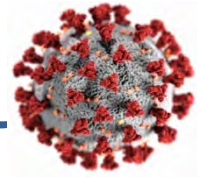


2021 ANNUAL REPORT



Housing The Holy in 2021

The 155th 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 2021

STAFF

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

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	Dale Olm
Congregational Care	Leslee Prahl
Fellowship	Michelle Padilla
Mission & Outreach	Laura Pyles
Stewardship Ministry	Deborah Shanks
Welcome and Growth	Nora Gauger
Worship Ministry	Nancy Gilman
Members-At-Large	Todd Wolf

Pastor's Report

The Rev. Renie Stamm-Kirk



What a year!

I want to acknowledge that in our journey through 2021 there was a tremendous amount of resiliency within our community. As we crossed the threshold of a new year, words from a young prophetic leader spoke to us:



***"For there is always light.
If only we're brave enough to see it.
If only we're brave enough to be it."***

AMANDA
GORMAN

As I approach my 15th anniversary with Community Congregational Church, UCC, I have been so deeply honored to be with you. I am so inspired by the ways we've been brave enough to see the light AND to BE THE LIGHT!!

As this church continues grappling with a world shaped by the pandemic, political divides, and social in-justices, we at Community Congregational never lost sight of caring for each other. What follows in this report is by no means comprehensive but a representative sampling of the many ways in which God is helping us respond faithfully into God's promises for a hope-filled future. I appreciate the chance to look back at our last year here at CCCUCC, remembering what we've come through together, and to focus on where we are going in the year to come. As I'm sure you've started to feel, slowly and surely, life is returning to some sort of normalcy. Though the Covid-19 virus has impacted our lives in so many negative ways, we are strong, and continue to strive to get back to normalcy with our



families, friends, and church life. I have seen signs of hope all around us. Compared to last year things have improved in many ways. We came back into the sanctuary to celebrate Easter Sunday, and then returned to all Zoom. But by June we had equipped the sanctuary with all new cameras and other technologies so that the folks at home would have a fuller experience of worship. So, in June we opened in a hybrid environment, fully to all those who were

vaccinated and those who remained home. This decision to go with just vaccinated was not an easy decision but was made for those in our congregation who are health compromised.

Our services were shortened but remained loaded with all that filled our spirit. And each Sunday we looked forward to seeing the smiling faces (behind masks of course). We have a wonderful childcare worker and finally we have a very awesome office manager, Susan Slater. So much of my burden of doing office tasks has been lifted. Our office manager also runs all the camera and the Zoom service on Sundays. This makes it possible for all of congregation to be fully engaged in worship.



Our financial health is strong which is only possible due to the support of you, the congregation. Thank You! I also want to thank our leadership for putting in all the long hours and continuing to help us lead even when it was relegated to online meeting spaces. Since we've been able to get back together for worship, I hope you have all appreciated the beauty of our sanctuary. I would like to thank the worship team, especially Deborah Shanks for her hard work and long hours decorating our space into a work of art. Others have spent countless hours going over and revising our governing documents. There are many other volunteers that I have not named, who have helped to support these people as well. I know the last few years have been hard, but I feel that this last year has felt less disconnected, and I have hope that the year to come will be even better.



These have been disruptive and disorienting times, that's true. But make no mistake, our call as a faith community here at CCCUCC remains unchanged. We continue, as our vision statement declares, we welcome everyone, young and old, gay, and straight, singles and families, exuberant children, and inquiring adults. We celebrate our diversity in vibrant music, sacred worship and lively fellowship. As a congregation governed by our members, we are a justice-making, radically inclusive community. We seek to live fully, love wastefully, and lead courageously! Even more, just as in years past, God moves among us through all the change and challenge.

Some ways of the past will continue. Some will be reshaped and adapted. New ways will open to us that we had not even imagined possible before. Both comfort and challenge await us. This is God's way among us. This is God's grace, calling us into the future which God is even now preparing for us.



We've been changed. The way we are church is different, and we've experienced new ways to be a Christian community is life-giving. In 2022 we plan to do a revisioning once again, looking to the future and asking what does the community that surrounds our church need us to be? Who out there needs us and how do we get to them? Those are BIG questions and BIG concerns, but we are a congregation driven by following in the actions of Jesus, so I know in my heart we are here to answer these questions for we are equipped now more than ever!

I am so grateful to be here and to walk beside you as your Pastor, to lead you in worship, to participate in all the ways you do Mission & Outreach, to work with you as we clothe and feed our community. I am so impressed with this last year, how we've managed to hold



together our community and to be there for one another. God has blessed us with one another as we continue to bless our community. May 2022 be better than 2021 and may each of us experience the Devine in our lives.

Yours in Christ

Pastor Renie

Music Ministry

Dr. Barbara Hamm, Minister of Music



The year of the pandemic stretched into 2021, impacting the church and its ministries, with worship services continuing on zoom through the technical wizardry of our pastor Rev. Renie Kirk. The Ministry of Music still continued in altered format, using prerecorded music for gathering



music and for worship services. Singers were Cholé McGraw, Deborah Shanks, Nancy Gilman, Andy Zinkevich, and Todd Wolf. They were joined by Priscilla Lane, Mary Susan Gast, Barbara Hamm, and Bret Lortie to record several songs requested by Rev. Renie for virtual choir pieces for our online worship services. Deborah recorded Barbara on the piano (thank you, Deborah!), recordings which singers listened to at home as they recorded their own voices – all of which were magically turned by Bret into virtual choir songs for our zoom services (thank you, Bret!).

