



First Presbyterian Church of Port Huron Self Study Report

Submitted by:
Carolyn Ahlquist
Linda Hall
Matt Lozen
Judith McLean
Ann Murphy
Mark Schian
Pastor Roxie Davis

Transitional Team started work on June 6, 2021
Congregation received copies of the report on November 1, 2021
Congregational Gathering for Questions and Answers on November 7, 2021
Presented to Elders and Deacons at combined meeting on November 8, 2021
Final Approval of the Self-Study by Session on November 21, 2021

Table of Contents

Self Study Report	Page 3-18
Appendix I-Financial Report	Page 19-35
Appendix II-Survey Questions	Page 36
Appendix III-Demographic Data	Page 37-44
Appendix IV-History	Page 45-52

First Presbyterian Church of Port Huron
811 Wall St. – Port Huron, MI 48060
(810) 985-6191 / portpresby@gmail.com
Facebook: @First Presbyterian Church Port Huron
YouTube: 1st Presbyterian Church Port Huron
Website: fpcporthuron.org



Pastor: Rev. Dr. Roxie Davis – Interim Part-Time
Music Director: Knight Vernon
Sunday Morning Attendant: Michelle Fisher
Christian Education Director: Michelle Fisher
Social Media/Marketing Technician: James Fisher
Administrative Assistant: Julie Wendt
Financial Administrator: Amanda Schwehofer
Custodian/Maintenance Director: Bill Briscoe

MISSION STATEMENT

Our mission is to Know the Love of God, Grow in the Christian faith, and to Go share our faith in Jesus Christ.

KNOW-GROW-GO

Introduction

First Presbyterian Church is a historic church in a historic city.

The French explorer Daniel Greysolon Duluth established Fort St. Joseph near the present site of the Blue Water Bridge in 1686. In 1814, Fort Gratiot was established at the base of Lake Huron and was considered the first organized population in the area. In 1854, Thomas A. Edison's family moved to Port Huron where young Thomas Edison worked on the railroad selling newspapers and "testing" his numerous inventions. On February 3, 1857, Port Huron became an incorporated city, consolidating the villages of Fort Gratiot, Desmond, Huron, and Peru.

The City of Port Huron, stretching for seven miles along the shore of the St. Clair River and the base of Lake Huron, is an international border crossing marked by the spectacular Blue Water Bridges which connect the United States to Sarnia, Ontario, Canada. Port Huron's stunning waterways and diverse annual events make it a year-round tourist destination. Special events draw thousands of visitors to Port Huron every year. Just a few of these include the Port Huron to Mackinac Sailboat Race, Silver Stick International Hockey Tournament, Edith Schoenrock Skating Competition, Festival of Trees, Antique Boat Show, Ice Fest, and the Feast of St. Clair. With its abundant attractions, and convenient location, Port Huron is a great place to live and work. Port Huron is considered the "central city" of St. Clair County and has the largest population of any municipality in the county.

In Port Huron you'll find a variety of housing options, from small starter homes and downtown lofts to water-front estates, high-rise condominiums and all forms of rental properties. There's a place for everyone. Our quality of life is second to none, with convenient amenities and a robust parks and recreation system.

Port Huron has a diverse economic base. It benefits from the close proximity to Detroit and hosts many industrial suppliers as a result. St. Clair County is a preferred location for tiered automotive suppliers. The county provides a central location and is an international gateway to the automotive supply chain through the Blue Water Bridges and Canadian National rail tunnel. Energy generation is an important industry in St.

Clair County. One-third of metro Detroit's power is generated here. This area is a prime location for solar power due to its large tracks of land, extensive transmission network, as well as the transformers and other infrastructure servicing the power plants. Mobility is one of the most important characteristics of economic activity within a region. As the northern entry point of the NAFTA corridor, moving goods, materials and people is convenient. With multi-modal assets supporting travel by highway, water, air and rail, St. Clair County provides quick and easy access to larger markets in the U.S. and Canada.

The Port Huron Area School District is served by two Class A high schools, three middle schools, nine elementary schools, an alternative high school, one new early childhood center, one K-12 virtual school and 15+ county partnerships. Our county-wide Regional Educational Service Agency offers education for the developmentally disabled student as well as an early childhood program. K-12 Christian schools and charter schools are also available to families in the Blue Water area.

Extracurricular

Port Huron Schools believes it will help all students discover their unique strengths and abilities by offering a wide range of extracurricular opportunities beginning in elementary school.

- | | |
|-----------------------------|--------------------------|
| • Drama/Theatre | • Chess Club |
| • Concert and Marching Band | • Vocal Music |
| • 28 Varsity Sports | • House League Sports |
| • Student Council | • National Honor Society |
| • Robotics | • Summer Camps |
| • Quiz Bowl | • Debate |
| • Destination Imagination | • Mock Trial |
| • Visual Arts | • Diversity and Kindness |

College Credit and Career Readiness Options for High School Students

Every student has the opportunity to create his or her own unique pathway through the following educational options:

- Advanced Placement Courses (AP)
- Blue Water Middle College (students receive a high school diploma and an Associate's Degree after 5 years at no cost)
- Broadcasting (radio and television/film) programs

- Career and Technical Middle College (students receive a high school diploma, an Associate's Degree and technical certification in their chosen field)
- Career Exploration partnerships with P.J. Wallbank Springs Inc. and McLaren Port Huron Hospital
- Dual Enrollment through many colleges, including St. Clair County Community College
- LearnOn collaborative online learning opportunities
- St. Clair County TEC (14 programs including computer coding, digital media, and cosmetology)
- Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts and Math (STEAM) programs

St. Clair Community College (SC4) prepares students for rewarding careers through associate degrees, one-year certificates and four-year degrees through university partnerships. SC4 is a member of the Michigan Transfer Agreement (MTA), which simplifies the transfer of credit for SC4 students between community colleges, four-year public colleges, and some private colleges in Michigan. Baker College offers a Culinary Institute which prepares students for employment in the food service industry.

St. Clair County is noted for its outdoor recreation opportunities. The river and lakefront offer fishing and boating activities with many marinas and boat launches throughout the area. Families can enjoy beach activities or use the outdoor pools for lessons and playtime. There are many multi-use trails and well-maintained county parks in the area. Inclusive and accessible equipment is available at city parks. A state-of-the-art YMCA, tennis club, ice skating arena, and public and private golf clubs beckon families and retirees.

Live theater, museums and an International Symphony provide many cultural opportunities. There is also a long-running speakers' program, Port Huron Town Hall, which brings a variety of well-known entertainers, athletes, politicians, and authors to the McMorran Auditorium in downtown Port Huron.

When you are in need of medical help, the community is home to two hospitals, Lake Huron Medical Center and McLaren Port Huron, as well as the Karmanos Cancer Center. In turn, these hospitals are supported by many private doctors, clinics, and specialists.

First Presbyterian Church of Port Huron is located in the olde town area of the city within walking distance of downtown and the river front. The international flavor, miles

of water-front, temperate climate, spacious green parks and a vibrant downtown all make Port Huron a wonderful place to call home.

Despite declining numbers in recent years, FPC has always been well regarded in the community as a congregation faithful to the word of Christ. Our history shows that we have had our struggles but, through prayer and faith, we have remained in Port Huron as Presbyterians, seeking to serve God.

History

Throughout its 132-year history, First Presbyterian Church (FPC) has expanded and contracted its footprint and congregation, weathered controversy and risen above it, and grappled with financial insecurity and a changing neighborhood. But throughout its decades at the corner of Eighth and Wall Streets, it has never lost sight of or forgotten its commitment to those who have worshipped there or the community it so steadfastly has served. It has also benefited from the commitment and dedication of the 11 pastors who have served it during this time.

When the First Presbyterian Church was formed on Jan. 30, 1889, after an acrimonious severing of its affiliation with the United Presbyterian Church, it was a time of great growth and innovation within the still fairly young city of Port Huron. The new church met in various meeting halls for several years until a new sanctuary could be built. In deciding to build its new church home in a neighborhood south of the city's Black River the congregation was making a very strategic decision.

By the late 1880s, the 38 blocks surrounding the church were a much sought-after address for city residents as well as an inviting conclave for the majority of its churches. Interspersed among the gracious homes that graced its tree-lined streets were the Congregational, Episcopal, Lutheran, Methodist, and Catholic churches. In 1924, a synagogue would join the mix.

The new sanctuary was dedicated on Sept. 15, 1895. By the early 1920s a manse had been bought nearby to house the pastors and their families; it would be used until the mid-1950s. In 1930, a two-story addition was added to the sanctuary to accommodate the church's rapidly expanding Sunday School as well as badly needed meeting space. A two-story Christian Education wing was added in 1958. Extensive improvements and renovations have also been made throughout the years to the sanctuary and office/meeting addition. In March 2020, the church was shut down by the onslaught of the COVID-19 pandemic with services and business matters moved online. The church would not reopen until Easter Sunday 2021. The shutdown, however, afforded the church the opportunity to complete a long-awaited renovation and remodeling project of its offices and parlor to make them more inviting and much more practical. Outdated

and outmoded equipment and furniture was replaced, and security updated. In addition, a new entrance was created off the west parking lot to make it easier for people to access the elevator to the sanctuary and fellowship hall.

It was during the 28-year tenure of the Rev. John Alton Cressman (1949-1978) that First Presbyterian began looking outward, undertaking a serious outreach effort within the neighborhood and community. During the Cressman years, the church would be among the founders of the city's Inter-Faith Housing Commission, whose focus was to build new homes or rehabilitate existing homes for low-income residents and seniors living in the city's South Side neighborhoods. It also helped organize and provide leadership to the Port Huron Ministerial Association, the Family Service Agency, Visiting Nurse Association, and the Community Mental Health Clinic.

The Men's Association sponsored a family fleeing from Castro's Cuba in 1962 and financially supported missions and projects in Mexico, the Philippines and India. The Deacons established an emergency fund for people in the neighborhood in dire need of immediate help. The Women's Association set up what became the forerunner of the Meals on Wheels program for seniors. Young people in the church became involved with the Migrant Ministry in neighboring Sanilac County. This outreach has continued throughout the years as well as expanded to include hands-on foreign and domestic mission trips, creating an in-house soup kitchen that would evolve into the city's Mid City Nutrition soup kitchen and the founding of the city's Habitat for Humanity chapter.

Over time, a radically changing neighborhood and an aging congregation has taken its toll. Once surrounded by middle-class family homes, the church's neighborhood is now dominated by transient and low-income residences and several of the eight other churches and synagogue have either closed or are struggling to keep their doors open. The city is doing its utmost to curb the trend. It has enacted new ordinances to prevent the creation of more rental housing and to encourage more owner-occupied properties. Several of the historic Victorian-style homes have been or are being restored and a historic designation has been given to one of the neighborhood's main thoroughfares.

As for First Presbyterian, from a high of more than 900 members in 1963, its membership now stands at 185. The congregation, however, has remained staunchly committed to a decision made after an extensive self-study in 1978; that while the situation may not always be ideal, God was calling them to "*bloom where they were planted*". As the Rev. Jason Pittman (2008-2020) said, "Jesus Christ calls us to be a church not in just a bustling, growing affluent community. He calls us to be a church everywhere including those areas that have experienced decline and change."

For a more detailed history of the First Presbyterian Church, see Appendix IV

Worship and Music

The Worship and Music Committee plans special services throughout the year. Special offerings of music are arranged with the music director to enhance our worship. A vintage pipe organ is in the raised choir loft at the front of the sanctuary and a piano is down on the floor for access by the organist.

- **Choirs:** We start with the littlest ones with a gradual transition to our choir of adult members. In recent years, the youth choirs (grades 3-12) have been less of a constant due to declining numbers. However, an attempt is always made to use their gifts within the music offerings, including instrumental music, solos or joining with the adult choir. A handbell choir has been part of our church for many years, with a few interruptions between directors. We have a full set of handbells and chimes as well as mallets to be used by our youth and adult choirs.
- **Beach Service:** Due to our picturesque location, we offer an 8:00 AM Sunday worship service throughout the summer at a beach on the shore of Lake Huron. Guitars often accompany praise music, but not exclusively. This service is well attended by members and visitors. It is publicized through posters, yard signs, billboards, and the internet.
- **Traditional Service:** This service is offered in the sanctuary at 10:00 AM year-round and features traditional hymns and liturgy, a Children's message, and musical offering. Communion is offered on the first Sunday of each month.
- **Kirkin' O' the Tartans:** On Reformation Sunday, we honor our Scottish heritage with a bagpiper in the church sanctuary and fellowship hall which are draped in more than 100 tartans. The families are honored by a Calling of the Clans during the service. It is followed by a festive event with Scottish baked goods, haggis, and a Celtic dancing performance. This service is well attended by members and many others from the community.
- **Advent:** The youth retell the Christmas story at a service in December with costumes and special music. In some years, the choir has offered a Christmas Cantata. A Christmas Eve service is held culminating in the singing of Silent Night as candles are held, and the sanctuary is darkened.
- **Easter Season:** Ash Wednesday, Maundy Thursday, and Easter services are held in our sanctuary. Good Friday services are ecumenical and held in various churches in the area.

Christian Education

Christian Education is provided for all ages to help us mature in our understanding of faith and to enrich our discipleship. From a study of the gospel of Matthew to learning better parenting skills, we offer a variety of topics in our effort to understand more fully what it means to follow Jesus in today's complex world. Our educational efforts are always Biblically grounded and historically informed as befits a church of

the Reformed Tradition. We consider Christian Education to be a vital part of our total ministry, second only in importance to worship. Opportunities for growth in discipleship arise frequently throughout the year.

Children's Ministry

- Nursery: (Birth to 3 years) Available throughout the year at 9:45 – 11:30 AM
- GIFT: (Growing in Faith Together) After the Children's Message, leaders escort preschool through 3rd grade children to experience a special time where they will participate in a lesson geared just for them!
- Singing The Faith: Every Sunday, 11:15 AM, children work on learning a song to offer monthly during the service.
- Confirmation: Typically, this year long program is offered to those who wish to join the church who are entering the 8th grade, but if numbers are small, grade level grouping of 7th-9th graders has been held. The students are paired with an adult member for mentoring and guidance throughout the process. At the end of the year each student writes a personal statement of faith and presents it to the Session. A service recognizing them as new members of the church is held in the Spring.
- SPARK: Our youth group, SPARK, works with middle and high school youth to teach them how to live the gospel and promote fellowship. Historically, SPARK has met on Wednesday nights. This group has participated in a variety of special events throughout the year including conferences and mission trips. They host various fundraising events to raise money for these activities.

Adult Education

- Adult Church School: Classes are offered weekly 9:00-9:45 AM on Sunday morning featuring Bible study or discussion on relevant topics.
- Women Circles: First Presbyterian has two circles – Sarah and Martha – which meet monthly at the church for Bible study. Each circle has about 12 members. Sarah Circle uses the Presbyterian Women's Horizons series while the Martha Circle chooses a study focusing on women in the Bible and women's issues within the church. Both circles also collect money to benefit church and community outreach programs and volunteer to help with various church activities.

Fellowship

FPC is a place where relationships with each other are vitally important as they reflect our relationship to God. We nurture our relationships by taking time to share faith and fun, joys and concerns, food, and activity. We look to our mission statement as we plan activities which will further our growth as Christians. The following list of events are

designed to be multi-generational as they help us achieve that goal. Attendance and participation are indicators that these have been successful programs.

