

**Annual Meeting of the Congregation  
and Annual Report for 2024  
February 9, 2025**



**Our Mission Statement**

We glorify Christ by being and making disciples who share God's love,  
Seek His truth, and serve His world.

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**First Presbyterian Church of Dearborn  
Annual Congregational Meeting Agenda**

**February 9, 2025**

Call to Order and Opening Prayer

Establish Quorum and Appoint Secretary

Report of the Clerk of Session

Roll of the Church Triumphant

Action Items

- Election of Officers and Nominating Committee “at large” members
- Presentation of the Pastor’s Terms of Call

Report of the Senior Pastor

Report of Session Committees

Report of Board of Deacons

Meeting of the Corporation

Report of the Treasurer

Other Business

Adjourn with Prayer

## SENIOR PASTOR'S REPORT

I began my ministry at First Presbyterian Church in late May 2024. The congregation welcomed me warmly and I could see right away that the Pastor Nominating Committee was correct in their judgment that we would be a good match for each other. By the end of 2024, I had been at the Church for seven months, still delighted with my new call and with the staff and members of FPCD.

Though I had previously served as Head of Staff at a mid-sized (500-member) congregation in Virginia, I had been serving for the last eleven years in very small churches with tiny staffs. So, coming to FPCD with an opening for an Office Administrator and, very soon after, an opening for a Music Director, was an abrupt change. As one lay leader put it, it was a "baptism by fire." Quite a lot of my time and energy, along with the time and energy of a very faithful Personnel Committee, were spent filling those positions. I am thrilled and deeply gratified with the results (the additions of Office Administrator Tameria Metiva and Music Director David Stultz). We ended 2024, in my judgment, with a lot of good energy and optimism among the staff, though we were missing (and still miss) custodian Wendy Palmer in her time of illness and treatment. I am grateful to Wendy and to her son, Jamie Palmer, for "teaming up" to provide for our custodial needs.

Chris Mayer has been fantastic in her coordination of care for the church, and I have found her work to be a great benefit to my own pastoral care work. Often, I rely on her for knowledge of how individuals are doing in times of illness and/or crisis, and she is almost always the first person to make contact when a need arises.

One of my great loves is teaching, and that is one of the reasons I remained delighted with my call to FPCD, because I sense a curiosity and interest in learning here that exceeds anything in my previous pastoral experiences. I took the opportunity to offer a six-week class in the Fall on Israel in Scripture and Christian tradition. It was very well attended, though I'm sure some were disappointed that I was not able to offer a resolution to the Israel-Palestine conflict! Going forward, I plan to offer two or three short classes each year. So, if you have something you would like to learn about, please let me know! Also, in the Fall, I invited a friend and former presbytery colleague, the Rev. Dr. Jeff Schooley, to speak on a Monday evening about his church's experience at the U.S.-Mexico border learning about the process of seeking asylum in the United States. Working with the Christian Education committee, we decided to try and plan (roughly) quarterly events like the one with Dr. Schooley, addressing a range of topics pertinent to Christian discipleship in the contemporary world.

In the Fall, I resumed a preaching practice begun a few years ago of following what's called the "Narrative Lectionary." Each program year, beginning in the Fall and ending around Pentecost, the NL takes us through the whole story of Scripture, beginning with Genesis and taking us through the New Testament Epistles. I plan to continue this in 2025, following the Gospel of Luke in the Winter and Spring and beginning a new cycle in the Fall. I consider preaching and worship leadership the heart of my ministry, and I'm very grateful for your encouragement as your weekly preacher.

After a wonderful first few months, I look forward in 2025 to continuing to develop the staff, working with our Music Director, David Stultz, toward excellence in Sunday morning worship as well as new services with a more contemplative orientation. My vision for ministry here continues to revolve around worship, biblical and theological teaching, and mission and ministry with our neighbors, near and far. Yes, we are living in challenging times and we are located in a context in which outreach is not easy. But we have a great opportunity for witness right here on North Brady, and I see God's grace working powerfully here.

**Tom James**  
**Senior Pastor**

**The First Presbyterian Church of Dearborn  
CALLED ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING – MINUTES**

**Sunday, February 11, 2024**

The called annual meeting of the congregation of The First Presbyterian Church of Dearborn convened on Sunday, February 11, 2024 at 11:10am in the sanctuary immediately following morning worship. The meeting was called to order and opened with prayer by Rev. Donald A. Wright. The clerk, Jim Barber, attested to a quorum.

**Clerk of Session Reports**

**Minutes submitted**

Jim Barber noted two (2) sets of minutes included in the Annual Report package. Included are the 2-12-2023 Called Annual Congregational Meeting minutes and the 7-25-2023 Special Congregational Meeting minutes where we elected church officers.

**ACTION:** Call for a MOTION to approve the minutes as submitted.

MOVED by Sue Smith, seconded by Carole Higgins.

**APPROVED**

**Necrology Report**

Jim Barber noted that for the year 2023, we had no gains, 18 losses {comprised of 4 certificates of transfer, and 14 deaths, and a correcting increase in our membership for three (3) non-member deaths that were incorrectly subtracted from our membership count} resulting in active membership as of January 1, 2024 of **317**.

**Roll of the Church Triumphant**

Pastor Don acknowledged those who had passed to the Roll of the Church Triumphant during 2023:

Marshall Dicks, Mary Ellen Mitchell, John Matthews, Margaret Aiello, Mike Hoffman  
James Shearer, Robert Dare, Louis Orcutt, Mary Ann Bassett, Doris Matthews,  
Bill Kennedy, Richard Armstrong, Sue Bosze, and Jim Doyle

**Action Items**

**Approval of By-laws**

Janet Witkowski referenced the proposed revised by-laws which have been available for the last several weeks in the narthex for the congregation's review. The by-laws have been updated to reflect current practice, to bring them up to date with changes to the Book of Order, and to clean-up inconsistent capitalization and style items from section to section.

**ACTION:** MOTION to approve the revised by-laws.

**APPROVED**

### **Election of Nominating Committee “at large” members**

Karen Fink, Nominating Chair, presented the nominations for “AT LARGE” members for the Nominating Committee:

**Rebecca Scott    Andrew Mayer    Jan Smith**

Pastor Don asked for nominations for “at large” members from the floor; none were forthcoming.

**ACTION:** MOTION to close nominations.

**APPROVED**

Pastor Don called for a vote to approve nominees as presented.

**ACTION:** MOTION to approve the nominees as presented.

**APPROVED**

The Nominating Committee is thus comprised of:

Karen Fink (chair), Andrew Mayer, Charleen Reid, Rebecca Scott, Jan Smith, and Dave Young.

