



WESTMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

2024 Annual Report

Presented to the Congregation Sunday, January 26, 2025





Greetings in Christ!

"Welcome one another, therefore, just as Christ has welcomed you, for the glory of God."
-Romans 15:7



As we embark on a new year of mission and ministry together, I am renewed in the joy of this call to lead and serve alongside the members and friends of Westminster. Your dedication to our mission of *"Knowing Christ, Making Christ Known"* is truly inspiring, as you care for one another and reach out beyond our community with Christ's compassion, joy, justice, and love.

Our Strategic Visioning group has been hard at work over the past year, and we eagerly anticipate how their guidance will help us grow and thrive to the glory of God. Additionally, we have new opportunities with our global mission partners, which will allow us to witness and be part of what Christ's church is doing to share good news around the world.

We join in our thanks and prayers for Rev. Ann Hatfield, who has served as our Associate Pastor of Outreach and Pastoral Care. She looks toward retirement this February after ministry with us for 14 years. Ann's deep commitment to Christ, loving service, and wise leadership have touched countless lives, and we trust that God will be with her and with us.

As we give thanks for God's faithfulness and move into the new year, let us embrace a spirit of extending Christ's welcome and hospitality, part of our DNA since Westminster's founding. May we continue to foster spiritual growth and deepen friendships, supporting one another in this journey of faith. I am excited about the year ahead and the many ways we will witness God's work in our midst. Together, let us strive to make Christ known in all that we do.

Leah

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SESSION

2024 Officers: Ed McFalls, Clerk of Session • Rev. Leah Hrachovec, Moderator of Session
Rev. Eric Dorville • Rev. Jon Frost • Rev. Ann Hatfield

2024
Lauren Coffey
Gail Lee
Dan Maffei
Tom Russell
Laureen Smith
Jane Wendel

2025
Ann Jaques
Jim Magee
Rob Necarsulmer
Meg Pope
Kathy Smedley
Lynae Young

2026
Chris Birkenmaier
Angela Emrich
Suzanne Mecouch
Brian Miller
Jim Scanlon
Matt Steele

TRUSTEES

Ann McNally, *President*

2024
Robbe Healey
Chuck Lambing
Ann McNally
Greg Waller

2025
Jonathan Bonds
Scott Boorse
Steve Brown
Doug Pitts

2026
Will Coffey
Roger Deacon
Joan Lorgus
Jay Mossman

DEACONS

2024 Officers: Joanne Ebert, Moderator • Paul Zamrowski, Vice Moderator

2024
Karen Barnes
Marty Bonds
Lynn Carrero
Bill Casswell
Carol Edwards
Amy Flynn
Terry Hawkins
Ellen Miller
Susanne Perkins
Nick Tortorello

2025
Judy Bianchi
Nancy Daly
Judy Eberhardt
Joanne Ebert
Karen Finley
Jean Huddell
Marty Ollenschleger
Jean Pitts
Paul Zamrowski

2026
Sherry Brady
Wray Brady
Sharon Davies
Jane Deacon
Shawn Dzielawa
Rick Griste
Rita Ollice
Kim Prann
Joni Taylor
Nancy J. Tuttle



24 new members join in January

MISSION

Knowing Christ, Making Christ Known

VISION

As followers of Jesus Christ, we commit to: worship that glorifies God and transforms us, intentional, hope-filled community, a lifetime of spiritual growth and joyful generosity, as we are sent to demonstrate the Kingdom of God in the world.

- **We Expand Our Witness:** WPC intentionally invites all people to a faith journey with Jesus Christ.
- **We Serve our Neighbors:** WPC leads in responding to community needs through volunteering, social engagement, and outreach.
- **We Work Toward Affordable Housing:** WPC takes a leadership role within the community to ensure that no one is forced to live in substandard, unsafe housing or experiences homelessness.
- **We Equip our Emerging Generation:** WPC actively engages youth (16-18) and young adults (19-30) on their faith journey.

MEMBERSHIP STATISTICS

Number on Church Roll on 1/1/24
1,659

Additions in 2024: 62
44 New Members
3 Confirmation Class
15 Restored to Active Membership

Baptisms in 2024: 20
19 Children
1 Adult

Loss of members in 2024: 89
21 Deaths
4 Transfers
64 Others

Number on Church Roll on 12/31/24
1,632

INCLUSIVITY STATEMENT

In response to God's unconditional love for all people, made known to us in Jesus Christ, Westminster Presbyterian Church is called to embody that same love in our life and ministry.

