



**United
Protestant
Church**
of Grayslake

**2024
Annual Report**

**Meeting Held on
January 26, 2025**

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United Protestant Church of Grayslake, IL

2024 Annual Meeting Agenda

January 26, 2025

Declaration of Quorum and Call to Order	Dale Message
Opening Prayer	Pastor Jason Okrzynski
Approval of January 28, 2024 Meeting Minutes	Dale Message
Approval of Special Congregational Meeting Minutes	Dale Message
<u>Finance</u>	
Approval of the 2024 Financial Reports	Lynn Hallen/Sue Schmidt
Presentation of the Proposed 2025 Operating Budget	Rick Burg
Approval of the 2025 Operating Budget	Dale Message
<u>Membership</u>	
Presentation of the Membership Report	Pastor Jason Okrzynski
Approval of the Membership Report	Pastor Jason Okrzynski
Honorary Deacon and Steward	Ruth Gheysen
<u>Nominations</u>	
Nominations Report & Nominations from the Floor	Pastor Jason Okrzynski
Election of Officers	Dale Message
Proposal of Worship Time Change	Dale Message
Other Reports and Business	Dale Message
Closing Prayer	Pastor Jason Okrzynski
Adjournment	Dale Message

2024 Annual Meeting Minutes
United Protestant Church of Grayslake, IL
January 28, 2024

Declaration of Quorum and Call to Order

Lloyd Lowe, Moderator/Chair of Staff Parish Committee, called the meeting to order at 11:00 a.m. and stated there was a quorum.

Opening Prayer

The opening prayer was given by Pastor Jason Okrzynski.

Approval of the 2023 Annual Meeting Minutes

Lillian Eldridge made a motion to approve the 2023 Annual Meeting Minutes as submitted; Rick Burg seconded. A voice vote to approve the motion passed unanimously.

Approval of the 2023 Financial Reports

Lloyd Lowe gave an overview of the 2023 financial reports found on pages 10-13 of the Annual Report. The Balance Sheet on page 10 is a high-level overview of our finances. The top of the page shows the total for the PNC checking account, the PNC money market account, and the Capital One account. This is the summation of all cash that is available. As of December 31, 2022, total assets were \$322,703.36. As of December 31, 2023, total assets were \$321,726.42. The comparison between these two amounts indicates that we have remained stable. Below the total assets are the total liabilities and the summation of the various funds which comprise the budget report. The amount of the total liabilities plus the funds equals the amount of total assets available. The Fund Activity Report on page 11 lists all the funds and activities that occurred within the church in 2023. It shows the beginning balance, receipts, disbursements, and any internal transfers that occurred during the year for each fund. The operating fund ended with a negative balance of \$-55,777.61. This means that we spent more than we received. Transfers were explained as money being taken from one fund and put into another fund. PADS was used as an example. Pages 12-13 show the detailed report of the operating fund. The top of page 12 is the income summation. We received \$11,947 more than we budgeted. Pledges in 2023 were budgeted at \$160,000, but we received \$22,333.25 less than we estimated. Contributions received were higher than budgeted, which offset the loss of pledges. Under expenses, there is a line item for each expense and the amount spent on each item. At the bottom of page 13, it shows the negative deficit of \$-55,777.61. Due to the generosity of UPC members, the income received was \$11,947.62 higher and expenses were \$14,582.77 less than projected. We anticipated a deficit of \$-82,308 but the new deficit totaled \$-55,777.61. With the creation of the above and beyond fund and its generous donors, we received an additional \$36,137.36. By applying this amount to the deficit of \$-55,777.61, the actual deficit totals \$-19,640.25. This is a huge difference from what we were expecting, and Lloyd thanked everyone involved. On January 1, 2024, Lloyd zeroed out the general operating fund by transferring \$36,137.36 from the above and beyond fund into the general operating fund and \$19,640.25 from the endowment fund to zero out the operating fund. The endowment fund had a balance of more than \$198,000 but after subtracting the \$19,640.25, it now has a balance of \$178,457. Jackie Ianson made a motion to accept the 2023 financial reports as presented; David Holliman seconded. A voice vote to accept the motion passed unanimously.

Adoption of the Proposed 2024 Operating Budget

Denise Fuller presented the proposed 2024 operating budget found on page 14 of the Annual Report. She stated that this is a joyful opportunity for UPC and hopes the generosity and prudent spending will continue into 2024. She also thanked Lloyd Lowe for his direction and guidance in helping the Budget & Finance Committee. The first column shows the budgeted amount for 2023. The second column shows the actual total for 2023, and the third column shows the budgeted amount for 2024. We are projecting revenue for 2024 to be \$231,419.40 due to an increase in pledges and interest. Under expenses, we anticipate spending a total of \$268,284 this year which includes the addition of a new music director. Most numbers were carried forward based on what occurred in 2023. June Smith made a motion to approve the 2024 budget as presented; Carol Roselli-Rasmussen seconded. A voice vote to approve the motion passed unanimously.

Membership Report

Sue Schmidt presented the Membership Cultivation Report on page 15 of the Annual Report. At the end of 2022, we had 188 members. In 2023, we welcomed 3 new members through Confirmation, 4 new members by profession of faith, plus reinstated a member due to a clerical error, which brings the total of new members to 8. During 2023, 3 members were retired due to death, 2 transferred to other churches, and 5 retired by request. As of December 31, 2023, our membership total is 186 members. Denise Fuller made a motion to accept the membership report as presented; Judy Ziegler seconded. A voice vote to accept the motion passed unanimously.

Nominating Report

Election of Officers (refer to pages 17-20) – Pastor Jason presented the 2024 Nominating Report. Members highlighted in bold print are to be voted on as new leaders for the year. Members who are not highlighted are currently serving in these positions and do not need to be voted on. There are multiple vacancies listed as *TBD* and we are still looking for more volunteers to serve. The Treasurer position is open, and we are in the process of transitioning interested individuals to fill this role. Lloyd Lowe's name should be deleted as Treasurer on page 17 under the Church Officers/Lay Leaders section. The Youth Director position is still open with the hope to fill it eventually. The plan is to hire a new music director this year. Since these two positions are staff-related, the congregation does not vote on them. They will be handled by Staff Parish. Pastor Jason then opened the floor for any nominations. After receiving none, Carol Roselli-Rasmussen made a motion to accept the nominating slate of officers and leaders as presented with the minor change listed above; Emily Aubrey seconded. A voice vote to accept the motion passed unanimously.

Other Reports and Business

No other business was discussed. The remaining commission and committee reports are listed in the Annual Report. Members are encouraged to read them for more information.

Special Recognition of Members

Pastor Jason recognized and thanked Dennis Craig, Lillian Eldridge, and Lloyd Lowe for their years of incredible service and dedication to UPC.

Closing Prayer

Pastor Jason Okrzynski gave the closing prayer followed by the Lord's prayer.