### **Election of Class of 2027 officers.**

Karen Fink presented nominees for **Elder** for the class of 2027:

Janet Witkowski (returning), Karen Fink (returning), Joel Dehamer, Alissa Hoffman

Pastor Don asked for nominations for Elder from the floor; none were forthcoming.

**ACTION:** MOTION to close nominations.

**APPROVED**

Pastor Don called for a vote to approve nominees as presented.

**ACTION:** MOTION to approve the nominees as presented.

**APPROVED**

Karen Fink, Nominating Committee chair, presented nominees for Deacon for the class of 2027:

**Nancy Barber (returning), Lynn Campbell (returning), Dottie Kennedy, and Sallie Prey**

Pastor Don asked for nominations for Deacon from the floor; none were forthcoming.

**ACTION:** MOTION to close nominations.

**APPROVED**

Pastor Don called for a vote to approve nominees as presented.

**ACTION:** MOTION to approve the nominees as presented.

**APPROVED**

## **Session Committees Reports**

Pastor Don offered the opportunity for discussion of written reports of committees, groups, and staff as submitted.

(There were no comments from the congregation.)

### **Fin. Summary and 2024 Approved Budget**

Cathy Stormzand gave an overview of our financial condition and presented the approved 2024 budget.

### **Pastor Nominating Committee (PNC)**

Cathy Stormzand gave an overview of the PNC process. Currently the PNC has four (4) candidates in Discernment, which means the candidate either applied for the role of senior pastor, or accepted our invitation to apply. All four candidates have had at least one interview with the PNC, including meeting a few of them in person.

### **Recess for Corporation Meeting**

**ACTION:** MOTION to recess the Congregational Meeting for the purpose of holding the Corporation Meeting.

**APPROVED**

Janet Witkowski, Corporation President, called the meeting to order, then stated that the sole item of business for the annual meeting of the corporation is to report that on January 16, 2024, the Session elected the following officers for the coming year:

**Janet Witkowski, President**

**Joel DeHamer, Vice-President**

**Cathy Stormzand, Treasurer**

**Jim Barber, Secretary and Registered Agent**

Janet called for a motion to adjourn the meeting of the corporation.

**ACTION:** Motion to adjourn.

**APPROVED**

### **Resumption of Congregational Meeting**

Pastor Don called for any other business.

Having heard none, he called for adjournment.

**ADJOURNMENT**

**ACTION:** Motion was made to adjourn.

**APPROVED**

The meeting was closed with prayer by Rev. Don Wright. The meeting adjourned at 11:32am.

**Respectfully submitted, Jim Barber**



**First Presbyterian Church of Dearborn**  
**Called Congregational Meeting ~ Minutes**  
Sunday, April 21, 2024

A quorum having been confirmed, the called congregational meeting of the First Presbyterian Church of Dearborn convened on Sunday, April 21, 2024 at 12:15 pm in the sanctuary for the purpose of electing a new Senior Pastor. The meeting was called to order and opened with prayer by Rev. Tim Marvil from Allen Park Presbyterian Church.

Pastor Tim called on Cathy Stormzand and Kim Doverspike, PNC Co-chairs, who stated that the Pastor Nominating Committee (PNC) has a candidate, The Reverend Tom James, to present as our new Senior Pastor.

(PNC representatives escorted Pastor Tom and his family from the sanctuary.)

Cathy presented the Terms of Call, including a starting date of 5/28/2024.

**ACTION:** Cathy Stormzand moved that we extend the call to Rev. Tom James with the terms circulated.

APPROVED

Pastor Tim asked if there were any questions for the PNC. Several were forthcoming:

Q1 How does the proposed salary compare with other Terms of Call in the Presbytery?

**Answer: The call is “average” and in line with other pastors with similar experience.**

Q2: Does the pastor intend to move closer to the church?

**Answer: Pastor Tom intends to relocate so that he and his wife can both be closer to their respective jobs.**

Q3: Are the Terms of Call an annual contract?

**Answer: Yes. The Terms of Call are reviewed annually and adjusted appropriately.**

**A called and installed pastor, however, continues the call in perpetuity.**

There being no further questions the discussion was closed.

**ACTION:** MOTION to call for a written ballot vote on extending the call.

APPROVED

(Ballots were distributed for a secret vote, then collected, and tallied by PNC members.)

The moderator announced the results and the candidate was invited to return to the sanctuary.

(Vote results: 85 in the affirmative; -0- in the negative.)

The congregation welcomed our new pastor and the moderator invited the candidate to address the congregation.

After a few words, Pastor Tom James gave the closing prayer.

**ACTION:** MOTION to adjourn.

APPROVED

The meeting adjourned at 12:30 pm.

Respectfully submitted, Jim Barber Minutes Called Congregational Meeting 4-21-24.doc

**The First Presbyterian Church of Dearborn  
CALLED CONGREGATIONAL MEETING – MINUTES**

Sunday, June 9, 2024

The called congregation of The First Presbyterian Church of Dearborn convened on Sunday, June 9, 2023 at 11:12am in the sanctuary immediately following morning worship for the purpose of electing two (2) deacons. The meeting was called to order and opened with prayer by Rev. Tom James. The clerk, Jim Barber, attested to a quorum.

Pastor Tom called on Karen Fink, chair of the Nominating Committee, who presented Karen Fuller and JoAnn Issacson as candidates for election to the Board of Deacons.

Pastor Tom asked for nominations for Deacon from the floor; none were forthcoming.

**ACTION:** MOTION to close nominations.

APPROVED

Pastor Tom called for a vote to approve nominees as presented.

**ACTION:** MOTION to approve the nominees as presented.

APPROVED

ADJOURNMENT

**ACTION:** Motion was made to adjourn.

APPROVED

The meeting was closed with prayer by Rev. Tom James. The meeting adjourned at 11:15am.

