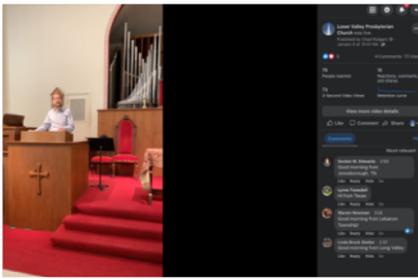


# ANNUAL REPORT

## Pandemic!

Pandemic is certainly the word that best defines the past year. It might be more accurate to qualify it with "ongoing". Although the masked faces in the pews were a reminder of the dangers we seemed to be leaving COVID behind. Then a new variant closed our doors in winter once again. We pull the curtains on 2021 with the hope that this is but a brief suspension of in person worship.



## Virtual Church

This was new for us in 2020, but we started to get the hang of it in 2021. It won't be our only future, but we may have learned some things about reaching folks who can't join us in person on a given Sunday. Not gathering for worship has had some benefits. It showed many of us that it isn't so daunting to give online through the link on the church website.

## 2021 Highlights and Challenges

We began the year with well rehearsed virtual worship then tentatively moved into our Sanctuary after having some significant refurbishment done to our stained glass windows.



Our summer worship services steadily grew in number and there was a sense of gaining momentum through the fall. There was even a small intergenerational group planning to revive the handbells as part of Christmas Eve Worship, but, alas, we finished our year with outside candle lighting Christmas Eve worship instead. The return to virtual worship was forced on us by the fast moving and very contagious Omicron variant of the COVID-19 virus. This time we tried broadcasting live on Facebook.

## Spiritual Formation and Worship

This was certainly another challenging year as we moved back and forth between virtual and in person worship, Sunday school, and youth group. During the fall we restarted Sunday school with the few children joining us in person for worship and our youth groups began meeting for fun, fellowship, and study again. The women's and men's bible studies continued to gather uninterrupted either virtually or in person.

## Parish Life

It is fair to say that maybe the life of our Parish following worship has suffered the most during the pandemic. Our initial return to worship saw very limited fellowship time without any coffee or snacks. During the fall we did move indoors on the first Sunday of the month for a brief time to connect socially with one another. In December we celebrated the members of our congregation in worship and with the gift of a daily devotional.

## Mission

Our Mission Team continued to look for ways to serve in the community through the community garden, meeting needs we became aware of, and with another virtual Giving Fair. For many years the Giving Fair has been a major event. Moving virtual has limited the scope and the participants. We look towards 2022 with hopes of new inspiration, ideas, and energy.

The community garden was one area of our mission that saw no slowing. 2021 saw more gardeners and raised beds than any previous year. Fresh



**Christmas Eve Outside**

Although our summer and fall worship were enjoyed in the confines of our Sanctuary an abundance of caution moved us outside just before Christmas. The weather cooperated and on a chilly, but beautiful Christmas Eve we gathered to sing silent night and share the light of Christ.

**Memorials**

It is with sorrow that we have lost, from our fellowship, members of our families, friends and neighbors – people of significance in our lives and in the life of our community. We miss them, for their places among us can never be filled by another.

- Sylva Burd
- Eleanor M. Clawson
- Lorraine Emma Hintz

**Special Thanks**

We can not conclude any year with out expressing gratitude to those who have faithfully served as leaders of our congregation. This year we need to thank Lisamarie Boehm for her last 6 years of service as an elder guiding Parish Life and Dick Kline for many years serving as our Treasurer.

vegetables continued to go to the Open Cupboard Food Pantry and community members gathered around the common challenges of defeating squash bugs and the relentlessness of weeds.

*Stewardship*

In 2021 our faithful pledgers have remained faithful throughout the pandemic whether we were in person or virtual. However, our overall giving has suffered. We received some help in government assistance and rent from the preschool remained constant, but each year we have continued to move an increasing amount of money from our investments.

This year the stewardship team upgraded our software. Through Karen Newman’s countless hours we have now streamlined our whole process of accounting from counting to tracking individual giving.

As we looked forward to 2022 Elder and Clerk of Session Peggy Macaoay encouraged us to pledge by sharing her experience of faith, community, finding our church, and her thoughts on giving and pledging.

After two years the estate of beloved member Ruth Paradise was finally settled. The rather large and extremely generous gift will provide some longer term financial security and in the short term will allow us to make some over due upgrades to the worship space and address many deferred maintenance issues. A great reminder of how we can all make an impact on the future mission of our church.

*House and Grounds*

We may not have hosted our usual amount of activities or worship services in 2021, but the building and property was still here requiring attention. In anticipation of moving into our Sanctuary with greater potential for ventilation and to address overdue maintenance we contracted to have work done on our stained glass windows. The window frames needed restoring and the protective glass needed replacement. The work made it possible to once again open the long sealed shut lower ventilator portions of the windows. This was made possible by the generosity of those who previously gave to our memorial fund.



During the summer we offered our parking lot as a staging ground for the chip sealing of CR-513 in exchange for addressing our own deteriorating asphalt. Our building continues to provide surprises and constant upkeep and with an eye to addressing deferred maintenance in the near future we reestablished (put on hold during the pandemic) contact with our architect in hopes of taking on some much needed updates to the back of the building and the Sanctuary in the coming year.