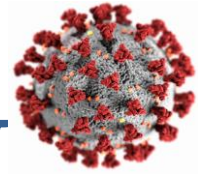


2020 ANNUAL REPORT



**Just to be clear,
the Church has not been closed,
so it doesn't need to be re-opened.
We have simply stopped worshipping
in our buildings for a time
to protect the health & well-being
of our people & our communities.
The Church does not require a building
in order to be the Church.
What is required is love, compassion,
& the presence of God.**

*The 154th Annual Report of the
Community Congregational
Church
United Church of Christ
Benicia, California*

Community Congregational Church, United Church of Christ Benicia, California

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LEADERSHIP TEAM 2020**STAFF**

Pastor	The Rev. Renie Stamm-Kirk
Associate Pastor (January – September)	The Rev. Melissa McBride
Minister of Music	Dr. Barbara Hamm

OFFICERS

Moderator	Shelby Riddle
Vice-Moderator	Open
Church Clerk	Kathy Monroe
Financial Secretary	Leslie Lessenger
Treasurer	Dale Olm

COMMITTEE CHAIRS

Building and Grounds Ministry	Andy Zinkevich
Christian Education Ministry	Open
Congregational Care	Carolyn Osada
Fellowship	Letty Thomas, Michelle Padilla
Mission & Outreach	Laura Pyles
Stewardship Ministry	Nancy Gilman
Welcome and Growth	Nora Gauger
Worship Ministry	Pricilla Lane & Marilyn Scrutchins
Members-At-Large	Kathy Dieden & ToddWolf



Pastor's Report

The Rev. Renie Stamm-Kirk

I have never written an annual report like the one I am writing for 2020. Because in all honesty there has never been a year like it. It has been a chaotic year filled with challenges no one could have foreseen or would have imagined. As I look back on this last year I am filled with gratitude to God and our amazing church leadership.

What a Year it was... Second week in March, we are just weeks out from finishing up our Annual Crab Feed when President Trump announced the “two-week” national lockdown, for COVID-19. Our leadership team responded to this challenge in incredible fashion. Created a taskforce to make immediate decisions and in less than 48 hours they had organized and conducted our first, fully online, worship experience, delivered live from our sanctuary. The next week we moved the whole production into my living room and since the third week in March every worship service except one was produced and streamed from my living room. We saw many folks online over the year join us in worship, some coming from all over the country. We didn't miss a beat celebrating Palm Sunday and Easter online that included the voices of many of our members. Throughout the summer we tried different lengths of worship till just the right fit fell into place. We celebrated Advent and Christmas together online and had one of the finest Pageants this year as well, thanks to Barbara Hamm for putting all the people and the parts together and to Bret Lortie for putting all the media together. The Pageant featured both our youngest and our oldest members and was full of joy and laughter.

Meanwhile we came up with creative ways for us to stay in touch with you, pray for you, and serve our community. “Fellowship” time after worship became vital for folks to stay in touch with one another, we created phone trees and we had many volunteers who delivered groceries and essentials to folks. We had online faith studies, discussions around vital topics like “Black Lives Matter”, and a vibrant and lively book group.



And the band played on... The music at the church continued as well, thanks to Barbara Hamm and several other talents in our congregation. Every Sunday we had a plethora of gathering music, for the summer and early fall, the strings group gathered, as well as various soloists. We had several musical concerts events online, and in November we had our

annual meal with a musical concert online for Thanksgiving and then another concert at Christmas, all lifting the spirits of our congregation.



At the same time, you, the members of Community Congregational, never wavered in your prayers and financial support of the church. Obviously, when the pandemic began there was a great deal of concern about the impact it would have on church finances. At the close of the year 2020 we had the strongest giving year ever. Make sure you check out the Stewardship report. What a blessing! Thank you so much. And not only did you all give your monies to the church, but we continued our Missions to the communities by providing water to Vallejo Together each and every week and when needed providing lunches. We also provided support in other areas of the community where needed. I was especially grateful to be

called to serve on the board of Benicia Strong, a new organization formed within Benicia to handle the immediate needs facing families in Benicia in the middle of a Global Pandemic.

Every challenge is an opportunity to grow. We have been moved outside our comfort zone, our usual way of doing things. The new reality has challenged us to try new things - new ways of connecting, new ways of reaching out, new ways of sharing the message. These are not going away. We have been given new perspectives. We have learned important lessons. We have been stretched and grown. When the virus finally releases its grip on us, the full fruits of this time are going to blossom forth. It will be an exciting time in our ministry. Until then, we remain faithful. We discover new ways to stay connected to God and to each other. We let the Holy Spirit quietly shape and guide us into God's future.



Yours in Christ

Pastor Renie



Associate Pastor's Report

Rev. Melissa McBride



Then I heard the voice of the Lord saying, "Whom shall I send, and who will go for us?" And I said, "Here am I; send me!" *Isaiah 6:8*

When I was ordained years ago, this passage from Isaiah led me. It also led me to you, CCCUCC whom I served as your Associate Pastor for fourteen months. I was then led back home to help my two children navigate their way during on-line learning and beginning their journey as high schoolers.

2020 has been quite the year! We all learned new technology, new ways of being church without walls. We learned how to serve in wonderful ways, we learned new skills, we learned new boundaries-what we can do and what we are not able to do. Maybe the most critical, we learned new ways to be faithful, to dive into our beliefs and how to keep the fire lit.

I am filled with gratitude that you welcomed me into your family, and we could work together building the new community. We had bible study together, book group, painting, dominoes, game nights and of course worship. We talked together many times via phone calls during Covid. We stayed connected and I will carry that forward as I hope you will as well. You are God's Beloved and you are God's new community. Carry on and be well.



Music Ministry

Dr. Barbara Hamm, Minister of Music



My 2020 Annual Report is very different from that of any

preceding year in the twenty-four years I have been at CCC. The year started normally enough. On Jan. 20 CCC hosted the second Benicia community celebration of the life and legacy of the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Largely the brainchild of the Rev. Dr. Mary Susan Gast, the service was very well attended and gave members of the community an opportunity to see the improvements to our building and grounds. Musicians from CCC participated, with Jazz Gorilla (Shelby Riddle on clarinet, Bret Lortie on trombone, and Barbara Hamm on piano) playing New Orleans style African American spirituals, and Deborah Shanks leading the massed choir in an anthem that rocked the house!