- **Watcher's Eve**-An afternoon of food, crafts, and fellowship to prepare the whole family for the journey of Advent. It is held after worship on the 1st Sunday of Advent each year.
- **Lenten Activities**-Weekly luncheons have been ecumenical in recent years, joining with neighborhood churches. We have an annual spaghetti dinner to raise money for youth activities and an Easter Breakfast featuring the best pancakes you've ever eaten. The net proceeds go to the One Great Hour of Sharing Offering.
- **Summer Nights**-These activities are planned for Sunday evenings for members and guests to play together and socialize. Some of our more successful activities have been giant board games, painting with a twist night, outdoor sports, a road rally, and a creative escape room.
- **Fermenting the Faith**-Hosted twice a year, once in the fall and on Mardi Gras, we meet at a local tavern for faith development and fellowship.

In addition to the annual events, FPC has some interest-specific activities which are attended by small groups of adults. Each of these groups offer an opportunity to share our faith through conversation with each other while enjoying a single focused activity. Newcomers and guests are always welcome.

- Port Presby Social Group – Meet once a month by announcement for a planned activity.
- Port Presby Pedal Pushers – Like to bicycle? Meets periodically through the year, weather permitting.

Coffee hour

- A time for fellowship is shared following the Sunday Service to give members an opportunity to visit with each other and welcome newcomers. This is well attended.

Outreach

It is our primary desire to fulfill the “Great Commandment” to help people “love God and love each other.” It is our ultimate goal to fulfill the “Great Commission” to go into the world, making disciples of all people.

We do outreach-Go Share the Faith-in our local community. We offer financial and/or in person support to Blue Water Community Food Depot, Alcoholics Anonymous as a meeting location (suspended during COVID-19), Mid City Nutrition (soup kitchen), Blue Water Area Rescue Mission (homeless shelter) and Habitat for Humanity. Multiple times throughout the year we have partnered with the Food Bank of Eastern

Michigan to distribute food. In the past, we were able to distribute over 12 tons of food to Port Huron residents in need.

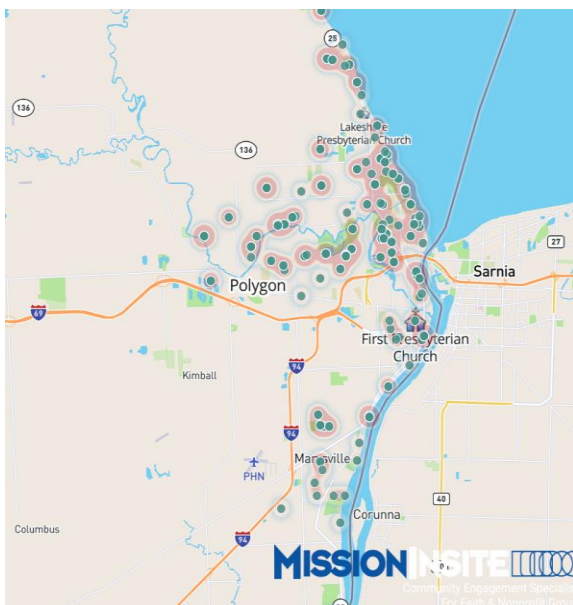
A meaningful local mission is our Angel Tree Project held during Advent. Members have an opportunity to provide clothing and toys to children in need in our neighborhood. Through the generosity of our congregation, this program has grown, and we are able to include food and household staples to as many as ten families. Families are invited to the Children's Advent program where the gifts are distributed. Underlying all of these activities is our desire to invite people to walk with Jesus Christ in this life and beyond.

Mission

Internationally, we have given financial and in-person support to missions in Haiti, Costa Rica, and Mexico. Domestically, our church members have participated in disaster relief programs initiated by the Detroit Presbytery and other such projects as Thika Partnership and the Presbytery Giving Children's Photo Scavenger Hunt fund raiser. Each October we help fight world hunger by challenging our members to join Church World Service in the CROP walk. Our youth members are given an opportunity to experience mission trips within the United States. Mission and service to Christ is always before us here in the Blue Water Area.

We contribute about fifty percent of our benevolence budget to mission, both local and world-wide. Some causes include the Theological Education Fund, Haiti W.I.S.H. (West Indies Self Help), The Gideons, our sister church in Costa Rica, an annual mission trip for our youth, and many other worthy causes that provide for the shelter, nurture, and spiritual fellowship of the children of God.

Congregational Demographics of First Presbyterian Church



The 185 members of First Presbyterian Church of Port Huron are predominately Caucasian, and the majority of the membership is female. More than 50% of our members are over the age of 60. Membership has dropped significantly over the past ten years. Since reopening after the COVID-19 shut down, the average in-person attendance is 55 members. The online presence adds to that number slightly. The summer beach service has seen 30-40 worshippers while the in-person service diminishes during this time. As represented by the illustration above, our members reside within a 20-mile radius of First Presbyterian Church.

Community Demographics

As of 2019, there were 28,927 people living in Port Huron. The racial makeup of the city was 81.5% White, 7.6% African American, 0.7% Native American, 0.8% Asian, and 4.5% from two or more races. Hispanic or Latino were 5.5% of the population.

Neighborhood Church Survey

In our neighborhood there are eight churches. All of us are experiencing aging congregations, declining membership, and a decrease in the number of families with young children. We also have in common a neighborhood with many rental homes and apartments which house individuals and families with limited means or unemployment. There is a charter school and a public school within walking distance of most homes. A small part of this area is a historical district which is economically more viable and has many homeowners.

A concern for all of the churches is the lack of food available to the families in this area. There is no nearby grocery store, and many families suffer from a lack of funds to purchase food. In the summer, two of the churches sponsor a neighborhood garden which is free to anyone. One church has a small outdoor food pantry which is stocked by church members. Food distribution trucks are sponsored in the area which offer free food to everyone. A soup kitchen is run out of one church and most churches in the area supply volunteers on a regular basis to prepare and distribute the meals. Another church meets the food needs of the elderly and homebound by filling bags and delivering food to people who are brought to their attention even if they live outside of our neighborhood.

During the school year, children are fed two meals at school and are given nonperishables to take home on the weekends. Lunches are also available during the summer months to be picked up at the schools.

It may sound like the lack of food should not be a problem with all of these programs, however the cost of nutritious food, along with everything else, is on the rise and we would be remiss to think that the need goes away after one trip to a food truck. Healthy food in growing bodies should be an ongoing priority.

FPC has sponsored food distribution trucks and includes food in the Angel Tree baskets at Christmas. As COVID-19 subsides we are looking for more ways to meet the continuous food need in our neighborhood.

Conversations with Community Leaders

The mayor of Port Huron, Pauline Repp, was asked “What is your impression of First Presbyterian Church?” Mayor Repp recalled the days of Reverend Dr. Thomas, Reverend Margie Osborn and also when there were many members of the church involved in the local government. She recalled some of the local missions First Presbyterian Church was involved in, at the time, some of which continue to this day. Unfortunately, Mayor Repp said she hasn’t been aware of any recent local missions. When asked, “What trends and challenges do you see facing our neighborhoods?”, top on her list was the need for local youth to have “safe places” where they may go and be involved. Mayor Repp also mentioned “disadvantaged people” in the neighborhood, whether it be hunger, homelessness, alcohol, or drug abuse. As a follow-up to that, we also talked about the transitional population that lives in the neighborhood around First Presbyterian Church.

We interviewed Rev. Dr. Thomas Seppo, Executive Director of Operation Transformation. Tom’s very candid impression of First Presbyterian Church, and many churches like First Presbyterian, is that it is a very formal, and liturgical church; a church that needs to become more relevant in order to relate to our community members in these changing times. Tom shared that, of the 96,000 people who live within a 10-mile radius of our church, only 10-12,000 people attend church on even the highest attendance dates such as Christmas and Easter. Tom was speaking for all churches when he said that we are quite often “preaching to the choir” and not “to the world.” Tom said, our message needs to stay the same, but our methods need to change. We are not connecting with those who need connecting. After the pandemic, the church must go to the people in a relevant and practical way. We must be a part of the recovery. “Are we here for them or are we here for us?” Churches tend to be inward looking. We need to look outside ourselves.

As our church is located in the “Olde Town District”, we interviewed the leaders of the “Olde Town Historic District”, (<http://www.oldetownporthuron.com>), Jim and Michelle Fisher who both are on staff at First Presbyterian Church. Over the years, they’ve hosted various events (porch concerts, barbeques, caroling, historic home tours), with decent participation from both the local neighborhood and city at large. In our meeting with them, they emphasized the importance of these smaller “light touch” events as opposed to the larger events with games, rides, and prizes. Members in our community will often attend larger events but may feel intimidated by them and feel like they are just receiving a hand-out rather than being an active participant. Our goal instead should be to be seen as another member of the community who is on equal standing with them. With this in mind, we hosted a small BBQ at the Fishers’ home. This was billed as just a fun neighborhood BBQ rather than as a “church” event. Attendance was small, about 7-9 non church attendees, but it allowed us the opportunity to listen to each person and make them (and us) feel welcome.

Theo Kerhoulas, Superintendent of Port Huron Area Schools said that the school district has established a District Recovery Team with the task of ensuring that all students have equitable access to the district’s intervention programs. The Recovery Task Team consists of students, school staff, parents, and community members. Superintendent Kerhoulas’ hope is that the religious community will be a part of this team.

Congregational Survey Results

We surveyed the congregation of First Presbyterian Church of Port Huron to determine what our members thought the strengths and weaknesses of our church were, and also how they felt we can best grow in faith. We started by sending out survey questions to our membership. We received 50 responses. We followed up by meeting with groups within the church. Then members of the transition team led small group discussions at our annual church picnic in September. The following is a list of the responses taken from the surveys and small group discussions. Survey questions can be found in Appendix II.

Strengths:

- Friendly and caring members
- Active in our community
- Good fiscal management of our resources
- A well-maintained historical church building and grounds
- We are strong in faith and traditions
- We are active in local and worldwide mission
- We offer homebound communion
- The people are our greatest strength, receptive to and guided by God to be His hands and feet locally and globally

Weaknesses:

- Aging congregation
- Location is not visible (tucked in neighborhood, not on main street)
- Static service styles
- Rely on a core group of members to volunteer
- Fewer young families
- Shrinking congregation
- Struggle with Evangelism

How can we best grow in faith?

- Bible study and CE classes
- Social events with others
- Strong preaching
- In all we say and do, let it be seen—when we fail, pray for ourselves
- Be willing to share our personal faith journeys

We also asked our congregation to share their hopes and dreams for the future of our church here at 8th and Wall Streets.

- Growth in membership
- More activities-a busy church
- Stability with pastor and staff
- To be a beacon in the community
- Open to change and to be more relevant in today's culture
- Adult Bible study modeled after the Bible Study Fellowship
- Positive changes in worship styles which reflect today's culture while continuing to follow our Presbyterian traditions

We asked the members of our congregation what traits they would like to see in a new pastor. The following is a summary of their comments:

- Ability to preach strong sermons that are relevant to our lives
- Willing to try new ideas
- Strong leadership and management skills
- Friendly, approachable, supportive and accepting of anyone who walks through the door
- Someone with a talent (speaking, music, teaching etc.) and is willing to share it with the community
- A good listener, so others feel heard
- Someone who will be part of the wider community, a pastor who will find innovative ways to meet and work in the community

- Someone who has compassion for and the ability to connect with members of all ages including children and the homebound
- Our new pastor should be someone who is deeply rooted in faith and earnestly seeks to grow in their relationship with Christ
- Encourages and mentors others on their faith journey and inspire others to share their gifts
- Someone who will stay awhile

Looking Toward the Future

Our members say our church feels like home, and that feeling of genuine acceptance is a valuable asset as we move into the future seeking to be disciples in our neighborhood and wider community. We are a downtown church but most of our members do not live in our immediate area. We have been directed by the motto to “bloom where we are planted” which encourages us to develop stronger relationships with those who do live here, near 8th and Wall Street. We plan to do more neighborhood activities which invite people into our church, but also gets us out there. Our ability to reach members and others, electronically, has been updated and will continue to move us forward well beyond our neighborhood and our homebound members.

Through a process of discernment and brainstorming on November 8, 2021, the Elders and Deacons shared their vision for the future of the church. As they interpreted the Mission Statement into action, several future plans were shared in the various ministry areas.

Christian Education would like to develop programs for adults on issues such as social justice and climate change. We would like to be a safe place for children by perhaps re-establishing a daycare program and family night activities. We would like to put into action acceptance of those who feel left out, especially in the teenage years.

Worship and Music would like to see our church develop a more contemporary presentation style, keeping traditions but reaching out for new ideas. Things get old because of how we are doing them.

Management feels that the renovation of the office space and entrance is a big start toward encouraging new people to join us. We would like to begin planning for a new elevator and a refresh of the fellowship hall and sanctuary. We would like to invite the community to join us for music concerts, speaker programs and art activities.

Mission wishes to continue focusing on the current programs in action and to do them well. It is difficult as we emerge from COVID-19 to discern where we need to focus our talents. We will continue the annual yard sale which raises money for mission; allows things to get recycled; and connects us with the neighborhood. We will consider restarting our “Miracle Marketplace”, an event at Christmas time where we invite the area charitable programs to come sell items at our bazaar to earn money for their programs. We would like to start some hands-on outreach like neighborhood cleanups, sock drives, a Helping Hands program for seniors, to help seniors complete tasks that they can no longer do for themselves.

Outreach and Membership One of our primary purposes is to connect with our members. Sharing the faith does not always imply reaching new people. It may mean to be good listeners to people who have fallen away from the church.

God is calling us to become more accepting of people who are different than we are; culturally, socially, racially. We need to meet people where they are. We acknowledge that they have as much to offer us as we have to offer them. We can share our faith through the soft touch of leading by example as we allow the Holy Spirit to shine.

We believe that God wants us to be disciples and to bring people into the church. We would like to do small activities to break down the barriers and form relationships with those around us, including college students and neighbors.

A Pastor to Lead Us into the Future

As we look to call a new pastor, we would like him/her to have strengths in preaching, pastoral care and community involvement. We are looking for someone with creative energy to lead us toward our vision of becoming a more active presence in our neighborhood and beyond. There are specific desirable competencies of a future pastor on Page 15 of this Self Study.

We trust in God and pray that the future of our church leaves us with a lasting legacy of being the hands and feet of Christ, working always with integrity and showing the world by example how to Know the love of God, Grow in Christian faith and Go share the faith.

Financial Future

The leaders of First Presbyterian Church feel that we have a bright future, financially. In respect to our financial grounding, we are in a very stable position. Since 2019, after a long period of financial decline, we are on a positive path to meet some concrete financial accomplishments and goals.

During COVID-19 we were able to finance and renovate the parlor and redesign the office to include a new gathering space, offices, and indoor access to the elevator. The parking lot has just recently been repaved. Three years ago, we were able to finance a new roof, new storm windows over the stained-glass windows, and a new boiler. All the projects just mentioned cost over \$400,000 above and beyond our regular budget, financed by estate gifts.

We have over \$900,000 in the Permanent Fund of the Presbyterian Foundation, which yields yearly about \$30,000 for special church enrichment projects. At the November 2021 Session meeting, the church leaders voted to look ahead at the renovation or replacement of the current elevator, through a capital funds campaign. Because we have very faithful financial givers in this congregation, we have had a successful Stewardship Campaign for 2022. We are in strong financial shape, to move toward new ministry opportunities and innovations in the future. Our hope is for a pastor who has the competencies to help us be faithful in giving and faithful in doing the work of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

**For a more detailed Financial Future of the First Presbyterian Church,
see Appendix II**

Our Conclusions

The congregation of First Presbyterian Church has a long history of response to our Lord and Savior. Our church is bigger than us, both individually and communally. We know how to listen and understand. Despite our aging church building and aging membership, we try to look to the future, striving to know what is God's desire for this congregation. We trust in God and pray that the future of our church leaves us with a lasting legacy of working with integrity and showing the world by example how to **Know the love of God, Grow in Christian faith and Go share the faith.**

As Saint Basil said: "the Church is not a museum of saints, but rather a hospital for sinners." We would like to be a hospital for sinners, where everyone is welcome to come and heal. COVID-19 has challenged us and changed how we interact with friends and neighbors. It is up to us to find ways to continue to offer support, comfort, and sustenance to God's people, near and far, as we endeavor to be the hands and feet of Jesus.