The strings ensemble produced a number of recordings (thank you, Shelby!) which continued to be used in worship. Members of the ensemble were Shelby Riddle, violin; Lisa Dwiggin, cello; Dale Olm, mandolin; Deborah Shanks, harp; Barbara Hamm, piano; and Leslie Lessenger, who added handbells and occasional percussion to our music.

Deborah and Lisa recorded several piano/cello duets, and Deborah and Barbara recorded several organ/piano duets for services. The strings ensemble played for our in-person Easter service and, beginning June 13th, continuously thereafter for live services in our sanctuary. Never was a group of people so happy to be playing, with congregants once again there to hear us! Beginning in the fall, Leslie Lessenger resumed playing her flute, and Shelby Riddle her clarinet, both of them taking the precaution during the fall of testing on Sunday mornings before they played.

The Rolling Tones Handbells, directed by Leslie Lessenger, resumed practice in the early spring and began playing for services in September. Ringers at various times included Nancy Gilman, Cholé McGraw, Kathy Monroe, Pat Obendorf, Deborah Shanks, Kim Webb, and Jean Brown. Carla Goad joined them for the December 5th Christmas Concert.

CCC hosted its Christmas concert – live! – at 4 pm on Sunday, December 5th. The Rolling Tones Handbells opened the concert, followed by vocalists and instrumentalists—all happy to be performing again for an in-person audience! Vocal soloists included Cholé McGraw, Mary Susan Gast, Deborah Shanks, Nancy Aldritt, Todd Wolf, and Barbara Hamm. Duets were offered by Cholé McGraw/ Mary Susan Gast; Nancy Gilman/Todd Wolf; and Liz Cleves/Marilyn Scrutchins.

Instrumental solos were offered by Shelby Riddle, clarinet; Leslie Lessenger, flute. Shelby Riddle and Dale Olm played a violin/mandolin duet. Kim Webb accompanied one piece with bells, and the Christmas Ensemble played “Joy to the World” for the congregation to sing. Two readings rounded out the program, one presented by our town’s Poet Laureate Mary Susan Gast and the other by Susan Stofan. In an effort to keep everyone safe, the concert was performed without intermission or Christmas goodies afterwards.

The strings ensemble played throughout Advent for worship services, as did Leslie

Lessenger on flute and Shelby Riddle on clarinet. The musicians also played for the Christmas Eve service, offering a “down-home” experience of familiar carols. Did I mention that we were happy to be playing live in our sanctuary?!

Comprising the reconstituted Benicia Celtic Band, Shelby Riddle, joined by Jim Stricker (San Francisco) on fiddles, Dale Olm on mandolin, Deborah Shanks on harp, and Barbara Hamm on piano, played Celtic music both for gathering and for the ministry of music on November 21st, the last Sunday before Advent.

Our church musicians also participated in some “extra-church” events: The strings ensemble, recorded by Rev. Renie (thank you, Renie!), participated in a virtual choir number orchestrated by Rev. Mike Ellard for the October 2nd NCNC-UCC online Annual Gathering. // Shelby Riddle, clarinet, and

Barbara Hamm, piano, recorded three jazz Christmas pieces for the December 5th online PAAM (Pacific Asian American



Ministry

of the UCC Conference) Concert.

Minister of Music Barbara Hamm has 5 new texts in a collection entitled *Unite Our Hearts: Hymn Texts by Women*, published by Oregon Catholic Press. // Barbara’s song, “Come to the Table of Grace,” was sung by a virtual choir in the online November 23rd Nu’uanu Valley (Hawaii) Interfaith Thanksgiving Service. The pastor of the First Unitarian Church of Honolulu, Rev. T. J. Alexander, led the service.

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!



Moderator

Shelby Riddle

As waves of Covid rolled through all countries, our church kept feeding the homeless with the help of Vallejo Together, doing our work parties. We started having services in person in June, with the Council voting that all people attending in the Sanctuary, had to show proof of vaccination and wear a mask. We had about half of our members who watched the services on Zoom, and a half in attendance.

By October many of us had received “the booster”, or third vaccine, just as the Omicron variant appeared in South Africa and swept around the world. Many people got sick, but our church had a safe Christmas pageant and continued services in person and on Zoom, and we never created a “super spreader” event.

We are all looking forward to 2022 with hope of seeing the end of the pandemic, and the beginning of restarting our church’s outreach programs of feeding the homeless ourselves on our Second Saturdays (with music provided by CCC musicians to make it a breakfast party). We will be doing other Outreach programs, as well, including a revisioning for our church this coming year.