By the end of Feb., reports began circulating of a virus that was soon to erupt into a full-scale worldwide pandemic. Our last choir rehearsal was March 12. On March 15, Rev. Renie advised the congregation to stay home and participate virtually in the service, which she and a skeleton crew of musicians livestreamed from the church sanctuary. This was the day that Gov. Newsom issued his first stay-at-home order, advising people not to go out except to procure necessities. Through the remainder of 2020, Rev. Renie conducted services on the zoom platform, both pre-recorded and/or live, with the help of

musicians, readers, and occasional guest preachers.



Our ever-resourceful musicians immediately sprang into action and began recording songs for Rev. Renie to use both as gathering and service music: Jazz Gorilla with Shelby, Bret, and Barbara recorded numerous instrumental pieces as did Deborah Shanks on piano or harp, Leslie Lessenger on flute, Lisa Dwiggin on cello, Shelby Riddle on clarinet, Barbara and Deborah on piano and organ duets, and Leslie and The Rolling Tones with bells. The bell players included Jean Brown, Nancy Gilman, Leslie Lessenger, Chol  McGraw, Pat Obendorf, Deborah Shanks, and Kim Webb, who rehearsed outside at the church on Thursday mornings throughout the fall.

Many singers also came to the church to record songs for worship: Jean Brown, Carlene Coury, Mary Susan Gast, Nancy Gilman, Barbara Hamm, Liz Cleves, Chol  McGraw, Marilyn Scrutchins, Deborah Shanks, Dean Gilman, Todd Wolf, Andy Zinkevich.

Shelby Riddle started a new strings group, as we learned early on of the heightened risk of playing woodwind instruments in close quarters. Meeting every Thursday night until early Dec., the strings group, comprised of Shelby Riddle on violin, Deborah Shanks on harp, Dale Olm on mandolin, Barbara Hamm on piano, Lisa Dwiggins on cello, Dean Gilman on bass, and, yes, Leslie Lessenger on bells, recorded numerous pieces selected by Barbara and/or Shelby. Deborah Shanks arranged about two dozen Christmas pieces for our traditional Christmas orchestra, recorded by the strings and sent digitally to Shelby to add a clarinet track, Leslie to add a flute track, and Bret to add a trombone track. These orchestra pieces were used for gathering and service music throughout Advent and Christmas, helping to maintain the liturgical rhythms of the church year and to lift the spirits of our CCC church family.

Shelby also started a small Celtic band comprised of Shelby on fiddle, Dale on mandolin, Deborah on guitar, and Barbara on piano. The group continued to rehearse with masks and appropriate spacing through mid-Dec. and provided music for two music-worship events.



Three different such events were held during the fall and winter: the Sept. 20 Music-Homecoming Event, the Nov. 18 Music-Thanksgiving Event, and the Dec. 27 Christmas Music Sunday-

Worship Event. A great many of our singers and instrumentalists participated in one or more of these events: Jean Brown, Liz Cleves, Carlene Coury, Lisa

Dwiggins, Mary Susan Gast, Nancy Gilman, Barbara Hamm, Leslie Lessenger, Chol  McGraw, Pat Obendorf, Shelby Riddle, Marilyn Scrutchins, Deborah Shanks, Kim Webb, Dean Gilman, Bret Lortie, Dale Olm, Todd Wolf, Andy Zinkevich. The Dec. 20 Virtual Christmas Pageant also included singing by two children (Maddie Vlnar and Nola Moore) and one adult (Laura Pyles). Our musicians also provided music for the Christmas Eve service.



Several of our musicians provided music for “extracurricular” church music events beyond our local congregation. Deborah Shanks, Lisa Dwiggins, and Jazz Gorilla (Shelby, Bret, Barbara) provided recorded music for the Sept. 4 Virtual Concert of Hope Lutheran Church, El Sobrante.

Jazz Gorilla provided recorded music for the Oct. 24 UCC Annual Gathering as well as for the Nov. 1 PAAM (Pacific Asian American Ministry of the UCC Conference) online Music Fundraiser. Barbara Hamm

provided music for the June 13 WWOW (Wild Women of the West) Worship Event, an Inter-regional gathering of the Disciples of Christ women of ten western states and their international guests. She provided piano gathering music for the Sept. 26 DOC Region's online Annual Gathering. During the worship part of the Gathering, she sang a hymn that she had written which fit the theme of the Gathering.

A huge **Thank You** is due to Shelby Riddle and Deborah Shanks for many sessions spent recording the musicians. Special thanks are also due to Bret Lortie for his technical prowess and the many hours spent in mixing the tracks of musicians for the Christmas Orchestra music and other projects, including making a movie of the Virtual Christmas Pageant! Thank you, Bret! And we cannot forget to thank Rev. Renie, who spent untold hours taking the mountains of music sent to her, selecting what she needed, and combining it with slides for use in our Sunday services and special music-worship events.

Finally, to all the musicians: despite the isolation, despite the challenges, you managed one way or another to make the music happen. You are incredible! I am so grateful to all of you!



Liz and Marilyn serenade the neighbors



Moderator

Shelby Riddle

“Of course I’ll be Moderator, as long as we don’t have a Great Recession or major disaster or crisis”. Thus began my Moderator term, as we unknowingly sped towards a global pandemic.

Covid 19 totally affected our church by closing the doors, as we opened our computers and started attending online services on Zoom (which most of us had never heard of before March 2020). We became adept at recording music, using Dropbox to send large musical videos and sound files.

We painted rocks outside to create a sense of community as well as providing gems of art to sprinkle around the community. We created “break out Zoom rooms” for Sunday school before the service, slide shows with gathering music, recorded and live sermons, and were blessed by having a tech savvy Pastor who guided us through these difficult times.