As a community of faith, we affirm the image of God in people of every racial identity, ethnicity, socio-economic status, age, gender, relationship status, physical or mental ability, sexual orientation, and gender identity or expression. We welcome all who desire to participate in our congregation, for everyone brings gifts and experiences that strengthen and enrich the life of the church. We commit ourselves to making inclusivity a reality for this congregation and our local community by continuing to learn and grow in friendship with one another.

We especially proclaim this statement of welcome to those who have been excluded and/or told that they do not fully reflect the image of God. If you are looking for a place to share in God's great love and affirm that all people are God's children, we invite you to join us in our faith journey toward greater love, respect and understanding of one another.



Pastor Ann Hatfield baptizes a child during our traditional service

NECROLOGY REPORT 2024

Nancy Latham	January 4
Ellen Rowlands	February 1
Ray Biles	February 14
Eileen Reynolds	February 15
Barbara McCool	February 24
Kitty Slifer	February 27
Don Belt	March 5
Chuck Schalch	March 14
Bob Stevenson	May 7
Wendy Dubois	May 30
Bonnie Duggan	May 30
Ashley Vogel	May 30
Vicki Baade	June 24
Fred Dixon	June 27
Jack Wintermute	July 12
Lew Pleibel	August 22
June Wescott	September 13
George Warren	October 18
Ian James	October 23
Dick Miller	November 5
Bill Warihay	December 27

WORSHIP ATTENDANCE

The live stream numbers indicate IP addresses (a single computer, TV or mobile device). In many homes more than one person is watching, so for actual attendance, it's realistic to estimate 1.5 to 2 times the numbers shown. The number of IP addresses were used to determine the live stream statistics.

	In Person	Live Stream	All
Traditional Average	308	403	723
Contemporary Average	86	77	163
Wed. Chapel Average	15	31	44
Taizé Average	24	19	43
Vespers Average	32	--	32
Phone Ministry Average	6	--	6
Wellington Average	10	--	10
Ash Wednesday	167	96	263
Palm Sunday	524	581	1,122
Maunder Thursday	190	221	411
Good Friday	68	158	226
Easter	1,224	961	2,185
Christmas Eve	1,886	1,302	3,188

44% of our worship attendance was in person in 2023
55% of our worship attendance was live stream in 2023

From 2023 to 2024, our average in person worship attendance increased by **3%**, our average online worship attendance increased by **1%** and our average overall attendance increased by **1%**.



Preschool teachers and aids gather around their new outdoor sign before the start of the 2024-2025 school year.

PRESCHOOL

Staff: Megan Potts, Carrie Boyea, & Kristin Flaim

Elder: Suzanne McCouch

Questions: Megan Potts, *Preschool Director*
mpotts@westminsterpc.org or 610.399.3910

- **The preschool celebrated its 30th year of ministry!** Family engagement opportunities have increased along with our increased enrollment.
- Over the summer, the preschool **made some necessary updates:** painting the entire preschool, installed a new outdoor welcome sign and new carpet for all the classrooms.
- **Megan Potts completed her graduate degree,** earning a Master's in Early Childhood Education.
- **The preschool created a new and unique position.** Sarah Schay-Minahan was hired as the Special Education Advocate and her role has been an incredible benefit to staff and families alike.

