthly total	66
April 3	13
April 10	15
April 17	1
April 25	No data
Monthly total	39
May 1	14
May 18	12
May 15	15
May 22	9
May 29	11
Monthly total	61

Sunday Worship attendance on Zoom 2022

June 5	7
June 12	7
June 19	10
June 26	6
Monthly total	30
July 3	6
July 13	11
July 17	8
July 26	7
July 31	6
Monthly total	38
August 7	9
August 14	7
August 21	10
August 28	7
Monthly total	33
September 3	5
September 11	6
September 18	10
September 25	7
Monthly total	28
October 2	6
October 9	10
October 16	9
October 23	6
October 33	6
Monthly total	37
November 6	9
November 13	7
November 20	10
November 27	6
Monthly total	33
December 4	5
December 11	15
December 17	8
December 24	13
December 25	11
Monthly total	52
Grand total for 2022	645

MUSIC ANNUAL REPORT 2022

1ST CONGO BLUEGRASS BAND

The 1st Congo Bluegrass Band added several musicians and concerts in 2022, after making their debut in 2021.

On Memorial Day weekend, the band participated in a Saturday afternoon patriotic sing-a-long at the church.

In early August, the 2nd annual 10am Bluegrass Sunday Service took place, entertaining a large congregation on a very hot and humid morning.

Later in August, the group did an outreach service on Bear Island, also performing to a packed church.

In December, the band entertained nearly 80 people during a 10am 1st Congregational Church Bluegrass Christmas Caroling Service.

Throughout the year, everyone enjoyed the energy of live bluegrass music and happily joined in congregational singing during these events.

Thanks to the band members of 2022, all who volunteered and some who traveled long distances to make our services very special.

Instrumentals – Adam Schaub, Eric Peterson, John Irish - guitar, Rob Goddu – banjo, Kris Roberts – fiddle, banjo, mandolin, Pastor Peter Lovett – bass, Dawna Donovan & Paityn Schaub – spoons and rhythms, Kitty Boyle, Karen Sticht – joining band members on vocals and harmonies.

The band is looking forward to even more events already being planned for 2023.



Bluegrass Band

BROADWAY TUNES SUNDAY

When finally getting the opportunity to have regular live church services, Pastor Peter Lovett had a vision of offering diverse musical opportunities for Sunday services.

In 2022, he quickly incorporated the idea of a Broadway Tunes Sunday and collaborated with FCC Meredith Music Director, Nancy Narducci and the talents of pianist Phil Breton, to bring together an amazing group of vocalists.

Sharing songs from Broadway Musicals, Nancy Narducci, Amy Weston, Marla Welker, Greg Jorge, Cassidy Copp, Sharleigh Thomson and Pastor Peter Lovett intertwined life's musical journey of sorrows, joys, and hope to the appreciation of an enthralled congregation.

Many thanks to all musicians and church volunteers who brought these musical dreams to fruition for Sunday worship, giving congregations many reasons to keep coming back, not just for the services, but also for the hospitality of friendship and really tasty refreshments.

Sincerely, Karen Sticht



Broadway Tunes vocalists

2022 Joyful Noise Music Series

After a 2021 slow start due to Covid, the Joyful Noise Music Series “put pedal to the metal” and conducted eight varied performances during 2022 during the months of May thru December.

May 28th Bluegrass & Americana Music Concert

The Joyful Noise 2022 Music series kicked off on Saturday, May 28th with a Bluegrass & Americana Music concert. Although scheduled to be held outdoors at Hesky Park on Memorial Day weekend, mother nature had other plans for it to rain that day, so the concert was moved into the sanctuary. Three different bands performed that afternoon to the delight of those in attendance. Bow Junction sold a few CDs at the concert and donated the proceeds to FCC's Joyful Noise music program. ∴



Bow Junction Band



John Irish



Congo Bluegrass Band:



Show tune dinner

June 25th Showtunes Supper featuring Phil Breton on Piano

On Saturday, June 25th from 5:30 – 7:30 pm, the Fellowship Hall was transformed into a dining extravaganza complete with showtunes played by Phil Breton. Forty-two guests paid \$25 each for an Italian buffet dinner (sourced from Fratellos) replete with chicken marsala, chicken parmesan, pasta, salad, bread sticks, cannoli, homemade desserts, and drinks.

Thanks to Marla Welker and her amazing team of volunteers

(Sandy Ambrose, Nancy Narducci, Nara Derapelian, Denise Dellamano, Pat & Gus Fish, Jean Gage, Jude Shea, Joanne Palaskas, Glenn Arber, and Peter Ayer),

the Fellowship Hall took on an intimate dining experience for 2 hours of fine dining, fellowship, and entertainment.



Nancy Narducci and Marla dancing and singing to Phil Breton's showtunes



Marla Welker and Nara Derapelian in the kitchen

Phil Breton's musical repertoire delighted the patrons and Marla's and Nancy's occasional singing added to the festivities. People at coffee hour the next day at church shared how pleased they were with the overall event and how they thought the singing and dancing added a special treat to the wonderful tunes played by Phil Breton!

Mason & Hamlin Grand Piano Installed in Sanctuary

A 5'-8" baby grand Mason & Hamlin piano owned by Pastor Peter's wife Kim Lovett was loaned to FCC Meredith, installed on July 6th, and now sits elegantly on the left front platform. During July, Bill Boulton completely repaired, regulated, and tuned the piano to perfection. Costs for moving and readiness of the piano were borne from the Joyful Noise music fund and individual donations. The piano sounds wonderful as Phil Breton played showtunes following the guitar concert. We look forward to hearing more piano concerts!