As Moderator, I had less to do with the Church doors closed, but more to do with recording of singers, performing music, recording greetings and announcements, and making sure Pastor Renie was supported, despite all of our isolation. It’s been a difficult and lonely year for many of us, but the vaccine gets distributed this month, and we are all starting to hope that this horrible and deadly plague will soon be behind us.



Fires, fear and hoarding of toilet paper

Clerk

Kathy Monroe



This past year was a very different year due to the pandemic. The church was not closed, but almost all the activities moved online, including worship and meetings, with good attendance.

Celebrations that are typically done with in person large groups, that do not translate well to a virtual experience, did not happen. Thus, there were no baptisms, weddings, new member inductions, or funerals. We had one deceased member, Pat Wyatt. There were no members who withdrew or were placed on the inactive list.

Therefore, the total membership was 99, a decrease of 1 from the previous year. The Member Join Date List remains the same as last year with the exception of Pat Wyatt.

Baptisms: None**Deceased**

Pat Wyatt

Weddings: None**New Members****Total Members:****Membership Withdrawn:** 0

June 30, 2015	109
June 30, 2016	112
June 30, 2017	108
Dec. 31, 2018	87
Dec 31, 2019	100
Dec. 31, 2020	99

Members placed on inactive list: 0**Transferred Membership:**

0



Pentacost Service

MEMBER JOIN DATE

Member Name	Join Date
Mortensen, Eleanor	11/21/1954
Burns, Karen.....	8/16/1955
Stephens, Carol	11/4/1964
Stofan, Susan	2/24/1974
Hammonds, Maryo	9/15/1974
Hammonds, Sam	9/15/1974
Martin, Pam	10/22/1978
Osada, Carolyn	6/8/1980
Scrutchins, Marilyn	6/7/1981
Lane, Priscilla	12/5/1982
Read, Laurie	2/17/1985
Read, Keith	2/17/1985
Sayles, Jackie.....	4/5/1987
Koehn, Rebecca.....	5/7/1995
Read, Robyn.....	5/31/1998
Olm, Dale.....	9/27/1998
Conway, Debbie	4/25/1999
Murrell, Janet	11/14/1999
Taylor, Penny.....	11/14/1999
Thomas, Jett	1/16/2000
Blackie, Leslie	7/30/2000
Blackie, Jonathan	7/30/2000
McGraw, Chol�	2/25/2001
Cox, Daniel	5/12/2002
Cox, Regina	5/12/2002
Read, Kristen	5/12/2002
Sindt, Cassidy.....	5/12/2002
Hamm, Barbara	6/30/2002
Gilman, Nancy	7/20/2003
Watson, Jim	7/20/2003
Benton, Graham	1/25/2004
Thompson, Sarah	1/25/2004
Gilman, Dean.....	12/12/2004
Olm, Sam.....	5/15/2005
Blackie, Lindsay.....	5/15/2005
Schaffer, Larry.....	5/7/2006
Stamm-Kirk, Rev. Renie	6/3/2007
Riddle, Shelby	6/3/2007
Olm, Adam.....	6/3/2007
Stamm-Kirk, Allison	12/2/2007
Lessenger, Jim	6/1/2008
Lessenger, Leslie	6/1/2008
Nancy Schaffer.....	12/21/2008
Hanna, Christopher	5/17/2009
Cooper, Brent	6/14/2009
McDonald, Reiko	6/14/2009
Ensminger, Veronica	10/4/2009
Blackie, Stuart	1/24/2010
Gauger, Eleanor (Nora)	1/24/2010

Member Name	Join Date
Aldritt, Nancy	3/20/2011
Kidder, Natalie.....	3/20/2011
Stauffer, Cheryle	3/20/2011
Goad, Carla	3/20/2011
Dolter, Jean	3/20/2011
Dolter, Bill	3/20/2011
Cooper, Kieran	5/15/2011
Stamm-Kirk, Katie	5/15/2011
Cavagnuolo, Michelle	4/8/2012
Daffern, Tracy.....	4/8/2012
Hill, Donna	4/8/2012
Pyles, Laura	4/8/2012
Vlnar, Eric	4/8/2012
Vlnar, Maria	4/8/2012
Benton, Audrey.....	6/10/2012
Daffern, Kyle.....	6/10/2012
Daffern, Natalie	6/10/2012
Mitchell, Karyna.....	6/10/2012
Thomas, Debra.....	1/18/2015
Olm, Della.....	1/18/2015
Riggs, Trudy	1/18/2015
Jennifer Tubiello Riggs.....	1/18/2015
Gast, Rev. Mary Susan.....	1/18/2015
Straw, Rev. Roger.....	1/18/2015
Cleves, Liz	9/30/2015
Farrell, Moira.....	9/30/2015
Towery, Faune.....	9/30/2015
Coury, Carlene.....	4/1/2018
Dieden, Ed.....	4/1/2018
Dieden, Kathy.....	4/1/2018
Obendorf, Pat.....	4/1/2018
Schultze, Bobby.....	4/1/2018
Schultze, Shannon.....	4/1/2018
Purtie, Nancy.....	4/1/2018
Shanks, Deborah.....	4/1/2018
Shanks, Marlan.....	4/1/2018
Wolf, Todd.....	3/3/2019
Padilla, Michelle.....	3/3/2019
Gieg, Carol.....	3/3/2019
Bovey, Dona.....	3/3/2019
Hanson, Claire.....	11/3/2019
Thomas, Letty.....	11/3/2019
Berry, Kathy.....	11/3/2019
Lortie, Bret.....	11/3/2019
Lortie, Cindy.....	11/3/2019
Monroe, Katrina.....	11/3/2019
Osborn, Kim.....	11/3/2019
Prahl, Leslee.....	11/3/2019
Webb, Kim.....	11/3/2019
Zinkevich, Andre.....	11/3/2019

99 MEMBERS

Financial Secretary

Leslie Lessenger



Community Congregational Church, UCC - Benicia CA
Donations Account Balances (12/01/2020 - 12/31/2020)