CHILDREN'S SPIRITUAL GROWTH

Elder: Kathy Smedley, Jane Wendel, Suzanne Mecouch

Staff: Jill Reichert

Questions? Kathy Smedley, *Chair*, ksmcd@aol.com

- Our most ambitious endeavor was **the successful launch of Camp SPARK.** This was the first time Westminster offered a weeklong, full-day worship arts summer camp that focused on engaging Pre-K - 5th graders. Staff, members, teams, and groups from worship, music, technology, knitting/weaving, outreach, pickleball, friends from Maris Grove, Habitat, Good Works, Deacons, youth, Café 10 West cooks, Gleaning Garden, Care of Creation, KidsConnect/WeeConnect leaders, and an outside dance studio in the community all shared their gifts with the children to show how we can creatively come together in worship and use our gifts to serve others.
- **Held a Communion Workshop** in February where the children learned the story of the Last Supper and participated in baking bread and preparing the elements for a mock Communion.
- We **presented Bibles** to six of our Third Graders in October.
- **Fall Fest** at the beginning of November was a "Thank You, God" party. We collected canned goods for the Food Cupboard, had a chili cook-off with prizes, played games, listened to the Children's Choir sing, did crafts, took a night walk to see where God is at night and had an indoor campfire with a marshmallow "toast".
- **Advent Family Night** started out with a Las Posadas journey with Mary and Joseph to find a place to stay. They sang, ate tacos, decorated ornaments for the Family Christmas Tree, made new cards out of old ones and made a family spiral advent calendar.
- Children acted out Jesus' birth in a skit at our **Children's Christmas Eve service.** Our Cherub and Children's choir sang, ending with all the children on the chancel as we sang Silent Night holding up glowsticks.



Children prepare communion bread at our communion workshop.



Third graders receive their Bibles



Children rehearse for the Christmas Eve service

YOUTH & COLLEGE MINISTRIES

Elder: Matt Steele

Staff: Chris Clark

Questions? Chris Clark, *Director of Youth and College Ministries*, cclark@westminsterpc.org
610.399.3377 ext. 110



Youth after a fun Color War

- In May we returned to our annual youth ministry **Spring Retreat over in Ocean City, NJ**. Through the weekend youth explored and wondered together about the meaning of baptism as a symbol, reminding us of our belovedness and our calling to follow Jesus's example in our lives. We returned with 16 youth and 6 adult leaders for a memorable weekend together.
- **13 youth began their confirmation journey** this fall at the annual Confirmation Retreat at Westminster. Alongside their mentors, they have been building relationships and deeper understanding of how the Spirit has gifted them to live their faith in their community and wider world.
- This year we experienced **an increase in leadership throughout the youth ministry at Westminster**. Three new adult Youth Group leaders, 10 new confirmation mentors, and 20 teenagers served in various leadership roles for Camp SPARK. We are excited to see the momentum of cultivating leadership both among our teens and adult leaders.
- This year we partnered with the Baptist Church of West Chester to continue offering **pop-up community to West Chester University students** on Thursday mornings. Relationships have been cultivated and students have responded with gratitude and joy at this simple gift offered by two area churches on their campus.
- As we continue our shift of running our **Sunday night Youth Group program through a framework of Matthew 25**, the month of January was particularly focused on this with youth families participating in the MLK Jr. Day of service, Sunday night conversations about centering voices on the margins, and viewing the biopic about West Chester native Bayard Rustin.

ADULT SPIRITUAL GROWTH

Elders: Chris Birkenmaier, Jim Magee & Meg Pope • **Staff:** Eric Dorville
Questions? Meg Pope, *Chair*, megpoppe@hotmail.com

- We had more women attend the **women's retreat** this year than ever before with 81 registrants! Rev. Cheryl Galan was a wonderful speaker.
- The **men's retreat** had 39 men come out to be transformed by Christ through the teachings of Rev. Steve Clark. There were 19 men who came for the first time!
- **Journey classes** were well-received with an average of 34 people attending per week. There was a lot of energy and discussion when Dr. Manfred Brauch presented a series on Christian Nationalism which had 75 people present.
- Betsy Ballantyne led a thoughtful and engaging discussion on **Exploring our Christian Faith through Indigenous People**.
- Partnered with Care of Creation Team to offer spring series on **Earth Care** and our faith.
- Dr. Sue Fry led a **Psalms series** in Journey during our summer preaching/teaching series on the Psalms.
- Several **small groups** running throughout the year.



Over MLK Day weekend we showcased *The 20 Men Project* as well as a presentation by the photographer, Sandrien de Bruijn-Mesman and several of the men in the project.