**Roll of the Church Triumphant – 2024**

“I am the resurrection and the life. Those who believe in me, even though they die, will live, and everyone who lives and believes in me will never die.” John 11:25-26

We celebrate the life and ministry of those who passed on to the Church Triumphant:

<b><u>Member</u></b>	<b><u>Date of Death</u></b>
Connie Tate	January 20, 2024
Karl Aronson	May 7, 2024
Peg Mitchell	June 28, 2024
Scott Seashore	December 2, 2024

**THE FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF DEARBORN  
MEMBERSHIP REPORT AS OF DECEMBER 31, 2024**

THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION INDICATES THE CONDITION OF MEMBERSHIP IN OUR CHURCH AS OF DECEMBER 31, 2024:

**ACTIVE MEMBERSHIP AS OF JANUARY 1, 2024:** 317

**GAINS:**

By Profession of Faith, Reaffirmation, Restoration

A. 17 and under 0

B. 18 and over 0

Certificate (transferred in) 1

Restored to Active 0

**TOTAL GAINS 1**

**LOSSES:**

Certificate (transferred out) 3

Death 3

Made Inactive 0

All Other Losses (removed from the rolls) 0

**TOTAL LOSSES 6**

**TOTAL ACTIVE MEMBERSHIP AS OF DECEMBER 31, 2024:** 312

Baptisms:

Adults – 0

Children – 1

Annual Membership Report for 2024.doc 1-9-2

## Session Committees Reports

### Christian Education Annual Report – 2024

With nearly five years passing since the height of the Covid epidemic and with the hiring of a full-time pastor, there had been hope and anticipation that more people would participate in church activities. So far, this has not been the case. There are individuals that still desire to stay out of large group situations or have chosen to make use of online viewing of worship. In doing so, they miss Adult Sunday School programs and may miss the many other committee opportunities discussed in worship or written in a bulletin. The committee has recognized communication to be a key and has done much in the past year to make certain all church members receive information on key events.

Fortunately, we have a very social and God focused membership and the importance of church activities on spiritual growth, health, happiness, and welfare of the congregation continues to be impacting. To that end, the committee has strived to maintain and introduce exciting and meaningful events to help the church members and friends grow in their faith.

Our Nursery volunteers continue to host weekly newborns and toddlers. This allows parents of children to be a part of the sanctuary service and fellowship with attendees.

We continued the Summer Program “Holy COW” (Carry-Out-Wednesday) that was begun in 2022. This is an event where families bring their own meals to the church, dine with others, enjoy dessert prepared by the CE Committee and interact in Christ-centered activities. Because it continues to be well received and well attended, we are working on a program for the summer of 2025.

Of note:

In 2022 we paused Sunday School education for high school aged students, due to several high school students being enrolled in parochial high schools and receiving their Christian education on a daily basis. We have continued this pause due to a minimal number of high school aged children at the church. We continue to operate Youth Group activities for that age group and have included Middle Schoolers.

I now present to you the following actions of the 2024 Christian Education Committee.

Sunday morning classes were taught by:

Adults: Shereen Lind

Children’s Church: Members of the CE Committee

Nursery: Pam Dickieson, Rachel Nikolajevs, Kim and Ivan Doverspike, Shereen Lind, Laura Thormann, Emily and Barrett Kaltz, Lynette and Bob Carlson, and Jan Smith.

Confirmation Class (2023/2024 sabbatical) : Previously taught by Jim Dickieson and Sue Young

Youth Group (Sunday afternoons): A joint effort by all members of the Education Committee

**Adult Sunday Morning Bible Study/Education Classes** – Shereen Lind facilitated two classes in 2024. The first was a session based on the book and DVD, “No Greater Love”. This class was a perfect lead-in to the Lenten Season. It was a biblical pilgrimage that reveals Christ’s amazing love for us. The author guides the class through the last hours of Christ’s life. We walked step-by-step with Jesus from the Garden of Gethsemane to the Mount of Calvary. Every step of the way, Old Testament prophecies, messianic expectations, biblical symbolism, and historical context shed light on the mystery of Christ’s suffering and death. The second class was a nostalgic look at Contemporary Christian Music of the 1990’s. The class followed the book “Mixtape Theology” and takes fans of 90s Contemporary Christian Music (CCM) to another time, and another place to dive into the biblical passages and messages behind their favorite 90s Christian music.

For the Spring and Fall of 2025, several ideas are being considered and will be decided by the class participants in February. The ideas include the titles: “Unoffendable”, which will challenge the cultural norm of holding onto anger and offense. The author argues with humor, honesty, and biblical insight that Christians can actually choose to let go of their anger and live with grace and forgiveness, embodying a true Christ-like attitude. Also under consideration is a study using the book, “When Your Way Isn’t Working”. This class will help participants find purpose and contentment through a deep connection with Jesus.

Finally, a Sub-Committee, related to Outreach and Mission, has been formed to consider how we as a church want to embrace The Matthew 25 Initiative. Each committee will be asked how they can support the three pillars of the initiative (\*Building Congregational Vitality, \*Dismantling Structural Racism, \*Eradicating Systemic Poverty).

**Confirmation Class** – Several years ago, we began administering Confirmation Class every other year. Hence, 2023 was an off year. Unfortunately, due to the lack of Middle School aged children, 2024 was also cancelled. Past classes included students in the 7 th and 8 th grade. However, based upon feedback we have received from adult congregation members, we are considering opening up Confirmation Class to all congregants if and when classes resume in the fall of 2024. There has also been some discussion about combining Confirmation efforts with Cherry Hill Presbyterian Church.

**Children’s Church** - For Children’s Church, we have begun a new curriculum called Awesome Adventures. This curriculum is packed with kid-friendly lessons and activities that encourage children to explore Old and New Testament stories of God’s people in the Bible learning to follow God no matter where they were. Beginning in February, we are going to explore a second curriculum titled, “Growing in Peace and Gratitude”. Each session contains age-appropriate opportunities for responses of gratitude through claiming, celebrating, praying, and offering. The goal is to determine if one curriculum resonates more with the children. Different committee members teach each week.

**Youth Group** – With the annual change in youth comes change in youth desires. The past several years saw an active youth group with a good-sized core group. The 2023/2024 group chose a format that would meet monthly. In order to meet the needs of the current youth, we have included interested High Schoolers and opened up the group to Middle Schoolers. All members of the CE Committee have been matched in pairs and rotate on a monthly basis to facilitate activities.

**Church Library** – Rebecca and Jim Scott had taken on this role of Church Librarians. They were diligent in logging all the library inventory. Unfortunately for the church, they have moved to Alabama. Fortunately for the church, they have left a legacy by creating a website where church members can see what we have in the collection. It can be found at: <https://www.librarycat.org/lib/FirstPresDearborn>. All books show that they are available as we do not yet have an online circulation system functioning; resource check-out is still a manual process. We have not yet completed the cataloging process for all library resources and hope to complete that process in the coming year. Finally, digital copies of the Self-Study document have been sent to all members who have requested it. We will continue to look for a new librarian in 2025.

**Book of the Every Other Month Club** - has been meeting without interruption for 35 years to discuss a variety of books, proposed by participants, from a Christian perspective. The 2023-2024 program year, focused on the Matthew 25 Initiatives, concluded with discussions of Mad Honey by Jodi Picoult and Jennifer Finney Boylan, When Church Stops Working by Andrew Root and Blair D. Bertrand, and The New Jim Crow: Mass Incarceration in the Age of Colorblindness by Michelle Alexander.