Friday, January 1, 2021

Page 1 of 1

Account	Period Activity	YTD Balance	Account Name
<i>Giving Accounts</i>			
060 - Pledges - Current Year	7,590.00	145,405.06	Pledges - Current Year
061 - Pledges - Paid Advance Next Year	2,035.00	2,035.00	Pledges - Paid Advance Next Year
065 - Parishioner Contributions	1,226.00	12,597.00	Parishioner Contributions
067 - In Kind Gift	270.33	619.33	In Kind Gift
071 - Building Use - Other	0.00	425.00	Building Use - Other
073 - Building Use - Playing To Learn	2,908.50	34,880.00	Building Use - Playing To Learn
074 - Bldg Use, PTL Utilities	500.00	6,000.00	Bldg Use, PTL Utilities
075 - PTL - Building Use - Property Tax	75.00	900.00	PTL - Building Use - Property Tax
086 - Fundraiser - Misc	0.00	1,384.00	Fundraiser - Misc
087 - Fundraiser - Crab Feed	0.00	4,205.00	Fundraiser - Crab Feed
098 - Refunds & Misc Deposits	0.00	1,197.27	Refunds & Misc Deposits
099 - Other Sources of Funding	0.00	30,068.00	Other Sources of Funding
411 - Christmas Families	425.00	775.00	Christmas Families
412 - Christmas Fund (Vets/Cross) (UCC)	325.00	325.00	Christmas Fund (Vets/Cross) (UCC)
426 - Feeding Friends on the Street	0.00	735.00	Feeding Friends on the Street
600 - Capital Imp/Bldg Fund - Pledge	1,260.00	23,999.69	Capital Imp/Bldg Fund - Pledge
605 - Capital Improvements	0.00	20.00	Capital Improvements
704 - Music Program Fund (Barbara's)	0.00	30.75	Music Program Fund (Barbara's)
708 - Pastor Restricted Fund	0.00	4,710.00	Pastor Restricted Fund
712 - FellowshipFreewillOff - Budget	0.00	20.00	FellowshipFreewillOff - Budget
713 - Worship Ministry Committee	0.00	22.00	Worship Ministry Committee
714 - Xmas & Easter Flower Fund	0.00	10.00	Xmas & Easter Flower Fund
718 - Handbells	0.00	835.00	Handbells
720 - Misc Inc - To Be Determined	44.00	1,408.00	Misc Inc - To Be Determined
721 - Memorial Funds-Recent Contribu	0.00	150.00	Memorial Funds-Recent Contribu
722 - Banner Fund	0.00	98.00	Banner Fund
801 - Special Fellowship Events	0.00	215.00	Special Fellowship Events
900 - UCC Cornerstone Loan Payoff	0.00	36,916.00	UCC Cornerstone Loan Payoff
Total Giving Accounts	\$16,658.83	\$309,985.10	

Treasurer

Dale Olm

This has been both a challenging and blessed year. The COVID-19 global pandemic has impacted the church in many ways.

Fiscally, the church is stable, with net cash reserves of \$66,285 on December 31, 2020. Expenses averaged \$19,516 per month, so our cash reserves represent about 3.4 months of expense liability. Although we had passed a deficit budget for 2020, we actually ended the year in the black. From both our regular loan payments and from the loan reduction fund raiser (thank you Leslie Lessenger!) our loan principal has been reduced by \$46,353. Our principal on the loan is currently \$276,410. Although the loan reduction fund raiser has not reduced our monthly loan payments, it has taken years off the payback on the loan as well as saving us thousands of dollars in interest over the life of the loan.

During the 2020 fiscal year, our revenue exceeded our expenses despite a predicted deficit budget and the Global Pandemic. This was due principally to receiving pledges exceeding our budget (some individual pledges were not met, but other individual pledges were exceeded). Our congregation is awesome and generous! Revenue from building use from outside music groups and 12 Step groups was eliminated due to the closing of the sanctuary building. Fortunately, Playing to Learn Childcare was able to continue in operation as an essential service. Expenses were overall lower than anticipated, mostly due to the building being closed for 9 months.

When the pandemic hit requiring us to shutter the building and reinvent worship and gathering, we applied for an SBA payroll protection loan through US Bank for \$30,068, which covered 2 months of staffing, utility payments and interest on the loan. This allowed us to maintain our staff during the early, uncertain days of the pandemic when pastoral need was as great as ever. We easily met the conditions for forgiveness of the loan and in December, the SBA and US Bank forgave the loan. This has added to our net cash reserves and increases our confidence of weathering the pandemic fiscally.



The Financial Secretary report shows that more funds were received by the church than is indicated in the revenue reported in the Treasurer report. This is due to funds received which were not included in budgetary revenue and which went into restricted committee or program accounts.