2024 Vision Team gather at their retreat in March

VISION TEAM

Elders: Rob Necarsulmer, Tom Russell & Jane Wendel

Staff: Leah Hrachovec

Questions? Steve Brown, *Co-Chair*, psubrown@comcast.net

- Session approved a **new Strategic Visioning Process** in early Spring of 2024. A Strategic Visioning Leadership Team was subsequently formed to work with partners and leadership throughout the church, and move intentionally through a visioning process for the future.
- Led by Listening Hearts to learn and understand the unique qualities of visioning for churches, in March the team attended an **introductory retreat**.
- The team met every 2-3 weeks, accompanied by **Bill Wilson**, a consultant from the Center for Healthy Churches.
- **Conducted research on WPC culture and worship trends;** Explored trends and learnings from other churches nation-wide; Developed overall plan for the process; Gathered information and feedback from people characterized as very active; less active; on-line only; and not connected with WPC at all.
- **Held 11 Focus Groups and 25 individual interviews**, for a total of 114 people participating, providing voluminous positive and constructive feedback.
- Began spiritual discernment to reflect on what we heard; received feedback from Staff and other church leadership; Identified Common Themes which led to development of **five overall guideposts** for the future of Westminster.



Celebrating Pastor Jennie's final worship service

PERSONNEL

Elders: Gail Lee, Dan Maffei & Lynae Young

Staff: Leah Hrachovec & Gerry McShane

Questions? Lynae Young, *Chair*, lynaeyoung@comcast.net

- We said **"farewell"** to **Rev. Jennie Clark**, retiring Associate Pastor of Spiritual Growth, and Ron Bellamy, who had served as our Handbell Director.
- **We welcomed** Dr. Kirsten Santos Rutschman to our staff as Associate Director of Music, full-time custodian David Benton and part-time financial assistant Parker Hendrix.
- We celebrated **Jon Frost's 10-year ordination anniversary** – and 20 years at Westminster – as well as Barb Drain's 20th workaversary.
- We awarded staff members birthday leave (permitting them to take a paid day-off on or near their birthday) and approved Easter Monday as a paid holiday (church offices closed).
- We celebrated **Church Pastor and Staff Appreciation Month** in October with notes and prayers of gratitude, along with a staff lunch provided by the Personnel Committee.
- We launched a search – and **brought on board** – **Rev. Eric Dorville** as a Transitional Associate Pastor for Spiritual Growth.



Staff enjoy a lunch from the personnel committee to celebrate staff appreciation month in October.



Chancel Choir sing at JFK's Presidential Library



Our Worship Collective before their Christmas concert



Our Cherub & Children's Choir at their Christmas concert



Acoustical treatment installed on the Sanctuary wall in November.

WORSHIP & MUSIC

Staff: Jon Frost, Tim Evers & Kirsten Santos Rutschman

Questions? Tim Evers, *Director of Music Ministries*, tevers@westminsterpc.org
Jon Frost, *Associate Pastor of Worship*, jfrost@westminsterpc.org

- **Re-established a Worship and Arts Committee** which conducted a survey regarding Sunday morning worship that received over 400 responses. We learned valuable information from the respondents and are excited to implement changes which seek to address the issues raised in the survey.
- **Hosted two outside group concerts as the culminating event of a weekend workshop:** Tromba Mundi conducted with the Wells School of Music, West Chester University and the Philadelphia Handbell Ensemble, directed by Ron Bellamy.
- **Implemented phases 1 and 2 of a sound system upgrade.** Improvements were made to the amp rack which powers the system and acoustic paneling was installed to improve clarity of the sound in the sanctuary.
- **Held five combined worship services** for the following occasions: Annual Meeting Sunday, Pastor Jennie Clark's retirement, Festival of Psalms for the Journey of Faith, All Saints Sunday & the Sunday after Christmas.
- Our Chancel Choir augmented with guest concert singers performed the **Verdi Requiem**.
- **First Chancel Choir tour since the pandemic** traveled to Boston in June and performed at the JFK Presidential Library and Old South Church.
- **Hosted our first Children's Choir Music Camp** in late August. Youth and Adult volunteers provided support for the week which culminated with a concert.
- **Our Cherub Choir (K-1) resumed** this fall after a hiatus of several years.
- **Held evening Vespers services** throughout the year including our annual Blessing of the Animals in October.
- **Celebrated the 50th Anniversary of Organ concert** (1974 installation in the previous building).
- **Began phase one of maintenance work on the organ.**
- The Chancel Choir and guest Concert Singers **presented four Christmas Concerts** using the theme *Illumine our Hearts*.
- The Worship Collective, led by Pastor Jon Frost, held their **first Christmas concert**. It was a tremendous collaborative effort and we can't wait for next year!
- The week before Christmas, **the Cherub & Children's Choir presented a Christmas Concert** and the Youth Choir performed at Maris Grove.
- **Our 9 pm Christmas Eve service returned after four years** with choir and brass and beautiful luminaries around the front entrance.
- **Developed a funding model for Music at Westminster** to help us continue to build and expand the musical offerings throughout the year.