Adjournment

Lloyd Lowe thanked everyone for attending the Annual Meeting. Jennifer Cooper made a motion to adjourn the meeting; Jerry Wessale seconded. The meeting adjourned at 11:34 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Sue Schmidt, Clerk

**2024 Special Congregational Meeting
United Protestant Church of Grayslake, Illinois
October 27, 2024**

Declaration of Quorum and Call to Order

Carol Roselli-Rasmussen, Moderator and Chair of the Staff Parish Relations Committee, called the meeting to order at 11:10 a.m. and stated there was a quorum.

Opening Prayer

The opening prayer was given by Pastor Jason Okrzynski.

General Introduction to the Question

Dale Message, Administrative Council Chair, gave an introduction explaining the background of our current audio-visual system so the congregation can make an informed decision. Our current audio-visual system is very old and needs to be replaced. Parts are no longer available to repair the current system, making it obsolete and needing replacement. Part of the money to pay for a replacement system will come from the missions general fund that has been established since 2007 as a result of our last capital campaign. The Administrative Council is asking the congregation to relinquish \$35,000 from this fund to be used for a new audio-visual system. Having a new audio-visual system will allow UPC to expand its outward ministry through podcasts, mission highlights, online pastoral messages, online Sunday school lessons, etc. It will increase the church's ability to evangelize out to the community.

Motion from the AV Committee

Operations Chairperson, Rick Burg, made a motion stating, "We move to make available up to \$35,000 from the missions general fund for use towards the purchase of a replacement of the obsolete integrated audio-visual system." Jennifer Cooper seconded. Questions and comments were addressed and discussed. There will be approximately \$5,600 left in the missions general fund once the \$35,000 has been taken out to purchase the new system. The new system will upgrade all our microphones and provide us with hand-held microphones as well. We are working with several vendors and have two estimates so far and a third one on the way. All these new systems have the capability to hook up to hearing aids; we just need to add that capability to our list of options before we purchase the system. We do have funding for the remainder of the purchase price. Several members are donating to this special fund, and we already have \$40,000 committed toward this fund. We just need the \$35,000 from the missions general fund to add to the amount donated. Private donations are still welcome. If you are interested in contributing, please talk to Pastor Jason. After discussion ended, Carol Roselli-Rasmussen called for a vote. The motion passed unanimously by the raising of hands.

Closing Prayer

Pastor Jason Okrzynski gave a closing prayer followed by the Lord's Prayer said in unison.

Adjournment

Carol Roselli-Rasmussen thanked everyone for attending this special congregational meeting. Rose Pech made a motion to adjourn the meeting; Judy Ziegler seconded. The meeting adjourned at 11:23 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Sue Schmidt, Clerk

Mission Statement

MISSION: Who are we?

As followers of Jesus Christ, we, the people of the United Protestant Church, have come together in covenant to:

- Praise and worship God;
- Grow in the knowledge and Spirit of God;
- Care for one another;
- Serve and pray for our neighbors.

VISION: Where are we going?

Grounded in Christ and empowered by the Holy Spirit, God is transforming us, the people of the United Protestant Church, into disciples who will:

- Move beyond the comfortable and familiar as we live out our faith;
- Develop deeper personal relationships with God, self, and others;
- Offer God's extravagant welcome to all people;
- Connect our faith with our lives in service to Lake County and beyond;
- Transform our world through God's justice, compassion, and extraordinary love.

Financial Secretary Report

GENERAL FUND

Pledges	\$ 177,03.88
Contributions	27,614.00
Prepaid Pledges	1,525.00
Loose Offerings	1,977.24
Building Use	5,081.25
Initial Offering	300.00
Heating	385.00
Easter/Ash Wednesday/ Good Friday	1,197.00
Thanksgiving	130.00
Christmas/Advent	143.00
Prior Year	510.00
Capital Improvements	40,235.00

REIMBURSEMENTS TO GENERAL FUND

Sacred Grounds	\$ 188.08
Church Repairs	127.97
Shopper Cards	19,132.00
Electronic Trf. Expense	12.25

RECAP

General Fund	\$257,843.37
Reimbursements	19,460.30
Designated Funds	1,734.67
Joy Sharing	7,953.50
Memorials	<u>2,185.00</u>

Total Received **\$289,176.84**

DESIGNATED FUNDS

Youth Activities	\$ 50.00
Children's Ministry	50.00
PADS	325.00
Home Team	75.00
Operation Christmas Child	70.00
Miscellaneous	135.00
Adult Ed.	317.67
Bell Choir	25.00
Worship/Membership	687.00

JOY SHARING

Adult Mission	\$ 445.00
Living Water International	\$ 770.00
Depke Mission	580.50
Malaria No More	790.00
Feed My Starving Children	1,045.50
Haven House	680.00
INK180	1,052.00
PADS	100.00
World Relief	455.00
Veteran's Tree	255.00
Curt's Café	1,065.00
Suicide Foundation	715.00

United Protestant Church of Grayslake - Grayslake IL
Balance Sheet as of December 31, 2024

Friday, January 3, 2025

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Account #	Account Name	Previous Year Balance	YTD Balance
Assets			
1.100.101	PNC Checking	1,816.11	49,204.94
1.100.102	PNC Money Market	69,557.75	16,982.42
1.100.103	Capital One	250,352.56	208,363.49
	Total Assets	\$321,726.42	\$274,550.85
Liabilities			
2.100.001	Accounts Payable/Vendors	25.00	0.00
2.400.400	Prepaid Pledges	350.00	1,525.00
	Total Liabilities	\$375.00	\$1,525.00
Fund Balances			
3.100.100	General Operating Fund Balance	(55,802.61)	(29,883.46)
3.150.100	Above and Beyond Fund Balance	36,137.36	0.00
3.200.200	Helping Hand Fund Balance	1,516.00	1,016.00
3.201.200	Bell Choir Fund Balance	44.30	69.30
3.202.200	Capital Improvement Fund Balance	48,225.21	71,592.21
3.203.200	Music Fund Balance	2,083.77	1,765.78
3.204.200	Youth Activity Fund Balance	(247.30)	(269.74)
3.205.200	Home Team Fund Balance	1,477.61	1,652.41
3.206.200	Childrens Ministry Activity Fund Balance	1,881.65	1,673.44
3.207.200	OCC/OCH Fund Balance	4,416.35	1,493.62
3.208.200	Endowment Fund Balance	198,098.08	182,354.08
3.209.200	Endowment Programs & Facility Balance	807.75	807.75
3.210.200	Endowment New Ventures Balance	15,281.62	15,281.62
3.211.200	Missions -General Fund Balance	40,640.61	5,579.83
3.212.200	WCF - Mission Balance	12.50	0.00
3.214.200	Adult Education Fund Balance	672.22	0.00
3.215.200	Nursery Coordinator Fund Balance	4,650.00	3,562.50
3.300.300	Adult Mission Fund Balance	25.00	0.00
3.301.300	Bishop's Apeal Fund Balance	75.00	0.00
3.302.300	Curt's Cafe Balance	50.00	0.00
3.303.300	CWS Best Gifts Fund Balance	150.00	150.00
3.304.300	Tyler and Brittany Fund Balance	5.00	12.50
3.310.300	PADS Joy Sharing Fund Balance	0.00	110.00
3.313.300	Veterans Tree Balance	334.20	599.20
3.314.300	Northern Illinois Food Bank Balance	60.00	60.00
3.400.400	PADS Fund Balance	4,731.82	2,075.04
3.500.500	Memorials Fund Balance	12,260.80	8,097.32
3.600.600	UPC Shopper Card Fund Balance	3,764.48	5,226.45
	Total Fund Balances	\$321,351.42	\$273,025.85
	Total Liabilities and Fund Balances	\$321,726.42	\$274,550.85

If the accounts in the subtotals have changed or if ledger (marked with "**") and subsidiary account attributes have changed, Previous YTD totals may not represent a valid comparison.