	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K
1	Community Congregational Church UCC, of Benicia										
2	Summary Annual Budget vs. Actual YTD (R&E)										
3	January through December 2020										
4											
5					Jan - Dec 20		Budget		\$ Over Budget		% of Budget
6	Ordinary Income/Expense										
7	Income										
8				Refunds & misc. deposits	0.00		0.00		0.00		0.0%
9				Loose Offering - Parish Contrib	12,997.00		12,000.00		997.00		108.31%
10				Pledges - Operations & Ministri	147,005.06		143,640.00		3,365.06		102.34%
11				Pledges - Cap Improvement Fund	23,999.69		23,619.96		379.73		101.61%
12				Cap Improvement Fund - non-pled	20.00						
13				Debit/Credit CIF for Loan Pmts	2,190.22		499.08		1,691.14		438.85%
14				Use of Building	42,093.92		45,539.04		-3,445.12		92.44%
15				Fundraisers	1,871.50		4,500.00		-2,628.50		41.59%
16				Trans Cap Imp Fund-Loan&Cap Imp	0.00		-498.96		498.96		0.0%
17				Transf Equity/Reserves to Rev.	4,122.05		3,804.96		317.09		108.33%
18				Loan Prin. Red'n from Reserves	2,500.00		2,500.00		0.00		100.0%
19				Other sources of funding (int.)	1,145.97		1,341.96		-195.99		85.4%
20				Cornerstone Rebate on Interest	814.38		1,600.00		-785.62		50.9%
21				Total Income	238,759.79		238,546.04		213.75		100.09%
22	Expense										
23				B & G - Utilities	12,798.99		15,047.96		-2,248.97		85.06%
24				B & G Custodial	7,800.00		7,800.00		0.00		100.0%
25				B & G- Maintenance & Janitorial	1,574.51		2,726.04		-1,151.53		57.76%
26				B&G - Genesis House Maintenance	3,102.50		5,000.04		-1,897.54		62.05%
27				B& G-Taxes	804.00		804.00		0.00		100.0%
28				Insurance- Property	8,988.00		8,988.96		-0.96		99.99%
29				Loan Payoff	23,650.73		24,119.04		-468.31		98.06%
30				Additional reduct'n Loan Prin.	2,500.00		2,500.00		0.00		100.0%
31				Christian Education / Youth	190.82		400.00		-209.18		47.71%
32				Congregational Care (Diakonate)	119.42		125.04		-5.62		95.51%
33				Fellowship	444.97		1,049.88		-604.91		42.38%
34				Music Programs and Licenses	1,229.07		1,110.00		119.07		110.73%
35				Stewardship	0.00		100.00		-100.00		0.0%
36				Mission, Outreach & UCC Support	7,531.47		7,182.00		349.47		104.87%
37				Welcome (Growth)	148.00		200.04		-52.04		73.99%
38				Worship	1,407.67		360.00		1,047.67		391.02%
39				Finance & Administration & IT	3,721.74		4,625.04		-903.30		80.47%
40				Office/Computer/Copier Supplies	2,543.04		3,705.12		-1,162.08		68.64%
41				Professional Expenses	14.50		875.00		-860.50		1.66%
42				Sabbatical budgeted set aside	3,804.96		3,804.96		0.00		100.0%
43				Nursery and Childcare Provider	392.80		2,357.04		-1,964.24		16.67%
44				Staff Payroll, Benefits, WC Ins	151,422.27		155,796.00		-4,373.73		97.19%
45				Total Expense	234,189.46		248,676.16		-14,486.70		94.17%
46	Net Ordinary Income				4,570.33		-10,130.12		14,700.45		-45.12%
47	Net Income				4,570.33		-10,130.12		14,700.45		-45.12%

Community Congregational Church UCC, of Benicia						
Balance Sheet Summary (Current vs End of Last Fiscal Year)						
As of December 31, 2020						Cash Basis
				Dec 31, 20	Dec 31, 19	\$ Change
ASSETS						
Current Assets						
Checking/Savings						
		US Bank 2241		50,394.30	18,354.50	32,039.80
		Payroll Services Direct Deposit		0.00	0.00	0.00
		Cornerstone CD 1 year 02/09/xx		34,113.57	33,374.30	739.27
		Cornerstone CD 1 year 7/31/xx		10,578.58	10,354.68	223.90
		Vanguard Federal MMF		13,393.59	9,279.04	4,114.55
		Total Checking/Savings		108,480.04	71,362.52	37,117.52
Other Current Assets						
		Petty Cash Accounts		0.00	170.59	-170.59
		Total Other Current Assets		0.00	170.59	-170.59
		Total Current Assets		108,480.04	71,533.11	36,946.93
Other Assets						
		Campus Renovation 2015		276,409.64	322,763.11	-46,353.47
		Total Other Assets		276,409.64	322,763.11	-46,353.47
		TOTAL ASSETS		384,889.68	394,296.22	-9,406.54
LIABILITIES & EQUITY						
Liabilities						
Current Liabilities						
Other Current Liabilities						
		Payroll Tax liabilities		-543.66	-543.72	0.06
		Total Other Current Liabilities		-543.66	-543.72	0.06
		Total Current Liabilities		-543.66	-543.72	0.06
Long Term Liabilities						
		Cornerstone Loan - Parking Lot		276,409.64	322,763.11	-46,353.47
		Total Long Term Liabilities		276,409.64	322,763.11	-46,353.47
		Total Liabilities		275,865.98	322,219.39	-46,353.41
Equity						
		Pastor Restricted Fund		4,093.79	2,694.01	1,399.78
		Total of All M&O Funds		11,491.55	10,244.14	1,247.41
		Bequests - Cap Impr. Fund		267.11	267.11	0.00
		Capital Improvements - General		1,761.07	3,951.29	-2,190.22
		Sabbatical set aside (accrued)		9,249.22	5,761.35	3,487.87
		Pledges Paid in Adv (use sub)		2,035.00	2,000.00	35.00
		Set-asides for current yr exp's		2,291.87	92.53	2,199.34
		Special Restricted Equity Accts		11,549.50	10,921.58	627.92
		Net Assets		31,026.93	21,830.56	9,196.37
		Net Income		35,257.66	14,314.26	20,943.40
		Total Equity		109,023.70	72,076.83	36,946.87
		TOTAL LIABILITIES & EQUITY		384,889.68	394,296.22	-9,406.54
		Net Cash Reserves		66,284.59	36,144.82	30,139.77

Building and Grounds

Andy Zinkevich



2020 was characterized by the photo on the left. It shows Roger Reaber weeding and mulching in late May. It should be noted that it was not a scheduled workday and that he was working by himself. Roger was practicing the social distancing that we all became accustomed to over the course of the year. Elves worked all over the facility.

Likewise, the photo to the right is characteristic of 2020. It shows Jim Lessenger doing what he has done tirelessly for quite a few years. In addition to knowing as much church and City history as anyone, he coordinates our workforce from Genesis House where Jim is also the medical director. The residents of Genesis House provide much of the labor that it takes to keep up our building and grounds.



The photo below is characteristic of the future. It was taken before pandemic, so there were no masks yet. Here is hoping that Reese's generation will be able to do better than we did.



All things considered, the building and the grounds of CCC survived the pandemic so far a bit older but largely unscathed. We planted a rainbow flutter flag, hoisted a "we are still here banner" and helped PTL to continue the very important mission of providing care for children of young families who were keeping the rest of the world going. Weeding, pruning, painting and electrical repairs aren't always very exciting, but in 2020 no one was looking for any more excitement than we already had.

Thanks to all of the committee who put in a lot of effort to keep up appearances.