Deacons prepare for our annual peach festival

DEACONS

2024 Officers: Joanne Ebert, *Moderator* Paul Zamrowski, *Vice Moderator* • **Staff:** Ann Hatfield
Questions? Paul Zamrowski, zamrowski@aol.com

- The deacons **served fellowship and food** at the Pancake/Sausage Dinner, Strawberry Festival, Peach Festival and Contemporary Worship Receptions.
- **Expanded Home Communion** supporting Rev. Young at Wellington Hershey Mills and Arbor Terrace Willistown. This is a thriving ministry.
- **Relaunched the quarterly Potluck dinners** before our monthly meeting. Very successful hour of fun and fellowship.
- **Church leadership were invited to monthly meetings** throughout the year to discuss opportunities for congregation to participate in various activities i.e. youth and children’s choirs, bells, preschool, emergency responsibilities for ushers.

Screen shot of the Home Team’s website



Deacons pray before departing to serve extended communion

HOME TEAM

Elders: Tom Russell • **Staff:** Leah Hrachovec • **Questions?** Ruth Simonson, *Co-Chair*, sgsimonson@aol.com

- Burt Rothenberger and Ruth Simonson represented Westminster’s Home Team at a **Housing Forum convened by the Chester County Planning Commission** in October 2024. We were the only faith community represented among a wide variety of organizations actively engaged in solving our housing affordability crisis.
- Westminster’s Home Team was **invited to an appreciation event** by the Chester County Partnership to End Homelessness.
- **Helped to create a website**, sites.google.com/view/attainable-housing-advocacy, designed to raise awareness of the needs for attainable housing to maintain local workers for schools, restaurants, hospitals, police departments, etc. It includes a video, developed with the help of a summer intern funded by an Endowment Fund grant, which is being distributed to viewers and readers throughout Chester County by partner organizations and other interested groups. Habitat for Humanity of Chester County also distributed the website as they continue to spread awareness themselves of the need for ongoing support in the housing sphere in Chester County.

OUTREACH

Elders: Angela Emrich, Cathryn Schenk, & Lauren Smith

Staff: Ann Hatfield

Questions? Angela Emrich, *Co Chair*, ang.emrich@gmail.com

- **Welcomed four mission coworkers:** Rev. Doug Tilton (Southern Africa), Rev. Dori Hjalmarson and Juan Rodas (Honduras), and Rev. Cathy Chang and her family (Philippines) joined us in worship and were hosted by Westminster. In addition, we provided financial support of their work with a \$1,500 honorarium to Presbyterian mission coworkers.
- Collected 15,000 diapers and 25,000 wipes for our **Diaper Drive** that were distributed to eight agencies in Chester County.
- Outreach members participated in **Camp SPARK** by providing all participants the opportunity to serve their community. Projects included sorting backpack supplies, assembling unsheltered kits and making bagged lunches for the Vine Ministry.
- Supported Bridge of Hope by providing **10 Home Handyman Baskets**. Each basket provided household goods (such as laundry baskets, hammers and batteries) to families moving from homelessness to apartments.
- **Funds distributed to the Housing Partnership of Chester County - Winter Fuel Assistance Program** provided heating oil to 13 families in Chester County so they can stay warm in the cold winter months.



Angela drops off a collection of diapers and wipes to Prepared to Thrive.



During Camp SPARK, these campers packed 30 backpacks for children with The Bridge Academy in Coatesville.