APPENDIX I FINANCIAL REPORT

First Presbyterian Church - Port Huron MI
Treasurer's Report as of October 2021 for General Operating Fund

Tuesday, November 16, 2021

Page 1 of 4

Account #	Account Name	Period Activity	Monthly Budget	YTD Balance	Annual Budget	Annual Budget Remaining	Over/Under YTD+(-)
Income							
401.000	Contributions from Pledges						
401.001	Adult Pledges	16,652.00	17,833.00	180,180.88*	214,000.00	33,819.12	1,850.88
	Total Contributions from Pledges	\$16,652.00	17,833.00	\$180,180.88*	214,000.00	33,819.12	1,850.88
401.100	Other Contributions						
401.101	Initial Offerings	0.00	12.00	76.00	140.00	64.00	(44.00)
401.102	No Pledge Contributions	2,087.00	1,250.00	23,538.39*	15,000.00	(8,538.39)	11,038.39
401.103	Per Capita	0.00	486.00	3,728.55	5,835.00	2,106.45	(1,131.45)
401.104	Plate Offerings	312.83	42.00	1,225.08*	500.00	(725.08)	805.08
	Total Other Contributions	\$2,399.83	1,790.00	\$28,568.02*	21,475.00	(7,093.02)	10,668.02
401.200	Other Gifts & Offerings						
401.201	Christmas Offering	50.00	33.00	50.00	400.00	350.00	(280.00)
401.202	Community Food Depot Income	90.00	83.00	1,540.00*	1,000.00	(540.00)	710.00
401.206	Easter Offering	0.00	29.00	295.00*	350.00	55.00	5.00
401.208	Habitat Nail Sale Income	0.00	42.00	803.00*	500.00	(303.00)	383.00
401.209	Joy Offering	50.00	42.00	50.00	500.00	450.00	(370.00)
401.211	Mid City Nutrition	0.00	17.00	245.00*	200.00	(45.00)	75.00
401.212	Misc. Mission Support Gifts	0.00		1,070.05			
401.214	One Great Hour of Sharing	0.00	83.00	715.00	1,000.00	285.00	(115.00)
401.215	Peacemaking Offering	205.00	33.00	307.00	400.00	93.00	(23.00)
401.216	Pentecost Offering	0.00	21.00	450.00*	250.00	(200.00)	240.00
401.217	Thanksgiving Offering	50.00	13.00	50.00	150.00	100.00	(80.00)
401.218	Crop Walk Income	245.00	83.00	245.00	1,000.00	755.00	(585.00)
401.219	Gift of Love - College Students	0.00		2,315.00			
	Freewill Offering						
401.220	Mission Support - Txf in from Endowment Fund	0.00		500.00			
	Total Other Gifts & Offerings	\$690.00	479.00	\$8,635.05*	5,750.00	1,000.00	(40.00)
401.300	Other Income						
401.309	Interest & Dividends - General	53.72	67.00	546.78	800.00	253.22	(123.22)
401.310	Miscellaneous Income	0.00		202.68			
401.312	Rent	0.00	25.00	0.00	300.00	300.00	(250.00)
	Total Other Income	\$53.72	92.00	\$749.46	1,100.00	553.22	(373.22)
	Total Income	\$19,795.55	\$20,194.00	\$218,133.41*	\$242,325.00	\$28,279.32	\$12,105.68

Expenses

501.000 Senior Pastor

First Presbyterian Church - Port Huron MI
Treasurer's Report as of October 2021 for General Operating Fund

Tuesday, November 16, 2021

Page 2 of 4

Account #	Account Name	Period Activity	Monthly Budget	YTD Balance	Annual Budget	Annual Budget Remaining	Over/Under YTD+(-)
501.012	Interim Pastor - Part Time	2,068.46	2,241.00	21,718.83	26,890.00	5,171.17	(691.17)
501.018	Interim Prof. Exp/Mileage - Part Time	0.00	167.00	0.00	2,000.00	2,000.00	(1,670.00)
501.019	Book Allowance/Cont Ed. Part Time Interim	0.00	167.00	88.00	2,000.00	1,912.00	(1,582.00)
501.020	Uncovered Med. Med. Deductible Interim PT	30.00	167.00	30.00	2,000.00	1,970.00	(1,640.00)
501.021	Soc. Security Allowance Part Time Interim	0.00	170.00	0.00	2,044.00	2,044.00	(1,700.00)
	<i>Total Senior Pastor</i>	<i>\$2,098.46</i>	<i>2,912.00</i>	<i>\$21,836.83</i>	<i>34,934.00</i>	<i>13,097.17</i>	<i>(7,283.17)</i>
501.100	<i>Misc. Ministerial</i>						
501.102	Guest Speakers	0.00	100.00	0.00	1,200.00	1,200.00	(1,000.00)
501.105	Pastoral Search Expenses	0.00	167.00	142.50	2,000.00	1,857.50	(1,527.50)
501.106	Staff Support	0.00	208.00	0.00	2,500.00	2,500.00	(2,080.00)
	<i>Total Misc. Ministerial</i>	<i>\$0.00</i>	<i>475.00</i>	<i>\$142.50</i>	<i>5,700.00</i>	<i>5,557.50</i>	<i>(4,607.50)</i>
501.200	<i>Christian Education Expenses</i>						
501.201	American Red Cross Training	0.00	63.00	80.00	750.00	670.00	(550.00)
501.204	Christmas Gift /Cribbery Attendants	0.00	8.00	0.00	100.00	100.00	(80.00)
501.206	Cribbery Assistant	0.00	58.00	0.00	700.00	700.00	(580.00)
501.207	Cribbery Attendant	0.00	67.00	0.00	800.00	800.00	(670.00)
501.214	CE Coordinator	884.00	1,820.00	8,040.00	21,840.00	13,800.00	(10,160.00)
501.219	Outreach/Special Events	0.00	67.00	0.00	800.00	800.00	(670.00)
501.222	Curriculum & Supplies	0.00	63.00	186.44	750.00	563.56	(443.56)
501.225	Vacation Bible School Expenses	0.00	42.00	168.94	500.00	331.06	(251.06)
501.227	Youth Fellowship Support	0.00	125.00	0.00	1,500.00	1,500.00	(1,250.00)
501.229	CE Miscellaneous Expenses	0.00		235.00			
	<i>Total Christian Education Expenses</i>	<i>\$884.00</i>	<i>2,313.00</i>	<i>\$8,710.38</i>	<i>27,740.00</i>	<i>19,264.62</i>	<i>(14,654.62)</i>
501.300	<i>Worship & Music Expenses</i>						
501.039	Kirking	0.00	25.00	0.00	300.00	300.00	(250.00)
501.302	Camps/Conferences	0.00	50.00	0.00	600.00	600.00	(500.00)
501.303	Choral/Handbell Music/Copying License	0.00	25.00	469.00*	300.00	(169.00)	219.00
501.305	Equipment, Supplies, Cleaning	0.00	42.00	417.51	500.00	82.49	(2.49)
501.308	Instrumentalists	0.00	13.00	0.00	150.00	150.00	(130.00)
501.309	Misc. Worship & Music Expense	0.00	25.00	721.17*	300.00	(421.17)	471.17
501.310	Organ/Piano Maintenance	0.00	25.00	1,259.00*	300.00	(959.00)	1,009.00
501.311	Organist/Music Director	0.00	1,473.00	9,213.75	17,675.00	8,461.25	(5,516.25)

First Presbyterian Church - Port Huron MI
Treasurer's Report as of October 2021 for General Operating Fund

Tuesday, November 16, 2021

Page 3 of 4

Account #	Account Name	Period Activity	Monthly Budget	YTD Balance	Annual Budget	Annual Budget Remaining	Over/Under YTD+(-)
501.314	Substitute Organist	0.00	50.00	850.00*	600.00	(250.00)	350.00
501.315	Interim Music Director - Part Time	1,200.00		1,800.00			
	<i>Total Worship & Music Expenses</i>	<i>\$1,200.00</i>	<i>1,728.00</i>	<i>\$14,730.43</i>	<i>20,725.00</i>	<i>7,794.57</i>	<i>(4,349.57)</i>
501.500	<i>Office Expenses</i>						
501.504	Administrative Assistant Salary	1,849.54	1,996.00	19,420.17	23,949.00	4,528.83	(539.83)
501.506	Automated Giving Expenses	0.00	17.00	137.00	200.00	63.00	(33.00)
501.507	Bookkeeper Salary	585.00	631.00	6,142.50	7,575.00	1,432.50	(167.50)
501.508	Computer/Copier Support	239.36	208.00	3,084.21*	2,500.00	(584.21)	1,004.21
501.509	Equipment	0.00	63.00	311.51	750.00	438.49	(318.49)
501.510	FICA Taxes - Employer	517.04	593.00	4,134.77	7,119.00	2,984.23	(1,795.23)
501.513	Office Miscellaneous Expense	0.00	42.00	119.39	500.00	380.61	(300.61)
501.514	Stewardship Campaign Expense	74.28		74.28			
501.515	Office Supplies	162.56	208.00	2,621.94*	2,500.00	(121.94)	541.94
501.516	Postage	580.00	167.00	1,612.80	2,000.00	387.20	(57.20)
501.517	Session Expenses	10.00	58.00	400.87	700.00	299.13	(179.13)
501.518	Telephone/Internet	300.84	233.00	2,752.24*	2,800.00	47.76	422.24
501.520	Website Expense	61.00	29.00	201.35	350.00	148.65	(88.65)
501.521	Workers Compensation	0.00	92.00	997.00*	1,100.00	103.00	77.00
501.522	Per Capita Expense	0.00	486.00	3,598.00	5,835.00	2,237.00	(1,262.00)
501.523	Social Media/Marketing Technician	800.00		4,600.00			
	<i>Total Office Expenses</i>	<i>\$5,179.62</i>	<i>4,823.00</i>	<i>\$50,208.03*</i>	<i>57,878.00</i>	<i>12,344.25</i>	<i>(2,696.25)</i>
501.600	<i>Building Maintenance Expenses</i>						
501.602	Building/Equipment/Grounds Maintenance	865.16	533.00	15,342.24*	6,400.00	(8,942.24)	10,012.24
501.603	Building Supplies	265.94	108.00	813.20	1,300.00	486.80	(266.80)
501.604	Building/Property Insurance	0.00	525.00	6,074.00*	6,300.00	226.00	824.00
501.605	Contract Services	2,360.22	675.00	7,821.22*	8,100.00	278.78	1,071.22
501.608	Custodial Wages	1,440.00	1,833.00	4,770.00	22,000.00	17,230.00	(13,560.00)
501.609	Electrical	0.00	500.00	3,767.58	6,000.00	2,232.42	(1,232.42)
501.610	Heating	460.00	417.00	3,358.66	5,000.00	1,641.34	(811.34)
501.614	Water and Sewer	189.30	225.00	2,001.55	2,700.00	698.45	(248.45)
501.615	Contract Labor - Sunday Building Attendant	60.00		150.00			
	<i>Total Building Maintenance Expenses</i>	<i>\$5,640.62</i>	<i>4,816.00</i>	<i>\$44,098.45</i>	<i>57,800.00</i>	<i>13,851.55</i>	<i>(4,211.55)</i>
501.700	<i>Mission Giving Expenses</i>						
501.702	Costa Rica Missionary	0.00	42.00	500.00*	500.00	0.00	80.00

First Presbyterian Church - Port Huron MI
Treasurer's Report as of October 2021 for General Operating Fund

Tuesday, November 16, 2021

Page 4 of 4

Account #	Account Name	Period Activity	Monthly Budget	YTD Balance	Annual Budget	Annual Budget Remaining	Over/Under YTD+(-)
501.706	Presbytery Program and Mission	0.00	33.00	300.00	400.00	100.00	(30.00)
501.708	Sister Church/ FIEC	0.00	42.00	545.00*	500.00	(45.00)	125.00
501.711	College & Book Scholarships	0.00		500.00			
501.712	BWARM	0.00	33.00	0.00	400.00	400.00	(330.00)
501.713	Community Food Depot	120.00	83.00	1,450.00*	1,000.00	(450.00)	620.00
501.717	Habitat Nail Sale	0.00	42.00	803.00*	500.00	(303.00)	383.00
501.721	Joy Offerings	0.00	42.00	0.00	500.00	500.00	(420.00)
501.722	Mid-City Nutrition-Soup Kitchen	0.00	17.00	1,645.00*	200.00	(1,445.00)	1,475.00
501.727	One Gr Hour of Sharing	0.00	83.00	715.00	1,000.00	285.00	(115.00)
501.728	Peacemaking	0.00	33.00	0.00	400.00	400.00	(330.00)
501.729	Pentecost Offering Expense	0.00	21.00	270.00*	250.00	(20.00)	60.00
501.731	WISH	0.00	21.00	600.00*	250.00	(350.00)	390.00
501.733	Local Causes	66.75	192.00	1,016.75	2,300.00	1,283.25	(903.25)
501.734	Crop Walk	0.00	83.00	0.00	1,000.00	1,000.00	(830.00)
501.735	Gift of Love - College Students Expense	0.00		2,315.00			
501.736	Mission Support - Elevator Fund	0.00		369.80			
	<i>Total Mission Giving Expenses</i>	<i>\$186.75</i>	<i>767.00</i>	<i>\$11,029.55*</i>	<i>9,200.00</i>	<i>1,355.25</i>	<i>174.75</i>
501.800	<i>Membership/Evangelism/Outreach</i>						
501.801	Membership, Evangelism, Outreach Expense	0.00	125.00	50.00	1,500.00	1,450.00	(1,200.00)
	<i>Total</i>	<i>\$0.00</i>	<i>125.00</i>	<i>\$50.00</i>	<i>1,500.00</i>	<i>1,450.00</i>	<i>(1,200.00)</i>
	<i>Membership/Evangelism/Outreach</i>						
	Total Expenses	\$15,189.45	\$17,959.00	\$150,806.17	\$215,477.00	\$74,714.91	(\$38,827.91)
	Difference	\$4,606.10	\$2,235.00	\$67,327.24	\$26,848.00		

