

Faith Weavers of St. Mary
Winter/Spring 2022 Newsletter
www.faithweavers.org

Mission Statement

We are a faith community formed to support one another in working to build the kingdom of God through service to others in all aspects of our lives. We are committed to creating an environment open to new expressions of growth and maturity by expanding our vision of ourselves, our church, and our world, and through our commitment to social justice.

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Date	Time	Activity
March 13	4 p.m.	Mass with Fr. Fred Thelen
April 10	4 p.m.	Prayer service with Joe Frankenfield
May 15	4 p.m.	Prayer service with Joe Frankenfield
June 12	4 p.m.	Mass with Fr. Bert Gohm

Upcoming Events

We will hold our monthly service in person if the risk of spreading the Coronavirus is low. We will be live streaming all services over YouTube. Watch for emails from the Faith Weavers distribution list to see if the services will be in person or virtual only.

In person services are scheduled to be held at St. Vincent DePaul Parish in Shepherd starting at 4 p.m.

March 13, 2022, Fr. Fred Thelen will celebrate mass with us. Shepherd Pie and Irish Stew will be prepared for our Irish celebration dinner. **Please bring a dish to pass.**

April 10, 2022, Joe Frankenfield will lead us in a prayer service. We will have a ham and cheesy potato meal. **Please bring a dish to pass.**

May 15, 2022, Joe Frankenfield will lead us in a prayer service. We will honor mothers and graduates at this service. **Please bring a dish to pass.**

June 12, 2022, Fr. Bert Gohm will celebrate mass with us. We will recognize retirees and honor men in our community at this service. We will have BBQ Spareribs and hot dogs for dinner. **Please bring a dish to pass.**

Please invite a friend to attend one of our services. A simple invitation may be a great gift to a friend.

Faith Weavers during the Pandemic

It is hard to believe we are entering our third year of the pandemic. When it began there were reports that it would last a year. At that time, I thought this was overestimating how long it would take to bring Covid-19 under control. Now, after two years of social distancing, wearing masks in public, avoiding gathering, and getting the vaccine plus booster shots, we are still waiting for the end.

Between the Delta and Omicron variants of the virus we were able to gather for services last November and December. It was wonderful to be together in November for mass with Fr. Fred Thelen presiding. At this service we remembered loved ones who have passed on. This is a moving ritual that we have done for many years. After mass we celebrated with a Thanksgiving Feast.

In December Fr. Fred Kawka presided at our “Christmas mass.” After mass we had a Christmas Feast with lots of good food and socializing. We thought we were on our way to normal monthly services with these two gatherings.

Unfortunately, the Omicron surge has caused us to return to virtual gatherings. We have live streamed our prayer services over YouTube in January and February this year. Live streaming allows people to participate in the service as it is being conducted or watch a video of the service later.

Karon Latham and Joe Frankenfield have done a great job of leading these prayer services. Steve Catrell is doing the technical work of streaming over YouTube. Eileen Jennings and Dave Karmon have been our scripture readers, and music with Sue Karmon playing and Val Helinski and Gerri Clark singing.

The Omicron surge is waning with the number of infections decreasing in our area. We are cautiously hopeful that we will be able to resume our monthly services in March. As we get closer to the March 13th date for our next service, please watch for emails on how the service will be conducted -- face-to-face or online only.

We continue implementing the social justice component of our mission statement with charitable giving of \$89,973 this year. See articles in this newsletter on charitable giving and Friends of El Salvador for more on this.

Members of Faith Weavers have also volunteered to support local charities. In 2021, as in many past years, volunteers have providing meals for the homeless through the Isabella County Restoration House, distributing food at the Strickler Center Food Pantry, and giving out clothing and gifts at Christmas Outreach.

Our financial position remains strong with donations and investment income of \$85,059. Grants and other expenses were \$96,143. The difference between these two amounts was covered by unrealized appreciation of \$10,946 on our investments. See the financial review in this newsletter for more information on this.