Troop 93 goes to summer camp



Troop 93 on Boy Scout Sunday

BOY SCOUT TROOP 93

Scoutmaster: Mark Pontzer

Questions? Mark Pontzer, markpontzer@gmail.com

Troop 93 continues to grow and thrive with the support from Westminster Presbyterian Church. A few of our highlights from this past year:

- **Happy 20th Anniversary!** On March 1, 2024, we celebrated our 20th anniversary. Thank you to all the encouragement and support throughout the years.
- **Advancement!** Five boys achieved Eagle Scout, and 11 boys reached Life Scout on their way to Eagle.
- **Philmont!** 16 Scouts and 10 leaders headed west to Cimarron, New Mexico and the southern Rocky Mountains. There the scouts broke into three crews and forged their way through the Rockies, camping and hiking along the way.



Thrift Shop Board volunteers at their 35th anniversary luncheon.

THRIFT SHOP

Address: 543-545 East Gay, West Chester, PA 19382 • **Telephone:** 610.692.9298

Thrift Shop Manager: Karen Koepke • **Questions?** Karen Koepke, thriftshop@westminsterpc.org

- The Westminster Thrift Shop **celebrated 35 years in business.** As part of that celebration we gave \$35,000 to the Thrift Shop Mission Fund. Outreach has designated those funds to these local ministries.
 - \$5,000 each to The Community Warehouse, Community Volunteers in Medicine (CVIM), Act in Faith, The W.C. Food Cupboard, The W.C. Senior Center, and Kennett Area Community Services (KACS).
 - \$2,500 each to The Domestic Violence Center and The Melton Center.
- Shoppers will see an updated list of where the shop profits are donated, as they shop.
- **Continuing in business is still our goal:** To provide a place to recycle/reuse goods, to be a caring presence in our community, and to financially support Westminster’s outreach. To do that we need the continued support of our congregation.

STEPHEN MINISTRY

Leadership Team: Susan Hunter, Susan Morris, Mary Anna Reimann, and Wayne Robertshaw

Staff: Ann Hatfield • **Questions?** Ann Hatfield
ahatfield@westminsterpc.org • 610.399.3377 ext. 114

- **Stephen Ministers are the “silent angels” of Westminster,** who work behind the scenes, caring for church members on a totally confidential basis. They provide emotional support and spiritual encouragement on a one-to-one basis for members going through any type of personal crisis or concern.
- In 2024 we celebrated our **30th year of continuous Stephen Ministry at Westminster!** This milestone achievement was recognized by founder Dr. Kenneth Haug at the organization’s headquarters in St. Louis.
- From January to June, we provided six months of intensive training to a new group of **10 Stephen Ministers.** This included seven members of Westminster, two members of First Pres., and one member of St. Davids in Wayne.
- We now have a total of 16 Stephen Ministers to assist our clergy in caring for those hurting in our congregation. **We have ample resources to help everyone, even those who feel that others might be in greater need of assistance.**



Our new Stephen Ministers during their six month training

WESTMINSTER LIBRARY

Questions? Phyllis Simmons, *Chair*, simmphyl@msn.com

- This past year, the library started a theme of the month to display books and DVDs in our collection.
- The library added 226 items that brought the total number of books and multimedia resources to 4,429. There were 300 books deleted due to age or multiple copies. These books were given to thrift stores and little libraries throughout the community.

TRUSTEES

Staff: Sandy Kurek & Gerry McShane

Questions? Roger Deacon, *President*, rogersdeacon@aol.com

- **General Fund:** Thanks to your generosity and support, we ended 2024 in much better shape than originally budgeted. We finished the year with a surplus of \$33,503, a welcome result as we expected a loss of \$121,001. We want to express our deep gratitude to those of you who fulfilled your pledges, which were better than budget, as well as all who made unpledged donations. Additional thanks goes to the WPC staff who help keep costs under control.
- **Property Reserve:** Property Reserve expenditures in 2024 amounted to \$185,379, compared to the budget of \$251,000. The largest investment was the replacement of the aged Spellman & portico roof. We also continued to invest in our HVAC system, replaced carpeting in our administration offices, refurbished our music offices and invested in sanctuary doors with a new door security system. The 2025 Budget for Property Reserve expenditures is \$268,000.
- **Financial Review:** Rainer & Company completed an agreed upon procedures review of our Accounting and Finance Functions during 2024. There were no significant findings and minor findings have been reviewed and addressed by the Church staff. Rainer has been engaged in 2024 to complete additional agreed upon procedures, which includes a review of prior findings. This review began in December 2024 and will be completed in the first quarter 2025.
- **Budget for 2025:** Trustees secured Session approval of the budget of \$2,509,096, an increase of 6.4% compared to the 2024 results. The identified giving budget of \$2,210,000 represents a 6.8% increase over 2024 actual results and is based on increased pledge dollars primarily as a result of the success of Consecration Sunday in October. Increased spending is primarily the result of higher personnel costs, continued investment in adult and youth spiritual growth programs, inflationary pressures on property costs and an increased transfer to the Church's property reserve. Additionally, there will be increased outreach expenditures, which is budgeted at 10% of identified giving.