July 21st Guitar Virtuoso, David William Ross

The third installment of this year's Joyful Noise Music Series featured David William Ross, an extremely talented guitarist who played classical and contemporary music on Thursday evening 7/21. Despite some heavy rains, 45 people attended the performance and thoroughly enjoyed David's sensitive playing of various compositions many written exclusively for guitar. All who attended had high praise for David's performance and were pleased to be able to talk with him during refreshments which were served in the Fellowship Hall following his performance. Many thanks to Marla Welker for securing David, promoting the concert, and introducing him to the audience!



David William Ross

August 18th Organist Extraordinaire Patrick Kreeger

Our fourth installment of this year's Joyful Noise Music Series featured Patrick Kreeger, a world-renowned organist who made his Carnegie Hall debut at only 17 years old. Playing for over an hour on Thursday evening 8/18, Patrick delighted attendees with his phenomenally talented playing and provided our new organ a wonderful workout across multiple pieces with varying voices and volumes. Close to 50 people attended including several members of the NH American Guild of Organists. Everyone who attended were enthralled by Patrick's mastery of the very complex and difficult pieces he selected. NH-AGO members were extremely complementary on Patrick's pedal footwork and keyboard clarity and were able to discuss his performance techniques during refreshments served in the Fellowship Hall following his performance. Many thanks to Jude Shea for securing Patrick's commitment to play at FCCM and to the Joyful Noise committee members and church volunteers for making the evening a success. Several photos from Patrick's concert appear below:



Patrick Kreeger

September 18th Classic & Contemporary Organ featuring Laura Belanger

For our fifth Joyful Noise installment, we welcomed Laura Belanger to FCCM. Laura is a graduate of the Manhattan School of Music where she was a student of Bronson Ragan and Frederick Swann. She holds Choirmaster and AA-GO professional certificates from the American Guild of Organists and has held multiple officer and board positions with AGO chapters throughout New England. Laura also studied composition with Ludmila Ulehla and Richard Cumming and is an active composer. Laura is the organist at Sanbornton Congregational Church and collaborative pianist for the Pemigewassett Choral Society. She is the creator of "Organ Symphony Assistant" and manages a website by the same name that promotes music written for organ and orchestra. During her performance, Laura fully exercised our Rodgers organ and was able to add beautiful orchestral accompaniments using her proprietary software. A photo of Laura appears below:



Laura Belanger

October 9th Artful Noise String Quartet

Our sixth installment of this year's Joyful Noise Music Series featured the Artful Noise String Quartet. The Artful Noise String Quartet, established in 1997, is a premier quartet of accomplished musicians that has given numerous performances in varied venues throughout New England. The quartet featured: Lynne White McMahon on violin, Margaret Bruziak Hopkins on violin, Sally Wituszynski on viola, and Gary Hodges on cello. With their permission, Nara was able to record three of their performed selections that afternoon and post them on our website. If you would like to revisit their music, please go to the following link:

<https://www.fccmeredith.com/past-events.html>.



Artful Noise String Quartet

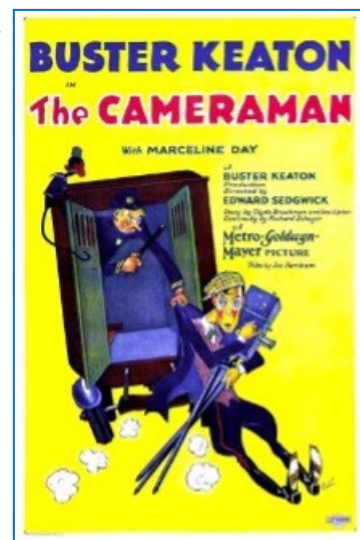
Saturday, November 5th Silent Movie Night featuring Robert Humphreville

For our seventh Joyful Noise Music Series performance, we offered something different... a classic silent movie featuring

Buster Keaton in the Cameraman accompanied by Robert Humphreville on the church organ. *In this silent classic from 1928, photographer Buster meets Sally, who works as a secretary for the newsreel department at MGM and falls hard. Trying to win her attention, Buster abandons photography in order to become a news cameraman. In spite of his early failures with a motion camera, Sally takes to him as well. However, veteran cameraman Stagg also fancies Sally, meaning Buster will need to learn how to film quickly before he loses his job. People attending the event were totally delighted with Robert's masterful organ accompaniment to add drama and feeling to the movie experience.*



Robert Humphreville



Sunday, December 18th The Voices of Christmas

For the eighth and final Joyful Noise Music Series performance of 2022, FCC Music Director Nancy Narducci organized and conducted an ecumenical choir performing The Voices of Christmas, a cantata by Joseph Martin. Consisting of 35 chorists and nine readers spanning seven different churches, this performance was the highlight of the Joyful Noise Music Series and a fitting capstone to the 2022 season.



Held at St. Charles Borromeo church in Meredith to accommodate both the large choir group as well as the expected audience size, Nancy's production did not disappoint. Over 400 people attended the performance and were held spellbound by the singing, narration, and readings. Key FCC contributing members and friends included: Nancy Narducci (conductor), Marla Welker (narrator), Jane Jenness (soprano), Jan Noland (soprano), Lydia Torr (soprano), Nara Derapelian (alto), Jill Dennis (alto), Kim Lovett (alto), Karen Sticht (alto), Rev. Peter Lovett (tenor), Greg Dorge (bass), and Nate Torr (bass). Jude Shea, Jean Gage, Ceil Andrews, and Karen Truberg greeted attendees and helped with seating as needed.