**Clerk**

Kathy Monroe with Shelby
Riddle

MEMBER JOIN DATE

Annual Report for 2021

<u>Member Name</u>	<u>Join Date</u>
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
Olm, Dale.....	9/27/1998
Conway, Debbie	4/25/1999
Murrell, Janet	11/14/1999
Taylor, Penny.....	11/14/1999
Thomas, Jeff	1/16/2000
Blackie, Leslie	7/30/2000
McGraw, Chol�	2/25/2001
Cox, Regina	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
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
Ensminger, Veronica	10/4/2009
Gauger, Eleanor (Nora)	1/24/2010
Aldritt, Nancy	3/20/2011
Kidder, Natalie.....	3/20/2011
Stauffer, Cheryle	3/20/2011
Goad, Carla	3/20/2011
Dolter, Bill	3/20/2011
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
Thomas, Debra.....	1/18/2015
Olm, Della.....	1/18/2015

<u>Member Name</u>	<u>Join Date</u>
Gast, Rev. Mary Susan.....	1/18/2015
Straw, Rev. Roger.....	1/18/2015
Cleves, Liz.....	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
Purtle, Nancy.....	4/1/2018
Shanks, Deborah.....	4/1/2018
Wolf, Todd.....	3/3/2019
Padilla, Michelle.....	3/3/2019
Gieg, Carol.....	3/3/2019
Bovey, Dona.....	3/3/2019
Berry, Kathy.....	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

**We have 72 Active Members.
In 2021,**

no weddings,
no baptisms,

2 Funerals

Letty Thomas
Marlan Shanks

No confirmations
No new members
(COVID year, Worship on Zoom till June
Hybrid from June on

Deceased

Jean Dolter
Claire Hanson
Letty Thomas
Marlan Shanks



Financial Secretary

Leslie Lessenger

Community Congregational Church, UCC - Benicia CA Donations Account Balances (12/01/2021 - 12/31/2021)

Friday, December 31, 2021

Page 1 of 1

Account	YTD Balance	Account Name
Giving Accounts		
060 - Pledges - Current Year	152,689.36	Pledges - Current Year
061 - Pledges - Paid Advance Next Year	8,418.80	Pledges - Paid Advance Next Year
065 - Parishioner Contributions	11,357.00	Parishioner Contributions
067 - In Kind Gift	4,258.97	In Kind Gift
071 - Building Use - Other	975.00	Building Use - Other
073 - Building Use - Playing To Learn	34,902.00	Building Use - Playing To Learn
074 - Bldg Use, PTL Utilities	6,086.06	Bldg Use, PTL Utilities
075 - PTL - Building Use - Property Tax	900.00	PTL - Building Use - Property Tax
085 - Fundraiser - Stewardship	4,040.00	Fundraiser - Stewardship
098 - Refunds & Misc Deposits	1,316.46	Refunds & Misc Deposits
208 - NCNC/UCC Share	200.00	NCNC/UCC Share
412 - Christmas Fund (Vets/Cross) (UCC)	1,846.00	Christmas Fund (Vets/Cross) (UCC)
426 - Feeding Friends on the Street	3,025.00	Feeding Friends on the Street
600 - Capital Imp/Bldg Fund - Pledge	22,745.95	Capital Imp/Bldg Fund - Pledge
605 - Capital Improvements	500.00	Capital Improvements
68 - Child Care	500.00	Child Care
708 - Pastor Restricted Fund	6,500.00	Pastor Restricted Fund
710 - Gift Funds	1,000.00	Gift Funds
714 - Xmas & Easter Flower Fund	595.00	Xmas & Easter Flower Fund
718 - Handbells	105.00	Handbells
721 - Memorial Funds-Recent Contribu	1,980.00	Memorial Funds-Recent Contribu
725 - Special Renovation Projects	16,855.87	Special Renovation Projects
900 - UCC Cornerstone Loan Payoff	101,357.33	UCC Cornerstone Loan Payoff
Total Giving Accounts	\$382,153.80	

Count: 23

Period: 12/01/2021 - 12/31/2021

Year: 2021

Treasurer

Done
Dale Olm



This has been both a challenging and blessed year. We continue to experience surges of COVID-19, but the church reopened to in-person worship onetime at Easter and then weekly in June after instituting vaccine and mask requirements and building modifications to improve air circulation and filtration. Live services continue to be available on Zoom for those unable to attend in person. We hired an office manager and AV manager, Susan Slater and a child care provider, Parand Banagar to assist with children during the service.

- Fiscally, the church is stable, with net cash reserves of about \$61,000 on December 31, 2021. Expenses averaged \$20,890 per month, so our cash reserves represent about 2.9 months of expense liability.
- Although we had passed a deficit budget for 2021, our deficit was much less than predicted. We budgeted for a \$7,717 deficit, but realized a \$2,884 deficit despite losing 5 members to death or moving. Our congregation is awesome and generous! Unexpected skylight, roof and gutters repairs contributed to our expenses.
- From both our regular loan payments, additional loan reduction contributions, and from a substantial single donation of about \$100,000, our loan principal has been reduced by \$115,012. Our outstanding principal on the parking lot/campus renovation (parking lot resurfacing, hillside retaining walls, landscaping, sewer line & drainage replacement) loan is currently \$161,398, down from \$350,000 in 2015. Although the loan reduction payments have not reduced our monthly loan payments, it has taken about 15 years off the payback on the loan as well as saving us thousands of dollars in interest over the life of the loan.
- During this year, the audio-visual system for Zoom worship services received major upgrades and the pulpit/apse area of the sanctuary was modernized mostly using funds donated for those projects.
- Revenue from building use from one outside music group and one 12 Step group resumed in the Fall. Playing to Learn Childcare was able to continue in operation throughout the year.
- 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. This was also due to receiving pledged funds designated for 2022.
- Due to the complexities of the Treasurer's duties and to provide for future continuity, The Bookkeepers, a professional bookkeeping service in Vallejo, has been hired to enter financial data into Quickbooks and prepare financial reports. The Treasurer continues to pay bills, manage insurance, and pension plan and oversee the budget. The Treasurer also continues to report payroll to our payroll company.