Faith Weavers on Facebook

Help us grow our Facebook group! Search "Faith Weavers of St. Mary" and request to join. Benefits include connection with other Faith Weavers and keeping track of events. Expansion to discussions and

other uses are being considered, and suggestions are always welcome! #Facebook #FaithWeaversofStMary

Celebrating Karen Lee for her leadership on the Service and Justice Committee



(Karen Lee)

Karen Lee has served as chairperson of the Service and Justice Committee since the inception of Faith Weavers. Karen was also involved with similar activities back in the St. Mary's days. Late last year, she stepped down as chair and transferred her leadership role to Jeff Angera. She plans to remain on the committee as a member.

The Service and Justice Committee identifies charitable organizations to receive grants from Faith Weavers. An important part of the process is vetting organizations to see that grant money goes to programs that help the needy and not spent on administration. The Committee also determines the amount of money given to grantees.

Karen helped guide the distribution of over \$568,237 to a variety of reputable charities over her 15-year tenure as chairperson. She has been an excellent leader on the

Committee facilitating good communications between committee members and keeps members on task while considering potential grantees.

Faith Weavers thanks Karen for her dedicated service and leadership. Her efforts have taken us a long way in implementing our commitment to social justice.

Amazon Smile Donation Program

Purchasing through Amazon Smile is an easy way to support Faith Weavers. We have received over \$600 from Amazon since joining this program.

Amazon donates half a percent of the cost of your purchases to Faith Weavers. This amount is not added to your bill but is a donation from the Amazon Foundation.

To participate in this program, go to: <http://smile.amazon.com/ch/14-1997339> and select Faith Weavers as the nonprofit organization you want to support. Then do your shopping at smile.amazon.com

Christmas Outreach

Article by Eileen Jennings and Jim Hornak

Many thanks to all of you for your support, again this year, for Christmas Outreach. We served 396 families, and a total of 1,342 individuals. It was great to be able to have clients come in person to select the items that best fit their families. We could not do it without the help and support of Faith Weavers.



(Volunteers preparing the Campus Life Building for Christmas Outreach)

Christmas Stockings gave out stockings to 361 children and gift bags to 205 teens and 258 adults. Faith Weavers made financial contributions, purchased items for these stockings and gift bags, helped to fill them, and then helped to distribute them to families. We moved stored items to and from the Campus Crusade building.



(Volunteers setting up for stocking distribution)

Coats had a very successful year from collection to distribution. We started with inventory from 2020, spent about \$10,000 buying coats, and collected coats and snow pants from many groups including Faith Weavers. We had about 1400 coats at distribution time. With lots of volunteer help we were able to distribute over 1000 coats and 400 snow pants. Although we did run out of big and tall and plus sizes, we were pleased that most of our clients received warm coats that fit well. We are already planning for December 2022 and looking forward to partnering with Faith Weavers again this year.



(Jim Hornak working with a volunteer to prepare coats for distribution)

Members of Faith Weavers were in evidence everywhere you looked during the sorting and distribution. In addition to the coats and stockings, Karon Latham manages the Christmas decorations. Gail Moore serves as secretary for Outreach and was the “trouble-shooter” and fundraiser. Tom Moore solicited and provided outstanding snacks for the volunteers. Karen Lee led the Kiwanis club’s generous contribution to stockings and boots. Many others helped wherever needed.

We are a relatively small group, but we have an outsized impact on Christmas Outreach. Thanks to all of you for Weaving Faith into Life once again.

Friends of El Salvador

by Tom Moore

For 2022 the Friends of El Salvador Committee once again is offering support for the Guajoyo School, the community of Miramar, and college students through scholarship aid. This is possible in part because of the generosity of Faith Weavers and friends during the annual fall fundraiser.

Guajoyo School Projects

Our “adopted” K-9 school near Miramar has been granted a total of \$9,873 for five projects, three of which continue our practice of funding building improvements.

An electric pump will replace a manual water well pump. Not only will this make drinking water more easily accessible, but water will now be pumped directly into the lavatories of one of the school’s two buildings, benefiting over 100 students and teachers daily.

Following up on a beautiful renovation of the kindergarten classroom last year, funded by the Committee, an air conditioner will be added to improve the comfort and learning of the little ones in the hot climate. The whole school will be painted, interior and exterior, except for recently renovated spaces. Our grant will fund paint and

supplies. Parents and community volunteers will provide the labor.