To ensure the cantata flowed without interruption, Nancy requested the audience to withhold their applause until the performance was concluded. Overwhelmed by the beautiful music, voices, and stories, the audience erupted into applause and rewarded Nancy and her ensemble with a standing ovation at the end. Everything done to make this performance a success showed in the music, the voices, the narration, the stories, the program, the advertising, and signage.

***Congratulations to Nancy, her Voices of Christmas ensemble, and the Joyful Noise Committee...
you definitely hit this one out of the park!!***



Marla Welker, Bill Boulton, and Nancy Narducci following the performance.

The Joyful Noise Committee is continuing to meet to plan additional events and promotion for musical events in 2023. Should you have ideas you would like to share regarding what type of concerts, music, and seasonal performances you would like to hear, please reach out to Nancy Narducci at 603-630-8012 (narduccis@live.com).

Respectfully submitted
Doug Emmons

PASTOR'S DISCRETIONARY FUND 2022

The Pastor's Discretionary Fund is made possible by generous financial gifts from members and friends of the church. Funds are used to assist greater Meredith residents and church members in need through vouchers for food or gas or payment for rent, fuel, car registration and any other need at the discretion of the Pastor.

Balance in the Fund January 1, 2022	\$12,056.33
Financial contributions in 2022	\$ 3,022.00
Total of disbursements in 2022	\$ 7,464.66
 Balance in the Fund December 31, 2022	 \$ 7,613.67

Deb McNeish, Treasurer

CLERK'S REPORT 2022

Active members as of 2022	94
Removed by death	5
Transferred to inactive status in 2022	7
Transferred out	0
New members	14
Added by Letter of Transfer	1
Added by Reaffirmation of Faith	0
Added by Baptism	0
Reactivated in 2022	0
ACTIVE MEMBERS AS OF DECEMBER 31, 2022	96

Deaths:

Jan. 15, 2022 Katherine Muise
 Feb. 7, 2022 Susan Amiss
 March 5, 2022 William Nunamacher
 March 26, 2022 Skip Conlon
 Nov. 12, 2022 Joan Pelon

New Members:

Sandra Ambrose	Everett Whitcher
Rick Corso	Judy Gooch
Tina Corso	Larry Gooch
Gregory Dorge	Calvin Fifield
Jackie Dorge	Dr. Dale Bauman
Canna Falby	Paula Leonard Bauman
Phyllis Krom	Pat Fish

Birth: 0

Baptism:

Oct. 23, 2022 Hendrix Robert Lavallee, parents Garrett and Jaclyn Lavalee

In 2022 Bequests were received in memory of

Joan Pelon

SCOUTS REPORT 2022

Cub Scout Pack 55

Sunday, February 13, 2022 both Cub Scouts and Boys Scouts and some of their adult leaders participated in Scout Sunday. This is a day when Scouts all across the country and world attend Churches together as a Scout is reverent. Our Scouts participated in a Hunger Challenge Trivia Game lead by Pastor Peter. It was a close competition between the Scouts vs. the First Congregational Saints with the Scout in the lead by one point over the Saints.

The town docks and Hesky Park in Meredith was the site of the March winter "hike". **Winter hiking safety and water safety** were discussed. We looked for animal tracks and found many dog, duck, and squirrel tracks in the snow.

The Lions and Tigers have learned about what it means to be a good citizen, what it means to be a part of the community and how it is important to be a good citizen in the community.

Our Bears worked on their Whittling Chip in which involves learning about the proper care and handling of jack knives. They have learned how to set up a safety circle around them when they use their knives and how to use them safely and properly. They used bars of Ivory soap to make carvings with their knives.

Pinewood Derby, Sat., March 19, 2022 at the Meredith Community Center. We were very excited about this as we have not had the Pinewood Derby in two years. Each Cub was given a Pinewood Derby car kit that consists of a block



Pinewood derby

of wood for the body, axels, and wheels. The Cubs worked with their adult partners to create their cars. In addition to racing their cars, each Cub were entered into the two competitions started many years ago by Bill Nunamacher.

In June the pack celebrated the end of the year at Leavitt Beach in Meredith with a potluck picnic, swimming, and **our rank advancement ceremony**. Each Scout was presented with the rank award for the requirements they had been working on all year and they were promoted to their next rank on their trail to Boy Scouts.

In September **recruitment night was successful**. Four kindergarteners join our Lion Den and three new fourth graders join our Webelos Den. We were also pleased to have the fathers of two of our new Cub Scouts join our adult leadership team.

October was the **official start of Den meetings** for the year. Each Den meets twice a month to work on requirements for their rank and fun activities.

This year we decided to **try something new with our Webelos Den**. They have been meeting with the Scout Troop twice a month to work on their activities and requirements. The adult leadership decided that this would help to better prepare the Webelos for crossing over into the Troop when they reach that point. We also felt that having the older Scouts in the Troop work with the Webelos would

keep the older Scouts more engaged and interested in Scouting. We are pleased with the way things are progressing with the Webelos and the Troop. The Webelos have earned their First Responder, Duty to God and Country, and Webelos Walkabout pins.

In November and December Cub Scouts sold Christmas wreaths with a little help from the Troop. This is one of our biggest fundraisers each year. The money raised goes towards providing supplies for activities, pays for field trips and events, and also helps with some of the costs of summer camp.