- The Budget and Finance Committee (Nancy Gilman, Leslie Lessenger, Dale Olm, Shelby Riddle, Deborah Shanks, Laura Pyles, Rev. Renie Stamm-Kirk) met monthly to review the budget, revenue and expenses. The committee prepared the 2022 budget to be presented to at the congregational meeting in January for approval. Revenue for 2022 through pledges and building use is expected to be slightly higher in 2022 despite losing 5 members from death and moving. Expenses are expected to be higher than 2021 due to utility and
- Maintenance cost from the church being open in-person and on Zoom, increased staffing to facilitate the re-opening of the church building and increased property insurance (due to increased premiums to cover the many national environmental insurance exposures in the past few years).



	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K
1				Community Congregational Church UCC, of Benicia							
2				Summary R&E vs Budget \$ Difference Current month & ytd							
3				December 2021							
4											
5					Dec 21	Budget		\$ Over Budget		% of Budget	
6				Ordinary Income/Expense							
7				Income							
8				Child Care	500						
9				Refunds & misc. deposits	0						
10				Loose Offering - Parish Contrib	1,125	1,000		125		113%	
11				Pledges - Operations & Ministri	11,732	12,809		-1,077		92%	
12				Cap Improvement Fund - non-pled	0	0		0		0%	
13				Debit/Credit CIF for Loan Pmts	209	201		8		104%	
14				Fundraisers	675	167		508		404%	
15				Loan Prin. Red'n from Reserves	0	0		0		0%	
16				Other sources of funding (int.)	497	111		386		448%	
17				Pledges - Cap Improvement Fund	1,801	1,809		-8		100%	
18				Trans Cap Imp Fund-Loan&Cap Imp	0	0		0		0%	
19				Transf Equity/Reserves to Rev.	327	327		0		100%	
20				Cornerstone Rebate on Interest	0	0		0		0%	
21				Use of Building	4,009	3,446		563		116%	
22				Total Income	20,875	19,870		1,005		105%	
23				Expense							
24				Covid-19	252	0		252		100%	
25				Additional reduct'n Loan Prin.	0	0		0		0%	
26				B & G- Maintenance & Janitorial	1,521	181		1,340		840%	
27				B & G - Utilities	1,801	1,154		647		156%	
28				B & G Custodial	600	450		150		133%	
29				B&G-Taxes	0	0		0		0%	
30				B&G - Genesis House Maintenance	128	292		-164		44%	
31				Christian Education / Youth	0	33		-33		0%	
32				Congregational Care (Diaconate)	0	19		-19		0%	
33				Fellowship	64	75		-11		85%	
34				Finance & Administration & IT	482	342		140		141%	
35				Insurance- Property	959	959		0		100%	
36				Loan Payoff	2,010	2,010		0		100%	
37				Mission, Outreach & UCC Support	587	641		-54		92%	
38				Music Programs and Licenses	552	109		443		506%	
39				Nursery and Childcare Provider	180	200		-20		90%	
40				Office/Computer/Copier Supplies	329	246		83		134%	
41				Professional Expenses	0	42		-42		0%	
42				Sabbatical budgeted set aside	327	327		0		100%	
43				Staff Payroll, Benefits, WC Ins	17,833	13,347		4,486		134%	
44				Stewardship	0	8		-8		0%	
45				Welcome (Growth)	0	50		-50		0%	
46				Worship	378	55		323		687%	
47				Total Expense	28,003	20,540		7,463		136%	
48				Net Ordinary Income	-7,128	-670		-6,458		1,064%	
49				Net Income	-7,128	-670		-6,458		1,064%	