United Protestant Church of Grayslake - Grayslake IL
Consolidated Fund Activity Report as of 12/31/2024

Friday, January 3, 2025

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Account #	Account Name	Beg Balance	Receipts	Disbursements	Transfers/IE's	End Balance
3.100.100	General Operating Fund Balance	(55,777.61)	229,767.30	259,650.76	55,777.61	(29,883.46)
3.150.100	Above and Beyond Fund Balance	36,137.36	0.00	0.00	(36,137.36)	0.00
3.200.104	Land, Building/Furniture Balance	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
3.200.200	Helping Hand Fund Balance	1,516.00	0.00	500.00	0.00	1,016.00
3.201.200	Bell Choir Fund Balance	44.30	25.00	0.00	0.00	69.30
3.202.200	Capital Improvement Fund Balance	48,225.21	40,235.00	20,268.00	3,400.00	71,592.21
3.203.200	Music Fund Balance	2,083.77	0.00	317.99	0.00	1,765.78
3.204.200	Youth Activity Fund Balance	(247.30)	50.00	72.44	0.00	(269.74)
3.205.200	Home Team Fund Balance	1,477.61	275.00	100.20	0.00	1,652.41
3.206.200	Childrens Ministry Activity Fund Balance	1,881.65	50.00	258.21	0.00	1,673.44
3.207.200	OCC/OCH Fund Balance	4,416.35	70.00	2,992.73	0.00	1,493.62
3.208.200	Endowment Fund Balance	198,098.08	0.00	0.00	(15,744.00)	182,354.08
3.209.200	Endowment Programs & Facility Balance	807.75	0.00	0.00	0.00	807.75
3.210.200	Endowment New Ventures Balance	15,281.62	0.00	0.00	0.00	15,281.62
3.211.200	Missions - General Fund Balance	40,640.61	0.00	35,060.78	0.00	5,579.83
3.212.200	WCF - Mission Balance	12.50	0.00	0.00	(12.50)	0.00
3.213.200	Soles for Jesus Fund	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
3.214.200	Adult Education Fund Balance	672.22	317.67	989.89	0.00	0.00
3.215.200	Nursery Coordinator Fund Balance	4,650.00	0.00	0.00	(1,087.50)	3,562.50
3.300.300	Adult Mission Fund Balance	25.00	445.00	470.00	0.00	0.00
3.301.300	Bishop's Apeal Fund Balance	75.00	0.00	75.00	0.00	0.00
3.302.300	Curt's Cafe Balance	50.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
3.303.300	CWS Best Gifts Fund Balance	150.00	1,065.00	1,115.00	0.00	0.00
3.304.300	Tyler and Brittany Fund Balance	5.00	580.50	585.50	0.00	0.00
3.305.300	Feed My Starving Children Fund Balance	0.00	1,045.50	1,045.50	0.00	0.00
3.306.300	Lake County Haven House Fund Balance	0.00	680.00	680.00	0.00	0.00
3.307.300	INK 180 Fund Balance	0.00	1,052.50	1,052.50	0.00	0.00
3.308.300	Living Water International Fund Balance	0.00	770.00	770.00	0.00	0.00
3.309.300	One Great Hour of Sharing Fund Balance	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
3.310.300	PADS Joy Sharing Fund Balance	0.00	110.00	0.00	0.00	110.00
3.311.300	Red Bird Mission Fund Balance	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
3.312.300	World Relief Balance	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
3.313.300	Veterans Tree Balance	334.20	445.00	445.00	0.00	0.00
3.314.300	Northern Illinois Food Bank Balance	60.00	265.00	0.00	0.00	599.20
3.315.300	Malaria No More Balance	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	60.00
3.316.300	American Foundation for Suicide Prevention Balance	0.00	790.00	790.00	0.00	0.00
3.400.400	PADS Fund Balance	4,731.82	715.00	715.00	(1,000.00)	2,075.04

United Protestant Church of Grayslake - Grayslake IL
 Consolidated Fund Activity Report as of 12/31/2024

Friday, January 3, 2025

Account # Account Name

Beg Balance

Receipts

Disbursements

Transfers/JE's

End Balance

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3,500,500	Memorials Fund Balance	12,260.80	2,185.00	6,348.48	0.00	8,097.32
3,600,600	UPC Shopper Card Fund Balance	3,764.48	17,758.23	17,966.26	1,670.00	5,226.45
Total		\$321,376.42	\$299,021.70	\$354,251.02	\$6,878.75	\$273,025.85

United Protestant Church of Grayslake - Grayslake IL
Treasurer's Report as of December 2024 for General Operating Fund

Friday, January 3, 2025

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Account #	Account Name	YTD Balance	Annual Budget	Over/Under YTD+(-)
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Income

4.100.100	Pledges	179,201.13*	160,485.00	18,716.13
4.100.101	Contributions	28,227.00	52,201.00	(23,974.00)
4.100.102	Interest	9,435.60	9,534.00	(98.40)
4.100.103	Loose Offerings	2,005.24*	1,302.00	703.24
4.100.105	Church School	0.00	5.00	(5.00)
4.100.106	Initial Offerings	300.00*	120.00	180.00
4.100.107	Heating	385.00	520.00	(135.00)
4.100.108	Lent\Easter	1,197.00	1,673.00	(476.00)
4.100.109	Thanksgiving	185.00*	50.00	135.00
4.100.110	Building Use	5,081.25*	2,555.00	2,526.25
4.100.111	Advent\Christmas	2,689.00*	1,025.00	1,664.00
4.100.112	Prior Year	510.00	1,740.00	(1,230.00)
4.100.113	Sacred Grounds	191.08	209.00	(17.92)
4.100.114	Fund Raising	0.00	0.00	0.00
4.100.115	Mis Income	360.00*	0.00	360.00
Total Income		\$229,767.30	\$231,419.00	(\$1,651.70)