For the 2024-2025 program year, we began in September with James by Percival Everett, discussed together with The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn by Mark Twain. Our selection for November was Reading Genesis by Marilynne Robinson, and in January we discussed the Heaven and Earth Grocery Store by James McBride. We are reading The Anxious Generation by Jonathon Haidt for our March meeting and will conclude in May with the winner of the 2024 Pulitzer Prize for fiction, Night Watch by Jayne Anne Phillips. We are grateful to former member Wanda Moon, who has moderated our meetings for many years.

We will be selecting next year's books at our May 10 meeting, so if you have a book you would like to read and talk about with friends, please let us know. Suggestions are welcome, and so are additional readers!

Meetings take place the second Saturday of every other month from September through May. If you are not on our e-mail list and would like to be, please e-mail Janet Witkowski at [janwit1978@gmail.com](mailto:janwit1978@gmail.com) . All are welcome!

**Respectfully submitted by James Dickieson, Christian Education Committee**

**Our 2024 committee members:** James Dickieson, Barret Kaltz, Shereen Lind, Elissa Osborne, Laura Thormann, Emily Kaltz, and Anne Witkowski

## **ENDOWMENT FUND REPORT FOR TWELVE MONTHS ENDING SEPTEMBER 30, 2024**

### **PURPOSE OF THE FUND**

To serve as a depository for gifts and bequests to be invested from which the income and a portion of the appreciation will be used to continue, strengthen, expand, and enrich the mission, ministry, and work of The First Presbyterian Church of Dearborn, Michigan in particular and also its related presbytery, synod, boards, agencies, or other programs of the Church.

### **FINANCIAL SUMMARY**

As of September 30, 2024, the Church's Endowment Fund totaled \$3,702,086.00. This amount represents the market value of locally controlled funds, \$3,291,082.00, with an original contribution of \$1,844,352.00. Included in the total Endowment Fund value, the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) Foundation holds an investment account identified as the Murray D. Wilson Memorial Fund carried at the original investment of \$411,004. While the Wilson Fund income is provided to our Church the principal is not under local control. (Note: all numbers rounded to nearest dollar.)

### **FINANCIAL DETAILS**

The information below represents significant portfolio transactions and data for 12 months ending September 30, 2024.

Local Endowment Funds transferred to church operating funds \$131,206.00.

Gifts to Endowment Fund received (10/1/23 through 9/30/24) \$5,375.00.

Locally controlled Funds value above the donors original contributions \$1,446,730.00

Asset Allocation of Portfolio:

Equity funds 61%

Bonds, bond funds, and notes 38%

Cash and money market accounts 1%

The Endowment Fund promises donors that the dollar value of their bequest/gift will be preserved for investment purposes so as to increase the Fund's value and to allow the annual transfer of a portion of the Funds appreciation to the church's operating funds. The initial value of their bequest/gift will not be invaded.

Locally controlled funds are invested through Schwab and the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)

Foundation's New Covenant Funds. The Investment Sub-Committee reviews their performance

quarterly and authorizes changes when and if advisable. For locally controlled funds, the annual

contribution to church operations equals 5-1/2% of average market value at the end of the three prior years, unless such pay-

ments would cause the Funds market value to fall below original contribution resulting in the Sub-Committee authorizing a lower contribution to church operating funds. The Murray D. Wilson Memorial Fund contribution to operations is equal to the income received.

The Investment Sub-Committee thanks all those who have contributed to the Fund since its

inception. Contributions to the Endowment Fund can be made in any amount by outright gift,

memorial gift, bequest, charitable lead or remainder trust, appreciated securities, or the purchase of insurance naming the En-

dowment Fund of The First Presbyterian Church of Dearborn as beneficiary. The continued support of the member-

ship is appreciated, as revenues from the Fund are clearly essential to the maintenance of the church's pro-

grams.

**Respectfully submitted, Gene Smith, Chairperson, Sub-Committee Members: Joel DeHamer, Dan Kutt, and Bob Putnam**

## Finance Committee Annual Report—2024

The Finance Committee meets monthly. In addition, the Finance Committee receives a monthly Treasurer's report in which it reviews and analyzes the monthly financial statements of the church. The Committee's major purpose is to ensure the financial soundness of the church and to assure that adequate funds are available to support the Session's planned programs.

### 2024 Activity

Treasurer reported financial results to Session typically monthly and upon request of the committee.

During the year the committee provided financial updates to the congregation.

In accordance with the endowment's purpose and guidelines, the committee provided over \$130,000 to church operations in 2024.

The Committee met with the endowment fund's advisor, Savant Wealth Management, to review and monitor the performance of the endowment fund. Savant continues to monitor and rebalance the portfolio in accordance with FPCD's investment policy. The church maintains a lower risk portfolio targeting 5-6% annual returns. As of September 30, the portfolio was 61.3% stocks and 37% bonds and had a year to date return of 10.5% net of fees.

Though pledges and offerings remained below pre-COVID levels, FPCD was able to realize a net surplus for 2024 of \$1,644.22 due to a one-time bequest as well as the use of some restricted gifts to cover certain qualified costs.

Session approved transferring this year-end surplus to Maintenance Reserves.

Annually, the Committee has an independent review of the church's insurance coverage and premium rates. The Committee elected to continue the church's insurance coverage with Brotherhood Mutual.

The Committee converted to ACS Realm accounting system in January 2024, which resulted in better alignment with the financial reporting to industry practice.

This upgrade resulted in ongoing monthly savings of approximately \$400.

The Committee recommended to Session that FPCD pay 2024 Per Capita of \$12,098. The Finance Committee thanks those congregants who provided Per Capita gifts of approximately \$1,360 to cover a portion of this cost. The Per Capita for 2025 is \$37.09 per member.

Our congregation remains faithful in its giving. In addition to pledged giving, the congregation gave more than \$18,000 to other programs and missions in 2024. The most significant of those were: Worship and Arts Memorial Fund \$6,230, Diaper Ministry \$2,220, Member Mission Fund (currently supports



Greenman's ministry) \$1,200, Christmas Joy \$1,225, Touch of Hope \$5,300, and One Great Hour of Sharing \$2,440.

The Committee also worked with the other committees to ensure fulfillment and usage of donor restricted gifts including approximately \$30,000 provided to various outreach and mission and ministry support.

A special thanks to Dan Kutt, who after over 50 years of service on various Committees at FPCD, most recently the Finance Committee and Endowment subcommittee, has elected to retire from the committee. Thank you Dan for all your insights and contributions over the years!