	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J
1	Community Congregational Church UCC, of Benicia									
2	Balance Sheet Summary (Current vs End of Last Fiscal Year)									
3	As of December 31, 2021									
4										
5						Dec 31, 21		Dec 31, 20		\$ Change
6	ASSETS									
7	Current Assets									
8	Checking/Savings									
9					US Bank 2241	12,092		50,394		-38,302
10					Payroll Services Direct Deposit	0		0		0
11					Cornerstone CD 1 year 02/09/xx	34,636		34,114		522
12					Cornerstone CD 1 year 7/31/xx	10,714		10,579		135
13					Demand Plus UCC Cornerstone	51,186		0		51,186
14					Vanguard Federal MMF	1,140		13,394		-12,254
15					Total Checking/Savings	109,768		108,481		1,287
16					Total Current Assets	109,768		108,481		1,287
17	Other Assets									
18					Campus Renovation 2015	161,398		276,410		-115,012
19					Total Other Assets	161,398		276,410		-115,012
20	TOTAL ASSETS					271,166		384,891		-113,725
21	LIABILITIES & EQUITY									
22	Liabilities									
23	Current Liabilities									
24	Other Current Liabilities									
25					Payroll Tax liabilities	-544		-544		0
26					Total Other Current Liabilities	-544		-544		0
27					Total Current Liabilities	-544		-544		0
28	Long Term Liabilities									
29					Cornerstone Loan - Parking Lot	161,398		276,410		-115,012
30					Total Long Term Liabilities	161,398		276,410		-115,012
31					Total Liabilities	160,854		275,866		-115,012
32	Equity									
33					Bequests - Cap Impr. Fund	0		267		-267
34					Capital Impr. Special Projects	461		0		461
35					Capital Improvements - General	970		1,761		-791
36					Other Restricted Funds	6,857		11,550		-4,693
37					Pastor Restricted Fund	4,250		4,094		156
38					Pledges Paid in Adv (use sub)	8,419		2,035		6,384
39					Sabbatical set aside (accrued)	13,168		9,249		3,919
40					Set-asides for current yr exp's	-480		2,292		-2,772
41					Total of All M&O Funds	15,423		11,492		3,931
42					Unrestricted Net Assets	59,866		31,027		28,839
43					Net Income	1,379		35,258		-33,879
44					Total Equity	110,313		109,025		1,288
45	TOTAL LIABILITIES & EQUITY					271,167		384,891		-113,724
46					Cash reserves	61,245		66,285		-5,040
47					Months of reserve	2.9		3.2		-0.2

Building and Grounds

Dale Olm



The B&G Committee has been busy during the Pandemic year of 2021. The following repairs were completed by or supervised by the committee:

- Repaired water leaks in damaged irrigation system
- Identified water leak from toilet in Sanctuary and repaired by Benicia Plumbing
- Replaced thermostat in the Fellowship Hall to allow

continuous fan setting to allow the opening of the church; ran new wiring from FH to the furnace

- Replaced broken thermostat in CE Building
- Roof inspector hired to assess roof conditions of both buildings and to identify areas of maintenance needed in 2022
- The lettering and cross placement on the street side of church building was re-designed for better visual placement and appeal
- Replaced the lettering on the street side of the church building with durable metal letters and a redesigned and rebuilt (Genesis House and Oak Creek Canyon Builders)
- Repaired and rebuilt rotted sanctuary gutter and soffit, and fixed skylight leak (Oak Creek Canyon Builders)
- Sealed and re-painted the front of the Sanctuary facing the street (Oak Creek Canyon Builders)
- Replaced the covering of the skylight with durable polycarbonate, cleaned the skylight, and sealed cracks in the skylight glass (Oak Creek Canyon Builders)
- Major pruning of the parking lot live oak tree overhanging our neighbor's house (C&W Tree and Landscape Service)
- Replaced key-locks in the Fellowship Hall and the Sunday School room with keyless/keypad locks
- Installed the new AV/Internet Zoom system in the Sanctuary, including power and HDMI cabling, TV monitor installation, AV control center and electrical power (Genesis House, K Butler Electric, Jeremy Amendola Productions)
- Repaired electrical conduit on the sanctuary roof and added support to the electric power boom on the roof (K Butler Electric)
- Contracted with Comcast to replace ATT U-verse for improved and faster internet access (in progress)
- Fixed door locks in the CE Building for Benicia Fire Department code (Concord Locksmiths)

In addition to these major projects and repairs, the committee met monthly to discuss routine maintenance, repairs and building projects, which included:

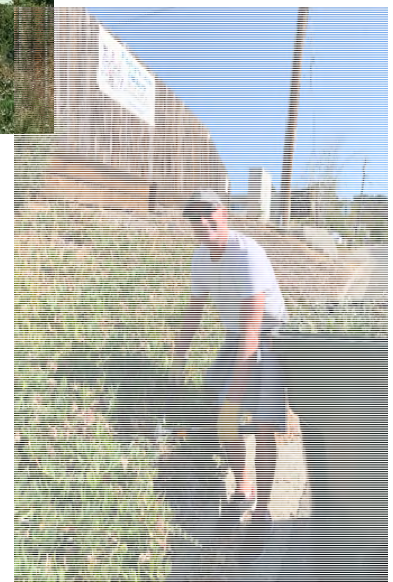
- Monthly B&G workdays with Genesis House for landscaping and physical plant maintenance
- Weed control, palm tree sprout removal, pruning of shrubs and lavender, trash pick-up, sweeping of driveway and sidewalks



- Wood chip mulch hauling and spreading
- Light bulb changes as needed
- Quarterly furnace filter replacement in the Sanctuary furnace and the CE Building crawl space furnaces
- Monitoring of custodial service
- Restocking paper and trash bags and cleaning supplies

Thank you to committee members active during the year: Nancy Gilman, Leslie Lessenger, Jim Lessenger,

Dale Olm, Shelby Riddle, Deborah Shanks and Andy Zinkevich. Thanks to other church volunteers for turning up to help with yard work and repairs, including Roger Reaber, Adam Olm, and Todd Wolf (and anyone else that I missed). Thank you to Pastor Renie Stamm-Kirk for designing the new AV System, negotiating the new copier contract and negotiating the impending Comcast contract.