One of four digital signs around our building

MEMORIAL FUND

Staff: Sandy Kurek

Questions? Carol Olver, *Chair*, ccolver@comcast.net

The Memorial Fund's purpose is to provide funding for tangible and long lasting fixtures that enhance both the physical surroundings and mission of Westminster. The Committee meets during the year to review the Fund balance and to discuss opportunities for use of the funds.

2024 Highlights:

- Received 10 contributions to the Fund totaling \$2,823.97.
- Funded three projects:
 - Pay It Forward Project \$525
 - Memorial Garden Tree \$125
 - Digital signs around Westminster \$10,000

Beginning 2024 Balance	\$27,650
Contributions to the Fund	\$2,823
Disbursements	\$10,650
Ending 2024 Balance	\$19,824

Property Reserve

Major Actions

Spellman & Portico Roof	70,475
HVAC Controls	23,800
Refurbish Music Office/Library	22,000
Carpeting - Admin Offices	21,827
Sanctuary Doors	15,000
Door Security System	11,092

STEWARDSHIP DEVELOPMENT

Elders: Lauren Coffey & Rob Necarsulmer • **Staff:** Leah Hrachovec & Sandy Kurek

Questions? Roger Mecouch, *Co-Chair*, rmecouch@gmail.com, Rob Necarsulmer, *Co-Chair*, robnecar@gmail.com

- **2024 giving exceeded budget expectations!**
- We adopted the **Consecration Sunday** model which is a more spiritually-based approach to stewardship. Westminster responded extremely generously to the question *‘What is God calling me to do?’*
- The **Legacy Planning Task Force** developed a program and a series of materials to support legacy giving. Importantly, the focus for these efforts extends well beyond Westminster; estate and other long term planning is critical for families, even if Westminster does not benefit from any decisions made from this discernment.

ENDOWMENT FUND

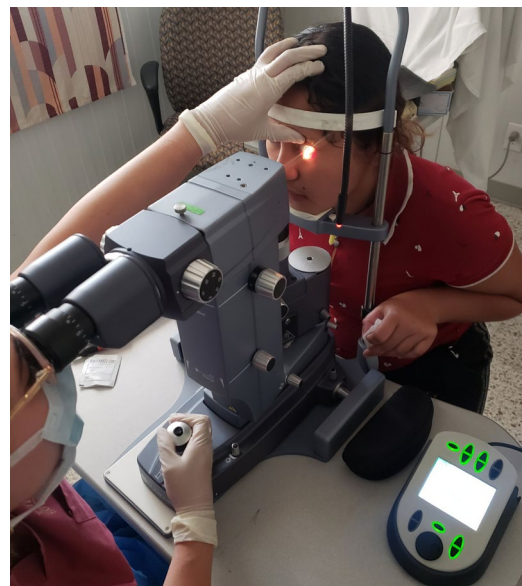
2024 Endowment Fund Leadership: Alison Wood, *President*; Amanda Lawn, *Vice-President*, John Himes, *Treasurer* & Liz Rollet, *Secretary*

Staff: Gerry McShane & Sandy Kurek

Questions? Allison Wood, sunset10808@gmail.com

2025 Grant Deadlines: Feb. 7, April 4, June 6, Sept. 5 & Nov. 7

- **Grant Making:** We received 12 proposals and approved all. One was subsequently withdrawn by the applicant and one was later returned by the applicant. The total granted in 2024 was \$82,415. We strongly encourage Westminster members to submit funding applications for priorities consistent with the work and ministry of the congregation.
- **Growth:** Received gifts of \$61,897 from members for the Donald D. Lincoln Westminster Fund, the fund established as a restricted fund which is now large enough to provide annual support for priorities selected by the Session and Trustees. The first payment from this fund will be made in 2025. Additionally, we received a gift of \$44,547 from the trust of a deceased member. We are grateful for all Westminster members who include the Endowment Fund in their estate plans and encourage anyone considering such a gift to talk with us about your objectives and how we can best meet them.
- **Fiscal Stewardship:** The Board continues to closely monitor our investment and spending policies, as well as market performance. We are confident our investment policy is sound – and the portfolio is stable, given market conditions.