Expenses

5.100.201	UMC Mission Outreach	1,000.00	1,000.00	0.00
5.100.202	UCC Mission Outreach	1,000.00	1,000.00	0.00
5.100.301	Mission Committee Expense	0.00	0.00	0.00
5.100.302	Membership/Community Outreach	139.90	300.00	(160.10)
5.100.303	Worship Supplies	256.70	500.00	(243.30)
5.100.304	Upper Room	0.00	0.00	0.00
5.100.305	Copyright License	249.00	422.00	(173.00)
5.100.306	Bulletin Covers	25.97	41.00	(15.03)
5.100.307	Community/Social Outreach	0.00	183.00	(183.00)
5.100.308	Sacred Grounds Expense	206.33*	165.00	41.33
5.100.309	Stewardship	211.55	300.00	(88.45)
5.100.310	Evangelism	0.00	300.00	(300.00)
5.100.311	Choir Music	0.00	0.00	0.00
5.100.312	Bell Choir Music	0.00	0.00	0.00
5.100.313	Annual Church Conference	0.00	0.00	0.00
5.100.314	Marketing\Promotion	0.00	0.00	0.00
5.100.315	Piano Maintenance	250.00*	195.00	55.00
5.100.316	Organ Maintenance	0.00	0.00	0.00
5.100.317	Handbell Maintenance	0.00	20.00	(20.00)
5.100.318	Council General Expense	0.00	610.00	(610.00)
5.100.319	Communications	0.00	300.00	(300.00)
5.100.401	Adult Education	187.35	200.00	(12.65)
5.100.402	Bibles	0.00	0.00	0.00
5.100.403	CMC Curriculum	137.50	152.00	(14.50)
5.100.404	Church School Supplies	107.51	143.00	(35.49)
5.100.405	Vacation Bible School	219.23	350.00	(130.77)
5.100.406	CE Commission Expense	85.35*	0.00	85.35
5.100.407	Teacher Recognition	0.00	10.00	(10.00)
5.100.408	Teacher Training	0.00	0.00	0.00
5.100.409	Confirmation	134.37	300.00	(165.63)
5.100.410	Cradle Roll	43.48*	0.00	43.48
5.100.411	Programs\Retreats	0.00	0.00	0.00
5.100.412	Youth Curriculum	63.66	218.00	(154.34)

United Protestant Church of Grayslake - Grayslake IL
Treasurer's Report as of December 2024 for General Operating Fund

Friday, January 3, 2025

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Account #	Account Name	YTD Balance	Annual Budget	Over/Under YTD+(-)
5.100.413	Senior Gifts	0.00	0.00	0.00
5.100.501	Pulpit Supply	150.00	500.00	(350.00)
5.100.502	Senior Pastor Expense	3,052.74*	1,500.00	1,552.74
5.100.503	Staff Development	0.00	0.00	0.00
5.100.504	Sr Pastor Salary & Housing	55,500.00	55,500.00	0.00
5.100.505	Sr Pastor Pension, Life & Disability	11,873.16*	11,695.00	178.16
5.100.506	Sr Pastor Medical & Dental Insurance	38,702.35*	35,550.00	3,152.35
5.100.507	Christian Education Director	32,214.00*	31,899.00	315.00
5.100.508	Director Youth Ministry	0.00	0.00	0.00
5.100.509	Nursery Coordinator	0.00	0.00	0.00
5.100.510	Church Secretary	9,213.75	9,360.00	(146.25)
5.100.511	Organist/Pianist	11,299.96*	11,295.00	4.96
5.100.512	Sunstitute Musician	100.00*	0.00	100.00
5.100.513	Adult Music Director	3,357.00	10,500.00	(7,143.00)
5.100.514	Custodian #1	7,191.25	9,360.00	(2,168.75)
5.100.515	Custodian #2	0.00	0.00	0.00
5.100.516	Staff Pay Increases	0.00	0.00	0.00
5.100.517	Staff Related Special Events	250.00	250.00	0.00
5.100.518	FICA - Employer Portion	8,826.61	10,480.00	(1,653.39)
5.100.519	Background Checks	57.50	113.00	(55.50)
5.100.520	Medical Care FSA	(3,050.04)		
5.100.601	Office Supplies	1,568.70*	1,355.00	213.70
5.100.602	IT Hardware/Software/Repairs	2,457.76*	1,967.00	490.76
5.100.603	Offering Envelopes	515.58	713.00	(197.42)
5.100.604	Repair/Maintenance Contracts	0.00	0.00	0.00
5.100.605	Copier Expense	1,869.28*	200.00	1,669.28
5.100.606	Postage	808.00	1,500.00	(692.00)
5.100.701	Property/Liability Insurance	10,762.04	10,784.00	(21.96)
5.100.702	Workers Comp Insurance	1,116.16	1,203.00	(86.84)
5.100.703	Maintenance Supplies	1,774.56	1,900.00	(125.44)
5.100.704	Church Repairs	5,646.06	10,000.00	(4,353.94)
5.100.705	Pest Control - Church	498.96*	300.00	198.96
5.100.706	Pest Control Park Ave	0.00	0.00	0.00
5.100.707	Park Ave Repairs	2,649.89*	750.00	1,899.89
5.100.708	Fire Prevention	1,938.76	2,080.00	(141.24)
5.100.709	Elevator Maintenance	3,073.47*	1,615.00	1,458.47
5.100.710	Snow Removal	1,915.00	3,000.00	(1,085.00)
5.100.711	Lawn Maintenance	752.68*	650.00	102.68
5.100.712	HVAC Contract	8,541.13*	6,500.00	2,041.13
5.100.713	Sate Boiler Inspection	0.00	120.00	(120.00)
5.100.801	Electricity	10,056.06*	8,500.00	1,556.06
5.100.802	Water/Sewer	833.04*	728.00	105.04
5.100.803	Refuse Collection	888.83*	862.00	26.83
5.100.804	Natural Gas	9,338.18	11,000.00	(1,661.82)
5.100.805	Park Ave Utilities	3,461.51*	2,500.00	961.51
5.100.806	Telephone	3,733.94*	3,200.00	533.94
5.100.901	Bank Charges	153.00	161.00	(8.00)
5.100.902	ACH Fees	282.78	286.00	(3.22)
5.100.903	Payroll Services	1,704.21*	1,699.00	5.21
5.100.904	Misc. Expense	255.00*	0.00	255.00
Total Expenses		\$259,650.76	\$268,284.00	(\$5,583.20)

United Protestant Church of Grayslake - Grayslake IL
Treasurer's Report as of December 2024 for General Operating Fund

Friday, January 3, 2025

Page 3 of 3
Over/Under
YTD+(-)

Account #	Account Name	YTD Balance	Annual Budget	
		Difference	(\$29,883.46)	(\$36,865.00)