Troop 55

Our Boy Scouts have been meeting once a week throughout the year. They have been very busy working on rank advancements and merit badges. The Scouts competed their **Emergency Preparedness Merit Badge**. This is an Eagle required merit badge and each Scout needs to earn it in order to be eligible to become an Eagle Scout. They made emergency kits, discussed how they would be able to help the community during an emergency such as a natural disaster, developed a plan for communicating with other members of the Troop to activate an emergency response in the community, and they discussed how to respond to specific types of emergencies at home.



First aid training

The Troop had **skills day** on Saturday, March 5, 2022 where they worked on their fire building and campfire cooking skills as well as a search and rescue mission activity. The search and rescue activity was the final requirement needed to complete the Emergency Preparedness Merit Badge.

Three members of our Troop were on staff for NYLT in June. NYLT, **National Youth Leadership Training**, is a week-long camp course for Scouts that teaches them leadership skills that they can take back to their home Troops and other situations that require leadership skills. Mark Clark was a Scoutmaster, Erica Whitcher was an Assistant Scoutmaster, and Everett Whitcher was on the Quartermaster Staff. Everett Whitcher was a participant in NYLT in 2021.

Our Scouts attended **summer camp at Hidden Valley in Gilmanston, NH** during the first week of August. A campsite was shared with the Moultonborough and Tamworth Troops. The Scouts had a great week working on merit badges and participating in afternoon camp activities such as swimming, kayaking, campfires, and sports games. Each Scout earned several merit badges each.



Water crossing

In November the Pack and Troop participated in **Scouting for Food** along with Scouts all across the country and world. Our Scouts collected just under 300 non-perishable food items that were donated to local food pantries to help those in need.

In December we had our annual **Christmas party** and the Webelos joined us. Pizza was enjoyed fol-

lowed by a Yankee Swap and Christmas cookie decorating. The Scouts and adult leaders had a great time.

We have **two Scouts in our Troop working on their Eagle Rank**. Ben Beaudoin and Everett Whitcher are working hard to finish their remaining merit badges, submit their Eagle Project proposals, and complete their Eagle Projects before their 18th birthdays.

Respectfully submitted, Erica Whitcher

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION 2022

During 2022 Sunday School met twice a month from January to Easter and resumed in mid-September until Christmas. Allie Dennis Glancy provided child care concurrently for our younger children for whom sitting in a pew wasn't an option.

Sunday School is a multi-age group of 3-7 students (first- seventh grade). Our children have been Sunday School friends for many years and truly enjoy each other's company.

The curriculum, Follow Me: Biblical practices for Faithful Living, specifically, Follow Jesus and Welcome All has been a curriculum that works well with our children.

Our children have participated in Super Bowl of Caring, bagged treats for boys at Pine Haven at Easter and Halloween, enjoyed decorating a gingerbread house made by Susan Allen, and ringing the church bells. Thank you to our parents and grandparents who encourage their children to attend church and Sunday School.

Deb McNeish, Diaconate



HORTON CENTER

Testimony of summer camp from Everett Whitcher - This past summer was my 5th year at Horton Center. It is a great place to spend time. We do fun activities, go hiking, discover our faith. Chapel Rock is a very special place. I really enjoy camping on Pinkham Ledge. I have made so many great friends there. I look forward to going back every year. Everett Whitcher



My name is Paityn Schaub. Last summer I got to go to the Horton Center for church camp. I've never been to camp and I was nervous so I went to the 3 day one. I loved it. I learned crafts like tie dying and crocheting. I bought ice cream at the store. I met new friends and was in a skit the last day. I loved campfires

and learned a lot of songs and ate s'mores. The thing I loved most was sleeping outside at Cathedral Rock which is a huge ledge. I didn't want to leave and this year I want to go for a whole week.

The bad thing was that Pastor Peter was supposed to go but got Covid and never got to have fun with us there.



Submitted by Paityn Schaub, typed by Grandma.

MISSIONS REPORT FOR 2022

January 2022

In January the **Missions Board had a “changing of the guards** so to speak” as our long-term Missions members Toni Brown, Karen Truberg, and Ceil Andrews moved on to other boards or to take a much needed and well-deserved break after years of Missions.

Three **new Mission Board members**...Nara Deparilian, Liz Peoples, and Erica Whitcher came together to create a new Missions Board. We had several meetings outside of the regular Church Council meeting to discuss current missions, past mission, and suggestions for new mission projects.

February 2022

Sunday, February 13, 2022 we participated in the **Souper Bowl of Caring**. Prior to the Souper Bowl, Deb McNeish helped the Sunday School kids make posters for the Souper Bowl. We were able to coordinate with Heath's in Center Harbor and Hanford in Meredith to display the posters and their customers generously donated. Ceil Andrews took five car loads full of donated food from Heath's and from the members of our congregation.

In addition to the food, people donated money. A total of \$455.00 was collected and delivered to the Meredith Emergency Food Pantry. The ladies at the food pantry were very excited to receive our donations.

On Sunday, February 27, 2022 **we provided a meal to be served at the Salvation Army** for approximately 25 people. Several Church members donated pans of chopped suey, bread or rolls, carrots and celery sticks, and various items for dessert. Donations totaling \$45.00 were used to help purchase items needed for the meal. The Salvation Army was very appreciative of our support.

March 2022

On March 19, 2022 we had our offering for **One Great Hour of Sharing** which supports disaster, refugee, and development ministries of the UCC within Wider Church Ministries. We collected \$223.00.

April 2022

On Sunday, April 24, 2022 we provided a **meal to the Salvation Army**. We provide shepherds pie, veggie sticks, rolls/bread, and desserts for 25 people.