* = Income/Expense exceeds amount budgeted to date

First Presbyterian Church - Port Huron MI
Balance Sheet as of October 31, 2021

Tuesday, November 16, 2021

Page 1 of 1

Account #	Account Name	Beginning Balance	YTD Balance
Assets			
<i>100.000</i>	<i>Checking Accounts</i>		
100.001	EMB Checking - 5692	8,447.37	20,653.24
	<i>Total Checking Accounts</i>	<i>\$8,447.37</i>	<i>\$20,653.24</i>
<i>101.000</i>	<i>Money Market Account</i>		
101.001	EMB Money Management - 5726	305,037.78	322,081.45
	<i>Total Money Market Account</i>	<i>\$305,037.78</i>	<i>\$322,081.45</i>
<i>103.000</i>	<i>Savings Account</i>		
103.001	EMB Endowment Savings - 5718	33,520.33	48,791.46
103.002	EMB Memorial Savings - 5700	58,962.23	62,122.13
	<i>Total Savings Account</i>	<i>\$92,482.56</i>	<i>\$110,913.59</i>
105.000	Petty Cash	200.00	200.00
107.000	Land, Buildings, Equipment	688,714.05	688,714.05
	Total Assets	\$1,094,881.76	\$1,142,562.33
Liabilities			
200.001	941 Federal Withholding	0.00	0.00
200.002	Accounts Payable/Vendors	0.00	0.00
200.003	Annuity Payable	177.80	0.00
200.004	City Tax Withholdings	(0.68)	31.70
200.005	Deferred Pledges	650.00	650.00
200.006	Misc. Accounts Payable	0.00	0.00
200.007	Operating Fund Reserve	0.00	0.00
200.008	State Tax Withholdings	(21.13)	285.89
200.009	Deferred Non-Pledge Gifts	0.00	0.00
	Total Liabilities	\$805.99	\$967.59
Fund Balances			
300.000	GO Fund Balance Unrestricted	750,500.98	817,828.22
300.001	Capital Fund Balance Restricted	56,531.52	52,303.52
300.002	Deacons Fund Balance Restricted	5,218.20	4,615.19
300.003	Memorial Fund Balance Restricted	58,962.23	62,122.13
300.004	Pres. Women Fund Balance Restricted	22.30	(110.04)
300.005	Endowment Fund Balance Balance Restricted	33,520.33	48,791.46
300.006	CE Youth Activity Fund Balance Restricted	9,010.21	9,010.21
300.007	Miracle Marketplace Fund Balance	2,751.79	2,751.79
300.008	Misc Fund Balance Restricted	83,673.74	83,325.40
300.009	Cribbins Loan Fund Balance Restricted	4,347.55	4,347.55
300.010	General Use Fund Balance	19,892.87	19,892.87
300.011	Renovation Fund 2019/2020 Balance	46,299.34	15,923.89
300.012	Building Repair /Upgrade Fund	5,072.00	5,072.00
300.013	Elevator Fund Balance	5,015.00	6,584.80
300.014	Other Missions/Mission Trip Fund Balance	2,757.71	2,757.71
300.015	Separation (Payroll) JM Fund Balance	10,500.00	5,749.70
300.017	Pastor's Discretionary Fund Balance	0.00	628.34
	Total Fund Balances	\$1,094,075.77	\$1,141,594.74
	Total Liabilities and Fund Balances	\$1,094,881.76	\$1,142,562.33

First Presbyterian Church - Port Huron MI
Detailed Fund Activity Report as of 10/31/2021

Tuesday, November 16, 2021

Page 1 of 1

Account #	Account Name	Current Activity	YTD Activity
<hr/>			
300.002	Deacons Fund Balance Restricted		
	Beginning Fund Balance	4,785.23	5,218.20
Income			
403.000	<i>Deacons Fund Income</i>		
403.001	Angel Tree	0.00	0.00
403.002	Chancel/Altar Flowers	0.00	485.00
403.003	Coffee Hour Revenue	0.00	0.00
403.004	Communion-Plate Offering 1st Sunday	81.00	324.00
403.005	Deacons Fund Contributions	20.00	280.00
403.006	Funerals	0.00	0.00
403.007	Member Care Support (Funerals)	0.00	0.00
403.008	Miscellaneous - Deacons	0.00	0.00
403.009	Special Flowers	0.00	0.00
403.010	Txf In - Evangelism/Membership - Golf Outing	0.00	0.00
403.011	Txf In - Endowment Fund to Deacons Fund	0.00	0.00
	<i>Total Deacons Fund Income</i>	<i>101.00</i>	<i>1,089.00</i>
	Total Income	<u>\$101.00</u>	<u>\$1,089.00</u>
Expenses			
503.000	<i>Deacons Fund Expenses</i>		
503.001	Angel Tree Expense	0.00	0.00
503.002	Childrens Bulletins	0.00	0.00
503.003	Coffee Hour	9.99	36.06
503.004	Communion Supplies	112.98	535.44
503.005	Deacon Supplies	0.00	60.44
503.006	Deacons Miscellaneous	0.00	0.00
503.007	Devotionals	15.90	402.90
503.008	Altar/Chancel Flowers	0.00	415.00
503.009	Funeral Expenses	0.00	0.00
503.010	Homebound Gifts	0.00	0.00
503.011	Member Care Support (Funerals) Exp.	14.17	14.17
503.012	NET	0.00	0.00
503.013	Special Flowers Expense	118.00	228.00
	<i>Total Deacons Fund Expenses</i>	<i>271.04</i>	<i>1,692.01</i>
	Total Expenses	<u>\$271.04</u>	<u>\$1,692.01</u>
	Ending Fund Balance	\$4,615.19	\$4,615.19

First Presbyterian Church - Port Huron MI
Detailed Fund Activity Report as of 10/31/2021

Tuesday, November 16, 2021

Page 1 of 1

Account #	Account Name	Current Activity	YTD Activity
-----------	--------------	------------------	--------------

300.001 Capital Fund Balance Restricted

		Beginning Fund Balance	52,303.52	56,531.52
<i>Income</i>				
402.000	<i>Capital Fund Income</i>			
402.001	Capital Fund Contributions	0.00		7,000.00
402.002	Capital Fund Interest & Dividends	0.00		0.00
402.003	Capital Fund Roof Repair	0.00		0.00
402.004	Transfer from Endowment	0.00		3,449.96
402.005	Transfer In - Waldo/Schaefer Boiler Income	0.00		0.00
402.006	Renovation Income	0.00		0.00
402.007	Transfer In from Operating Fund Reserve	0.00		0.00
		<i>Total Capital Fund Income</i>	<i>0.00</i>	<i>10,449.96</i>
		Total Income	<u>\$0.00</u>	<u>\$10,449.96</u>
<i>Expenses</i>				
502.000	<i>Capital Fund Expenses</i>			
502.001	Building Improvements	0.00		0.00
502.002	Capital Fund Roof	0.00		0.00
502.003	Equipment - New	0.00		5,671.03
502.004	Equipment - Replacement	0.00		0.00
502.005	Parking Lot Improvements	0.00		7,259.43
502.006	Web Design & Improvements	0.00		0.00
502.007	Boiler/ Hot Water Heater Replacement	0.00		0.00
502.008	Church Renovation Expense	0.00		0.00
502.009	Txf Out to Renovation Fund	0.00		0.00
502.010	Technology Upgrades - Software	0.00		1,747.50
		<i>Total Capital Fund Expenses</i>	<i>0.00</i>	<i>14,677.96</i>
		Total Expenses	<u>\$0.00</u>	<u>\$14,677.96</u>
		Ending Fund Balance	\$52,303.52	\$52,303.52

First Presbyterian Church - Port Huron MI
Detailed Fund Activity Report as of 10/31/2021

Tuesday, November 16, 2021

Page 1 of 1

Account #	Account Name	Current Activity	YTD Activity
<hr/>			
300.005	Endowment Fund Balance Restricted		
	Beginning Fund Balance	20,372.81	33,520.33
Income			
406.000	Endowment Fund Income		
406.001	Designated Allocations	0.00	55.00
406.002	Endowment Contributions	25,200.00	25,250.00
406.003	Endowment Interest and Dividends	1.11	10.95
406.004	Goode Memorial	323.05	1,295.32
406.005	Mission Support	883.87	883.87
406.006	Scholarship Support	788.36	788.36
406.007	Transfer from Memorial Fund	0.00	0.00
406.008	Worship & Music Support	1,510.65	1,510.65
	<i>Total Endowment Fund Income</i>	<i>28,707.04</i>	<i>29,794.15</i>
	Total Income	<u>\$28,707.04</u>	<u>\$29,794.15</u>
Expenses			
506.000	Endowment Fund Expenses		
506.002	Endowment Expense - Christian Education	288.39	4,499.84
506.003	Endowment Administration Expense	0.00	0.00
506.004	Goode Memorial Fund Endowment Exp.	0.00	0.00
506.005	Management - Endowment	0.00	5,249.22
506.006	Mission - Endowment	0.00	500.00
506.007	Membership/Evangelism Endowment Expense	0.00	0.00
506.008	Scholarship Support Endowment Exp.	0.00	0.00
506.009	Endowment Designated Contribution Expense	0.00	125.00
506.010	Endowment Transfer to Principal	0.00	0.00
506.011	Worship & Music - Endowment Exp.	0.00	699.00
506.012	Endowment Expense - Deacon Support	0.00	0.00
506.013	Endowment - Church Renovation Expense	0.00	0.00
506.014	Transfer Out to Capital Fund	0.00	3,449.96
	<i>Total Endowment Fund Expenses</i>	<i>288.39</i>	<i>14,523.02</i>
	Total Expenses	<u>\$288.39</u>	<u>\$14,523.02</u>
	Ending Fund Balance	\$48,791.46	\$48,791.46

First Presbyterian Church - Port Huron MI
Detailed Fund Activity Report as of 10/31/2021

Tuesday, November 16, 2021

Page 1 of 1

Account #	Account Name	Current Activity	YTD Activity
<hr/>			
300.003	Memorial Fund Balance Restricted		
	Beginning Fund Balance	61,991.87	58,962.23
Income			
<i>404.000</i>	<i>Memorial Fund Income</i>		
404.028	Memorial - Kirking	525.00	525.00
404.035	Memorial Contributions	0.00	2,999.00
404.037	Memorial - Music	0.00	0.00
404.051	Memorial Endowment Contributions	0.00	0.00
404.052	Memorial Interest and Dividends	5.26	49.90
404.056	Rhody Music Memorial	0.00	0.00
404.059	Rosebud Memorial	0.00	0.00
404.060	Memorial - Tartans	0.00	0.00
	<i>Total Memorial Fund Income</i>	<i>530.26</i>	<i>3,573.90</i>
	Total Income	<u>\$530.26</u>	<u>\$3,573.90</u>
Expenses			
<i>504.000</i>	<i>Memorial Fund Expenses</i>		
504.017	Memorial Kirking Expense	400.00	400.00
504.087	Memorial Fund Expense	0.00	0.00
504.088	Memorial Interest Expense	0.00	0.00
504.089	Memorial Music Fund Expense	0.00	0.00
504.094	Memorial Rosebuds Expense	0.00	14.00
	<i>Total Memorial Fund Expenses</i>	<i>400.00</i>	<i>414.00</i>
	Total Expenses	<u>\$400.00</u>	<u>\$414.00</u>
	Ending Fund Balance	\$62,122.13	\$62,122.13

First Presbyterian Church - Port Huron MI
Detailed Fund Activity Report as of 10/31/2021

Tuesday, November 16, 2021

Page 1 of 1

Account #	Account Name		Current Activity	YTD Activity
<hr/>				
300.017	Pastor's Discretionary Fund Balance			
		Beginning Fund Balance	828.34	0.00
<i>Income</i>				
417.001	Pastor's Discretionary Fund Income		0.00	828.34
		Total Income	<u>\$0.00</u>	<u>\$828.34</u>
<i>Expenses</i>				
517.001	Pastor's Discretionary Fund Expense		200.00	200.00
		Total Expenses	<u>\$200.00</u>	<u>\$200.00</u>
		Ending Fund Balance	\$628.34	\$628.34

First Presbyterian Church - Port Huron MI
Detailed Fund Activity Report as of 10/31/2021

Tuesday, November 16, 2021

Page 1 of 1

Account #	Account Name	Current Activity	YTD Activity
<hr/>			
300.008	Misc Fund Balance Restricted		
	Beginning Fund Balance	83,325.40	83,673.74
Income			
408.000	Miscellaneous Fund Income		
408.008	Misc Fund - Music	0.00	(398.34)
	<i>Total Miscellaneous Fund Income</i>	<i>0.00</i>	<i>(398.34)</i>
408.028	Misc. Fund In/Out - Cyndi Beerbower Donations	0.00	580.00
408.029	Misc. Fund In/out - Daniel Susan Retirement	0.00	925.00
	Total Income	<u>\$0.00</u>	<u>\$1,106.66</u>
Expenses			
508.000	Miscellaneous Fund Expenses		
508.019	Misc. Fund In/Out - Cyndi Beerbower Donation Exp.	0.00	580.00
508.136	Misc. Fund - In/Out Daniel Susan Retirement	0.00	875.00
	<i>Total Miscellaneous Fund Expenses</i>	<i>0.00</i>	<i>1,455.00</i>
	Total Expenses	<u>\$0.00</u>	<u>\$1,455.00</u>
	Ending Fund Balance	\$83,325.40	\$83,325.40

First Presbyterian Church - Port Huron MI
General Ledger as of October 2021 for General Operating Fund

Tuesday, November 16, 2021

Page 1 of 6

Account #	Account Name		Balances:	
Date Occurred	Primary Bal. Acct.	Amount	Beg/Run/End	Comments
300.000	GO Fund Balance Unrestricted		813,222.12	
			813,222.12	
			\$817,828.22#	
401.000	Contributions from Pledges		163,528.88	
401.001	Adult Pledges		163,528.88	
10/03/2021	EMB Money Management - 5726	3,701.00	167,229.88	
10/10/2021	EMB Money Management - 5726	5,170.00	172,399.88	
10/17/2021	EMB Money Management - 5726	1,170.00	173,569.88	
10/18/2021	EMB Money Management - 5726	1,775.00	175,344.88	
10/18/2021	EMB Money Management - 5726	(200.00)	175,144.88	
10/18/2021	EMB Money Management - 5726	(435.00)	174,709.88	Returned Automatic Payment
10/24/2021	EMB Money Management - 5726	3,120.00	177,829.88	
10/29/2021	EMB Money Management - 5726	635.00	178,464.88	
10/31/2021	EMB Money Management - 5726	1,716.00	180,180.88	
		16,652.00	180,180.88	
			163,528.88	
			\$180,180.88	
401.100	Other Contributions		26,168.19	
401.102	No Pledge Contributions		21,451.39	
10/03/2021	EMB Money Management - 5726	1,380.00	22,831.39	
10/10/2021	EMB Money Management - 5726	90.00	22,921.39	
10/17/2021	EMB Money Management - 5726	207.00	23,128.39	
10/24/2021	EMB Money Management - 5726	255.00	23,383.39	
10/31/2021	EMB Money Management - 5726	155.00	23,538.39	
		2,087.00	23,538.39	
401.104	Plate Offerings		912.25	
10/10/2021	EMB Money Management - 5726	20.00	932.25	
10/24/2021	EMB Money Management - 5726	94.00	1,026.25	
10/31/2021	EMB Money Management - 5726	198.83	1,225.08	
		312.83	1,225.08	
			26,168.19	
			\$28,568.02	

First Presbyterian Church - Port Huron MI
General Ledger as of October 2021 for General Operating Fund

Tuesday, November 16, 2021

Page 2 of 6

Account #	Account Name		Balances:	
Date Occurred	Primary Bal. Acct.	Amount	Beg/Run/End	Comments
401.200	Other Gifts & Offerings		7,945.05	
401.201	Christmas Offering		0.00	
10/31/2021	EMB Money Management - 5726	50.00	50.00	
		<u>50.00</u>	<u>50.00</u>	
401.202	Community Food Depot Income		1,450.00	
10/03/2021	EMB Money Management - 5726	90.00	1,540.00	
		<u>90.00</u>	<u>1,540.00</u>	
401.209	Joy Offering		0.00	
10/31/2021	EMB Money Management - 5726	50.00	50.00	
		<u>50.00</u>	<u>50.00</u>	
401.215	Peacemaking Offering		102.00	
10/03/2021	EMB Money Management - 5726	165.00	267.00	
10/10/2021	EMB Money Management - 5726	40.00	307.00	
		<u>205.00</u>	<u>307.00</u>	
401.217	Thanksgiving Offering		0.00	
10/31/2021	EMB Money Management - 5726	50.00	50.00	
		<u>50.00</u>	<u>50.00</u>	
401.218	Crop Walk Income		0.00	
10/03/2021	EMB Money Management - 5726	150.00	150.00	
10/17/2021	EMB Money Management - 5726	25.00	175.00	
10/24/2021	EMB Money Management - 5726	5.00	180.00	
10/31/2021	EMB Money Management - 5726	65.00	245.00	
		<u>245.00</u>	<u>245.00</u>	
			7,945.05	
			\$8,635.05	
401.300	Other Income		695.74	
401.309	Interest & Dividends - General		493.06	
10/31/2021	EMB Money Management - 5726	53.72	546.78	Interest and other bank credits for Bank Statement ending 10/31/2021
		<u>53.72</u>	<u>546.78</u>	
			695.74	
			\$749.46	
501.000	Senior Pastor		19,738.37	