Welcome and Growth

Nora Gauger



This year, 2021, has been a challenging one for our church. For almost the first half of the year, we could only meet on Zoom. Although many of our members attended faithfully, we couldn't really reach out to guests (since we only saw them on Zoom) and the format was difficult for children to enjoy, especially since they were spending the whole of their school weeks on Zoom and had had enough by the weekend.

We did hold a "live" Easter service on April 4th with masks, social distancing, ventilation and outdoor only fellowship. With that as a model, the Council voted in May to hold live services broadcasting on Zoom simultaneously starting June 13th. While this hybrid worship meant we could serve both those for whom being present for actual worship in God's sanctuary was very important, and those who still needed to isolate, our numbers were still low—especially with children (for whom there was as yet no vaccine available).

With the rise in Covid cases in August, the Council voted that, to attend our live service, participants needed to show proof of vaccination (with, of course, an exception made for children until the vaccinations were approved for them). We also instituted, and publicized, other measures we were taking to be sure our "live worship" was safe: masking for all, social distancing between chairs in our sanctuary, increased ventilation, rapid testing for our minister before the service and for any wind instrument players in our music



section and continuation of our Zoom services for those who are unable to attend in person. Our congregation has responded very positively to these measures; on the first Sunday we were to ask for vaccine proof, many had their vaccine cards out before they even came to the door, and thanked us for the measures we were taking.

Throughout the fall, we have continued to hold live Sunday service while using Zoom technology to simultaneously broadcast it for those who need to isolate at home. While we are not up to our pre-pandemic attendance, we now have a steady attendance of between 35 and 45 with about one-third participating on Zoom.

Though we have been restricted by the pandemic, Welcome & Growth has throughout the year supported activities and events that can safely reach out to the larger Benicia/Vallejo community. While it has been impossible to continue our usual practice of serving breakfast to the Homeless once a month near the Vallejo Ferry building, we have been able to work with Vallejo Together to

supply 50 bag lunches for their distribution to the homeless every month. We have been able to do this safely by having the generous church volunteers make sandwiches, etc. at home and then bring the items to church where they are put together and taken to Vallejo Together. This fall, CCC has also put on several music events and our usual Thanksgiving pot luck using the same safety measures we have used for live worship. Our church can be proud of our leadership in balancing the need to care for the safety and health of those we serve and at the same time using known safety measures to allow

	ADULTS	GUESTS	CHILDREN	TOTALS	NOTES
January	208	11	10	229	Zoom
February	165	7	4	176	Zoom
March	159	6	9	174	Zoom
April	143	10	3	156	Zoom
May	179	11	0	190	Zoom
June	139	11	7	157	Live & Zoom
July	129	16	6	151	Live & Zoom
August	153	10	2	165	Live & Zoom
September	127	13	12	152	Live & Zoom
October	158	18	12	188	Live & Zoom
November	156	13	7	176	Live & Zoom
Averages	156	11	7	174	

ATTENDANCE SUMMARY FOR 2021





Fellowship

Michelle Padilla

At the beginning of the year we could no longer gather safely to the pandemic. Once vaccinations were available to those over 65 we started slowly to re-introduce Fellowship. Our first true Fellowship was Easter Day when we meet outside using social distancing along with decorated tables. We did start Fellowship back up a few more times stayed outdoors with social distancing for Fellowship.

However, the church decided to pause Fellowship until vaccines were fully available to all. At the end of August we started checking vaccine cards for in person worship while still maintaining participation on Zoom.

We hosted a Memorial Fellowship outdoors after the service in September for Letty Thomas who passed away in due to cancer. We also started in October with simple Fellowship indoors with weekly sign ups of great food.

The week prior to Thanksgiving we held our annual Turkey Potluck in the sanctuary that was sadly missed last year due to the Covid lockdown- with over 40 attending and who showed their vaccine cards.

Our committee lost our co leader Letty Thomas, and Michelle Padilla stepped up as Leader for a month and a half alone but it quickly gained two new members Billie Munds and co-Leader Trish Thomas.

There was always so much help from the church all throughout the year. Faith, support and confidence really got us through the hard time. It was Important that Fellowship could make all the congregation feel the closeness we all crave & love with this incredible Community Congregational United Church of Christ in Benicia



Christian Education

Dale Olm

Due to the continuing Covid-19 pandemic, in-person Sunday School remained suspended during 2021. At-home lessons and activities were emailed to parents and grandparents each week.

We hired a childcare provider in the Fall for children, five years and under, attending worship services with their parents/guardians.

Thank you to adult volunteers Liz Cleves, Nancy Gilman, Leslie Lessenger, Jim Lessenger and Marilyn Scrutchins for their assistance in childcare.

It is hoped in 2022 that we will be able to resume in-person Sunday School with continued vaccination of children and pending flattening of the Covid-19 case load curve.