* = Income/Expense exceeds amount budgeted to date

2025 Proposed Budget

Account Name	2024 Annual Budget	2024 YTD Actual	2025 Proposed
<i>Income</i>			
Pledges	160,485.40	179,201.13	150,760.25
Contributions	52,201.00	28,227.00	37,000.00
Interest	9,534.00	9,435.60	5,500.00
Loose Offerings	1,302.00	2,005.24	1,800.00
Church School	5.00	0.00	5.00
Initial Offerings	120.00	300.00	250.00
Heating	520.00	385.00	300.00
Lent\Easter	1,673.00	1,197.00	1,100.00
Thanksgiving	50.00	185.00	150.00
Building Use	2,555.00	5,081.25	2,500.00
Advent\Christmas	1,025.00	2,689.00	2,000.00
Prior Year	1,740.00	510.00	0.00
Sacred Grounds	209.00	191.08	175.00
Fund Raising	0.00	0.00	0.00
Miscellaneous Income	0.00	360.00	0.00
<i>Income</i>	\$231,419.40	\$229,767.30	\$201,540.25
UMC Mission Outreach	1,000.00	1,000.00	1,000.00
UCC Mission Outreach	1,000.00	1,000.00	1,000.00
Mission Outreach	2,000.00	2,000.00	2,000.00
Spiritual Life and Outreach	3,336.00	1,339.45	2,175.00
Christian Education	1,373.00	978.45	775.00
Staff Parish	188,002.00	178,738.28	176,508.00
Church Office	5,735.00	7,219.32	9,385.00
Building and Grounds	38,902.00	38,668.71	40,720.00
Utilities	26,790.00	28,311.56	30,300.00
Budgetary	2,146.00	2,394.99	2,167.00
Total Expenses	\$268,284.00	\$259,650.76	\$264,030.00
Difference	(\$36,864.60)	(\$29,883.46)	(\$62,489.75)

Membership Report December 31, 2024

Members as of December 31, 2023	186
Members Received by Confirmation: Charlie Craig, Gavin Fries, Soren Okrzynski	+3
Reinstated by Request: Sally (Behrensmeier) Kelly	+1
Transfer from UCC Churches:	0
Transfer from other churches: Richard & Linda Dzwonkiewicz, Lynn Hallen, Andrew & Ann Friesema	+5
Total New Members	+9
Total Members	195
Members Removed by:	
Deaths: Donna Obrecht, Roger Richardson, Laurel Bruggen, Susan Green, Dian Weinkauf	-5
Transfer to UMC Churches:	0
Transfer to UCC Churches:	0
Transfer to other Churches:	0
Retired by Request: Lloyd & Cherlyn Lowe, Chris & Tracy Celeslie	-4
Retired by UPC:	0
Total Removed	-9
Total Members as of December 31, 2024	186

Honorary Deacons and Stewards 1950 – 2024

2024	Dian Weinkauf	2003	Frank Osburn	1987	Bernadine Poska
2022	Jerry Wessale	2002	Edna Munsinger	1986	Florence Madsen
2021	Jackie Ianson	2002	Howard Munsinger	1986	Edith Manusos
2020	Kelly Truckenbrod	2001	Mark Rasmussen	1985	Elaine Francis
2019	Lillian Eldridge	2001	Carol Roselli-Rasmussen	1985	Joseph Francis
2018	Cherlyn Lowe	2000	Doug McDowell	1985	Winifred Manuel
2018	Dale Message	2000	Mary Ann McDowell	1985	Evelyn Turner
2017	Diane Rarick	1999	Alice Broadhurst	1984	Blanche Hawkins
2016	Jim Fisher	1999	Dennis Craig	1984	Eleanor Roberts
2016	Steve Truckenbrod	1999	Darlene George Craig	1983	Ruth Tidlund
2016	Kristen Johnson	1999	Rose Pech	1982	Clarence Perry
2014	Karen Knapp	1998	Candi Becker	1982	Florence Perry
2014	Chuck Martin	1998	Ted Becker	1981	Helen Pegg
2013	Sue Schmidt	1998	Lois Bemis	1980	Berenice Friend
2013	Eric Stahl	1997	John Harnagel	1979	Florence McKay
2012	Steve Rarick	1997	Janet Kendrick	1978	Lillian Watters
2012	Bill Churchill	1996	Barb Fischel	1977	Alta Neville
2011	Brian Hides	1996	Craig Fischel	1976	Dorothy DeGraff
2011	Christine Hides	1995	Hal Alvin	1976	Kathryn Hook
2011	Kevin Smith	1995	Nancy Alvin	1975	Charles Connelly
2011	Val Smith	1995	Laurel Bruggen	1974	Clara Rehder
2010	Lloyd Lowe	1994	Verlee Jones	1973	Harold Burge
2010	Linda Rambo	1994	Jean Tanner	1972	Emma Laursen
2009	Cliff Grost	1993	Bob Peterson	1971	Stanley Evans
2009	Tom May	1992	Janice Peterson	1970	Irene Welty
2009	Peggy Grost	1992	Jerry Badgerow	1968	Gertrude Kocher
2008	Joe Hobson	1992	Marlene Badgerow.	1967	Helen Beckwith
2008	Sarah Pressly-James	1992	Roger Baumeister	1966	Charles Manuel
2008	Tammy Swick	1992	Ruth Ann Baumeister	1965	Belle Shanks
2007	Sandy Findlay	1992	Alan Knickerbocker	1964	Alice Washburn
2007	Marjorie Miller	1992	Karleen Knickerbocker	1963	Thyra Wicks
2007	Rosanne Taylor	1992	Doris Craig	1962	Robert Washburn
2006	Paula Rothacker	1991	Joanne Lawrence	1961	Lloyd Odell
2006	Dorothy Smith	1991	Richard Lawrence	1960	Ethel Rich
2006	Cathy Vick	1990	Jane Conradi	1959	Ebenezer Harris
2005	Rick Burg	1990	Helen Simpkins	1958	Gwyneth Duddles
2005	Marie Frandsen	1990	Warren Simpkins	1957	Grace Harris
2005	Joyce Norton	1989	Rose Hornberger	1956	Margaret Vassau
2004	Bruce Bassett	1989	Arthur Hornberger	1955	Adelia Englert
2004	Carol Bassett	1989	Elaine Johnson	1954	Sarah Longabaugh
2004	Sharry Lockhart	1989	Ruth Pester	1953	Cora Wightman
2004	Linda Markham	1988	Dale Craig	1952	Mabel Hook
2003	Cinda Bartz	1987	Eugene Davis	1951	Anne Pester
2003	Helga Churchill	1987	Lois Fenters	1950	John Allen
		1987	Melva Kerry	1950	Harry Rich

Nominating Committee Report 2025

Administrative Council

Chair	Dale Message	2025
Vice Chair	Bill Churchill	2025
Spiritual Life and Outreach Commission Chair	TBD	2025
Operations Commission Chair	Rick Burg	2025
Christian Education Commission Chair	Sue Schmidt	2025
At-large member	Jennifer Cooper	2025
At-large member	Rose Pech	2025
At-large member	Cinda Bartz	2025
At-large member	TBD	2025
Moderator/Lay Leader	TBD	2025