The Endowment Fund gave money to purchase a new machine used in cataract surgery for Serving at the Crossroads.

2024 Endowment Fund Operating Summary

Description	2022	2023	2024
Revenue Income	31,211	29,562	30,983
Gifts	41,888	84,849	70,991
Grants Approved	116,224	78,241	82,415
Grants Paid	111,522	97,192	47,067
Grants Returned	3,242	3,943	6,572
Fund Values			
Internally Managed	1,176,782	1,340,485	1,429,302
Beneficial Interests in Trusts	615,256	672,233	708,474
Total Fund Value	\$1,792,038	\$2,025,082	\$2,137,776

GENERAL FUND OPERATING REPORT

Description	2023 Budget	2023 Actual	2024 Budget	2024 Actual	2025 Budget
Revenue					
Offering	1,906,796	1,981,443	1,920,600	2,069,736	2,210,000
Music Offering	35,000	23,343	22,000	35,507	45,000
Offering Plate/Sunday School	17,000	35,044	35,000	22,933	21,500
Per Capita Revenue	24,000	24,572	25,000	19,414	22,000
Initial Offering	2,100	1,556	1,600	460	600
Special Offering	48,000	41,664	48,000	42,703	48,000
Spiritual Growth Collections	12,000	4,277	19,071	25,205	30,260
Worship & Arts Collections	7,000	14,911	7,500	4,404	5,500
Congregational Life Collections	2,500	3,168	3,800	2,524	2,500
Youth Collections	5,300	605	5,300	2,350	5,300
Outreach Collections	12,000	19,709	5,000	5,929	3,500
Endowment Fund	1,200	1,200	1,200	1,200	--
Preschool Custodian Reimbursement	13,000	16,718	19,500	11,478	2,500
Preschool Property Reimbursement	30,000	30,000	35,000	35,000	40,000
Preschool Surplus	5,000	25,745	10,000	--	10,000
Investment Income	8,000	7,297	40,000	49,930	30,000
Truist CDs change in MV	--	(105)	--	313	--
Use of Building	14,000	12,680	16,000	21,320	18,000
Bequests: Income Distributions	2,050	2,157	2,200	2,253	2,275
Other Revenue	26,000	7,922	6,000	5,936	5,300
Capital Revenue	--	--	120,002	--	--
Total Revenue:	\$2,170,946	\$2,253,904	\$2,342,772	\$2,358,595	\$2,509,096
Expense Summary					
Spiritual Growth & Development	38,225	15,991	38,521	35,281	51,410
Worship and Arts	56,400	93,854	71,300	71,788	76,800
Congregational Life	26,410	30,983	21,845	17,941	18,420
Youth and Young Adults	17,500	9,255	17,500	11,667	17,500
Outreach	244,959	258,317	245,060	255,905	272,500
Personnel	1,397,063	1,307,669	1,404,306	1,377,955	1,478,906
Property	224,978	219,318	254,394	255,383	268,900
Financial Commitments	125,000	150,000	125,000	125,000	150,000
Administration	172,717	167,813	164,846	174,170	174,660
Total Expense:	\$2,303,252	\$2,253,200	\$2,342,772	2,325,091	2,509,096
Net Revenue Over Expenses:	(\$184,510)	\$704	0	\$33,504	0

Copies of the complete budget are available in the office upon request.

THE YEAR IN PICTURES



39 men attended our men's retreat.



We introduce children to music at Westminster with our first music camp in August.



Over 80 women attended our women's retreat.



We introduced and dedicated new paraments.



Celebrated the 50th anniversary of our organ with a concert.



Over 300 people packed almost 100,000 meals for Rise Against Hunger in 2024.



Confirmands began their journey in October with their mentors and the pastors.



We launched Camp SPARK, a worship, arts and recreation camp for kids in June. The cover photo was also taken at Camp SPARK.