

2021 Congregational Nominating Committee



Sandy Castles

A member of FPC for 31 years, Sandy knew when she entered FPC that she'd found her new church home. She's served as a Deacon, on a search committee, was a choir member, is a nursery volunteer, Chancel Guild member, Co-Chair of Communion, and of course, the Handbell Choir! She met her husband, Patrick, in the choir; they have 3 children, James, Elyse, & Christine. Christine works at PSU, thanks to the pandemic, she

has a new appreciation for gardening, enjoys reading, bird watching, long walks & spending time with family. She looks forward to continuing serving her FPC family.



Lauren Wellford Deming

Shortly after she and her husband Will moved to Portland in 1992, they joined First Presbyterian Church. Over the years, she's had the opportunity to serve in many different ways. She served two terms on Session and two terms on the Congregational Nominating Committee, co-led new member classes, participated in stewardship drives, organized retreats, participated in Open Circle, and taught children's Sunday school. Currently, she is on the

Fellowship Committee and works part-time as the Marketing Director at Menucha Retreat and Conference Center. Her life is richer in so many ways because this church community welcomed them when they were strangers, helped them raise their two sons, and continues to inspire her to live a Christ-centered life.



Alice Estes

A member of FPC since 1976, Alice serves as a Deacon, on the usher team and Stewardship planning team. She coordinates the communion servers and the delivery of home communion. Now retired from a 45 year career in banking, Alice enjoys travel and is blessed to be part of a large extended family across Oregon, Idaho, Montana and Georgia.



Shelly Garg

Shelly has been a member since 2013. She is involved in many activities at the church: Capital Campaign Thanks Team, Children & Youth Committee, Deacons, FPC Day of Service, Library Committee, Open Circle, and Tuesday Women's Book Club. Outside the church her main volunteer activity is helping in a couple of public school libraries.

Shelly and her husband enjoy travel. Often bicycling or wine are important parts of the itinerary.



Joey Razzano

Joey and her husband Chris joined First Presbyterian Church in 2000 just before Pastor Dudley married them. She has had the honor and privilege of serving both the church and Menucha in so many ways: Session, Clerk, Music Committee, Menucha Commission, Choir, Bells, Outreach and Events, Alder Street Child Care Center, and

Open Circle. Her family includes her husband Chris (49), son Christopher (24), and her daughters Wynter (19) and Jade (17). In her "spare" time, she enjoys running, scrapbooking/card making, fundraising/event planning, advocacy, and has served on several non-profit boards.



Deborah Resley

Deborah and her husband Bill, moved to Portland in 2017 and transferred their membership from St. Andrews Presbyterian in Houston to FPC. Bill was an active church member in Houston and served as Deacon and Elder. For fun, Bill and Deborah enjoy riding a tandem bike and travel. They have one son, Daniel, who lives in Houston.



Jean Smith

A member of FPC since May of 1996, Jean has served as an Elder. An early member of the choir, music is a very important part of worship for her. She's involved in the Quilting group, coffee fellowship and the Saltshakers fellowship program. Jean has an Education degree; and taught middle school math. Jean & her husband Russell have two grown children, Elizabeth and Sarah.



Mike Starosciak

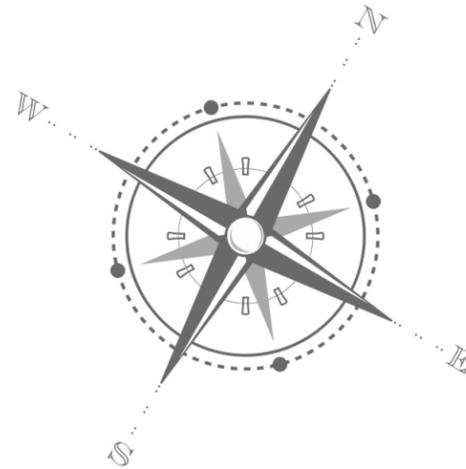
Mike and his wife, Janet, joined FPC in 2005. Previously, Mike served as both an Elder and Deacon at a small neighborhood Presbyterian Church in Northeast Portland. After six years on the FPC Session, four as Clerk, Mike turned his attention to Julia West House (JWH). Mike is currently co-chair of the special Session committee developing options for a new future for the JWH property.



Phyllis Whittington

Phyllis has been a member of FPC since 1981. She's been married to her husband Joe for 50 years. They have three children and four grandchildren. She has sung in the choir, served on the Advocacy and Social Justice Committee, chaired the Children's Music Committee, served on the boards of Friendly House and the Menucha Commission, served on the Congregational Nominating Committee, the Membership

Committee, the Fellowship Committee and has been ordained as a Deacon and Elder, having served on Session. She's currently serving on the Visual Arts and History committees. Phyllis is trained as a Stephen's Minister, and misses her volunteer work with The Bloom Project. She treasures the privilege of worshiping and serving in our beautiful church, and the wonderful friendships she's made through Disciples classes and other close fellowship groups.