In addition to these physical improvements, the school’s miniscule expenses budget (\$1,500 for almost everything for the year) will receive a boost of \$1,000 specifically to purchase teaching materials, including basic items such as paper and pencils.



(Students in a refurbished classroom)

Finally, the Committee is giving a \$1,000 grant to the student emergency fund that was started last year. It will enable school leadership to make very small “on-the-spot” grants to students and families to address food security and transportation issues that too often keep kids from attending school. Dozens received support in 2021 through this new fund and continuing it is a priority.



(Food packages being prepared for students)

Miramar Poultry Project

A grant of \$2,673 is going to the community of Miramar for a pilot project to initiate more systematic raising of poultry for family consumption and possible sale of meat and eggs. Fifteen families will be chosen by the community leadership council to receive chickens, feed supplies, and materials for constructing enclosures to protect the birds from predators.

The Ministry of Agriculture will offer training in standards and best practices relevant to poultry production. The pilot project will last 12 months, with considerable time included for evaluation and monitoring. The hope is that this project will furnish evidence of future poultry-raising sustainability for the participating families and allow expansion to more of the community's 44 families.

College Scholarships

The Friends of El Salvador has continued the scholarship for Heri Cruz of Miramar, who's in his 4th year at the Lutheran University of El Salvador. He's an excellent student in Social Work. He anticipates writing a thesis for graduation in 2023.

Also, the Committee is re-investing in annual college scholarships in the town of San Pedro Nonualco through a second year's grant of \$2,800. Normally a full scholarship is \$1,400 per student. However, this year educational expenses have been reduced because of the use of virtual attendance due to pandemic restrictions. So, our grant will support four students in 2022.

Students in the program are required to participate in a collective community project as part of a strong mentoring program that extends beyond academics. Last year's students repaired and refinished furniture at a San Pedro elementary school and shared with us a report highlighting the experience and results.



(Scholarship recipients repairing furniture at a San Pedro elementary school)

Participate

For more information about the Friends of El Salvador, or to become a member of the Committee, please contact Tom Moore (773-3250, moore1tj@cmich.edu).

Charitable Contributions in 2021

In 2021 your generosity has supported grants of \$89,873 to local, national, and international charitable organizations. This money has come from your monthly donations, and income from the Faith Weavers Endowment Fund.

\$30,075 (33%) of Faith Weavers grants went to local charities. The Service and Justice Committee members have identified several local organizations to support with grants. We believe it is important to support organizations that serve the needs of our local community. Giving locally allows us to see the impact our grants have on the lives of people in our community.

In 2021 we gave Community Compassion Network \$6,000. This gift was evenly divided between the Food Pantry, the Student Nutrition Program, and the Infant Pantry. \$4,000 was given to Christian Counseling Services to support work of providing affordable help for children, adolescents, couples and families in the mid-Michigan area. St. Vincent Catholic Charities was given \$3,500 to help them

with resettling Afghan refugees in the Lansing area. We also supported the work of Isabella County Restoration House (ICRH) with a grant of \$3,000. See the related article in this newsletter on the work of ICRH.

The remaining grants were given to the Capuchin Mission in Detroit, Christmas Outreach, the KISS program at Central Michigan District Health Department, Guest House, Isabella Citizens for Health, Isabella County Soup Kitchen, Michigan Organization on Adolescent Sexual Health, Midland County CFOA and Rehab, Pax Christi Michigan, St. Vincent DePaul Parish, and The Mexican American Council.

\$59,798 (67%) went to national and international charities. We seem to be in a world of crisis, and so many people are suffering from natural and manmade disasters. The need is overwhelming.

The Service and Justice Committee directed grants to help alleviate the suffering of migrants at our southern border with a \$10,000 grant to Annunciation House, and a \$5,000 grant to Doctors Without Borders for medical care in Afghanistan. \$5,500 was also given to Hope for Haiti, Fr. Joe Fix's mission outreach, and \$5,000 was given to the Alicia De La Cruz Fores Orphanage in Mexico. \$2,000 was given to Global Compassion to help people suffering from the pandemic. Other grants were given to the American Cancer Society, the Loveland Foundation, Pax Christi USA, and Rise Advocacy.