First Presbyterian Church - Port Huron MI
General Ledger as of October 2021 for General Operating Fund

Tuesday, November 16, 2021

Page 3 of 6

Account #	Account Name		Balances:	
Date Occurred	Primary Bal. Acct.	Amount	Beg/Run/End	Comments
501.012	Interim Pastor - Part Time		19,650.37	
10/07/2021	EMB Checking - 5692	1,034.23	20,684.60	Davis , Roxie Ann
10/21/2021	EMB Checking - 5692	1,034.23	21,718.83	Davis , Roxie Ann
		<u>2,068.46</u>	<u>21,718.83</u>	
501.020	Uncovered Med. Med. Deductible Interim PT		0.00	
10/21/2021	Roxie Davis	30.00	30.00	Unpaid Medical Expense
		<u>30.00</u>	<u>30.00</u>	
			19,738.37	
			<u>\$21,836.83</u>	
501.200	Christian Education Expenses		7,826.38	
501.214	CE Coordinator		7,156.00	
10/07/2021	EMB Checking - 5692	442.00	7,598.00	Fisher, Michelle Diane
10/21/2021	EMB Checking - 5692	442.00	8,040.00	Fisher, Michelle Diane
		<u>884.00</u>	<u>8,040.00</u>	
			7,826.38	
			<u>\$8,710.38</u>	
501.300	Worship & Music Expenses		13,530.43	
501.315	Interim Music Director - Part Time		600.00	
10/07/2021	EMB Checking - 5692	600.00	1,200.00	Yaros, Michael J
10/21/2021	EMB Checking - 5692	600.00	1,800.00	Yaros, Michael J
		<u>1,200.00</u>	<u>1,800.00</u>	
			13,530.43	
			<u>\$14,730.43</u>	
501.500	Office Expenses		45,028.41	
501.504	Administrative Assistant Salary		17,570.63	
10/07/2021	EMB Checking - 5692	924.77	18,495.40	Wendt, Julie Ann
10/21/2021	EMB Checking - 5692	924.77	19,420.17	Wendt, Julie Ann
		<u>1,849.54</u>	<u>19,420.17</u>	
501.507	Bookkeeper Salary		5,557.50	
10/07/2021	EMB Checking - 5692	292.50	5,850.00	Schweihofer, Amanda P
10/21/2021	EMB Checking - 5692	292.50	6,142.50	Schweihofer, Amanda P
		<u>585.00</u>	<u>6,142.50</u>	
501.508	Computer/Copier Support		2,844.85	

First Presbyterian Church - Port Huron MI
General Ledger as of October 2021 for General Operating Fund

Tuesday, November 16, 2021

Page 4 of 6

Account #	Account Name		Balances:	
Date Occurred	Primary Bal. Acct.	Amount	Beg/Run/End	Comments
10/21/2021	Marco Technologies LLC	239.36	3,084.21	Copier Contract & Usage Fees for 10/10/21-11/09/21
		<u>239.36</u>	<u>3,084.21</u>	
501.510	FICA Taxes - Employer		3,617.73	
10/07/2021	EMB Checking - 5692	55.08	3,672.81	Briscoe, William David
10/07/2021	EMB Checking - 5692	30.60	3,703.41	Fisher, James Michael
10/07/2021	EMB Checking - 5692	22.38	3,725.79	Schweihofer, Amanda P
10/07/2021	EMB Checking - 5692	70.75	3,796.54	Wendt, Julie Ann
10/07/2021	EMB Checking - 5692	45.90	3,842.44	Yaros, Michael J
10/07/2021	EMB Checking - 5692	33.81	3,876.25	Fisher, Michelle Diane
10/21/2021	EMB Checking - 5692	55.08	3,931.33	Briscoe, William David
10/21/2021	EMB Checking - 5692	30.60	3,961.93	Fisher, James Michael
10/21/2021	EMB Checking - 5692	33.81	3,995.74	Fisher, Michelle Diane
10/21/2021	EMB Checking - 5692	22.38	4,018.12	Schweihofer, Amanda P
10/21/2021	EMB Checking - 5692	70.75	4,088.87	Wendt, Julie Ann
10/21/2021	EMB Checking - 5692	45.90	4,134.77	Yaros, Michael J
		<u>517.04</u>	<u>4,134.77</u>	
501.513	Office Miscellaneous Expense		119.39	
		<u>0.00</u>	<u>119.39</u>	
501.514	Stewardship Campaign Expense		0.00	
10/21/2021	Sir Speedy #6340	74.28	74.28	250 Commitment Cards - Stewardship Campaign
		<u>74.28</u>	<u>74.28</u>	
501.515	Office Supplies		2,459.38	
10/07/2021	Standard Office Supply	162.56	2,621.94	Envelopes, Badges, Paper
		<u>162.56</u>	<u>2,621.94</u>	
501.516	Postage		1,032.80	
10/26/2021	Kerr Albert - Postage	580.00	1,612.80	10 Rolls Postage
		<u>580.00</u>	<u>1,612.80</u>	
501.517	Session Expenses		390.87	
10/21/2021	ICHAT - Internet Criminal History Access Tool	10.00	400.87	Background Check - Jill Emery CE Volunteer
		<u>10.00</u>	<u>400.87</u>	
501.518	Telephone/Internet		2,451.40	
10/07/2021	Marco Technologies LLC	153.97	2,605.37	Office Telephone 09/16-10/15/21
10/07/2021	Comcast Cable	146.87	2,752.24	Office Phone/Internet 10/05-11/04/21
		<u>300.84</u>	<u>2,752.24</u>	

First Presbyterian Church - Port Huron MI
General Ledger as of October 2021 for General Operating Fund

Tuesday, November 16, 2021

Page 5 of 6

Account #	Account Name		Balances:	
Date Occurred	Primary Bal. Acct.	Amount	Beg/Run/End	Comments
501.520	Website Expense		140.35	
10/21/2021	Register.com	61.00	201.35	Renewal of Domain, Private Registration, Web Forwarding
		<u>61.00</u>	<u>201.35</u>	
501.523	Social Media/Marketing Technician		3,800.00	
10/07/2021	EMB Checking - 5692	400.00	4,200.00	Fisher, James Michael
10/21/2021	EMB Checking - 5692	400.00	4,600.00	Fisher, James Michael
		<u>800.00</u>	<u>4,600.00</u>	
			45,028.41	
			<u>50,208.03</u>	
501.600	Building Maintenance Expenses		38,457.83	
501.602	Building/Equipment/Grounds Maintenance		14,477.08	
10/07/2021	Port Huron Glass Inc.	200.00	14,677.08	Install Anderson Window - 2nd Story
10/07/2021	Mortimer Lumber	455.16	15,132.24	Window Sash - Music Room, Sash Bracket
10/21/2021	Accurate Lawn Service, Inc.	210.00	15,342.24	September Lawn Services
		<u>865.16</u>	<u>15,342.24</u>	
501.603	Building Supplies		547.26	
10/07/2021	R. Janus Supply Co.	265.94	813.20	Hand Towels, Toilet Paper, Garbage Bags, Disinfectant, Soap
		<u>265.94</u>	<u>813.20</u>	
501.605	Contract Services		5,461.00	
10/05/2021	Kone, Inc.	1,360.00	6,821.00	Cat 1 - Weight Test
10/05/2021	Kone, Inc.	583.22	7,404.22	Labor / Expense for Elevator Repair 08/04/21
10/05/2021	Kone, Inc.	207.00	7,611.22	Elevator Maintenance Contract - 06/01/21-08/31/21
10/07/2021	Palladin Pest Control LLC	40.00	7,651.22	Pest Control
10/07/2021	Marcotte Disposal	95.00	7,746.22	Garbage Removal Services 10/01-10/31/21
10/21/2021	C.S. Winters	75.00	7,821.22	Winterize Lawn Irrigation System
		<u>2,360.22</u>	<u>7,821.22</u>	
501.608	Custodial Wages		3,330.00	
10/07/2021	EMB Checking - 5692	720.00	4,050.00	Briscoe, William David
10/21/2021	EMB Checking - 5692	720.00	4,770.00	Briscoe, William David

First Presbyterian Church - Port Huron MI
General Ledger as of October 2021 for General Operating Fund

Tuesday, November 16, 2021

Page 6 of 6

Account #	Account Name		Balances:	
Date Occurred	Primary Bal. Acct.	Amount	Beg/Run/End	Comments
		<u>1,440.00</u>	<u>4,770.00</u>	
501.610	Heating		2,898.66	
10/21/2021	SEMCO Energy Gas Company	460.00	3,358.66	Gas charges 08/31-09/30/21
		<u>460.00</u>	<u>3,358.66</u>	
501.614	Water and Sewer		1,812.25	
10/21/2021	City of Port Huron Water Office	29.89	1,842.14	Water Usage - 09/01-10/01 101810, 101811, 101812
10/21/2021	City of Port Huron Water Office	65.72	1,907.86	Water Usage - 09/01-10/01 101810, 101811, 101812
10/21/2021	City of Port Huron Water Office	93.69	2,001.55	Water Usage - 09/01-10/01 101810, 101811, 101812
		<u>189.30</u>	<u>2,001.55</u>	
501.615	Contract Labor - Sunday Building Attendant		90.00	
10/07/2021	Michelle Fisher	60.00	150.00	Building Attendant Oct. 3rd, Oct. 10th
		<u>60.00</u>	<u>150.00</u>	
			38,457.83	
			<u>\$44,098.45</u>	
501.700	Mission Giving Expenses		10,842.80	
501.713	Community Food Depot		1,330.00	
10/21/2021	Food Bank of Eastern Michigan	120.00	1,450.00	Acct: P911 - 3rd Qtr Food Bank Contributions
		<u>120.00</u>	<u>1,450.00</u>	
501.733	Local Causes		950.00	
10/07/2021	Operation Transformation	66.75	1,016.75	Mission Donation(25% of Peacemaking), Table Fee for Benefit
		<u>66.75</u>	<u>1,016.75</u>	
			10,842.80	
			<u>\$11,029.55</u>	

= Ending Balance is affected by income/expense transactions for this fund. Run Fund Activity Report for detail.

APPENDIX II SURVEY QUESTIONS

Congregational Survey Questions: Summer 2021

1. What are the strengths of First Presbyterian Church of Port Huron?
2. What are our weaknesses?
3. How can we best grow in faith?
4. How can we best help others grow in faith and in God's love?
5. What are your hopes and dreams for this church?
6. What three traits would you like to see in a new pastor?
7. What would you like to tell the Transitional Team who will put the Self Study together?
8. Would you be willing to meet with a group of 8-10 other people to discuss your answers?

Congregational Picnic Gathering: September 15, 2021

1. What do you like about our church?
2. What changes would excite you as we welcome a new pastor?
3. What does our Mission Statement mean to you?

Elders, Deacon & Staff Gathering Questions: November 8, 2021

1. In your particular Session committee/Deacon ministry, how do you plan to put into action this Mission Statement?
2. What is God calling us to become? How do we get there through your particular area of ministry?
3. What are the Pastoral Leadership competencies which are needed to accomplish our Mission as shown in the Self Study?

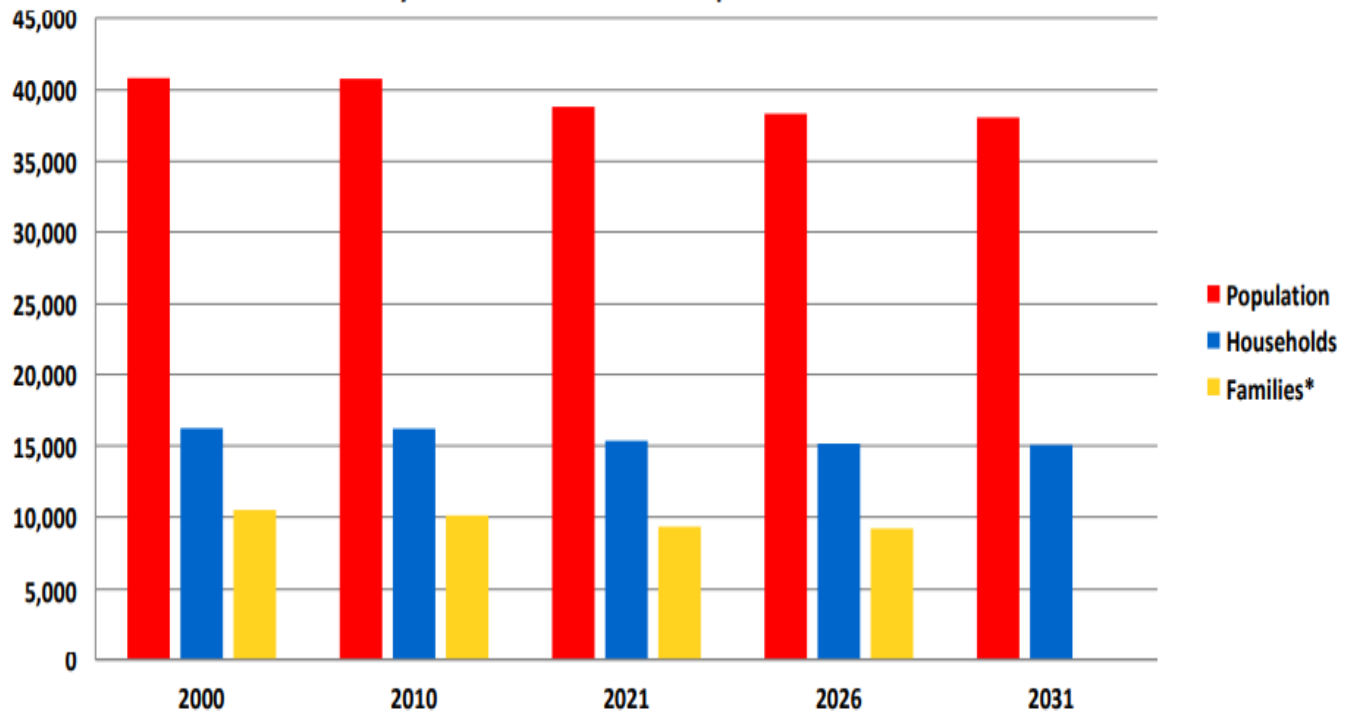
APPENDIX III DEMOGRAPHIC DATA

StoryView

Significant Demographic Indicators of the Study Area's Story

Population Change					
1	In the 10 year future, how is this area expected to change? <small>(See Population and Families Theme)</small>	Significant Decline	Moderate Decline	Little Change	Moderate Growth Significant Growth
School Age Change					
2	In the 10 year future, how is the population of school age children in this area expected to change? <small>(See Age Theme)</small>	Significant Decline	Moderate Decline	Little Change	Moderate Increase Significant Increase
Families with Children					
3	Compared to the state, are families with children more or less likely to live in two parent households? <small>(See Population and Families Theme)</small>	Significantly Less	Somewhat Less	About the Same	Somewhat More Significantly More
Adult Educational Attainment					
4	For this area, what is the general level of education of the adults 25 and older? <small>(See Education and Career Status Theme)</small>	Very Low	Low	Mixed	High Very High
Community Diversity Index					
5	How diverse is the racial/ethnic mix of this area? <small>(See Community Diversity Theme)</small>	Very Homogeneous	Homogeneous	Moderately Diverse	Very Diverse Extremely Diverse
Median Family Income					
6	How does the median family income compare to the state for this area? <small>(See Financial Resources Theme)</small>	Significantly Less	Somewhat Less	About the Same	Somewhat Greater Significantly Greater
Poverty					
7	Compared to the state, is the number of families in poverty above or below the state average? <small>(See Financial Resources Theme)</small>	Significantly Below	Somewhat Below	About the Same	Somewhat Above Significantly Above
Blue to White Collar Occupations					
8	On a continuum between blue collar and white collar occupations, where does this area fall? <small>(See Education and Career Status Theme)</small>	Very Blue Collar	Somewhat Blue	Closely Split	Somewhat White Very White Collar
Largest Racial/Ethnic Group					
9	In this area, which racial/ethnic group is the largest percentage of the population? <small>(See Community Diversity Theme)</small>	Asian (NH)	Black/Afri American (NH)	White (NH)	Hispanic or Latino Pac Is/Amer Ind/Other

History and 10 Year Forecast: Population and Households



NOTE: Family Household data is not projected out 10 years.