May 2022

Members of the Missions Board met with Pastor Peter in May to discuss the history of Missions and where we want to go with missions in the future. Many ideas were discussed that evening among them were **environmental stewardship and Jake's Garage as new projects**.

June 2022

On Sunday, June 26, 2022 our Church provided a **picnic lunch for the Salvation Army** in Laconia. Members of the Congregation made sandwiches (ham salad, egg salad, tuna, and pb & j), chips, veggie sticks, and cookies for dessert. Thank you to all of our sandwich makers, bakers, veggie stick makers and friends providing snacks. Thank you to Ann Wallace for delivering the meal to the Salvation Army.

July 2022

The Missions Board continued meeting several times a month outside of Church Council meetings putting together a **new direction and plan for missions**.

August 2022

On Sunday, August 28, 2022 we provided a **meal to be served at the Salvation Army**. We provided garden salads, potato salad, pasta salad, lunch meat (ham and turkey) and cupcakes for dessert. We provided food for 25 people.

At the end of August we started **collecting back packs and school supplies** to be donated to Inter-Lakes Elementary School and Inter-Lakes High School for students in need. We also received \$200.00 in cash/check donations to be used to purchase more school supplies. Erica Whitcher had fun shopping and purchased quite a few backpacks and other school supplies. Our Congregation has always been very generous in supporting school supplies for our local schools.

September 2022

During the first week of school, **many backpacks and several boxes of school supplies were delivered** to Inter-Lakes Elementary School and Inter-Lakes High School.

October 2022

The Missions Board would like to thank everyone who donated to the **scholarship fund for our two students in India**. The tuition for two students for the year is \$517.00.

We are also looking forward to seeing copies of their report cards. They have been working hard. Can you believe Jesika is going into 12th grade?!?! We have been sponsoring her since she started kindergarten! We are very excited to share that Nara and Pastor Peter are working with Ray O'Brien from Children Are Angels From Heaven to set up a zoom meeting with our students!

Missions has also been discussing **environmental stewardship and the climate crisis** that our world is facing. Meredith and the surrounding communities are not immune to such problems. We are recruiting members for a **“Green Team”** to organize our efforts. We already have two members! Please let us know if you would like to join our Green Team.

November 2022

The Missions Board had a busy November! A **check was sent to Children Are Angels From Heaven** for the scholarship for our two India students. Thank you to everyone who donated to the scholarship fund. It is very much appreciated and needed.

Thank you to all of our Church friends who donated gift cards to the **Inter-Lakes Christmas Fund**. These items will be given to families and to senior citizens in need in our area this Christmas season.

December 2022

On Sunday, December 18, 2022 we had The **Christmas Fund offering**, formerly Veterans of the Cross. This is a special mission administered by the UCC Board of Ministerial Assistance. Funds collected provide financial support to those who serve the church and are facing financial challenges including active and retired clergy. We collected \$410.00 for The Christmas Fund.

OTHER MISSIONS OF 2022

Meredith Emergency Food Pantry....a total of \$575.00 dollars (including money collected during the Souper Bowl of Caring) was collected for the food pantry. Food donations were collected and taken to the food pantry on a weekly basis.

Relief for Ukraine....we received \$600.00 in donations for the relief efforts in Ukraine.

Backpacks for the Church of Another Chance....we received several backpacks, gift cards, hats and items to be put into backpacks for those returning to the community after serving time in the Belknap County House of Corrections. We also received \$120.00 during 2023 to support this project. This is a year round mission that we look forward to supporting in 2023.

Basic Support to New Hampshire Conference....\$400.00 was sent to the NH Conference.

Regional Confirmation Class Mission Trip to Boston...Everett Whitcher collected \$200.00 and many, many items such as bags, clothes, shoes, jackets, hats, and toiletries to be taken to the homeless in Boston as part of the mission trip for the confirmation class in the spring. The money raised was used to purchase socks, pants, and toiletries requested for the project.

The Missions Board would like to thank everyone who has supported our missions throughout 2022. We were able to participate in many, many projects this year and we are looking forward to a great 2023.



Packaging 10,000 meals of mac and cheese



Pastor Peter's mission trip to Honduras, cementing a floor in a house.

MEREDITH CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH WOMEN

This group has been known as "The Holiday Crafters" or similar names. As our focus and ideas have changed it was decided that we would go back to the original name of "Meredith Congregational Church Women" as that is what the current checking account is registered as. We consider ourselves a social group and wish to work on projects together, some that may raise funds for specific projects that the group selects; or, we can just drink coffee/tea/water and have fun! Making crafts is always a possibility, but this might not need to be tied to fundraising. At the current time we will meet on the third Monday of the month at 10:00 a.m. – noonish.

Jude Shea is acting as a facilitator for this group and will continue unless someone else is interested in taking over. As a group, we welcome all input/ideas/suggestions! All folks are equal and can "jump in" at any time or schedule a meeting.

It has been an interesting year for this re-energized group of women. In 2021, we held a Holiday Craft Fair in November with the group (and extra members) crafting for a good chunk of the year. But it was decided that we would not hold a fair this year. This will be re-evaluated in 2023.

Our main fundraising project was The Summer Calendar of Fun for July. People bought chances and a new winner was drawn daily. Not only were we able to involve area merchants who were very generous in their donations but we involved the congregation and others to do the daily drawing. The group agreed that this was a tremendous success for socializing, involving the congregation, and fundraising. We would consider doing a similar calendar sometime in the future.

The apple pie fundraiser was put on hold for this year.

