

Carol and Paul Smith

In 2001 our daughter Ashley had been invited by her friend Katie Wendler Baker to go on a youth mission trip to Mexico. The team was being commissioned on Palm Sunday. We had no idea that parking would be almost impossible, and the sanctuary would be packed with seating a premium. Paul dropped Ashley and me off to park and finally sat down well into the service. He leaned over and said, "We are never coming back here again." Then, Michael Lindvall preached a sermon called Two Parades after which we looked at each other and said, "well, maybe we'll come back." The rest, as they say, is history.

Seventeen years later we now consider many at FPC as our dearest and closest friends: people with whom we travel, share important family events and most significantly, share a deep and abiding faith as we worship together. **The rich mission program is also important to us, having participated in countless international, local, and regional projects. To us, it is the legacy of which we most desire to be a part.**

When we began our estate planning, it occurred to us that since we consider First Pres our church and our family, it should be included in our will and trusts just as we include our children and grandchildren. And just as we pray for a long and healthy life for our family members, we wish the same for First Pres.

Jim Clark & Nancy Janz Clark

The Janz-Clark family has been blessed to be part of First Presbyterian Church of Ann Arbor for over 40 years. This church has been a wonderful source of comfort in times of challenge as well as a place to celebrate many blessings in our lives. While some of the faces have changed over the years, the caring relationships and supportive environment have been a constant source of inspiration to our family.

The vibrancy of this church depends on an on-going commitment to programs such as children's ministry, pastoral care, music programs, mission programs and so many more. It also requires the ability to fund new initiatives or grow programs that set the church apart and invite new ways to embrace God's work in our community and the world. New ideas and/or expanding programs often require additional funding. For example, **we are grateful to have been a part of First Pres when we accepted the challenge of establishing a Resident Minister Program to**

further train ordained ministers. How proud we are that First Pres contributes to the mentoring of such promising future church leaders while also deriving tremendous benefit from their meaningful service to our church. A healthy endowment will ensure that new exciting and essential programs such as this can be sustained for future generations.

In our estate planning we asked ourselves, where would we like to see our legacy continue in the future? First Presbyterian was a certain choice. We have so benefited in our faith journey from the support of ministers, the range of programs, the cherished relationships and the comfort of knowing that we have a church home. While we do not know what God plans for this church in the decades ahead, we do want to be part of making certain that First Pres has an opportunity to grow and be vibrant for the generations that follow. We hope that all of you will give the Legacy Partner Program careful consideration in your plans for the future!

Ken & Ali Westfall

Our first experience with First Presbyterian Church was about 13 years ago when we attended the funeral service for the 16 year-old grandchild of one of Ali's dental school professors. Melissa Anne's way of handling this tragic event was something we remembered years later when we were looking for a church that offered a good youth program for our daughter, Ava, and services that felt welcoming and comfortable for our family. We joined First Presbyterian about four years ago and we have found everything we were looking for, and more, in a church "home".

When Ava was born, one of our first steps was to make sure we had our estate plan established, primarily to make sure our wishes regarding Ava's care were clearly established. As time has gone on, **we have realized the importance of First Presbyterian's role in Ava's "care" and the care of many other children and families.** As a result, as we have continued to update and revise our estate plans, **we made the decision to include First Presbyterian Church to help ensure the church will be there for the "care" of other children and families into the future.**

We encourage everyone, especially those with younger children, to have their estate plans in place in order to make your wishes clear. And in the process of developing or updating those plans, to consider the role First Presbyterian has played in the "care" of your family.

Zach and Genevieve Monsma

As a middle-aged couple with a child, and parents nearing retirement, we recognized the need to 'put our affairs in order', should there be an unexpected end of life. After providing a 'safety net' for our family, we wanted to consider how our estate could have its greatest impact. There are many important organizations that we support on a periodic basis, but we thought First Presbyterian Church Ann Arbor was particularly well suited for a legacy gift.

For one, we think Ann Arbor is a worthwhile community in which to invest. It is a great place to raise a family, it is a great place to retire, and it is made up of people that often have a broader impact on the country, and world. Thanks to the University, Ann Arborites often reside here only for a period of time. They contribute their diverse backgrounds to this community and take what they learned here away to other communities. What better place to infuse the Christian faith generally?

In addition, we concluded that a church, more than an individual charity, can often most effectively serve as a 'clearing house' for the allocation of financial resources, and human outreach in a community whose needs change over time. There is no better example than today, with the unforecastable challenges, and unique needs presented by Covid 19! To us, it seems that the Church has the best flexibility to react to changing times in a manner that is consistent with our values.

To endow, means to establish something in permanence by donating the funds needed to maintain it. That is what a legacy gift to First Presbyterian Church Ann Arbor does--**it establishes the permanence of financial, and human support for local charities and the Christian faith in the Ann Arbor community.** After providing for our immediate family, we can think of better use for our estate.

Betsy McCallister

I have been blessed by fellowship at First Presbyterian Church for 27 years so becoming a Legacy Partner felt like a natural step.

Ben and I arrived in A2 in 1991 and we were quickly introduced to First Pres by my Uncle Dave and Aunt Martha Krehbiel. A family connection may have brought us here but it is this unique church family that has kept us here. Not only did this church provide great ministry for our growing family but it demonstrated Christ's love beyond it's beautiful walls better than any church we had been a part of.

First Pres's commitment to mission impressed me then and continues to today.

Every single day, you can see lives improved by this congregation's many ministries. I wish this to continue forever.

Another part of First Pres that I love is our commitment to the future of ministry through the Resident Ministry Program. What a blessing our residents have been to our community and how wonderful to know that it is only the beginning! I wish this to continue forever.

On a personal note, First Pres. has been a foundation. Over the years it has provided a place to learn as well as teach, serve as well as receive, lead as well as follow, laugh as well as mourn, love, praise and pray, but perhaps most importantly, It has provided a place to step out of a busy life and just be-in fellowship-in Christ- belonging, forgiven and accepted.

It has been a life affirming way to start and end a week. I wish this opportunity to be available for everyone in our community, always. I am grateful that the Legacy Program provides a way for me to give thanks and support a healthy future for our church and our many ministries.

Give thanks to the God of heaven, for His steadfast love endures forever.

Psalm 135:26