Andy Zinkevich for CCC B&G Committee: Jim Lessenger, Deborah Shanks, Dale Olm, Shelby Riddle, Nancy Gilman

Welcome and Growth

Nora Gauger



The year of 2020 has been a restricted time for all of us—and that includes *the Welcome and Growth Committee*. The Shelter in Place order in March meant adapting **quickly** to “Distance churching”! Luckily, we have a creative pastor and loyal and flexible congregation. Record keeping wasn’t quite up to snuff for the month of March, but worship and being a caring congregation continued (even if it was through Zoom)! The attendance summary for the 11 months of 2020 ending in November shows that our attendance has been remarkably steady. Children even attended well through the summer, and it was only in September when they began getting a full week of Zoom at school that our children’s attendance fell off.

We were able to use our banner and flyers that detail who we are at our Crab Feed dinner, our last “live” event in the spring. Then in November, with Rev. Renie’s help, we created an outdoor banner that Andy Zinkevich’s crew hung from the front of the church—so passersby could know that we were still here and we were inviting them to join us on Zoom.

One other positive for the year was the number of “guests” our Zoom worship continues to have. It is often difficult to know who these “guests” are (since they are usually just a name or number on a participants list) much less welcome them, but sometimes they are people who know the church and have moved away or just drifted away and at other times are people just out looking for a meaningful service. Undoubtedly worshipping on Zoom is difficult or even impossible for some of our usual congregants—and our hearts go out to them—but for others, it has been a vital way to maintain these church bonds that mean so much to all of us.

Respectfully submitted,

Nora Gauger

Chair, Welcome and Growth

SUMMARY OF ATTENDANCE, 2020

Month	Adults	Children	Guests	Totals	Notes
January	170	32	19	221	
February	210	40	9	250	
March	158*	27*	7*	184*	Zoom
April	192	23	6	215	Zoom
May	239	25	15	279	Zoom
June	177	17	18	212	Zoom
July	168	12	18	195	Zoom
August	197	12	14	223	Zoom
September	169	8	19	196	Zoom
October	134	1	14	149	Zoom
November	215	1	27	243	Zoom

* indicates estimate



Fellowship

Letty Thomas and Michelle Padilla



Fellowship 2020 at Community Congregational started like most years. Members were generous signing up to host Sunday fellowship and bring delicious foods to share after worship. The committee hosted refreshments for the Benicia Martin Luther King service in January.

Everything was normal until the COVID-19 virus arrived in March and the county entered a lock-down and a stay-at-home order. In person church worship was prohibited as the virus spread. With Pastor Renie's hard work and dedication we switched to Sunday worship on zoom. We were able to chat and catch up after the service in the gallery setting. It was encouraging to see all the members each week. A new form of fellowship evolved that was still going strong through December.

Other forms of fellowship developed. In May we dropped off sandwiches, water and cookies to front line medical workers who were very appreciative. At Thanksgiving we had a musical service while eating turkey or a meal of your choice at home. In the fall our members were able to socialize while painting small rocks on Wednesdays. Each one displayed an inspirational word or picture. The finished rocks have been distributed out to the community at homes and businesses.

2020 was an unusual year but our fellowship grew in new and unexpected ways.



Rock painting



Collecting water for Friends on the Street

Christian Education

The CE Committee continued in 2020 without a chairperson. Thank you to committee members Dale Olm, Liz Cleves, Marilyn Scrutchins, Debbie Thomas, Leslie Lessenger and Nora Gauger.

Thank you to our Sunday School teachers, Liz Cleves, Marilyn Scrutchins, Debbie Thomas and Dale Olm, and to our classroom assistants, Jim Lessenger and Meadow Thomas for all their work with the children from January to March of 2020. Thanks also to our Child Care Provider from Playing to Learn, Jessie for her loving and kind attention to our preschool children. Our curriculum during that time was from Whole People of God. Unfortunately, Sunday School was suspended after the Covid 19 pandemic struck and shelter in place and social distancing practices took place.



Sunday School on Zoom

At the end of August, with the control of the pandemic nowhere in sight, we started online, virtual Sunday School lessons using Zoom. The children meet at 9:30, prior to the Worship service Gathering Music in a separate Zoom breakout room. Lessons are aimed at the younger children and follow a Biblical sequence. Themed Children's Worship Bulletins and Children's Bible Activities are sent to families each week by email, and lessons are crafted from the Children of God Storybook Bible as retold by Archbishop Desmond Tutu and, the Family Story Bible by Ralph Milton. Fall lessons were from the Old Testament up until Advent, when we switched to the New Testament. Spring lessons will continue with the New Testament and Jesus.

Pastor Parish Relations

Kathy Dieden

The Pastor Parish Relations Committee (PPRC) met with the Pastor monthly or as needed.



Mission and Outreach

Laura Pyles



All say 2020 is a year like no other. Everyone has been impacted by the pandemic. This is evident, certainly, and all things seem forever changed. Well, perhaps all but one: the heart of this church, our members, who continue to give and serve our broader community. A community especially hard hit this year.

Lockdowns (yes, plural) and physical distancing meant we had to suspend our Second Saturday gatherings. We had to postpone other annual activities, like our “Easter Lilies” and “Puente” campaigns. Still, we sent money and continued to support our church’s missions. We contributed to UCC’s “5 for 5” initiatives, that support Our Church’s Wider Mission. This includes *One Great Hour of Sharing*, bringing love and hope to people in crisis (refugees, asylum seekers, victims of natural disasters). *Strengthen The Church*, which invests in local UCC ministry and growth. *Neighbors In Need*, supporting organizations doing justice work. And not least, the *Christmas Fund* which provides modest financial support to retired UCC ministers, to help with costs in time of need.



And our work with those who are food insecure, even more acute in these times, has not been lost. Many members bought and hauled cases upon cases of water to Nora Gauger’s garage to share with Vallejo Together. Sandwiches and bag lunches were made and delivered to our friends who live on the street. Others contributed to local food stands and found ways to donate and feed our community. Pastor Renie and Nancy Gilman made a run to bring a carload of Thanksgiving hams and turkeys to Vallejo

Together to help them share the holiday with so many who had nowhere else to go.