(Global Compassion distributed food to people experiencing food shortages due to the pandemic)

In addition to these grants the Friends of El Salvador Committee gave \$28,798 in grants for student scholarships and the Guajoyo School in El Salvador.

Do you know of an organization that would benefit from a grant? Please contact Jeff Angera at anger1jj@cmich.edu on how the charity can request funds. Alternatively, visit our website at www.faithweavers.org and click on the Community Outreach tab for a description of the charities we have supported and information on how to submit a grant request.

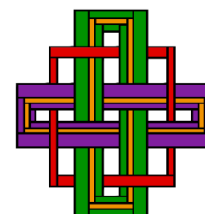
Isabella County Restoration House

The Isabella County Restoration House (ICRH) is one of Faith Weavers most important projects. Now in its 9th year, we work with 35 other organizations and churches to provide warm, safe housing and services 24/7 from November through mid-April.

During the last year ICRH has provided:

1. 169 nights lodging for 98 guests, including 12 children,
2. 13,210 meals,
3. Helped find permanent housing for 15 guests,
4. Housing vouchers for others.

Faith Weavers partner with Immanuel Lutheran to provide meals. This year Faith Weavers volunteers served two meals at Emmanuel Lutheran Church in November and two meals in February. Over the last eight years we have donated a total of \$18,871 to help with shelter costs, and other expenses.



Weaving Faith Into Life

Financial Review

Donations received in 2021 were \$68,693. This amount was divided between \$11,482 designated for the Friends of El Salvador, and \$57,211 available for Faith Weavers use. In addition to these donations the Faith Weavers Foundation transferred \$3,000 to the Friends of El Salvador Committee.

In 2021 Faith Weavers gave \$89,873 in grants to charitable organizations. Faith Weavers gave \$42,075 to local, national and international charities, and the Friends of El Salvador gave \$28,798 for educational projects in El Salvador.

Overall, charitable giving was the main use of our money with 94% of what we spent going to charitable grants. 4% went to conducting our worship services, and 2% for administrative costs.

The Endowment Fund had a 10.73% return on its investments. We had dividend income of \$17,116 and paid grants of \$19,000. Even though our charitable

grants exceeded our dividend income, the market appreciation of \$10,946 increased our fund balance by \$9,062. The Endowment Fund made a \$3,000 transfer to the Friends of El Salvador Committee to be used to support projects in El Salvador. This money will be spent in 2022.

The Endowment Fund has a permanent fund balance of \$180,184 that represents donations that will remain in the fund to generate income. The non-permanent portion of \$39,625 is available to give out in grants.

Faith Weavers have a cash balance of \$89,434. This consists of \$32,372 reserved for the Friends of El Salvador and \$57,062 available for Faith Weavers activities. We plan to use most of this cash balance for charitable grants in 2022.

Faith Weavers of St. Mary Statement of Financial Activity For the Year Ending December 31, 2021	Faith Weavers of St. Mary	Endowment Fund	Combined
Donations	\$68,693		\$68,693
Program Revenue	0		0
Dividends and Interest	15	17,116	17,131
Other Income	135		135
Total	68,843	17,116	85,959
Expenditures			
Charitable Giving	70,873	19,000	89,873
Monthly Services Programs	4,027		4,027
Administration	0		0
Administration	2,244	0	2,244
Total Expenses	77,144	19,000	96,144
Revenues over (under) expenditures	(8,301)	(1,884)	(10,185)
Increase (decrease) in Market Value		10,946	10,946
Increase (decrease) in fund balances	(8,301)	9,062	761
Beginning Fund Balance	94,735	268,180	362,915
Transfers	3,000	(3,000)	0
Ending Fund Balance	89,434	274,242	363,676
Restricted and Unrestricted Fund Balance			
Reserve for Friends of El Salvador	32,372		32,372
Permanent Funds		185,644	185,644
Unrestricted Funds	57,062	88,598	145,660
Ending Fund Balance	\$89,434	\$274,242	\$363,676