In September, the group discussed future projects and the possible need for further fundraising. After looking at all the great ideas, the group had narrowed down our focus to four possibilities in order of importance:

- Refurbishing the narthex which includes repairs to the ceiling, painting, and replacing the floor coverings. This necessitates including the stairwells and balcony as the floor covering and painting in the stairwell are contiguous with the narthex.

- Replacing floor coverings throughout the facility and divided into 4 areas – narthex/balcony, sanctuary, parlor/offices/fellowship hall including a stairway, second floor (at least the classrooms).

- Kitchen floor

- Painting the church – sanctuary and/or narthex and balcony.

Estimates were obtained from several vendors regarding floor coverings throughout the facility, painting in several areas, and replace versus refinish the kitchen floor

In November, the group voted to paint the narthex and balcony, replace the floor coverings in these two areas, and professionally strip, clean, and seal the kitchen floor. To move forward with all the projects, additional fundraising would need to be completed.

As of this writing, the group will be approaching Church Council for permission to move forward with these plans. There will be a meeting in mid- January to finalize painting and colors. Although we have obtained estimates for professional painting, Shirley and the painting angels are going to tackle this part of the project themselves to save a little money. Additional estimates are being considered to refinish the hard wood floors in the narthex versus installing a new floor covering. The goal is to be moving forward during January and February with various parts of the project.

In order to move forward with the first three projects in total (assuming we use vendors), additional fundraising is needed. #4, paint the sanctuary, will be discussed with trustees and Church Council at a later time. This is a significantly greater cost than the other 3 projects combined.

The group is dialoguing various ideas for both fundraising and fellowship together. Stay tuned for new ideas from this amazing group.

New members are always welcome. Watch the monthly calendar to confirm our meeting dates and time.

Respectfully submitted by Jude Shea

NOMINATING COMMITTEE REPORT 2023

MODERATOR

Chris Witcher

ASSISTANT MODERATOR

Nate Torr

CLERK

ASSISTANT CLERK

TREASURER

Deb McNeish

ASSISTANT TREASURER

Sherri Collis

DIACONATE (12)

Susan Allen
Peter Ayer
Wendy Harkins
Elaine Kozlowski
Deb McNeish
Karen Truberg
Ann Welch

TRUSTEES (9)

Ceil Andrews
Pat Fish
Connie Ryan
Lydia Torr
Carol Zink

MISSION (6)

Erica Witcher
Sandy Ambrose
Mark Clark
Nara Derapelian
Liz Peoples

CONF. DELEGATES (4+1 youth)

Deb McNeish

(youth)

ASSN. DELEGATES (2)

Deb McNeish

NOMINATING (4)

Connie Ryan

AUDITORS (2)

Respectfully submitted,

Connie Ryan

(#) = Number recommended in Church By-laws

Drafted 1-6-2023, revised 1-9-2023

Annual Meeting Report, January 29, 2023

INCOME

		Budget 2022	Actual 2022	Proposed 2023
	Annual Pledges	\$84,700.00	\$78,883.72	\$90,500.00
100	Offerings	\$10,600.00	\$12,497.65	\$12,000.00
101	Easter special offering	\$800.00	\$275.00	\$400.00
102	Christmas spec. offering	\$850.00	\$375.00	\$800.00
121	Memorial Gifts	\$1,500.00	\$775.00	\$1,500.00
130	Parsonage Acct *	\$20,064.00	\$27,612.00	\$0.00
131	Facility Use fee	\$1,000.00	\$879.00	\$750.00
141	Carryover 2021	\$13,100.00	\$13,100.00	\$0.00
151	Transfer from Investments	\$7,800.00	\$0.00	\$20,000.00
161	Gifts	\$7,000.00	\$13,193.00	\$4,334.41
171	Lewis Fund	\$2,000.00	\$16,992.80	\$0.00
181	Eliott Fund		\$2,807.88	\$0.00
191	Carryover 2022			\$3,984.00
	INCOME TOTAL	\$149,414.00	\$167,391.05	\$134,268.41

EXPENSES

	Utilities	Budget 2022	Actual 2022	2023
200	Bundled phone/internet	\$1,070.00	\$1,096.12	\$1,380.00
201	Electric-FCC &P*	\$1,650.00	\$2,159.05	\$3,500.00
202	Heating Fuel-FCC	\$6,792.00	\$6,918.00	\$7,122.00
203	Telephone	\$1,400.00	\$1,333.67	\$0.00
204	Water/sewage FCC&P*	\$500.00	\$566.64	\$500.00
205	Web services (Zoom Weebly)	\$300.00	\$541.54	\$541.00
	Total	\$11,712.00	\$12,615.02	\$13,043.00

	Maintenance/Repair	Budget 2022	Actual 2022	2023
300	M&R General	\$200.00	\$4,025.97	\$1,500.00
310	M&R Heat/Boiler	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$100.00
311	Boiler inspection	\$300.00	\$0.00	\$300.00
320	M&R FCC Equipment	\$150.00	\$0.00	\$150.00
321	M&R - Clock	\$200.00	\$0.00	\$200.00
323	M&R Sound System	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
324	Fire Ext. inspection	\$200.00	\$159.00	\$200.00
325	Fire alarm monitoring	\$675.00	\$1,174.00	\$675.00
330	M&R Custodial supplies	\$200.00	\$173.93	\$200.00
340	M&R Organ	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
350	Grounds-FCC	\$0.00	\$3,710.00	\$0.00
360	M&R Parsonage P*	\$200.00	\$6,230.58	\$0.00
370	Heating sys - P*	\$150.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
380	Grounds -P *	\$0.00	\$49.00	\$0.00
	Total	\$2,275.00	\$15,522.48	\$3,325.00