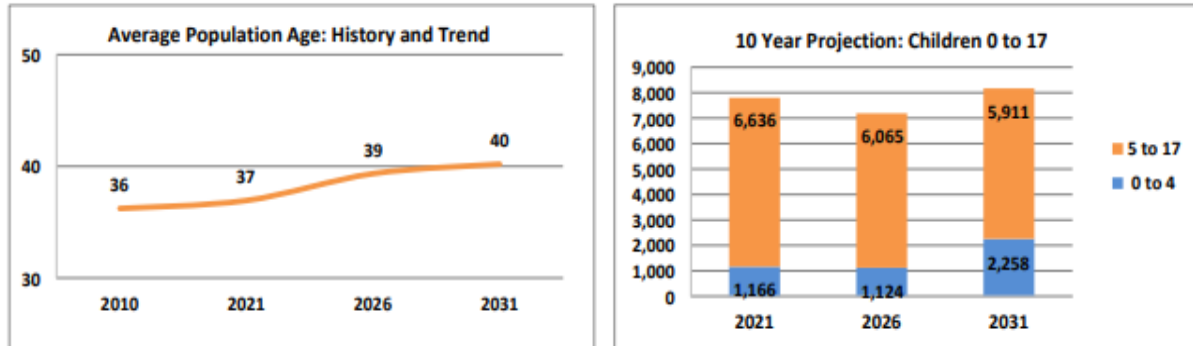
Population, Households & Families

	2000	2010	2021	2026	2031
Population	40,840	40,793	38,780	38,294	38,075
Population Change		-47	-2,013	-486	-219
Percent Change		-0.1%	-4.9%	-1.3%	-0.6%
Households	16,226	16,199	15,349	15,148	15,061
Households Change		-27	-850	-201	-0
Percent Change		-0.2%	-5.2%	-1.3%	0.0%
Population / Households	2.52	2.52	2.53	2.53	2.53
Population / Households Change		0.00	0.01	0.00	0.00
Percent Change		0.1%	0.3%	0.1%	0.0%
Family Households	10,496	10,111	9,321	9,197	
Family Households Change		-385	-790	-124	
Percent Change		-3.7%	-7.8%	-1.3%	

Age Theme

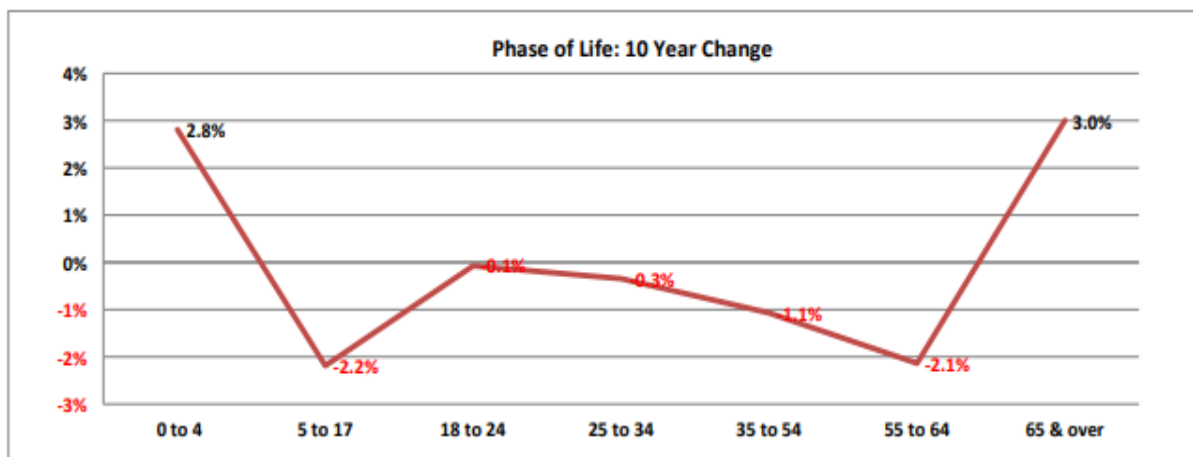
10 Year Average Age and Children 0 to 17 Trends

The age history and forecast reflect changes in a community. For example, two demographic trends currently in play are the aging of the Baby Boom generation and the decline in live births in the late 20th and 21st centuries.



Phase of Life

The Phase of Life 10 Year Change graph highlights life phases that will increase or decrease as a percentage of the total population in the forecasted 10 year future.



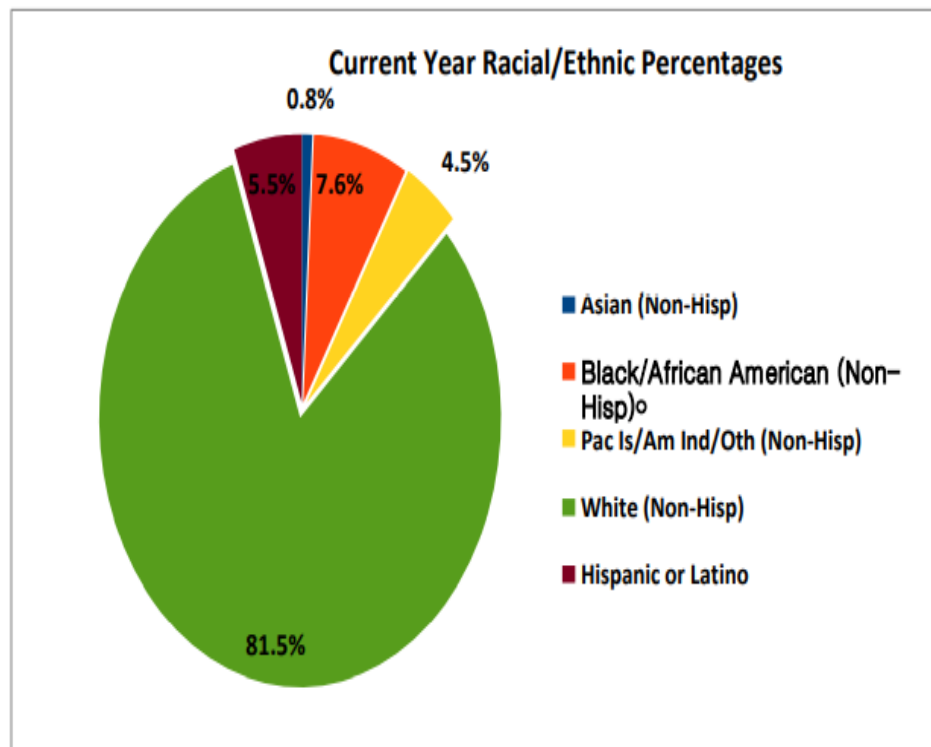
Phase of Life presents how a community changes and people age through their various life phases.

Phase of Life	Actual Population by Year & Phase				Percent of Pop by Year & Phase			
	2010	2021	2026	2031	2010%	2021%	2026%	2031%
Before Formal Schooling: 0 to 4	3,017	1,166	1,124	2,258	7.4%	3.1%	3.0%	5.9%
Required Formal Schooling: 5 to 17	7,184	6,636	6,065	5,911	17.6%	17.7%	16.3%	15.5%
College/Career Starts: 18 to 24	3,911	3,570	3,791	3,601	9.6%	9.5%	10.2%	9.4%
Singles & Young Families: 25 to 34	5,526	5,069	4,947	5,021	13.5%	13.5%	13.3%	13.2%
Families & Empty Nesters: 35 to 54	11,088	9,660	9,409	9,411	27.2%	25.7%	25.4%	24.7%
Enrichment Yrs Singles/Cpls: 55 to 64	4,739	4,991	4,583	4,258	11.6%	13.3%	12.3%	11.2%
Retirement Opportunities: 65 & over	5,327	6,457	7,192	7,711	13.1%	17.2%	19.4%	20.2%
Total:	40,792	37,549	37,111	38,171	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%

Community Diversity Theme

The diversity of a community is shaped by the racial/ethnicity of the people who reside in it as well as people's age, income and education.

Study Area Racial and Ethnic Diversity

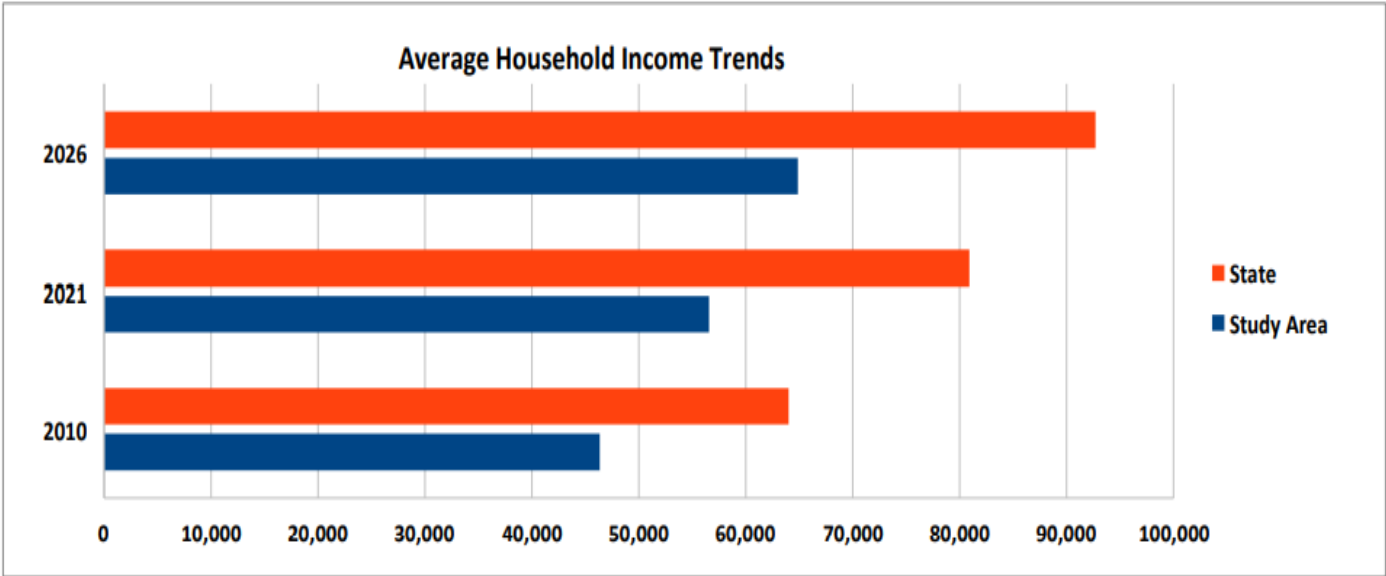


NOTE: Race and ethnicity breakouts are based upon Census Bureau categories. Only those groups for which the Bureau provides extended detail can be reported.

Race and Ethnic History and Trends

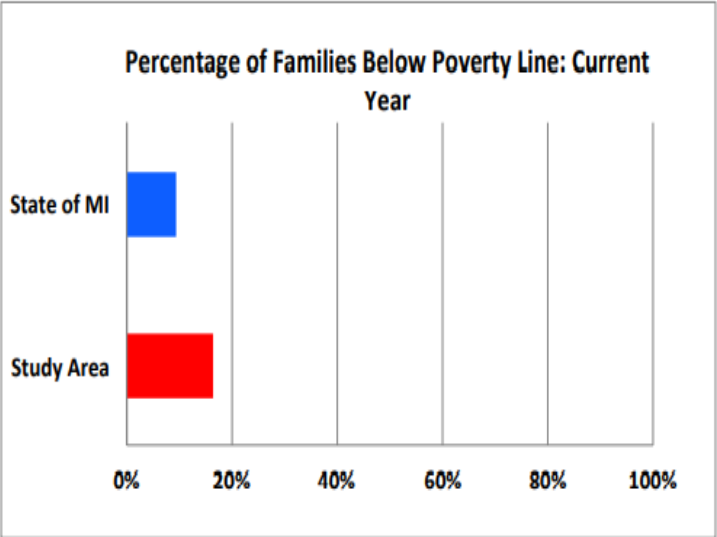
Racial/Ethnicity by Year	Actual Population by Year			2010 to 2026 Change	Percent of all Pop by Year			2010 to 2026 % Change
	2010	2021	2026		2010%	2021%	2026%	
Asian (Non-Hisp)	196	327	350	154	0.5%	0.8%	0.9%	0.4%
Black/African American (Non-Hisp)	3,122	2,956	2,921	-201	7.7%	7.6%	7.6%	0.0%
White (Non-Hisp)	33,838	31,621	31,101	-2,737	83.0%	81.5%	81.2%	-1.7%
Hispanic or Latino	2,040	2,117	2,157	117	5.0%	5.5%	5.6%	0.6%
Pac Is/Am Ind/Oth (Non-Hisp)	1,597	1,759	1,764	167	3.9%	4.5%	4.6%	0.7%
Total:	40,793	38,780	38,293	-2,500	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	

Household Income



Income Trends: Households and Families				2010 to 2026 Change
	2010	2021	2026	
Average Household Income	46,344	56,567	64,870	18,525
Median Household Income	34,738	42,485	50,135	15,397
Per Capita Income	18,403	22,389	25,661	7257
Median Family Income				998

Poverty



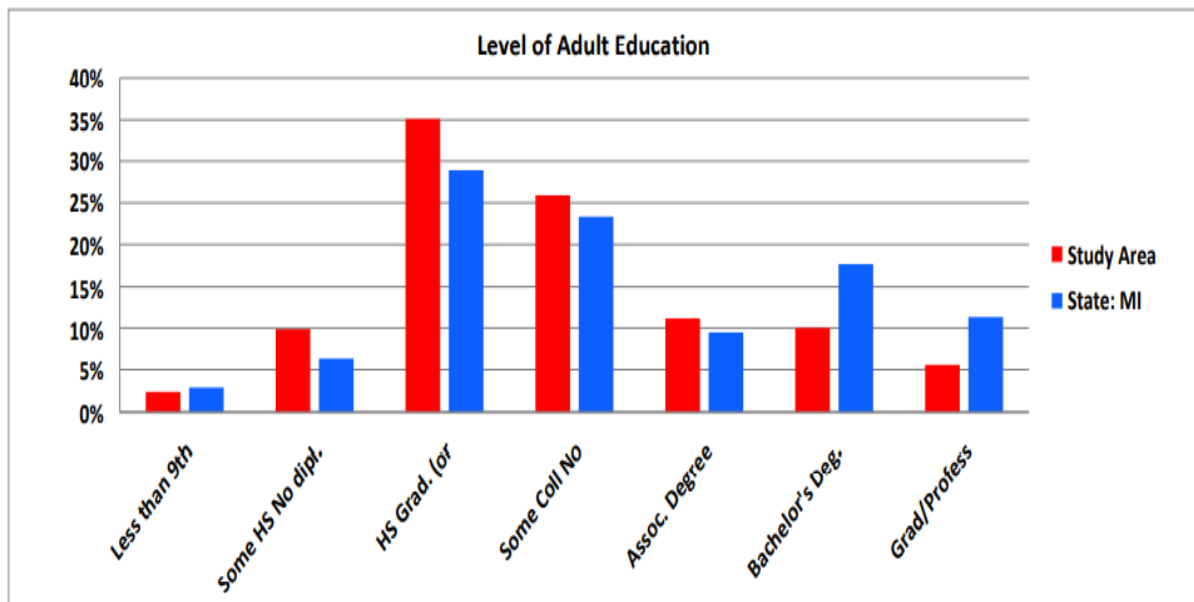
Poverty Level	Pop	Area % Pop	MI % Pop
Above poverty level	7,793	83.6%	90.6%
Below poverty level	1,528	16.4%	9.4%
	9,321	100.0%	100.0%

The Education/Career Status theme portrays the level of education and the career types by the categories of Blue Collar and White Collar in the study area.