## **2025 Goals/Activities**

We ask that the congregation offer their prayers to support our achievement of the following goals:

Partner with Session and other committees to identify funding for future ministries (e.g. Matthew 25, Ministry to the Unaffiliated, etc.)

Monitor on-going costs and revenues. We welcome cost containment and cost reduction ideas from the congregation and will refer them to the appropriate committee and/or staff follow-up

Work with Session and committees to improve the budget process

The Finance Committee consists of the following members:

- Cathy Stormzand, Chair and Treasurer
- Jim Barber
- Joel DeHamer
- Rev. Tom James
- Nancy Setterlun
- Gene Smith
- Charlie Aronson

The Endowment/Investment sub-committees consist of the following members:

- Gene Smith, Chair
- Joel DeHamer
- Bob Puttman

## **2024 Annual Report to Finance- Business Administration**

Administration of our church's business affairs includes oversight of the financial day-to-day operations of FPCD. The financial operations include accounting of contributions, preparation and submission of payroll, vendor payments, entry of these data into our Realm computer system, and monthly financial statement and bank reconciliation preparation.

In addition to ongoing operations, projects completed include the annual pledge campaign, quarterly contribution statements and various financial analysis projects to support management decisions. Also included in the Finance-Business Administration responsibilities is the 2025 annual budget preparation.

We converted to the new ACS Realm accounting system in 2024 which has not only provided monthly savings but also better aligns our financial reporting with current industry practice and offers much appreciated functionality and flexibility. The Business Administrator works closely with Pastor James as well as the Finance Committee. As always, the members' support is appreciated.

THE FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH  
OF DEARBORN

2024 FINANCIAL SUMMARY

OPERATING REVENUE & EXPENSE

PERIOD ENDING DECEMBER 31, 2024

AND 2025 APPROVED BUDGET

INCOME	Y/E	Annual	Variance	%	2025
	Actual	Budget			Budget
Offerings & Pledges	\$303,655.73	\$335,436.00	(\$31,780.27)	(9.5)	\$335,436.00
From Endowment	\$132,761.00	\$132,757.00	\$4.00	0.0	\$134,073.00
Undesignated Bequests	\$25,000.00	\$0.00	\$25,000.00		
All Other	<u>\$99,918.23</u>	<u>\$60,000.00</u>	<u>\$39,918.23</u>	66.5	<u>\$75,000.00</u>
Total Income:	<u>\$561,334.96</u>	<u>\$528,193.00</u>	<u>\$33,141.96</u>	6.3	<u>\$544,509.00</u>
<b>EXPENSE/DISBURSEMENTS:</b>					
Finance Committee	\$81,249.22	\$79,493.00	(\$1,756.22)	(2.2)	\$75,592.00
Property Committee	\$100,157.99	\$92,000.00	(\$8,157.99)	(8.9)	\$96,000.00
Christian Education	\$1,163.30	\$5,100.00	\$3,936.70	77.2	\$6,100.00
Outreach Committee	\$27,461.49	\$27,450.00	(\$11.49)	(0.0)	\$30,450.00
Worship & Arts Committee	\$6,550.13	\$6,600.00	\$49.87	0.8	\$6,600.00
Deacon Committee	\$5,931.95	\$6,900.00	\$968.05	14.0	\$6,900.00
Personnel Committee	<u>\$337,176.66</u>	\$409,321.00	<u>\$72,144.34</u>	17.6	<u>\$436,930.92</u>
Total Expense/Disbursements:	<u>\$559,690.74</u>	<u>\$626,864.00</u>	<u>\$67,173.26</u>	10.7	<u>\$658,572.92</u>
\$ Surplus/(Deficit):	\$1,644.22	(\$98,671.00)			(\$114,063.92)
% Surplus/(Deficit):	0.3%	-18.7%			-20.9%

Note: In 2024 Offerings and Pledges remained below Pre-Covid giving, however, there was a \$25,000 one-time undesignated bequest, better investment performance than budgeted and less Pastor costs at the beginning of the year resulting in a \$1,644.22 surplus. Like prior years, the Finance Committee and Session will monitor income and expenses on a monthly basis and will adjust as necessary to ensure that any net deficit for the year is nominal. The Finance Committee and Session approved transferring this year-end surplus to Maintenance Reserves.

## Outreach and Mission Annual Report - 2024

2024 Members: Jeremy Hughes (Chairperson), Joel DeHamer, Bob Missler, Doug Stormzand, Don Mys, Nancy Barber, and Bill Leslie

The Outreach and Mission Committee (OMC) is pleased to report that the First Presbyterian Church of Dearborn (FPCD) supported the following ministries through the Session-approved budget for a combined total of \$27,450: Alternatives for Girls (\$1,000), Dearborn Pastoral Counseling Center (\$2,000), Presbyterian Village (\$1,000), Ministry of Hope Malawi orphans in the Khawamba Feeding Center (\$2,550), Thailand Mission (\$1,000), World Mission Initiative (\$2,000), Medical Benevolence Foundation (\$2,500), Presbyterian Disaster Assistance (PDA) (\$3,000), Outreach Foundation (\$1,000), Presbyterian Frontier Fellowship (\$500), First Step (\$1,300), Cherry Hill Presbytery Church Food Bank \$2,250, Turk Mission – Madagascar (\$2,000), Second Mile (\$1,800), Starfish (\$1,300), Marion Medical Mission (\$1,500), Detroit Rescue Mission Ministries (\$2,000), and local economic need (\$1,250). (Note: The local economic need funds this year were distributed as follows: \$500 to Dearborn Goodfellows and \$750 to Detroit Rescue Mission Ministries.)

The congregation also gave generously to ministries not included in the Outreach and Mission budget but which, nonetheless, constitute a mission outreach of the church itself. Among them were: Christmas Joy Offering (\$895) the One Great Hour of Sharing (\$2,337), and Touch of Hope (\$4,026). Finally, in addition to providing diapers and baby wipes (see the committee report below), the congregation donated (\$2,220) for the Diaper Ministry. During the past year the committee also organized several mission-related activities that involved the whole congregation.

**1. Cherry Hill Presbyterian Food Bank** – Over a year ago our congregation adopted the food bank at Cherry Hill Presbyterian Church as our “mission partner.” Congregation members have been bringing food and household items to church on Sunday to put in a shopping cart donated by Kroger. . Frequently, the ushers wheel the cart to the front of the sanctuary for the blessing of the food along with the morning donations. This continues to be an important ministry for our church since everyone can participate.

**2. “Souper Bowl” Sunday** – The congregation donated canned goods in competition with St. Paul Lutheran, Good Shepherd Methodist, First United Methodist, and Cherry Hill Presbyterian to see who could donate the most canned goods between January 1 and Superbowl Sunday in February. We didn’t win, but our congregation donated over 1,141 cans!