	Operations	Budget 2022	2022	2023
400	Office supplies	\$200.00	\$252.68	\$200.00
401	Postage	\$700.00	\$700.00	\$1,000.00
402	Newspaper Ads	\$1,200.00	\$1,087.50	\$1,200.00
403	Computer supplies	\$200.00	\$69.99	\$0.00
404	Computer repair	\$75.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
406	Copier lease	\$1,380.00	\$1,535.28	\$1,535.28
407	Copier supplies	\$945.00	\$1,840.28	\$945.00
410	Sec of State 2025	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
420	Insurance for FCC&P*	\$6,652.00	\$6,818.25	\$6,153.00
430	NHUC Commitment	\$1,182.00	\$1,156.20	\$1,468.80
431	Delegate fee	\$40.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
440	Music Supplies	\$250.00	\$133.87	\$100.00
441	Music streaming license	\$75.00	\$72.00	\$72.00
442	Music copyright license	\$143.00	\$142.00	\$143.00
444	Music eqp/electronic supp	\$200.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
450	Christian Ed	\$250.00	\$517.90	\$500.00
460	Worship Service Supp	\$500.00	\$438.18	\$500.00
461	Flowers -special dates	\$300.00	\$322.18	\$300.00
471	Computer setup/training	\$300.00	\$0.00	\$2,000.00
481	taxes for P *	\$2,600.00	\$1,265.78	\$0.00
	TOTAL	\$17,162.00	\$16,352.09	\$16,117.08

	Missions	Budget 2022	Actual 2022	2023
490	Local Missions	\$400.00	\$400.00	\$400.00
491	Other missions	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$600.00
	Total	\$400.00	\$400.00	\$1,000.00

	Salaries & Benefits	Budget 2022	Actual 2022	2023
500	Choir Director	\$16,820.00	\$16,215.00	\$16,820.00
501	sub organist	\$600.00	\$200.00	\$400.00
510	Webmaster	\$5,280.00	\$6,620.00	\$5,720.00
515	Child care	\$200.00	\$400.00	\$400.00
520	Custodian	\$3,850.00	\$3,847.78	\$3,850.00
530	Admin. Asst	\$7,262.00	\$7,221.54	\$8,476.00
540	Pastor Housing	\$9,500.00	\$9,462.62	\$9,500.00
541	Pastor Base Salary	\$33,000.00	\$32,935.72	\$33,300.00
542	Pastor Pension	\$6,450.00	\$6,249.24	\$6,450.00
543	Pastor Auto Expense	\$500.00	\$227.96	\$500.00
545	Pastor Education	\$350.00	\$179.00	\$500.00
546	Health/Dental	\$29,358.00	\$29,687.76	\$31,740.00
547	Flexible Spend acct	\$2,500.00	\$249.00	\$1,500.00
550	Guest Pastor	\$2,000.00	\$2,800.00	\$2,400.00
560	Employer Soc Sec	\$675.00	\$686.34	\$764.21
570	Employer Medicare	\$190.00	\$160.58	\$178.21
580	Accountant/payroll	\$850.00	\$1,025.10	\$1,106.00
590	Ass't Treasurer stip	\$350.00	\$350.00	\$350.00
	Total	\$119,735.00	\$118,517.64	\$123,954.42

Proposed

Summary	Budget 2022	Actual 2022	2023
Income	\$149,414.00	\$167,391.05	\$134,268.41

Expenses	Budget 2022	Actual 2022	2023
Utilities	\$11,712.00	\$12,615.02	\$13,043.00
M&R	\$2,275.00	\$15,522.48	\$3,325.00
Operations	\$17,122.00	\$16,352.00	\$16,117.08
Missions	\$400.00	\$400.00	\$1,000.00
Salary/Benefits	\$119,735.00	\$118,517.64	\$123,954.42
TOTALS	\$151,244.00	\$163,407.14	\$157,439.50

* = Parsonage in 2022
not relevant for 2023

\$3,984.43 surplus
\$23,171.09 deficit

Restricted accounts 12/31/22

	Beginning 1.1.22	Received Funds	Disbursed Funds	12.31.22
Eagle Scout	\$296.86		\$296.86	\$0.00
Music Library		\$250.00	\$126.22	\$123.78
Apple pies 2021	\$1,296.00		\$1,296.00	\$0.00
Joyful Noise	\$864.00	\$3,436.51	\$1,130.00	\$2,268.51
Organ Fund	\$3,515.00		\$1,790.00	\$1,765.00
Summer soloists		\$300.00	\$290.00	\$50.00
Show Tunes		\$1,081.00	\$797.93	\$283.04
Scholarships-India	\$6.88		\$817.00	\$40.00
UCC Basic Support		\$400.00	\$400.00	\$0.00
Food Pantry/Soup Sunday		\$979.00	\$979.00	\$0.00
OGHS		\$223.00	\$223.00	\$0.00
NIN		\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Prison needs		\$120.00	\$120.00	\$0.00
Peggy Houston Memorial	\$1,000.00		\$1,000.00	\$0.00
Vets of Cross		\$410.00	\$410.00	\$0.00
Ukraine		\$600.00	\$600.00	\$0.00
Coffee hour	\$100.00	\$100.00	\$100.00	\$39.06
Hospitality	\$100.00	\$100.00	\$39.06	\$60.94
Fun Calendar		\$2,405.00	\$2,405.00	\$0.00
Salvation Army		\$65.00	\$65.00	\$0.00
Youth Mission 10/16/22		\$1,000.00		\$1,000.00
Hunger Meals		\$1,110.00	\$1,110.00	\$0.00
Flowers for Sanctuary/Point.		\$521.00	\$521.00	\$0.00
Totals				\$5,683.33

Review of the 2022 Budget year

INCOME: Members and friends continued to financially support Church 2022 with their pledges and offerings. We missed our targeted pledge amount by six thousand dollars, but had an increase of almost two thousand in 'loose offerings' aka non-pledge money. Rental of the Parsonage was budgeted for income in 2022. Following the sale on the house in July 2022, the funds we were anticipating to receive from the rental income were provided to the budget (\$7,548) to offset the missed rental income.