Adult Educational Attainment

The following graphs array the adult population 25 years of age and older within the study area by their level of education completed.

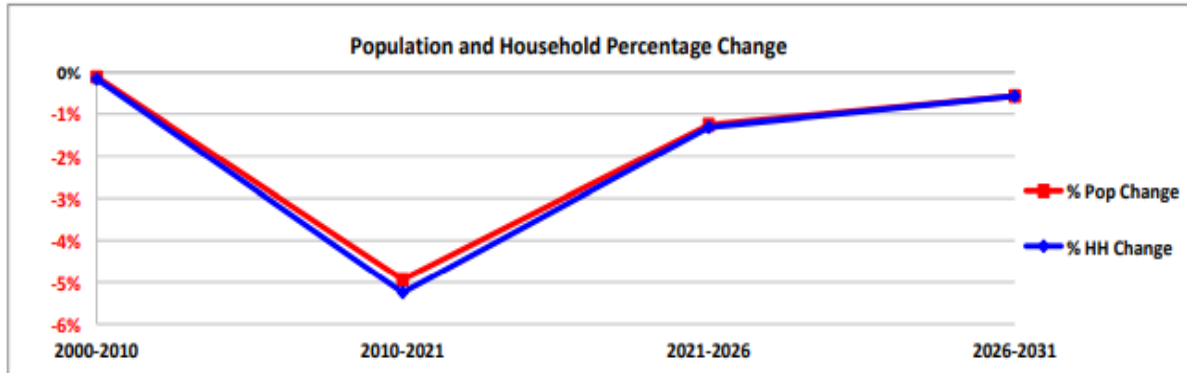
Adult Educational Attainment Compared to the State of MI



Education Level of Adults 18 Years and Older	Actual Hhlds by Year		2021 to 2026 Change	Percent of all Hhlds by Year		2021 to 2026 % Change
	2021	2026		2021%	2026%	
Less than 9th Grade	612	597	-15	2.3%	2.3%	-0.1%
Some High School, No diploma	2,577	2,495	-82	9.8%	9.5%	-0.3%
High School Graduate (or GED)	9,191	9,193	2	35.1%	35.2%	0.1%
Some College, No degree	6,780	6,764	-16	25.9%	25.9%	0.0%
Associate Degree	2,937	3,032	95	11.2%	11.6%	0.4%
Bachelor's Degree	2,619	2,564	-55	10.0%	9.8%	-0.2%
Graduate or Professional school degree	1,460	1,486	26	5.6%	5.7%	0.1%
Total:	26,176	26,131	-45	100.0%	100.0%	

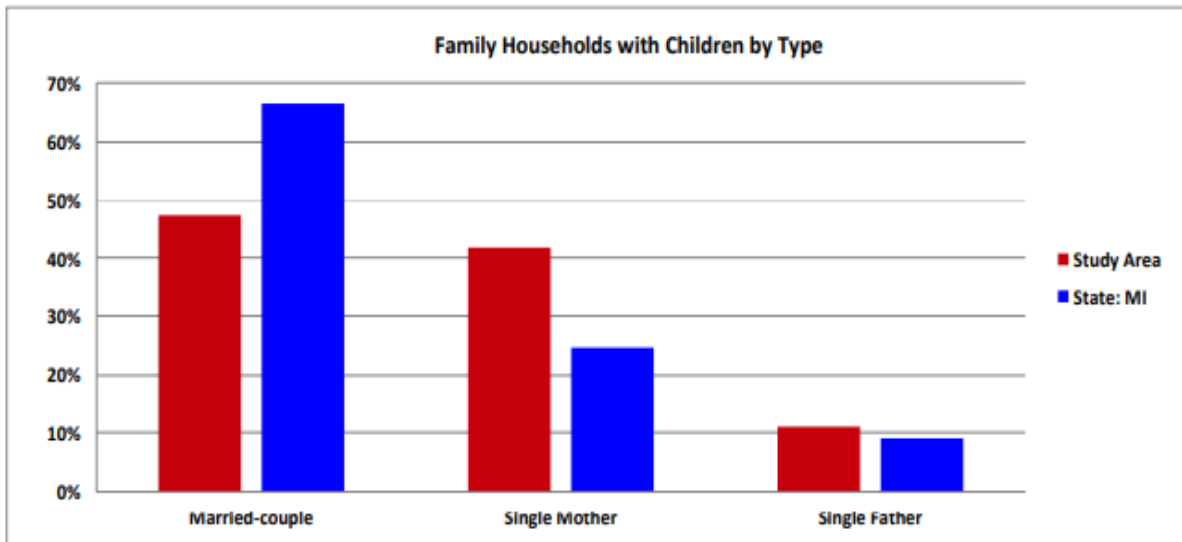
Population and Households Theme

Population and Household History with 5 and 10 Year Projected Percentage Change



Family Households

Family households with children are changing. The traditional married couple structure is evolving into many different family expressions in which children are being raised. These data provide an insight into the family structures within the study area and then compares them to the state.



This table presents both the history and projections for family structures in the study area. Take note of the change column to discern how these family structures have changed and are projected to change in the future.

Households with Children	Actual Hhlds by Year				Percent of all Hhlds by Year			
	2010	2021	2026	2010 to 2026 Change	2010%	2021%	2026%	2010 to 2026 % Change
Family: Married-couple	2,519	1,873	1,733	-786	48.4%	47.3%	45.4%	-3.0%
Family: Single Mother	2,140	1,653	1,622	-518	41.1%	41.7%	42.5%	1.4%
Family: Single Father	544	435	459	-85	10.5%	11.0%	12.0%	1.6%
Total:	5,203	3,961	3,814	-1,389	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	

Port Huron Area School District Student Demographic Analysis for All Buildings

The overall enrollment for Port Huron Area School District **has decreased by 15.9%** from 2017 - 2021. Of particular note is the change in enrollment for the categories of Economically Disadvantaged, English Language Learners, and Special Education. Data has shown that students in these categories could require additional resources. Collectively, Port Huron Area School District enrollment in these categories **has increased by 8.8%** as a percent of total students from 2017 - 2021. Additionally, Port Huron Area School District has experienced **decreasing racial diversity** from 2017 - 2021.

Demographic Group	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	Percent Change
Total Enrollment	8,743	8,458	8,194	7,913	7,353	-15.9%
Total Male	4,564	4,419	4,283	4,126	3,827	-16.1%
Total Female	4,179	4,039	3,911	3,787	3,526	-15.6%
Economically Disadvantaged	4,381	4,940	4,566	4,502	4,311	-1.6%
Free & Reduced Lunch	4,321	4,893	4,525	4,460	4,285	-0.8%
English Language Learners	56	56	52	49	46	-17.9%
Special Education	1,064	1,035	1,010	980	916	-13.9%
Total White	6,678	6,438	6,187	5,980	5,549	-16.9%
Total African-American	782	729	642	604	549	-29.8%
Total Hispanic	563	545	553	528	492	-12.6%
Total Asian	72	68	58	50	42	-41.7%
Two or More Races	586	623	712	715	688	17.4%
Total American Indian	54	47	35	29	25	-53.7%
Total Native Hawaiian	8	8	7	7	8	0.0%

Why it Matters: The Student Count report provides an unduplicated count of students attending a specific district or school. The data are important because it helps us understand the number and composition of students attending Michigan schools. The report also reveals how enrollment trends change over time. This report is based on pupil headcount information and not full-time equivalency. Pupil head count refers to each student being counted as one, whether the student attends the school full-time or not. The at-risk percent change is based on publicly available aggregated data and may vary from student-specific analysis. The diversity change is determined by calculating *True Diversity*, a type of diversity index, with an order of diversity of .4. (n138) (o345)

Data Source: The Student Count report is based on data collected on legislated count day, which is the first Wednesday of October, and is pulled from both the Fall General Collection and the Early Childhood Collection in MSDS. Only students receiving school-based services are in this report. This means Early On and some Pre-K Special Ed students would not be included. Nonpublic school students and home schooled students are not included in the data.

(n134)

APPENDIX IV FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH HISTORY

When the First Presbyterian Church was formed on Jan. 30, 1889, after an acrimonious severing of its affiliation with the United Presbyterian, it was a time of great growth and innovation within the still fairly young city of Port Huron.

Created in 1857 by the incorporation of several villages along the Black and St. Clair rivers, Port Huron was a bustling community with, as one visitor wrote, “well laid-out streets, numbered house addresses and street signs on the corners.” With a population of nearly 13,500 people, it was said its residents were quick to embrace innovation and technology. It is believed to be the first U.S. city with electric trolleys and was among the first to install streetlights and a telephone service. It was also the boyhood home of Thomas A. Edison.

But, there had been a Presbyterian presence in the community since 1831 when the outspoken abolitionist Oren Cook Thompson, a missionary for the American Tract Society and American Sunday School Union, arrived at the Fort Gratiot military reserve. Nominally a Presbyterian, he organized the first Presbyterian house church in May 1840 with nine members (seven adults and two children). In 1843, he and his family moved to St. Clair, where he continued to lead small congregations in both communities as well as serve as a “conductor” with the Underground Railroad. It was during this time that the small Port Huron congregation changed its ecclesiastical affiliation from Presbyterian to Congregational and would go on to become the First Congregational Church of Port Huron.

In 1860, a second attempt was made to form a Presbyterian church in Port Huron with the creation of a Sunday school led by Henry Leiper, a Presbyterian missionary. Six years later, the Rev. W. R. Erskine preached the first sermon to a 22-member congregation. Church services would be intermittently held until the late spring of 1869. At a meeting on May 10, 1869, Articles of Incorporation were drafted and the decision made to build a United Presbyterian Church on the southeast corner of Broad and Michigan streets under the leadership of the Rev. Thomas Bracken.

On March 13, 1873, the Rev. Thomas Monteith was installed as the pastor succeeding Rev. Bracken, who, unable to cope with the strain of building a church while grieving the death of his young wife, had resigned.

The Rev. Monteith remained until June 1886 and was succeeded by the Rev. Thomas Scott. It was during Rev. Scott’s tenure that, in February 1889, a majority of the church members decided to leave the United Presbyterian Church of North America and affiliate instead with the up-and-coming Presbyterian Church/USA. It was a decision not universally embraced by everyone in the congregation, most specially the Clerk of the Session. An ardent supporter of the United Presbyterian Church, he defied the outcome of the vote and locked everyone who had voted for the change out of the church building. He also confiscated all of the church records.

Not deterred by his actions, the new church met in various meeting halls throughout downtown Port Huron until a new sanctuary could be built. As for the United Presbyterian Church, it would close its doors in 1913.

The Rev. Scott, who left the church in October 1894, was succeeded by the Rev. Abiathar Beamer in February 1895. Almost immediately, church leaders began drafting plans to build a new sanctuary on a lot purchased south of the Black River.

In deciding to build its new sanctuary at the corner of Eighth and Wall Streets, church leaders were making a very strategic decision.

By the mid-1880s, the 38-block area surrounding the new location had become a much sought after address. Settled primarily by German immigrants, it was bounded by Military Street on the east, Lapeer Avenue on the north, Griswold Street to the south and 10th Street on the west. It was lined with streets that were “wide and bordered with refreshing shade trees. It was lined with fine residences and a number of good business blocks,” according to one written account. It was also just “far enough” away from the city’s principal industries of lumber, shipbuilding and manufacturing. As another writer put it, “(the area) was the original suburbia of Port Huron ... with full-family houses and a neighborhood strongly German.”

It would only be much later that this same area would be hit hard by urban renewal in the mid-20th century and dubbed by police in the later 20th century as “The Red Zone” known for its crime and “midnight conversions” (the breaking up of these once “fine residences” into shoddily built apartments.)

But in 1895, the area was not only home to many of Port Huron’s upper and middle classes, it was also home to a majority of its churches. Already gracing the neighborhood was the First Congregational Church, St. John’s United Church of Christ, Trinity and St. Martin’s Lutheran churches, First United Methodist Church and St. Joseph Catholic Church. By the mid-1920s, Our Saviour Lutheran Church and a synagogue, Mount Sinai Temple, would also call the neighborhood home.

First Presbyterian hired architect Isaac Erb of Thedford, Ontario, who had opened an office in the city in 1893, to build its church. Built for \$3,000, the building was described in an article appearing in the *Port Huron Daily Times* the evening before its dedication as “designed in the Romanesque order of red brick on a dressed stone foundation with a slate roof, making for a very handsome exterior. The handsome, large windows cast a halo over the whole interior giving it at once a very pleasing and homelike effect. ... The whole arrangement throughout the entire building has been thoroughly studied with a view to convenience, light and comfort.” It was dedicated on Sept. 15, 1895.

Unfortunately, the transition into the new church was fraught with financial woes and dissension, with the congregation dividing itself into pro- and anti-pastor factions. In an effort to ease the unhappiness and worry, Flint Presbytery replaced the Rev. Beamer in 1898, ordered the election of new elders and decided to use supply ministers until a new pastor could be called. In January 1899, the Rev. Monteith returned to the church that he had left 12 years earlier. He managed to secure the church’s release from the foreclosure of a mortgage held by the Lambton (Ontario) Bank and put the church on a course for it to become self-supporting. He would remain the pastor until his death from typhoid fever on July 22, 1911.

Throughout the early 1900s, the population of Port Huron continued to grow and so the size of First Presbyterian’s congregation. By the 1920s, more than 26,000 people lived within the city limits. In 1922, 503 people (adults and children) were attending services at First Presbyterian Church. It offered two Sunday services (morning and evening), a Sunday school, a Sunday evening Bible study and a mid-week prayer service.

After the death of the Rev. Monteith, three ministers had been called – the Rev. Hugh M. Carroll (1911-1914), the Rev. Ralph M. Crissman (1914-1922) and the Rev. Samuel G. Schiek (1922-1923). It was during Rev. Crissman’s tenure that the church acquired a manse (near the sanctuary on Eighth Street) and a pipe organ.

The abrupt departure of the Rev. Schiek, who was released by Flint Presbytery, caught church leaders by surprise and the church once again teetering on the financial edge. The Rev. Nicholas Sichterman was called to assume the pulpit. With his installation in the spring of 1924,

he would begin the second longest tenure of any pastor at First Presbyterian Church, serving until his retirement in 1950.

In the 1925 Annual Congregational Report, it was noted that “the church is on a much sounder financial basis than it was a year ago (when the Board of Trustees decided to mortgage the manse in order to buy the property directly behind the church on Wall Street) due largely to the efforts of the women of the church which has made it possible to pay up these notes.” The church’s Ladies Aid Society, which had six Circles and 114 members, believed it had two purposes: overseeing the church’s social life and its financial needs, with its primary focus at this time on helping to pay off the mortgage.