Mission and Outreach

Laura Pyles



Everyone said 2020 was a year like no other, well 2021 was a close second! 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.

With continued social distancing, we again had to continue to suspend our Second Saturday gatherings. Still, we continued our annual campaigns like our "Easter Lilies". We were able to support the Solano Dream Center, the UCC Haiti appeal, Vets of the Cross, Poinsettia program, and others.



Nora Gauger continues her mission along with Vallejo Together to provide monthly Sandwiches and bag lunches were made by members of the congregation and delivered to our friends who live on the street.

We close this year like none other with members stepping up once again to spread the joy of Christmas. Thanks to everyone's generosity during

the holiday season to deliver much needed undergarments and socks to those who struggle. 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.



Worship

Nancy Gilman



We had a very busy year in worship. Thanks to our very active and creative committee: Priscilla Lane, Marilyn Scrutchins, Deborah Shanks, Leslee Pahl, Barbara Hamm, Pastor Renie and Lettie Thomas. We met on zoom every month to plan worship and eventually in person meetings.



The first half of the year we worshiped on zoom, with music videos, and readings recorded by parishioners. Also music from our talented church musicians who came to the sanctuary to record live music for our services.

We did manage to plan an Easter egg hunt for the kids even though we did not worship in church on Easter.

Starting on June 13th we began live worship in the Sanctuary. Chairs were set six feet apart with masks and vaccinations required to attend worship. Our committee got into action to make sure it was safe to worship in the sanctuary and also visually exciting. New banners adorned our sanctuary and live music again.

For advent we had a Christmas tree adorned with Christmons we had made years ago. Our pageant was written by Deborah Shanks and we had adults and children playing roles. Our Christmas Eve service ended with candlelight singing of silent night, back to one of our traditions.



The Rolling Tones - Handbells

Leslie Lessenger, Director

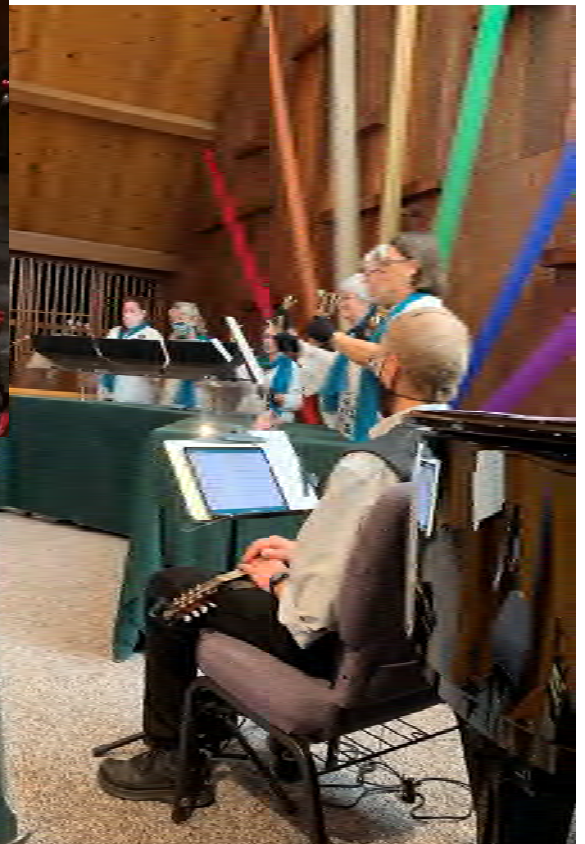
The Rolling Tones started into the COVID era cautiously in June. With six musicians and a director, we had to look for appropriate, fun music. We found a new favorite composer – Jason Krug, Our repertoire included a number of his pieces:

Lament (we called it *Tapestry*), *Diversion (Glorious Dawn)*, *Of Fearless Spirit*, and *Quiet Reflection*. Deborah (piano) and Leslie also played a bell tree number, *Peace Medley*, arr. Barbara Brocker & Rob Pearson.

For the Christmas concert we featured Krug's *Christmas Joy* plus a narrated story of *The Wise Men and the Star* by Bill Ingram. Our narrator was Liz Cleves, and Carla Goad filled out our choir for the concert.

We look forward to more creative music that uplifts the spirit of our congregation in 2022.

Leslie Lessenger (Director), Pat Obendorf, Deborah Shanks, Chol  McGraw, Nancy Gilman, Kathy Monroe, Kim Webb



Congregational Care

Leslee Prah

Over 90 birthday cards were sent with the help of Pam Martin, Marilyn Scrutchins and Susan Stofan this year. Messages of encouragement and care were sent monthly to those on the pray list and those shut in. We also sent Valentines, Thanksgiving and Christmas wishes. Some ecards were sent instead of mailed messages.

Feeding our Friends on the Street (pre-COVID)





Stewardship

Deborah Shanks

Biblical stewardship means **accepting your role as a steward or manager of God's money and other resources**. Stewardship is looking after someone's property in that person's interest. Biblical stewardship applies to a Christ follower's daily lifestyle choices affecting time, talents, and money. We are all stewards of our church through both monetary giving and service. It is and always has been important to give back to God what he has blessed us with.