We close this year like none other with members stepping up once again to spread the joy of Christmas to local families who need the light of hope. Thanks to everyone’s generosity, and Nancy G’s logistic prowess, we have been able to fulfil the modest wishes for all on our list, and help struggling parents cover some outstanding expenses. With every connection, God’s grace touches and changes lives.

Your love and compassion have proven these trying times do not lessen, but rather strengthen our resolve to serve to the mission of our church and our wider community. Thank you for giving from your heart.



Black Lives Matter peaceful demonstration

Worship

Priscilla Lane and Marilyn Scrutchins



Those serving on the Worship Committee this past year include: Deborah Shanks, Nancy Gilman, Lettie Thomas, Leslee Prah, Barbara Hamm, Rev. Renie Stam-Kirk, Rev. Melissa McBride along with Priscilla Lane and Marilyn Scrutchins, co-chairs. Marilyn and Priscilla are grateful for the committee members' dedication to our committee's mission and for their gifts of time and ideas.



The year began with Epiphany with the sanctuary and congregants accented in the traditional show of red. Later in January, the church hosted a community service in commemoration of Dr. Martin Luther King which packed the sanctuary. Plans in early March focused on the Sundays leading up to Easter on April 12.

All such plans were abruptly changed with a lockdown ordered due to the covid 19 pandemic in mid-March and no further services were held in the sanctuary due to health and safety concerns for the remainder of the year. Our pastor, using her resourcefulness, technical know-how, and faith, quickly switched gears and moved to Sunday worship via Zoom, including our Easter service on April 12.

Monthly committee meetings focused on creative ways to provide parishioners with uplifting services that were both authentic and engaging. Through trial and error, it was found that, in general, taping the service worked better than "going live." Two themes on which worship focused and as reflected in the country at large, have been racial injustice and social isolation.



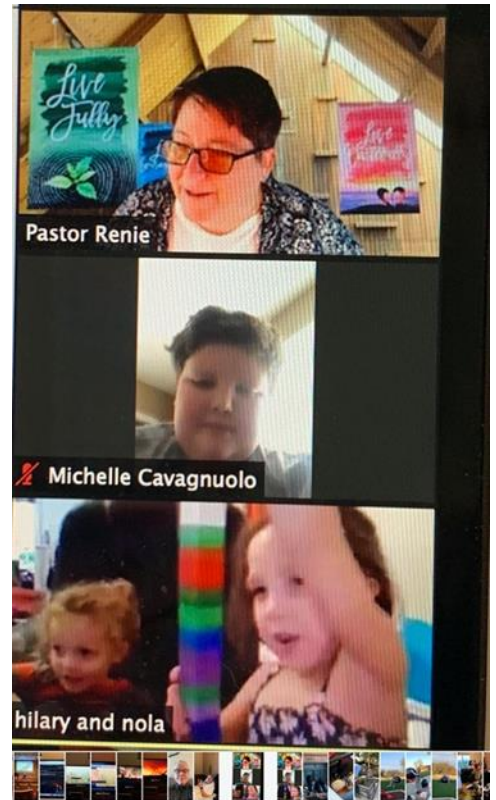
The committee agreed that music played a significant role in lifting spirits and church musicians, including the Rolling Tones (our bell choir) and the String Ensemble, generously provided music

tapes which the pastor could draw upon for gathering music as well as during the service. Many were drawn to our gathering music scheduled at 9:45.

With a fall theme of “God Is Holding Us Altogether”, Homecoming Sunday was held on September 13, welcoming back those near and far. The following Sunday, we had our Celebration of Animals service which featured members on tape who shared their love and appreciation of their pets. The service was described as uplifting and heartwarming. Thanksgiving inspired a virtual Thanksgiving feast and music event that brought folks together.

The pastor chose the Advent theme “Those Who Dream,” focusing on hope and new beginnings. The Advent lighting of candles and readings was coordinated by Deborah Shanks. The committee discussed pageant plans which Barbara Hamm coordinated, with technical know-how from Bret Lortie, for our December 20 service. A Blue Christmas service was held on December 21, acknowledging the grief and sadness which many had felt over the last nine months. A Sunday Music Worship service was held on Dec. 27, coordinated by Barbara Hamm and Deborah Shanks and featured our church musicians.

It should be noted that our part-time assistant pastor, Melissa McBride, had to resign in the fall due to time constraints related to the home schooling of her children. A special thank you goes out to Rev. Roger Reaber and Chaplain Bret Lortie for providing ministerial support, allowing Rev. Renie to take some much needed time off in this most challenging year.



Children's Time



Advent Candles

The Rolling Tones - Handbells

Leslie Lessenger, Director

The Rolling Tones started the year with great music and a full 3-octave complement of musicians. In January and February we accompanied the choir on several pieces.

Then came COVID-19. Music was set aside in March until a quartet gathered in a socially-distanced setting for the summer. In the Fall we had 8 musicians. We participated in the Music Service with *Come, Ring Joy*, by Howard F. Starks. We were able to record three Christmas songs (*We Three Kings*, and *Hark the Herald* from *Keep It Simple Carols for Christmas*, and *The Snow Lay on the Ground* by Linda Scholes) before disbanding again in December due to COVID concerns. Everyone who was able to join us agreed that rehearsal was an important time to refresh our souls and connect to each other. We are looking forward to a great 2021.



Back row: Jean Brown, Kim Webb, Deborah Shanks, Leslie Lessenger, Nancy Gilman. Front row: Cholé McGraw, Pat Obendorf. Missing: Kathy Monroe

Socially distanced rehearsal. Each musician had her own 2 – 4 bells, gloves, stand, music, and chair.



Congregational Care

Carolyn Osada



With the help of Pam Martin, Marilyn Scrutchins and Susan Stofan, over 90 birthday cards were sent this year. Valentine and Thanksgiving cards were mailed to shut-ins and members who were on the prayer list.

Throughout the year, notes of concern and support were sent to those listed on the prayer list. With the Covid-19 pandemic, Pastor Renie created and supervised congregational telephone contacts. Karen Burns continued making weekly telephone calls. Most significant, are the unidentified members who did grocery shopping, deliveries, visits and calls during the pandemic proving not all angels have visible wings.