**3. Cereal Drive for Children's Hospital** –During the month of May our congregation was again in competition with the above-named churches, this time to contribute boxes of cereal to be used to provide breakfast for children during the summer when school breakfast would no longer be available. We donated enough cereal to fill 5 huge cardboard boxes provided by Gleaners.

**4. Food Packaging** – in November the committee hosted an event at our church where more than 40 congregation members joined with volunteers from other churches to package 10,000 meals for distribution to food-challenged countries abroad, pantries and shelters here in the US, and in our local community. Seven hundred and Fifty meals were reserved for our church to distribute in our community. These are being distributed now through the food pantries at Cherry Hill Presbyterian, Good Shepherd Methodist, and Allen Park Presbyterian.

Thank-you to the congregation for the many donations of time, talent, and treasure that are not quantified above but are well known to our Lord.

The following are the subcommittees of the OMC and their liaisons: Lynn Campbell: Singles Outreach and Renewal (SOAR); Kevin Watts/Anne Witkowski: ChristNet; Charlene Reid/Tracie Szczechura: Diaper Ministry.

For 2025, the OMC has submitted a budget to support the same ministries as in 2024, with the addition of \$3,000 to support mission activities in Peru by Billy and Kate Greenman. Kate is a member of our church and was previously assisted by a special bequest, which has since expired. With this addition, the committee's overall budget request for 2025 was \$30,450.

The OMC again plans on continuing to provide opportunities for members of FPCD to directly participate in outreach and mission activities. Please look for these activities in the church bulletin in 2025. Please prayerfully consider enhancing your support of our on-going ministries in the name of Jesus Christ. If you would like to learn more about the OMC, or if you are interested in joining this committee, please contact a committee member listed above.

Following are reports from subcommittees that report to the Outreach and Mission Committee.

### **SOAR (Singles Outreach and Renewal)**

SOAR provides fellowship and connections for spiritual growth and general fun for single adults from a variety of churches and people who are still seeking.

About 6-10 people attend Brunch on the first Sunday of each month. We also host a few other events such as Ice Sculptures in Plymouth, a 4th of July Fireworks party, Summer concerts in the park, and a trip to the Apple orchard with hayride.

Our major outreach was assisting in the preparation and distribution of dinners to about 300 people on Thanksgiving Day. SOAR provided the turkeys, and we used the FPCD ovens to cook them. Volunteers from SOAR served on Thanksgiving Day.

The Monthly Message- Lynn Campbell's weekly blog, reaches about 155 people through email and about a dozen more via personal sharing. Together with 197 followers on Facebook and 1783 people in the Meetup online community, a lot of people who are reached by our Christian messages. Thank you for your support.

**Lynn Campbell, Chair**

### **ChristNet**

Our participation in ChristNet continues to shift from what most people are used to seeing. First Presbyterian Church of Dearborn has now started to provide lunches, every couple of Months, with the help of small group of volunteers. In August and again in December, the group made and bagged 50 lunches, then transported them to the ChristNet Day Center to be distributed the following day. Any leftover food and supplies were donated to ChristNet for them to use at the day center.

For 2025, we plan to continue to provide ChristNet with lunches when we can and help in other ways as God leads us in our continued ministry with ChristNet.

**Kevin Watts and Anne Witkowski**

**FPCD ChristNet Program Co-Coordinator**

### **Diaper Ministry**

The diaper ministry held two fundraisers this past year. We collected 5,192 diapers. Starfish is the main beneficiary of our efforts as well as First Step. The generosity of our congregation is greatly appreciated.

**Charlene Reid and Tracie Szczechura, Co-Chairs**

## PERSONNEL COMMITTEE ANNUAL REPORT FOR 2024

This past year has been a busy one for this committee. We have updated the job descriptions of several of the staff reflecting their actual jobs. This was done primarily by Dave Smith with committee approval.

Tom James was called in May as our Senior Pastor and head of staff. Thanks to the PNC for finding him.

We are grateful to our staff, especially Amanda Rains, and to volunteers Jim Barber and Jane Myketyenko for stepping up to the task of filling the void created by the pastoral and staff vacancies that occurred during the year. With Rev. James on board, the committee, together with Rev. James, conducted a search for an Office Administrator. After reviewing resumes and conducting interviews, the committee recommended to Rev. James, as head of staff, that we hire Tamera Metiva. Rev. James agreed, and Tamera started in September. She has been a wonderful addition to the staff. We are so pleased to have her with us.

In June, Brenda Ferguson took a leave of absence to care for her husband in New York who had a minor stroke. Brenda later decided that she could not come back to Michigan and continue being our organist and choir director. A music department search committee was established, and they took over the task of reviewing resumes and interviewing for a new organist/choir director. The search committee consisted of Rev. James, Andrew Mayer, Jane Mykytenko, Nancy Slanec, Sue Smith, and Janet Witkowski. That search resulted in the recommendation to Rev. James that we hire David Stultz. David started in late October and is a marvelous addition to our staff. He has blended into the choir family wonderfully.

With Wendy Palmer having some health issues, her son, Jamie Palmer, has been added to the staff on a part-time basis to assist with custodian duties. We are grateful to Jamie and continue to pray for Wendy as she undergoes treatment.

Staff evaluations were completed this fall and reported to the committee by Rev. James. Christmas bonuses were paid to all staff members. A salary increase was approved for staff who have been in our employ for one year or more.

The church is fortunate to have such a competent and dedicated staff. We are grateful to each member of our church team for all they do.

Members of the committee are Karen Fink, Matt Higgins, Dave Smith, and Janet Witkowski. Rev. James and Jim Barber also attend the meetings and provide necessary input.

This committee has worked hard this past year. I thank them all for their hard work and dedication to the committee

**Respectfully submitted,**

**Sue Smith**

**Chair, Personnel Committee**

## **Property Committee Report -Summary for 2024**

The Property Committee is comprised of two members Bob Carlson (Chairman) and Bob Missler. Below is a summary of some of the projects completed in 2024.

Dismantled 2023 Christmas Tree.

Dismantled 2023 Nativity Scene.

Had sanctuary carpet (front) and narthex carpet cleaned.

Patched ceiling outside basement kitchen.

Patched and painted garage door.

Re-leveled brick pavers around church sign.

Cleaned and varnished some of the pews stained by grape juice (communion).

Installed light timer for the outdoor garage lights.

Painted and carpeted: Nursery, both parlors, Pastor's office, and Tami's office.

Replaced curtains in parlors with blinds.

Power washed façade over Narthex.