Due to Covid we were not able to run our usual Crab Feed Dinner in February, so instead a Virtual Online Auction was held leading up to Easter.

\$3,045 was netted from this event for the general fund.

In October a Memorial Estate Sale in the name of Marlan Shanks was held and we netted \$1,280 for the Memorial Fund. It was requested by the family that this money go to Building and Grounds Projects.

In November a Silent Christmas Auction was held in the Sanctuary with an online option for those at home. There were 36 items made by &/or donated from various individuals. We raised \$995 for the general fund.

As of December 31 the total raised by Stewardship from various projects was \$5,275: \$4,040 to the general fund and \$1,280 to the Memorial Fund.

The Pledge Drive got started late due to various unforeseen circumstances. A pledge letter with the theme "A Vision for the Future" went out in early November with a pledge card deadline of December 1st and a Pledges blessing on December 5th.

36 Pledges were received for a total was \$173,081

<i>General Operations:</i>	\$151,471
<i>Capital Improvements:</i>	\$ 21,610

COMPARISON:

	<u>2021</u>	<u>2022</u>
# Pledging units:	36	36
Pledge totals:	\$175,417	\$173,081
<i>Operations</i>	\$153,710	\$151,451
<i>Cap. Imp.</i>	\$ 21,707	\$ 21,610

We lost 4 pledging units from 2021 due to 2 deaths, 1 moved, 1 did not submit
We gained 4 new pledgers for 2022

NOTE: We provide 10% of hidden work done by this church in serving the community beyond our own walls and members. For many in our community, we are the ONLY place they can come to ask for help.

Proposed Budget for Fiscal Year 2022

	A	B	C	D	E	F	G
1	Community Congregational Church UCC						
2	of Benicia				Approved	Actual	Proposed
3	Proposed Budget for Fiscal Year 2022				Budget	2021	Budget
4	(January 1, 2022 to December 31, 2022)				2021		2022
5							
6							
7	Funding (Operations and Ministries)						
8		Refunds & misc. deposits; special programs			0	1,066	2,340
9		Loose Offering			12000	11,357	12,000
10		Pledges			153,710	154,143	152,070
11		Capital Improvement/Loan Pledges & donations			21,707	23,327	21,610
12		Cap Improvement Fund - non-pledged contrib.			0	500	0
13		Use of Building			42,142	42,762	45,755
14		Fundraisers			2,000	4,040	4,000
15		Transfer from Reserves & Restricted accounts			3,919	5,459	4,217
16		Loan Principal Reduction from Reserves			2,500	2,500	2,500
17		Transfer to(-)/from(+) Cap Imprvmt/Parking Lot			2,413	791	2,510
18		Other funding (interest +)			2,149	1,853	2,149
19		Grants			0	0	0
20	Total Revenues				242,540	247,798	249,150
21	Expense (Operations and Ministries)						
22		B&G - Utilities			14,057	13,653	14,057
23		B&G - Custodial (contract)			5,400	6,900	7,800
24		B&G - Maint. & Housekeep			3,200	19,437	3,175
25		B&G - Property Taxes			792	754	792
26		B&G - Property Insurance			11,506	11,506	14,700
27		B&G - Genesis House			3,500	2,240	3,500
28		Cornerstone Loan Payments			24,120	24,119	24,120
29		Additional Reduction in Loan Principal			2,500	2,500	2,500
30		Christian Education / Youth			400	93	400
31		Congregational Care			225	0	225
32		Covid-19 Pandemic Expenses			0	2,719	500
33		Fellowship			920	114	920
34		Music Programs and Licenses			1,397	990	1,247
35		Stewardship			100	0	100
36		Mission&Outreach (incl. OCWM)			7,686	7,707	7,604
37		Welcome			595	432	595
38		Worship			665	1,377	1,665
39		Other committees & Ministries			0	0	0
40		Council & Discretionary Funds			0	0	0
41		Finance & Admin Expenses			4,124	5,679	11,264
42		Office/Computers/Copier Supply			3,282	3,288	2,466
43		Professional Expenses			500	355	950
44		Sabbatical set aside			3,919	4,419	4,217
45		Child Care during Worship			1,200	495	2,340
46		Staff			160,169	141,906	167,767
47	Total Expense				250,257	250,682	272,903
48	NET INCOME				-7,717	-2,884	-23,753

LEADERSHIP TEAM 2022

Nominating Committee
Shelby Riddle and Pastor Renie

STAFF

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

OFFICERS

Moderator	Nancy Gilman
Vice-Moderator	Deborah Shanks
Church Clerk	Shelby Riddle
Financial Secretary	Leslie Lessenger
Treasurer	Dale Olm

COMMITTEE CHAIRS

Building and Grounds Ministry	Dale Olm & Shelby Riddle
Christian Education Ministry	Committee
Congregational Care	Leslee Prahl
Fellowship	Billie Munds & Trish Thomas
Mission & Outreach	Nora Gauger & Shelby Riddle
Stewardship Ministry	Deborah Shanks & Chol� McGraw
Welcome and Growth	Nora Gauger & Shelby Riddle
Worship Ministry	Priscilla Lane & Marilyn Scrutchins