Money from the Lewis fund is reported as income, however, funds were used to offset maintenance expenses needed to market the Parsonage and as well necessary maintenance improvements at Church.

\$2,780.00 - electrical work at Church- upgrading
 \$3,710.00 - for dead and dying tree(s) removal surrounding the parking lot at church.
 \$1,636.03 - at parsonage
 \$2,035.67 - at parsonage
 \$ 431.10 - at parsonage
 \$ 400.00 - at parsonage to power wash prior to selling it

Money from the Elliot fund is reported as income; however, the funds were used to offset maintenance expenses at the parsonage and at Church.

\$1,060.00 - flashing to connect the back deck with the main house at the parsonage.
 \$1,080.00- correct and upgrade plumbing issues with the church kitchen sink and one bathroom at Church
 \$ 667.78 - maintenance at the parsonage

EXPENSES:*Utilities*

- Our propane budget plan went up slightly when the 2022-2023 year round plan went into effect in July with an increase (\$566 to \$587).
- Electricity rates increased September - December to over \$200 a month.
- In November/December the church bundled internet and telephone through Breezeline. We were able to do this since the dedicated emergency phone line was disconnected and replaced with cell phone service. In 2023 this bundling will save the Church about \$1,000.00,
- Web services include out annual subscriptions and/or yearly upgrades for Zoom, Weebly, Quicken.

Maintenance:

\$2,780.00 - electrical work at Church for new ceiling LED lights on the second floor, stairway light upgrade from nursery to Fellowship Hall, additional circuits (20 amp and duplex receptacles in the pulpit/PA are, and checked lights in the balcony to accommodate larger size GFCI.
 \$3,710.00 - for dead and dying tree(s) removal surrounding the parking lot at church.
 \$1,636.03 - at parsonage- replacement for the front door
 \$2,035.67 - at parsonage- variety of maintenance
 \$ 431.10 - at parsonage- threshold maintenance
 \$ 400.00 - at parsonage to power wash prior to selling it

Emergency alarm system replaced with cell phone service rather than land line and the cost for its installation (\$499).

Operations

- The copier agreement is from June- July; in 2022 we realized that we had 'enjoyed' the ability of the copier to make color copies, too much. Our count of color copies was way over the allotment on our agreement. Since 2022 the office has been very frugal and closely watches the color copies count.
- Without the parsonage included with our insurance coverage, the rate from October 2022- September 2023 has decreased.
- In 2022 we paid taxes on the parsonage for the first half of the year - \$1,265.78

*Salary/
Benefits*

This portion of the budget equals 80% of the entire budget.

Included are the pastor, administrative assistant, custodian, choir director/organist, webmaster, child care provider, and guest pastor. Through direct deposit our bookkeeper pays our staff, attends to the federal withdrawals for quarterly 941, and prepares annual 1040 and 1099 reports.

Deb McNeish, Treasurer

Annual Balance statement
December 31, 2022

The end of the year balance statement is in different in format from other years.

Cash in hand at Meredith Village Savings Bank On December 31, 2022

Checking account at MVSb totaled \$26,692.3; this includes pledges for 2023 (\$14,520) and restricted church accounts (\$5,653.33).
\$6,591 in cash unrestricted

Investments:

Treasury Bond: \$10,000 (invested in May 2022)

Fidelity Investments: \$465,146.63 (as of 12/31/22; RJ funds were sold on January 6, 2023)

Funds came from:

\$351,704.32	net proceeds from the sale of the Parsonage to invest net us
\$ 69,048.46	total of the three savings accounts at Meredith Village Savings Bank
\$ 44,409.10	mutual funds/stocks from our account with Raymond James

The \$ 465,146.33	is invested in the following (as of 1/6/23)
\$ 100,000.	Money market account (4.26% yield rate) Liquid account - enabling immediate access by Church as needed
\$ 100,000.	1 year Treasury bond (4.7%)
\$ 132,000.	2 year CD (4.5%)
\$ 132,000.	3 year CD (4.35%)

In consultation with the Fidelity representatives Jim Akatyszewski and Ethan, Fixed Income Services rep, it was prudent and less risky to invest Church funds in the above mentioned accounts. These investments may not yield us the \$20,000 we are planning for income for the 2023 budget, but we have a fiduciary responsibility to First Congregational Church to keep our limited funds safe.

UCC Investments totally \$23,594.87 (as of 12/31/22) haven't been invested with Fidelity as of January 13, 2023. The process to transfer the funds has an additional step as UCC Investments is a private firm. Paperwork has been submitted for the funds to be electronically transferred to our account at Meredith Village Savings Bank. It is anticipated that the transfer will occur by the end of January 2023. After which, a decision will be made for investing the funds.

Deb McNeish
Treasurer