With church membership and optimism growing as the new decade beckoned, it was decided by the Board of Trustees that it was time to address three areas of concern: wiping out the church’s indebtedness, repairing and/or modernizing the pipe organ and enlarging the space needed to accommodate the Sunday school. It was decided to expand the church by building a “two-story, semi-fireproof building” for Sunday school classes, large group meetings and offices. The addition would be built on the recently acquired Wall Street property adjacent to the sanctuary. It was also decided to remodel and redecorate the sanctuary: A new lighting system was installed, the amphitheater-style seating replaced by straight pews with two side aisles and the organ and pipes were moved into a separate room. The estimated cost was \$30,000. The year was 1930.

As with the rest of the nation, First Presbyterian Church struggled to survive the Depression. Money was scarce and debts were mounting. It was not uncommon for the Rev. Sichterman to go without a paycheck for months at a time and for bills to go unpaid. For instance, in September 1932, the church treasurer reported outstanding debts of \$484.42 and a bank balance of \$36.07. In May 1935, unpaid accounts totaled \$1,158 with only \$39.46 cash on hand.

The Board of Trustees found themselves in seemingly never-ending negotiations with vendors and the First National Trust and Savings Bank officials to stave off the church’s financial ruin. As the Board of Trustees explained in a letter written in 1936 to bank President S. A. Graham, “... while desirous of getting this indebtedness paid ... our membership is not composed of any wealthy persons but, on the contrary, they are dependent upon their wages and salaries.”

Throughout the 1930s and into the early 1940s, the church slowly began crawling out of its financial hole only to find itself facing an internal crisis and an external change in its surroundings as World War II drew to a close.

The Rev. Sichterman, now in failing health, successfully shepherded the church through its financial quagmire to the point that the congregation was able to give monetary support to Alma College and the Wartime Service Commission. Unable to give the church his full attention as well as being in no position to institute any of the sweeping changes being discussed by the General Assembly (the New Life Movement), much of the late 1940s was spent by church leaders trying to find a workable solution to keep the church solvent.

After intense negotiations between church leaders, the Flint Presbytery and the pastor and his family, the Rev. Sichterman was able to retire in 1950 with his pension intact after 25 years of service although the pulpit at First Presbyterian was already being occupied by a new pastor.

With the Rev. Sichterman’s retirement pending, the church had called the Rev. John Alton Cressman, a minister who would place a new emphasis on social awareness and racial justice, renew the church’s commitment to missions and help develop a robust Christian

Education program throughout his 28-year tenure. First Presbyterian was definitely being put on a different path.

He would also find the “original suburbia of Port Huron” had changed. People were on the move and looking for room to grow outside the city limits. Business owners and professionals no longer needed to live as close to their offices and stores as in years past and were pulling up stakes to buy larger homes north of the Black River along Lake Huron. The neighborhood surrounding the church, while still dominated by single-family homes, found its housing stock radically changing to more multi-family, cheaper dwellings. Further changes were in the offing.

Rev. Cressman was installed on July 12, 1949, and would serve the congregation until 1978, making him the church’s longest-serving pastor. As he would later say, his objective was to build spiritual bridges among people. “You can go out and preach and say ‘God Bless You,’ but if these people are hungry, need clothes, well ... My ministry has always been about involvement in the community.”

During the Cressman years, the church would be among the founders of the city’s Inter-Faith Housing Commission, whose focus was to build new homes or rehabilitate existing ones for low-income residents and seniors living in the city’s South Side neighborhoods. It would help organize and provide leadership to the Port Huron Ministerial Association as well the Family Service Agency, Visiting Nurse Association and the Community Mental Health Clinic. The Men’s Association would sponsor a family fleeing from Castro’s Cuba in 1962 and the congregation would continue to financially support existing missions and projects in Mexico as well as new ones in the Philippines and India. The Deacons Board would establish an emergency fund for people in dire need of immediate help. Its Women’s Association would create what later would become the city’s Meals on Wheel program for seniors. And its young people would become involved with the Sanilac County Migrant Ministry. The congregation would also create and financially support Lakeshore Presbyterian Church, a mission church in Fort Gratiot, as well as campaign for the establishment of a senior living community north of the city.

“This church,” the Rev. Dr. Mark Thomas, one the Rev. Cressman’s successors, would observe later, “has always been very mission-conscious. It has always had a world-view of missions ...”

Other church milestones during these years included the ordination of Edna Cummings as the Session’s first female Elder in 1957 and supported eight young men on their journey to becoming ordained Presbyterian ministers. It also inaugurated, under the guidance of Choir Director John Unger, the Madrigal Dinner-Concert in early December 1970. Eventually becoming a three-night event, it routinely sold out, drawing audiences from the Detroit area as well as locally during its 12-year run.

In the mid-1950s, realizing that it needed to expand its footprint to accommodate its growing programs, the church embarked on a campaign to build a Christian Education wing onto the church. The two-story addition was dedicated on Jan. 25, 1959. Also during the 1950s, improvements were made to the sanctuary (converting the heating system to gas, reconfiguring the choir seating and remodeling the basement, were among the projects undertaken.)

In 1949, church membership stood at 557. By 1963, it had grown to 934, with more than 550 adults and children involved in its Christian Education programs. With those numbers beginning to drop in the 1970s, First Presbyterian Church also found itself in the midst of a radically shifting landscape. With crime increasing, the 38-block neighborhood had become

known as “The Red Zone.” The church, plagued by vandalism and theft, eventually joined with some of its neighboring churches to hire a night watchman to patrol the area.

In May 1971, church Treasurer Fred Linschied lamented that “our church building is an old building and in a bad state of repair and general maintenance.” Saying contributions to the church’s coffers were falling woefully short, he continued, “The church is located in a declining neighborhood and faces competition for larger contributors from other, better maintained churches in the downtown neighborhood and from newer, cleaner churches being built further out. Our declining revenue will leave this church an inadequately financed inner-city church which will gradually die on the vine.”

By ruthlessly trimming the budget and implementing some stopgap measures, the church scraped by until January 1978 when the Rev. Cressman retired. Faced with the prospect of hiring a new pastor for the first time in 28 years, church leaders and the congregation knew the time to implement drastic changes had come. An extensive and exhaustive self-study was undertaken that found the church was “understaffed, under-programmed, under-organized and woefully under-financed with no clear self-image.”

While it was recommended that First Presbyterian might consider moving outside the city limits, the congregation remained adamant in its desire to stay at Eighth and Wall Streets. But they also realized that changes had to be made if the church was to survive.

A long-range planning committee was formed to tackle some of the most pressing issues including expanding parking, reviewing security measures and making the sanctuary more accessible. It was also decided that the time had come to “right-size” the membership rolls.

The Rev. Ronald L. Naylor was called in 1979 and began, along with the Session, to trim the bloated membership rolls. As he reflected later, “one of my first tasks was to trim the rolls to a realistic number. The advertised number was more than 900 members but it was closer to 450 to 500 with many of those members not really active.”

Pastoral calling also would become his priority as well as mediating and resolving inter-congregational conflicts in the hopes of achieving greater health and stability. “It was necessary,” Rev. Naylor said, “for the church to find new and positive directions.”

To that end, he began the church’s first “hands-on” international mission with its inaugural venture being a trip to the Good Shepherd Orphanage in Haiti. These mission trips continue to this day not only in Haiti but occasionally to Costa Rica and Mexico. The church also began a ministry to feed the neighborhood’s hungry, serving two hot meals a week. This “Soup Bowl” ministry would quickly outgrow the church’s capacity to house it and would evolve into the Mid City Nutrition program that began operating a daily soup kitchen at the nearby St. Martin’s Lutheran Church – a ministry still supported by the First Presbyterian Church.

In the early 1980s, and after years of benign neglect, the church was once again remodeled. Offices were moved to the ground floor, windows were replaced, air conditioning added, the kitchen upgraded and the sanctuary made over to provide a center aisle (“to give brides something to walk down,” one church Elder observed). In 1987, an elevator was retrofitted alongside the sanctuary to allow for more accessibility to the sanctuary and fellowship hall.

After the Rev. Naylor left in 1985 to accept a call in Indiana, the church called the Rev. Dr. Mark Thomas, who was installed in April 1986. He would serve until 2005, becoming the church’s third longest-serving pastor.

Under the Rev. Thomas’ guidance, First Presbyterian Church continued to reach out and work within the neighborhood and the city, including the founding of Blue Water Habitat for

Humanity and aiding the long-awaited development of Lake Huron Woods Presbyterian Village in Fort Gratiot.

In previous years, rooms in the Christian Education wing had been rented out to house a day-care program run by the Family Service Agency as well as the Port Huron Montessori School. Now, under the directorship of Holly Thomas, the pastor's wife, the rooms were put to a new use – Kids Day Out, a once-weekly program for children in the congregation as well as the neighborhood. It was a program that would continue at the church for 25 years, ending only when participation had dwindled to just a handful of children.

The Deacons also continued their outreach efforts at the nearby Woodrow Wilson Elementary School by collecting school supplies and sponsoring an Angel Tree to provide Christmas gifts for neighborhood children and their families. Both of these projects are still very much a part of the Deacons' mission today, as is a monthly collection of foodstuffs for the Blue Water Area Food Depot.

"It's a real family of faith," the Rev. Thomas said in 1989 as the church prepared to celebrate its centennial. "I've never experienced as much congregational care as I have here."

Because the 1978 self-study had stressed the need for more professional staff, it was decided to call an associate pastor to assist the Rev. Thomas. Throughout his tenure, the church would employ several associate pastors including the Revs. Jill Denison, Elizabeth Boone and Margie Osborn. They also would sponsor an ecumenical parish assistant, Chung Bae Byun from Korea, for six weeks.

(It should be noted that during Rev. Cressman's tenure from 1949 to 1978, he had employed an assistant pastor, Gaylord Brunelle, for six years. The Rev. Brunelle would continue to help out with pastoral concerns at the church for many years afterward.)

During Rev. Dr. Thomas' tenure, new services and activities were also introduced including an annual church picnic and golf outing. Lenten potlucks with St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church in Sarnia, Ontario, and a new service, Watcher's Eve, was introduced on the first Sunday of Advent. In 1987, the church began celebrating Reformation Sunday with Kirkin' O' the Tartans, a service replete with kilts, family tartans and bagpipes with Scottish treats served and Highland dances performed during the after-service coffee hour. This year, the church observed its 35th Kirking.

In 2005, the Revs. Thomas and Osborn left to accept callings at other churches, plunging First Presbyterian Church into its longest interim period to date. During the next three years it watched its membership decline as well as participation in the life and ministry of the congregation.

In 2008, the Rev. Jason Pittman accepted the church's call.

In the ensuing years, the congregation reaffirmed its commitment to local missions such as Mid City Nutrition, Blue Water Habitat for Humanity and the Blue Water Food Depot. It became a staunch supporter of the Blue Water Area Rescue Mission providing meals and spiritual aid. It also worked with other area churches and social service agencies on events to build firmer and better relationships between churches and neighbors. Rev. Pittman also worked with the Rev. Tom Seppo of Operation Transformation, a faith-based nonprofit organization working to bring positive changes and fostering a unified life-giving church within the community, as well as with the area's three ministerial associations.

It also began a new community outreach mission, Miracle Marketplace, an alternative "craft fair" for area nonprofit agencies and ministries. With its stated mission of "give a blessing, be a blessing," it gave these organizations an opportunity to highlight their programs while

giving fair-goers an opportunity to shop for holiday gifts. The money raised from the church's own booths and café went to support youth mission trips and to pay for the distribution of food to neighborhood residents through the Southeastern Michigan Food Bank's mobile food pantry. In 2012 alone, the church was able to distribute 12 tons of food. In 2017, and with interest waning among vendors and volunteers, it was decided by the Marketplace organizers to end the event on its 10th anniversary.

In 2009, the church, looking to bolster service attendance during the summer months, launched Worship at the Beach from Memorial Day to Labor Day. Having just completed its 12th year, the 8 a.m. causal and contemporary services at the city's Lighthouse Park allows members and visitors to worship God along the waterfront as the sun rises over Lake Huron. In 2021, attendance at these services averaged about 50 people while about 40 people attended the 10 a.m. traditional sanctuary services.

Other programs that were embraced by the congregation during Rev. Pittman's tenure included the reintroduction of a Wednesday family night at the church. Open to members of the congregation as well as neighborhood families, it featured dinner and Bible study as well as youth group activities. Other activities included the sponsorship of two Christian concerts featuring 10th Avenue North and Mercy Me, a quarterly Faith and Film series and Wine and Divine/Fermenting Faith. This event, sponsored by the Session's Christian Education Committee at a local restaurant and wine bar, featured a special dinner program and wine tasting alongside spiritual lessons focused on wine and fellowship in the Bible. The event proved to be so successful that it was decided to have it twice a year, once in the fall and again to celebrate Mardi Gras.

Unfortunately, while enthusiasm for these and other ongoing church endeavors remained strong, the church's ongoing financial concerns coupled with declining membership forced the Session to make cutbacks in its professional staffing. In 2015, the position of associate pastor was eliminated and office staff hours reduced with the void being filled by a part-time (10-hours a week) parish assistant and volunteers.

In March 2020, the church was shut down by the onslaught of the COVID-19 pandemic with services, meetings and other business matters moving online. The church would not reopen for in-person services until Easter Sunday 2021. In the spring of 2020, the Rev. Pittman accepted a call to another church, leaving the congregation in the capable hands of an interim part-time pastor, the Rev. Roxie Davis.

The 2020 shutdown did afford the church the opportunity to complete a long-awaited renovation and remodeling project of its offices, meeting rooms and parlor to make them more inviting, practical and accessible. Outdated and outmoded equipment and furniture was replaced and security updated. In addition, a new entrance was created off the west parking lot to make it easier for people to access the lift to the sanctuary and fellowship hall.

Sadly, the years and a name change (from the police-inspired tag, "The Red Zone" to "Olde Town") have not been kind to the neighborhood surrounding First Presbyterian Church but there is hope. While now dominated by transient and low-income residences, the residents and the city are fighting back. New city ordinances have been enacted to curb the creation of more rental housing and to encourage more home ownership. Several of the historic Victorian and Queen Anne-styled homes have been or are being renovated and a historic designation has been given to one of the neighborhood's main thoroughfares, Court Street.

Some of the churches that once graced the 38-block neighborhood, however, are struggling: First Congregational Church, described in an 1866 newspaper article as the city's

“largest and its society the most prosperous” has closed and its building turned into medical offices; St. Joseph Catholic Church is on the Archdiocese of Detroit’s future closures list; Grace Episcopal, St. John’s United Church of Christ and Our Saviour and St. Martin’s Lutheran churches are experiencing difficulties; and the synagogue, Mount Sinai Temple, is now an evangelical church.

Membership at First Presbyterian Church also has waned, falling from the 1963 high of 934 to 190 members in December 2020 (some of the decline can be attributed to the ongoing effort to keep the rolls current). And sadly, while at one time many of the congregation’s members lived in the immediate neighborhood, today fewer than six members call the 38-block area home.

“Jesus Christ calls us to be a church not in just a bustling, growing, affluent community,” the Rev. Pittman once said. “He calls us to be a church everywhere, including those areas that have experienced decline and change.”

Pastors

The Rev. Thomas A. Scott (1887-1894)
The Rev. Abathiar Beamer (1895-1898)
The Rev. Thomas W. Monteith (1899-1911)
The Rev. Hugh McCarroll (1911-1914)
The Rev. Ralph M. Crissman (1914-1922)
The Rev. Samuel G. Schiek (1922-1923)
The Rev. Nicholas Sichterman (1924-1950)
The Rev. John Alton Cressman (1949-1978)
The Rev. Ronald L. Naylor (1979-1985)
The Rev. Dr. Mark P. Thomas (1986-2005)
The Rev. Jason E. Pittman (2008-2020)