Non-Voting Members

Senior Pastor	Jason Okrzynski	
Director of Christian Education	Ryan Aubrey	
Director of Youth Fellowship	N/A	
Clerk	Sue Schmidt	2025
Financial Secretary	Jan Kendrick	2025
Co-Financial Secretary	Cinda Bartz	2025
Treasurer	Lynn Hallen	2025

Church Officers/Lay Leaders/Administrative Council Committees

Clerk	Sue Schmidt	2025
Financial Secretary	Jan Kendrick	2025
Co-Financial Secretary	Cinda Bartz	2025
Treasurer	Lynn Hallen	2025
UCC Delegate	TBD	2025
UMC Delegate	Dale Message	2025

Staff Parish Committee

Moderator/Chair	TBD	2025
Administrative Council Chair	Dale Message	2025
Administrative Council Vice Chair	Bill Churchill	2025
At-large member	TBD	2025
At-large member	TBD	2025

Nominating Committee

Chair	Pastor Jason Okrzynski	
	Sue Schmidt	2025
	Rose Pech	2026
	TBD	2026
	TBD	2026

Spiritual Life and Outreach Commission

Chair	TBD	2026
Vice Chair	TBD	2026
Worship Committee Chair	Barb Fischel	2025
Membership & Outreach Chair	TBD	2026
Stewardship Chair	TBD	2026
Mission Committee Chair	Linda Rambo	2026
Communications Committee Chair	Jason Okrzynski & Jennifer Cooper	2025

Historian

TBD	2026
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Stewardship Committee

Chair	TBD	2026
	Katelyn Rasmussen	2025
	Linda Rambo	2025
	Sue Schmidt	2025
	Stephanie Perdew	2025

Worship Committee

Chair	Barb Fischel	2025
	Linda Markham	2025
	Ruth Gheysen	2025
	Lydia Monk	2025
	Emily Aubrey	2025

Membership & Outreach Committee

Chair	TBD	2026
	Terese Bell	2025
	Laurie Bethmann	2025
	Ann Drevalas	2025
	Lori Rische	2025
	Sue Schmidt	2025
	TBD	2026

Non-Voting Members

Pastor	Jason Okrzynski
Music Director	Kurt Mockenhaupt
Accompanist	Marcia Twadell
Children's Choir Director	N/A

Mission Committee

Chair	Linda Rambo	2026
	Judi Becker	2026
	Mary Ann McDowell	2025
	Cinda Bartz	2026
	Lynn Hallen	2025
	Sally Kelly	2025

Home Team

Chair	Jerry Wessale	2025
	Lois Wessale	2025
	June Smith	2025
	Kim Lenzen	2025
	Candi Becker	2025
	Cathy Vick	2025

Communications Committee

Co-Chair	Jason Okrzynski	2025
Co-Chair	Jennifer Cooper	2025
Press Releases	Kim Lenzen	2025
Marketing	TBD	2025
Website	Administrative Assistant/Staff	
Facebook	Katelyn Rasmussen	2025

Operations Commission

Chair	Rick Burg	2025
Vice Chair	TBD	2026
Budget & Finance Committee Chair	TBD	2026
Building & Grounds Task Force Chair	TBD	2026
Memorials Committee Chair	Cynthia Lee	2025

Non-Voting Members

Treasurer	Lynn Hallen	2025
Financial Secretary	Jan Kendrick	2025
Co-Financial Secretary	Cinda Bartz	2025

Budget & Finance Committee

Chair	TBD	2026
	Terry Norton	2025
	June Smith	2025
	Jerry Wessale	2025
	TBD	2026

Non-Voting Members

Treasurer	Lynn Hallen
Financial Secretary	Jan Kendrick
Co-Financial Secretary	Cinda Bartz

Building & Grounds Task Force

Chair	TBD	2026
	TBD	2026
	TBD	2026

Memorials Committee

Chair	Cynthia Lee	2025
	June Smith	2025

Christian Education Commission

Chair	Sue Schmidt	2025
Vice Chair	TBD	2026
Adult Education Committee Chair	TBD	2026
Children's Ministry Committee Chair	Sue Schmidt	2025
Cradle Roll Committee Chair	TBD	2026
Youth Ministry Committee Chair	Erik Fries	2025
Confirmation Task Force Chair	TBD	2026

Non-Voting Members

Senior Pastor	Jason Okrzynski
Director of Christian Education	Ryan Aubrey
Director of Youth Fellowship	TBD

Adult Education Committee

Chair	TBD	2025
	Jerry Wessale	2025
	Abby Madden	2025
	TBD	

Non-Voting Member

DCE	Ryan Aubrey
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Youth Ministry Committee

Chair	Erik Fries	2025
	Sarah Fries	2025
	Garrett Fries	2025
	TBD	2025

Non-Voting Member

DYF	N/A
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Children's Ministry Committee

Chair	Sue Schmidt	2025
	Katelyn Rasmussen	2025
	Lexie Craig	2025
	Cathy Vick	2025
	Stephanie Perdeu	2025

Non-Voting Member

DCE	Ryan Aubrey
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Confirmation Task Force

Chair	TBD	2026
	TBD	2026

Non-Voting Members

DCE	Ryan Aubrey
DYF	N/A

Cradle Roll Committee

Chair	TBD	2026
	TBD	2026
	TBD	2026

Non-Voting Members

Nursery Coordinator	N/A
DCE	Ryan Aubrey

*Vacant positions are highlighted in yellow.

Administrative Council Report

The year 2024 challenged the church but the membership and leadership maintained the Spirit of the Lord at United Protestant Church.

The Membership Cultivation Subcommittee assisted with the Wednesday Outdoor evening services in June and July to share in worship with the Grayslake Community and Farmers Market participants.

A music director was hired. I thank the church musicians, who continued to ensure church worship included musical selections before Kurt Mockenhaupt accepted the Director of Music position.

Finances continue to challenge the church. Thanks to the Stewardship Committee as they assisted the church membership to understand how they can support the church with their time, talents, and treasures.

Thanks to the congregation's support, the Audio/Visual Subcommittee determined the needs for an up-to-date system and made the necessary contacts for the installation of the system. Please be patient as the team learns to operate the new system.

A Governance Task Force was initiated and is starting to brainstorm how the church should be structured to continue and better perform the mission of the church with limited resources.

Plans are underway to celebrate the 75th Anniversary of United Protestant Church in 2025.

I want to thank all the council membership - commission chairs, lay leader/moderator, treasurer, the members-at-large along with the clerk - for all their tireless work, along with the commissions and committees, for all they do to continue the mission of the church.

Thank you to the dedication of United Protestant Church staff and volunteers that are the hands and feet each day and are the word of God and Jesus to everyone they encounter every day.

Finally, as I close this report, thank you to all who call United Protestant Church your church home, for all you do for this congregation, and the time, talents and treasures you share with the United Protestant Church.

Please contact any member of the Administrative Council or Staff Parish Committee with any ideas or concerns. They want to hear from all members of United Protestant Church.