2021 First Presbyterian Church Nominations

Join us virtually for the Annual Congregational Meeting, on Sunday, November 15th, 2020, following worship, when the annual election of church officers will occur.

2021 Nominations for Trustees



Peter van Bever

Peter and his wife Ann have been members of FPC since 1993. Peter has served on Session, led two Music Director searches, served on Stewardship and chaired the Personnel committee, he also sings in the tenor section of the choir. Peter retired in 2008, after a career in the mortgage banking industry. In retirement, Peter likes to play golf and to serve the local arts community

and was a past chairperson of the board of Trustees at the San Francisco Theological Seminary. He looks forward to serving our church as a member of the board of trustees.



MaryKay West

MaryKay West is a long time member of FPC; she and her husband Jeff were married at FPC and both of their kids were baptized at the church and participated in Sunday School and Youth Group programs as well as mission trips. MaryKay has been a trustee, a Stephen's Minister, active with the youth programs and also participated in the youth mission trip to Jackson, MI and a mission trip to Uganda. She is a current member of

the Menucha Commission, and she and her family have been members of Tiospaye, a young family's group, since her children were babies. She cherishes the friends and support network from FPC and is muddling along in her faith journey. She has been in commercial real estate for 28+ years, and in her free time, she likes to work out, compete, travel, read and nap!

2021 Nominations for the Office of Deacon



James Brunner

James joined FPC in 2015, after spending a year sitting in the balcony listening to the awesome choir. James is a member of the Communion Guild and plays trumpet for Easter and other FPC musical events. He's coordinated logistics for General Assembly and enjoyed meeting many of the delegates. James and his wife Estelle have been married for almost 20 years.

They have five children and four grandchildren. James works as a Director of Software Engineering and enjoys listening to music, playing his trumpets, and time with family.



Gordon Lindbloom

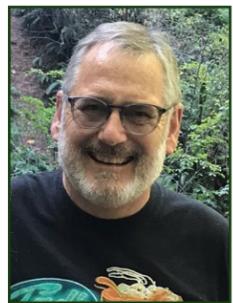
Gordon Lindbloom and his spouse, Frances Page, transferred to FPC in 2015. Gordon has a doctorate in Psychology and taught at the Graduate School of Lewis and Clark College. He retired in 2012. Gordon sings in the chancel choir and finds enrichment in the preaching, teaching, singing, and faith community of First Presbyterian.



Jim Patterson

A lifelong Presbyterian, Jim was a member of the Novato Presbyterian Church for 25 years in Denver prior to moving to Oregon in 2013. He has actively sung in church choirs since High School, and the FPC choir was a draw to join FPC in 2014. He and his wife Deborah and enjoy exploring Oregon wineries and local restaurants. Jim has two grown daughters and three grandchildren, ages 1 to 5. He will

be serving his 2nd term as a Deacon and looks forward to further service to First Presbyterian Church of Portland.



Bill Resley

Bill joined FPC in 2017 and is completing his first assignment as a Deacon. He serves as a greeter and van driver and loves volunteering at the NEFP food pantry. This year he helped restart our Stephen Ministry program. Training of care givers begin this fall and will be operational in early 2021. Previously, he was active at St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church in Houston where he served as a Deacon and Elder. Deborah and Bill will celebrate their 40th wedding anniversary next year, and they have one son, Daniel, who also lives in Portland.



Laurna Shively

Baptized by Dr. Paul Wright, Laurna grew up in the loving and caring environment of FPC with a multitude of "Moms and Dads" she knew she could turn to. Knowing that she wanted her children to grow up in the same environment, she and her husband, Willard decided to return to FPC after marrying in Virginia and moving "home" to Oregon. They feel blessed to have 3 children, Harrison, Graham and Margaret all of whom were baptized at FPC by Rev. "Mac" McCall. Laurna is currently a Deacon and member of Open Circle. She has served on the Menucha Commission, Children & Youth Committee, Sunday School Teacher, Youth Musicals and Youth Mission Trip fundraisers. She's also been a Wedding Coordinator and a Quilter at FPC. Her family hosts the Fall Festival on their farm in Hillsboro.



Dustin Coles

Dustin joined the church in 2009 and has been involved with various levels of youth teaching. He has participated in the Communion Guild, Menucha Commission, and Worship Committee. Dustin and his wife Rebekah have three children, Mira, Olivia, and Lucas. He enjoys music and sports and looks forward to giving back to the church all that it has given to him and his family.



Jess Dallas

Jess joined First Presbyterian Church in October 2019. During the last year, she has built many meaningful relationships with clergy and church members, and participated in Salt Shakers and Missions. She marched in support of Black Lives Matter with Pastors Carmen and Brenna. It is extremely meaningful to her to belong to a church that supports the social justice community. Currently, she's

in the process of becoming a Stephen Minister for FPC. In addition, she participates in Monday night virtual bible study. She is always open to new opportunities to serve God and FPC.