Feeding our Friends on the Street (pre-COVID)

Archives

Jim Lessenger

I created a special file for the archives this year. It is the Covid-19 file, of course, and in it I have tried to preserve all the documents and other materials that tell the story of our church adapting to an international disaster. In addition, all the special church bulletins have been preserved, thanks to Renie.

The collection contains newspaper articles, state and county quarantine orders, and CDC posters on masks, social distancing, and handwashing. It contains articles on how to operate a church in a pandemic. There are memos of meetings of the pandemic taskforce. Internet articles were especially important as we tried to figure out what to do.

I took advantage of the spare time to create a collection of church documents for reference. There is a binder with the founding document, articles of incorporation and amendments, church constitution, and church bylaws. There is another binder with all the policies and procedures collated together and updated. If you want a copy of these, just shoot me an e-mail and I will send you a PDF copy.

If a member of the church has a story to tell or materials of any kind to share, please drop it in the "Archives" box in the church secretary office. It is on a shelf of the bookcase facing the desk. And is labeled.

All the other church documents, such as bulletins, council minutes, and letters are routinely preserved in the archives. Photographs are particularly important but should always be labeled with the date and subjects in pencil on the reverse. Unfortunately, we have mounds of photographs with no record of when they were taken or who is in them. A special scrap book is always welcome.

If you are interested in the archives and would like to do some research, just contact me and I am always happy to open them. Unfortunately, there are no juicy scandals. Well...except for Rev. Woodbridge and the young ladies.... But he was Presbyterian.



Ringling bells in remembrance of 40,000 Americans killed by COVID 19

Stewardship

Nancy Gilman



We ended 2020 at Community Congregational Church with a bang. We are worshipping on Zoom, working in the community and continue to give. Nothing has stopped our congregation from being generous. Whether it be sending in checks, delivering needed items to our congregation, sending cards, making phone calls, bringing in bottled water to give out to those in need. We just continue to be good stewards of our church.

In February, just when COVID 19 was starting to spread, we had our annual crab feed. Lots of good fellowship, fun and yummy food. Birthday celebration cakes and a raffle of over 30 items donated by all of you. We had almost 100 in attendance and made a little money too....\$932 in our raffle and sale of left over crab.



We started a Principal Reduction Campaign to help pay off our parking lot loan. You all stepped up and donated with, I imagine, smiles on your face. With your donations and our member who matched the donations, we raised \$36,916!

In September we started our stewardship campaign, God's Holding Us All Together. I happily report that together we increased our pledges to operations by \$10,070.

We have a total of 37 pledging units, included 2 new pledging units. Our total pledges are \$153,710 for operations and \$21,707 for Capital Improvements. Thank you to all our pledgers.

More good news. We ended our year in the black. Thanks to all who gave to our church, and thanks to those who increased their giving. Thank you all for your love and compassion. Looking forward to see what is in store for CCC in 2021.

Proposed Budget for Fiscal Year 2021

Community Congregational Church UCC			
of Benicia	Approved	Actual	Proposed
Proposed Budget for Fiscal Year 2021	Budget	2020	Budget
(January 1, 2021 to December 31, 2021)	2020		2021
Funding (Operations and Ministries)			
Refunds & misc. deposits	0	0	0
Loose Offering	12,000	12,997	12,000
Pledges	143,640	147,005	153,710
Capital Improvement/Loan Pledges & donations	23,620	24,000	21,707
Cap Improvement Fund - non-pledged contributions	0	20	0
Use of Building	45,539	42,094	42,142
Fundraisers	4,500	1,872	2,000
Transfer from Reserves & Restricted accounts	3,805	4,122	3,919
Transfer Net Reserves to reduce loan principal	2,500	2,500	2,500
Transfer to(-)/from(+) Cap Imprvmt/Parking Lot	-499	2,190	2,413
Other funding (interest +)	2,942	1,960	2,149
Grants	0	0	0
Total Revenues	238,047	238,760	242,540
Expense (Operations and Ministries)			
B&G - Utilities	15,048	12,799	14,057
B&G - Custodial (contract)	7,800	7,800	5,400
B&G - Maint. & Housekeep	7,726	4,677	6,700
B&G - Property Taxes	804	804	792
B&G - Property Insurance	8,989	8,988	11,506
Cornerstone Loan Payments	24,119	23,651	24,120
Additional Reduction in Loan Principal	2,500	2,500	2,500
Christian Education / Youth	400	191	400
Congregational Care	125	119	225
Fellowship	1,050	445	920
Music Programs and Licenses	1,110	1,229	1,397
Stewardship	100	0	100
Mission&Outreach (incl. OCWM)	7,182	7,531	7,686
Welcome	200	148	595
Worship	360	1,408	665
Other committees & Ministries	0	0	0
Council & Discretion Funds	0	0	0
Other Exp-Finance & Admin	4,625	3,722	4,124
Office/Computers/Copier Supply	3,705	2,543	3,282
Professional Expenses	875	15	500
Sabbatical set aside	3,805	3,805	3,919
Child Care during Worship	2,357	393	1,200
Staff	155,797	151,422	160,169
Total Expense	248,677	234,190	250,257
	-10,630	4,570	-7,717

LEADERSHIP TEAM 2021

Nominating Committee
Shelby Riddle and Pastor Renie

STAFF

Pastor	The Rev. Renie Stamm-Kirk
Minister of Music	Dr. Barbara Hamm
Office Manager	OPEN

OFFICERS

Moderator	Shelby Riddle
Vice-Moderator	Cindy Lortie
Church Clerk	Kathy Monroe
Financial Secretary	Leslie Lessenger
Treasurer	Dale Olm

COMMITTEE CHAIRS

Building and Grounds Ministry	Committee
Christian Education Ministry	Open
Congregational Care	Leslee Prah
Fellowship	Letty Thomas & Michelle Padilla
Mission & Outreach	Laura Pyles
Stewardship Ministry	Deborah Shanks
Welcome and Growth	Nora Gauger
Worship Ministry	Nancy Gilman
Members-At-Large	Kathy Dieden & Todd Wolf