Respectfully submitted,

Dale A. Message
Chair, Administrative Council

Staff Parish Report

2024 began a year of transitions, challenges, and continued rebuilding after the cessation of the Covid Pandemic. During the year we dealt with a few staff changes and the regular administrative duties of the committee. As the Human Relations body of the church, it is our responsibility to monitor all paid staff and volunteers, ensuring that the work of the church is performed in a professional manner and that all members and staff are treated with respect and dignity.

In 2024 Kurt Mockenhaupt was hired as our Music Director. Jackie lanson resigned her employment as custodian and was replaced by a local cleaning service. The committee resolved to leave the Youth Director and Nursery Coordinator positions unfilled for budgetary reasons. Moving into 2025, staff cuts will be made as we try to live within budgetary constraints as faithful stewards of our members' pledges and memorial gifts.

Also, in 2024, we continued to collaborate with Pastor Jason as he completed performance reviews of all paid staff, eliciting personal goals from each staff person and attempting to see them through to accomplishing said goals. As a committee, we remain open to discussing any/all concerns our members/staff may have as we seek, together, to make disciples for Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world.

The 2024 Staff Parish Committee consisted of the following elected members: Michelle Adams, William Churchill, Dale Message and Carol Roselli-Rasmussen. The Senior Pastor, Jason Okrzynski, also participated in most Staff Parish meetings.

In His Service,

Carol Roselli-Rasmussen, Moderator

Report of the Senior Pastor

Grace to you and Peace from God our Father and from Jesus Christ,

Happy Diamond Jubilee! I am told that is the official term for a 75th anniversary. United Protestant Church is celebrating “75+ years of keeping faith.” The members of UPC have been here in Grayslake, worshipping, praying, serving, and ministering in Jesus’ name for 75 years—and for decades before that due to our predecessor congregations which merged to form UPC. I am eager to celebrate this significant anniversary together this year. Stay tuned for more to come regularly on this significant milestone.

I am humbled by the incredible ministry our members did together again in our 74th year together. That ministry was both in care and maintenance of our community and in wider partnership and service to God’s world. Allow me to share a few highlights:

In 2024 we saw our highest worship attendance since prior to pandemic. Worship is the heartbeat of the congregation and this past year our worship was energized when our Staff Parish Relations Committee (SPRC) hired new Music Director Kurt Mockenhaupt, whose professionalism and enthusiasm are already enlivening the UPC choirs. The first half of our year we saw our vocal and bell choirs continue to offer beautiful additions to our worship service without a director. Now under Kurt Mockenhaupt’s direction, we have seen increased offerings from the choirs, and creative innovation in our worship service.

Lent saw a return of drama as a form of preaching during Lent. Thanks to the dedication of Darlene George Craig, Katelyn Rasmussen and over twenty of our members, these dramas brought variety and inspiration to the Lenten season.

In May, we celebrated the confirmation of three young men in our congregation.

During summer we offered three outdoor revival worship services on the lawn, and in late summer we celebrated our backpack blessing and outdoor worship with folk/Americana hymns provided by Emily Aubrey (guitar), Sean Del Grosso (stand-up bass), Abby Madden (fiddle) and Pastor Jason Okrzyński (banjo, mandolin). A picnic followed, also with the highest attendance we’ve seen since the pandemic.

Under the leadership and inspiration of our Director of Christian Education Ryan Aubrey, our congregation undertook a new initiative to grow intergenerational ministries as part of our worship and fellowship life. We enjoyed a summer program in the parks and an Advent St. Nicholas Festival.

These moments sustained and nurtured us amidst a year of changes and a few unforeseen challenges. These included responding to rapid inflation, changes in staffing, the challenges associated with aging facilities and identifying needed changes in UPC’s governance and bylaws. We would not have weathered these challenges without the leadership and fidelity of our committees and highly engaged leadership. Thank you to our Moderator Carol Roselli Rasmussen, our Ad Council

Chair and all-around procedural guru Dale Message, as well as all the members of our Councils and Committees whose generous service guided us through another year together.

It is easy to take for granted our big, beautiful church building located in the heart of Grayslake. However, again we maintained our church thanks in large part to the tireless work of our Operations Committee. Our members partnered with the Scouts to recoat the roof of the education wing, performed routine and countless repairs, and tended to our grounds with the help of Jesus Lopez Landscaping, who cleaned and tidied the circle garden and installed new shrubs by the front lawn sign. We are thankful for Jackie Ianson's service on our staff. Upon her departure our SPRC quickly secured a professional cleaning service.

Thanks to our remarkable Mission team, our members completed another exemplary year of Christian mission and service. UPC gave generously to our mission partners and shared an extra offering to support their missions.

Of course, no review of this year's accomplishments would be complete without mentioning the launch of a new streaming and A/V team. It is hard to thank everyone who helped update the system including Cinda Bartz, Rick Burg, Andrew Friesema, Drew Madden, Dale Message, Jason Meyer and Jerry Wessale. There were a lot of challenges throughout the year, and this team of dedicated folks led us through all the frustrations. As you likely also know, just before Christmas, we were able to hire Sound Planning to replace our sanctuary's outdated Audio/Visual system. There was so much done that led up to that event. First, representatives of our Stewardship, Budget and Finance and Operations committees met to examine possible solutions and spearhead an initiative to improve our situation. Second, the team decided to approach a selected anonymous group of donors to ask if they would be able to raise half of the funds, and that group responded with generosity in spades. The congregation rewarded their efforts by voting to distribute matching restricted funds to make that much needed purchase happen. Finally, the dedicated group of Rick Burg, Drew Madden, and Jerry Wessale analyzed bids and made the installation happen.

I hope that these highlights give some picture of what God did through you, the members of United Protestant Church. However, highlights have a way of belittling the most significant aspect of Christian community. God calls his people into covenant. Covenants are relational and communal agreements through which we are brought into relationship with God and neighbor. Covenants are sustained by daily, routine habits. This year, as for the last 75+, UPC's members gathered to fulfill the single highest calling of covenanted Christian life: to give worship and praise to God and to listen to God's word.

This covenant of faith informs every aspect of our life together. Every week folks gathered to serve, give, learn, pray, care, and live out our Christian faith. It is a privilege to serve folks who are so dedicated to their faith and to each other.

What cannot be lost in all this is the truth that based on the health of the present moment, the future of UPC looks very bright. First and foremost, the members of UPC know that a church is a Christian community of faith. We are here to worship God and live out our faith together. Believe me, it is possible to forget that, and in hard times many churches do. What is more, in the post-pandemic landscape of American religion, the vast majority of congregations report significantly smaller numbers of current membership, weekly worshippers, staff size, and annual pledge dollars than we currently have at UPC.

I am convinced that when we look ahead to UPC's 100th anniversary, the question is not whether UPC will still be here. It will. The right question is who is going to be worshipping with us. Who does not know about Jesus? Who has not heard the gospel? Where are the lonely, the lost, the meaningless who are waiting for a sign from God?