Jeane Iles

A Presbyterian from birth and member of FPC since her marriage to husband Randy. She's served both as Elder and Deacon, and as Chair of the Worship committee (5 years), Moderator of Deacons (4+ years total), member of the Long Range Planning Team, CNC, interim pastor search committee, Nurture committee chair, and Adult Ed committee (chair for 2 years). She organized the first

(and several following) Lenten Soup Supper(s), a success due to the enthusiastic participation of FPC members. Jeane is currently serving as a Deacon, including as moderator of the Board of Deacons, and is a long-time member of the Communion Guild.

2021 Nominations for the Office of Elder



Natasha Brown

Natasha Brown joined FPC in 2011. She has served as an FPC two-term trustee, including as a chair of the trustees. She now serves on the finance committee for a second time and has also chaired the Legacy Builders planned giving society in the past. Pastor Audrey married Natasha and her husband Steve, who is currently an FPC trustee, at a surprise engagement party-turned-wedding at their home in 2017. Natasha cherishes the deep friendships she has formed at FPC. Professionally, she works in strategy and organizational development at Intel Corporation and is pursuing a PhD in leadership studies at Pepperdine University. When the courts are open, Natasha plays squash competitively. She enjoys music, art, and travel. Natasha grew up in Los Angeles, continued her studies in New Haven, CT, and spent ten years living and working in Helsinki, Finland before moving to Oregon in 2009.



Estelle Brunner

Estelle joined FPC in 2015, after moving from Eugene to Portland to be with her husband James. A member of the Communion Guild, Fellowship Committee, and the Steering Committee for Open Circle. Estelle says being in Open Circle has deepened her faith and allowed her to develop strong connections with the other women in the Church. Estelle and her husband James have been

married for almost 20 years. They have five children and four grandchildren. Estelle is an avid reader and loves to take long walks. She loves their cat Pumpkin and spoils her as often as she can.



Vince Carpenter

Vincent joined First Presbyterian Church in 2000 and he and his wife, Paula, were married by Rev. Dudley Weaver. Stefen, aged 16, was baptized in the church and has actively participated in the youth group. He finds joy serving as an Usher and volunteers on the Youth Committee. He's been blessed to join the youth group on several retreats, which he finds very rewarding. He believes this is yet another

way to contribute to our congregation in a meaningful way. In his free time, he enjoys woodworking, and furniture restoration in his home sanctuary, the garage.



Olivia Coles (Youth Elder)

Olivia just began her sophomore year in high school and has been a member of FPC since she was very little. She grew up loving going to church and was a part of the plays and choirs, various youth group activities, and has been an acolyte for many church services. Although this year looked a little bit different, she really enjoyed the process of her confirmation. She hopes to go on her first Youth Mission trip with FPC during the summer of 2021.

Olivia Coles - continued

When not involved in church activities, she loves getting outside as much as possible; hiking, swimming, walks with her dog, and spending time with her family and friends (six feet apart, of course).



Sarah Schwab

Sarah joined the church in 1995 and has previously been involved in the Deacons, the search committee that brought Hillary as our youth pastor and the previous version of Stephen Ministry. She is currently involved in the Monday night Bible Study with Brenna, Open Circle, Friday Church Fellowship (happy hour) and Adult Education. For the last several years,

she has organized our annual flu shot clinic. She looks forward to being part of Session and the new Stephen Ministry program. She misses being in the nursery with all of the littles from the church family and Salt Shakers. Her hobbies include photography and paper crafting. Her commute has been very short for the last few years as she is able to work from home and loves it!



Peter Vanden Bosch

Dr. Pete Vanden Bosch is an adjunct math professor at University of Portland and a retired USAF colonel. In the three years he's been a member of FPC, he's served on several committees and working groups; he's currently active on Personnel, Re-opening, and Strategic Planning. Pete is a lifelong PC-USA member; his father was a minister, and Pete has served in other congregations as an Elder and Deacon.

He's married to Marilyn Howe, whom many of you know as a Trustee or through Open Circle. He sings in our choir and in the Portland Bach Cantata Choir and loves wandering in the Columbia Gorge.



Amy Wood

Amy grew up at First Presbyterian Church, sung in the girl's choir, chapel choir and attended numerous weekends and camps at Menucha. She attended confirmation class and joined the church in sixth grade. After a hiatus, she missed her church family and returned. She's in the choir, the bell choir since it's inception, a Stephen's Minister, Elder, and Deacon. While on Session, she's served on the Worship, Menucha, Fellowship, and Mission Committees and

chaired Worship and Mission. She's represented our church at Presbytery as an elder, Synod as a youth representative and at an international conference on Middle Eastern Christians. She looks forward to continuing her work with the Mission Committee during her next term on Session.