

Moderator's Report for 2020

I think it's safe to say 2020 was a year like no other. At First Congregational Church we started the year with high hopes for an active ministry. It wasn't long into the new year that the Covid-19 pandemic hit. We were starting to look at Ash Wednesday, Lent and Easter. Instead we discontinued in person worship services until further notice. During this time Rev. Kruse provided weekly meditations and the Thursday Theologians continued using ZOOM, and by ZOOM we celebrated Advent and Christmas Eve service together. Thanks to Rev. Jerry, Jane Moser, Jack and a few others who gave us that worship experience,

Then on July 11th, MAJOR flooding and water damage was discovered in the gym, stage, gym floor, curtains, walls in the men's bathroom and quit room. Quick action started clean-up, roof replaced, pipe repaired and electrical repair. In December restoration started and was completed by December 31st, although the stage curtains still need to be cleaned and hung.

During the pandemic, all use of the building was put on hold. The Girl Scouts could not meet. There was less outreach ministry. Church Council had an appeal for a donation toward the building of a gym at King Kennedy Center. Council voted to pledge \$10,000 toward the project over the next two years with the first installment of \$5,000 this year and the remaining \$5,000 in 2021.

We were able to continue our participation in Loaves and Fishes mission by providing packed lunches for distribution.

What a fun time for many of us as we had a drive by celebration for Jane Palmstrom's birthday. We all needed that bright spot in the summer.

As your Moderator I participated in and was one of your delegates to the Annual Living Water Association meeting via ZOOM.

Yes, we can say this was a year like no other. So, as we close 2020 we try not to dwell on what we didn't have, weren't able to do. Instead let's search this Annual Report book and find what we have, what we were able to do and see the active ministry still alive at First Congregational Church, UCC in Ravenna. God's blessing on us all.

Edith Scott, Moderator