Had sections of sidewalk replaced in front of the offices.

Replaced emergency light batteries throughout the church.

Had roof leak patched above choir loft.

Cleaned out Brenda's office.

Cleaned and setup David Stultz's office.

Helped deliver diapers for First Step.

Installed book shelves in Pastor's office.

Fixed base of Communion table.

Planted outdoor trees by Narthex and, Mitchell Hall entrances for weed control (ongoing).

Delivered left over clothes from rummage sale to Detroit Rescue Mission.

Had parking lot entrances patched.

Cleaned Narthex and Mitchell Hall windows and doors.

Trimmed many trees around the property.

Had Volunteers of America pickup remaining furniture from rummage sale.

Erected 2024 Christmas Tree.

Erected 2024 Nativity Scene.

Decorated Mitchell Hall for Noel.

**Respectfully submitted by Robert Carlson, Property Committee**



## WORSHIP AND ARTS ANNUAL REPORT

We were blessed to have Brenda Ferguson as our Organist/ Director of Music Ministry, choir director from January 1, 2017 to June 16, 2024. Brenda was an asset to our music ministry and to the wellbeing and nurturing of the entire church congregation. She is truly missed.

In the beginning of 2024, Brenda led us through some great music events. Brenda was able to return April 7 to perform an organ concert for the Friends of the Dearborn Symphony Music Medley concert series. We celebrated Palm Sunday with kids, had a Good Friday Organ Meditation, Easter - Beethoven, Handel, Widor, and Bells of Heaven - all glorious!! We continued the tradition of providing Easter breakfast sponsored by the Worship & Arts committee and choir members with the leadership of Dave Young. The choir led the Memorial Day Great American Hymn Festival - all well received.

Here is a message from Brenda Ferguson:

"I have been living on "borrowed time", a great gift from God!! I did not have any idea that Tom would have a stroke. I went back and forth from Michigan to New York almost every week. We made it through the year, and welcomed our new Pastor Dr Tom James with excellent music and a very strong choir. Big success for our church. Sanctuary Choir even sang through 3 weeks of June!

We did it! God did it!!

But now I have to be realistic and not commit to any extra performances."

Brenda took a leave of absence during the summer and finally had to resign to return to New York permanently. CANTORS led our worship services beautifully with solo singing and leading the congregational hymns; all are volunteers from our Sanctuary Choir, and they diligently came for individual rehearsals throughout the week.

We began our search for a new Music Director. Jane Mykytenko gathered the choir together in September and we managed to keep the music ministry strong in order to attract a quality choir director. We invited guest organists including Carole Higgins, Dottie Kennedy, Jack Ellis, Cindy Graham, Dean Robinson and David Stultz.

We were blessed to hire David Stultz as our new Music Ministry organist and choir director in October. The choir is impressed with his choral directing skills and choice of appropriate choral music. His organ skills do honor to our beautiful Aeolian Skinner organ; we are hearing new combinations as David becomes familiar with this magnificent instrument.

David jumped right into the holiday programming and led us skillfully through the Christmas season. We had our annual Christmas Dinner, NOEL, and featured the Dearborn Big Band; everyone enjoyed their Big Band selections, and Holiday favorites. Melodia was together for the holidays and were able to perform with the choir on Sundays and Christmas Eve and presented a mini concert after worship service.

#### Worship Technology:

Projection, sound, camera and streaming equipment were operated by Noah Husby, Geoffrey Dicks, Brian Mayer, Jonathan Begin and Anne Witkowski to serve Worship Funerals and Events and provide for remote viewers unable to attend in person. We have updated the video technology and maintain the sound system.

#### INSTRUMENT MAINTENANCE

Pianos and organ have been tuned and are in perfect condition. David Stultz is guiding the maintenance of the Chapel organ to prepare for possible small gatherings in the beautiful chapel. There are plans to continue the Bells ensemble.

#### MUSIC MEDLEY SERIES

We have offered an instrumental music series featuring musicians from our Dearborn Symphony Orchestra. This has proven to be a great community outreach with many community members visiting FPCD for the first time. The musicians are impressed with the acoustics and are enjoying the performances.

Respectfully Submitted,

Worship & Arts Committee

Jane Mykytenko, Chair, David Stultz, Director of music, Dave Young, Carole Higgins, Lynette Carlson, Andrew Mayer, Brian Mayer, Mary Currie

## Music Ministry – 2024

The music ministry at the First Presbyterian Church of Dearborn continued to glorify God throughout 2024 with the choir's musical gifts of singing, talented instrumentalists, and guest musicians. On November 3rd, the church staff and choir welcomed David Stultz as the new Director of Music and Organist! His vision for the music ministry consists of elevating the music to high standard, he most importantly desires to establish a choir family who leads the congregation through prayer, worship, and outreach.

Here are some of the notable music events that took place throughout November and December 2024:

Sunday, November 10th at 10:00 am Worship: The choir with their talented voices and dedication learned and presented a new choral anthem titled O Love by Elaine Hagenberg (b. 1979) for SATB voices and piano. This piece beautifully sets the familiar text by author George Matheson "O love that will not let me go" through expressive four-part harmonies and a meditative original melody.

Sunday, December 15th at 6:00 pm: Noel Night was an enjoyable time of fellowship and exciting music from the Dearborn Big Bang ensemble. The congregation along with many friends and family members from our church community gathered for dinner while listening to jazzy performances of Christmas favorites. A special thanks to Jane Mykytenko for her help in organizing this event!

Sunday, December 22nd at 10:00 am Worship: A special offertory performance of an advanced choral work titled Magnificat in D by Charles Wood (1866–1926). The choir showcased their hard work and excitement for the music ministry by singing this extensive piece that sets the words of Mary's Magnificat to powerful text painting. It beautifully complimented the sermon from pastor Tom and the overall theme of the service centered around the Magnificat. A guest soprano from U of M Ann Arbor joined the choir for this performance, Catherine Goode, who studies vocal performance.

Tuesday, December 24th at 9:00 pm: A wonderful and worshipful Christmas Eve presentation of Lessons and Carols. The music ministry was thrilled to feature the musical gifts of flautist Beckie Dicks and four members of the acapella group, Melodia. The choir of over 20 voices filled the sanctuary with descants, anthems, and carols with the congregation. The music selections included an arrangement of Mary Did You Know, John Rutter's Candlelight Carol, David Willcocks's O Come, All Ye Faithful, a 4-part canon on Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming by Praetorius, Harold Darke's In The Bleak Midwinter, and a new arrangement of O Holy Night by David Stultz featuring a flute accompaniment.

For this upcoming year, goals have been set for expanding the choir and restarting the children's music and hand bells. We are truly blessed to have gifted musicians, generously giving from their love for God and this church. Soli Deo Gloria!

**David Stultz, Director of Music and Organist**

**Deacon Annual Report  
2024**

Currently, the Deacon Board is comprised of thirteen dedicated Christians who serve our congregation in the name of Jesus Christ by providing services, support, and loving care for those in need on an ongoing basis.

The Deacons meet monthly to review the progress of designated Ministries and Support Services for the previous month and to pray for guidance in sharing God's love and serving His world.

The following Ministries and Support Services describe the responsibilities undertaken by the Deacon Board of First Presbyterian Church of Dearborn.

**Ministries**

Card Making	Coordinator, Chris Mayer
Cards Sent to Homebound	Coordinator, Nancy Barber
Cards Sent for Special Occasion	Coordinator, Nancy Barber
Grief Support	Coordinator, Chris Mayer
Mat Making for the Homeless	Coordinator, Charlie Aronson
Parish Nurse Health Concerns	Coordinator, Chris Mayer
Touch of Hope	Coordinator, Chris Mayer
Visitation	Coordinator, Chris Mayer
White Rose	Coordinator, Dorinda Hughes

**Support Services**

Communion Prep for Church	Coordinator, Jan Smith
Communion Served for Homebound	Coordinator, Jan Smith
Name Badges	Coordinator, Dave Smith
Funeral & Memorial Meal Service	Coordinator, Dorinda Hughes
Monthly Family Lunch	Coordinator, Chris Mayer
Meals Requested & Delivered	Coordinator, Lynn Campbell
Meal Train Delivery	Coordinator, Lynn Campbell
Special Needs	Coordinator, Chris Mayer
Transportation	Coordinator, Bud Cashwell

## **Deacon Service by the Number**

In addition to the Ministries and Support Services provided, designated Deacons also attend Committee meetings as representatives of the Deacon Board. Below are the different committees attended and their representatives.

### **Committee Representatives**

Christian Education	Representative, Charlie Aronson
Finance	Representative, Karen Fuller
Nominating	Representative, Jan Smith
Outreach & Mission	Representative, Nancy Barber
Personnel	Representative, Dave Smith
Property	Representative, Nancy Barber
Session	Representative, Charlie Aronson
Worship & Arts	Representative, Sallie Pray

### **Deacon Service by the numbers for 2023-2024**

Card Making	(264) cards were handmade
Cards Sent to the Homebound	(285) cards were sent
Cards Sent for Special Occasions	(214) cards were sent
Mat making for the Homeless	(15) mats were made by the community
Phone Calls	(525) phone calls were made
Touch of Hope	(30) families in need were provided support
Visitation	(111) visits were made
White Rose	(0) roses were provided
Communion Prep for Church	(15) church communions were prepared
Communion Prep for Homebound	(2) communion for homebound were offered
Funeral and Memorial Meals	(4) meals were prepared
Meal Train for Special Needs	(1) meal was prepared
Name Tags	(0) name tags were provided
Special Needs	(8) services were performed
Transportation	(5) rides were provided

Respectfully Submitted,

**Charlie Arronson**

## Parrish Nurse Health Ministry

The Health Ministry continues to be a vital part of our church's ministry to our members, as well as others in the community. As the Parish Nurse, most of my work is done through advocacy and supporting via phone calls or texts, cards, and in-person visits. With each person and/or family I minister to, there is a focus on the individual needs of the person and /or family.

I work very closely with the Board of Deacons to share information and assist them with carrying out the "church's care to our members".

One of the most rewarding, albeit difficult, ministries I do is facilitate grief support to our members and the community. This year I held two, 13-week GriefShare courses, with an average of 7 participants. And I am currently doing another one with 10 participants. This is a Christ-centered program that is practical and equips participants for the difficult "journey of grief" and specifically inviting Jesus into the process of Hope and Healing. In addition to the general ministry of support for any type of loss, we continue to sponsor an ongoing group (2 nd and 4 th Thursdays at 7pm) for those who have lost a spouse. We partner with New Hope Center for Grief Support's "Starting Again" ministry, which is an ongoing peer-peer program. This group works to support people through the first year to year-and-a-half after losing their spouse, and is divided into 3 groups: "Early Grief", "Transitions" and "Moving Forward". Our attendance is consistently between 7-10 people from the local area. **We are looking for others who are farther along in the process of "grief recovery" after losing a spouse, to help with the leadership of this ministry. If you feel God might be calling you in this direction, please contact me so we can discuss it.**

Our Card Ministry, called "First's Impressions", continues to support our Homebound/Special Care members with handmade cards. We have a group of 7-10 dedicated people who meet most months, to make cards for the Deacons to send out. We send 30 + cards, 6-7 times per year, to remind those who are homebound that we are thinking of them. It is a delightful opportunity to "fellowship with a specific purpose". We currently meet on the 2 nd Tuesday of the month from 1-2:30 pm. If you would like to join us, there is no experience needed. All are welcome! Please contact Chris Mayer at 313-274-0977 or Jan Cobb at 248-838-8279.

We continue to build the bonds of friendship for our members through monthly "Family Lunches" on the 2 nd Sundays of the month after worship. With the help of a few of our church members and members of the Deacon Board, we provide a complementary lunch after worship on the second Sunday of each month. If there are other groups/people that desire to plan and prepare a meal one month, please let me know! (313-274-0977).

Blessings,

**Chris Mayer, BSN, Parish Nurse**

## **Treasure Chest Annual Report 2025**

The Treasure Chest Resale Shop continued its mission of providing support to those in need, as well as providing fellowship and a common mission to members of the congregation. With the assistance of congregational donations, the Treasure Chest raised \$10,892 this past year. \$800 was donated to fund the luncheon for the new minister. \$500 went toward a congregant's surgery. Additional donations of goods were given to the Touch of Hope families and Second Mile. Detroit Rescue Mission was the recipient of a church wide coat drive.

Advertising through pictures of available merchandise on websites such as Next Door and Facebook brought in many new customers and increased revenue. Such advertisement will continue to be an area of development in 2025 as it has proven effective.

The Treasure Chest not only raises money for church needs but also raises friends throughout the community. This year one of the frequent customers lost her middle-aged son to a sudden heart attack. Several Treasure Chest Volunteers attended the funeral and Pastor Tom headed up the funeral service. This is a demonstration of the care and concern provided by our volunteers.

Many thanks to the volunteers who work week after week to deliver results that allow the Treasure Chest to purchase large items like the electronic marquee in 2022. These 15 volunteers offer their time and care to all our visitors and are truly a blessing to those in need in our community.

Karen Fink