Our 75th year is a year not just to ask these questions, but to look for the answers. May this be a year in which UPC rediscovers creative evangelism and impassioned outreach. Let us celebrate God's faithfulness to us by reaching out to anyone and everyone and inviting us to join our covenanted lives of faith, hope, and love. Even more so, may we make it clear that the greatest of these is love!

In Christ,

Rev. Jason Okrzynski, PhD

Director of Christian Education Report

Dear Church Family,

2024 was a busy and good year in our educational ministries. We added some new activities, switched our Children's Ministry curriculum, and continued holding our normal events.

Our Children's Ministry was the most active this year. From January to May, the kids finished exploring the theme of The Covenant, through the Journeys in Faith curriculum during our 9:00 hour. The kids enjoyed talking about and learning what covenants are and tracing them throughout the Bible. Throughout the summer, I did a major curriculum review and decided to shift our 9:00 curriculum to better fit with our Sunday morning worship service. So, for this ministry year (September 2024 – May 2025), we shifted to a curriculum that goes through the Narrative lectionary. This shift has been a major success. The kids are very engaged and noticed right away the connection between what we covered during the 9:00 hour and the Scripture passages for the 10:00 hour. I am very pleased with this shift. Thank you to all the volunteers who help make our 9:00 hour a success.

Our Children's Ministry hosted a variety of events throughout the year. We successfully implemented quarterly events this year by adding an event to the beginning of the calendar year. We hosted a Kids Night Out, so that parents could have an evening without the kids. We watched a movie, enjoyed some pizza, and did a variety of activities. We had a wonderful Easter Party & Egg Hunt. Our summer activity, VBS, was unable to be held this year. We did not have enough kids register. So, we shifted to a series of park meet-ups throughout the summer, Parks & Practices. We had some wonderful times with the kids playing on the playground and time for parents to connect. We also had a couple of shared meals together. Thank you to the Friesema and Madden families for hosting those. We once again helped plan our Back-to-School Sunday, and then held our normal Fall event, Fall Fest. We also added an intergenerational worship service, where kids and youth participated in various elements of the 10:00 service. Another new event was our Feast of St. Nicholas Potluck and Party. It was a great evening of food, fellowship, and fun. The puzzle was a hit. Finally, we held our Family Christmas Eve Service. The kids helped tell the story of Christ's birth through an informal play.

Our Adult ministry had a year of good Sunday School discussions covering a variety of topics. We worked through several books, *Simply Christian*, *Entering the Passion of Jesus*, and *The Everyday Gospel Christmas Devotion*. We also held classes covering how we live as Christians in the everyday, *Taking the Resurrection Into the Everyday*. We explored our giftings and how we can serve to build the Church, *SHAPE*. Our Adults also learned about the early Church with the *Desert Fathers*. Our year was filled with wonderful times together.

Thank you to everyone who served and helped run our educational ministries. Thank you to all the teachers in our Children and Adult ministries. A special thanks to all who serve on our educational ministry committees.

Blessings,

Ryan Aubrey, Director of Christian Education

Christian Education Commission Report

The Christian Education Commission consists of the Adult Education Committee, Children's Ministry Committee, Confirmation Task Force, Cradle Roll Committee, and Youth Ministry Committee. Reports from each of these areas will follow.

The Cradle Roll Committee did not function in 2024 due to a lack of volunteers or a Nursery Coordinator. The Youth Ministry Committee continues to get the youth group to participate in several youth events during the year while working without a Director of Youth Ministry. Confirmation classes were taught by Pastor Jason Okrzynski. Children's Ministry continues to offer Sunday School classes and other seasonal fellowship events for children and their families. The Adult Education Committee continues to offer inspiring classes throughout the year, including Lenten and Advent studies.

A special thank you is extended to all our dedicated volunteers who make our programs successful. We also thank those who supported and participated in our programs, most of which are held on Sunday mornings, and occasionally on Tuesday evenings via Zoom. Our gratitude is also given to Ryan Aubrey, Director of Christian Education, and Pastor Jason Okrzynski for their invaluable guidance and leadership.

You are all encouraged to participate in our educational opportunities offered in 2025 to continue to grow your faith as Christ's disciples.

On behalf of the CEC,

Sue Schmidt, Chair

Adult Education Committee Report

This year, our Adult Ministry covered lots of ground. We covered a variety of topics and managed to address most of the 4 main buckets that I seek to study throughout the year: theology, church history, topical, and a book of the Bible. We offered 6 classes from January to December. We began by exploring some of the basics of what it means to be a Christian through NT Wright's *Simply Christian*. We then held our annual Lenten Study walking through the Passion narrative with *Entering the Passion of Jesus*. Our final study before our summer break examined being a Christian in our day-to-day life with the RightNow Media study, *Taking the Resurrection Into the Everyday*. Coming back from Summer, our first study was in connection with our church's Stewardship Campaign. We explored how God has created us to serve and use our giftings by discovering our S.H.A.P.E. Following that class, we explored some Christian History and the development of our faith through a class taught by Pastor Jason examining the time of the Desert Fathers. Finally, we concluded our year with our annual Advent Study. This year, we did a Christmas devotional book by Paul Tripp, *The Everyday Gospel Christmas Devotion*.

Throughout the year, we had some wonderful discussions as we went through each of these studies. Thank you to all our participants, and to those who have helped lead the studies. A special thanks to Jerry Wessale and Abby Madden for serving on our Adult Education Committee. I appreciated the insights and help you both provided in helping choose our studies and guide the ministry.

Blessings,

Ryan Aubrey
Director of Christian Education

Children's Ministry Committee Report

Multiple educational opportunities were provided for children during 2024. Sunday school classes were offered to preschoolers through 6th graders in Fellowship Hall each Sunday morning at 9 a.m. The curriculum used from January through May was the *Journeys in Faith (JIF) Year 2: The Covenant* and the new lectionary-based curriculum called *Living the Word* was taught from September through December. This new curriculum will continue to be used in 2025. Children's Church was offered throughout the year each Sunday morning during the worship service where preschool children through 1st graders attended a shortened Sunday school class after the Children's Moment.

On February 9, the Children's Ministry Committee hosted a Kids Night Out event with pizza, activities, and a movie. The annual Easter Party and Egg Hunt was held outside on the front lawn on March 30 where approximately 20 children and their families participated. The VBS program was cancelled in June due to the lack of registrations. Instead, Children's Ministry offered 4 Parks and Practices events for families during the summer at neighborhood parks within Grayslake. The Back-to-Sunday School registration and celebration, as well as the blessing of the backpacks was held in conjunction with a picnic and ice cream social on August 27. We also had a lot of fun participating in UPC's annual Fall Fest on October 26 where we offered the bouncy house, a pumpkin craft, Ga-ga ball, and refreshments. Our newest offering of a Feast of St. Nicholas event was held on December 6 where children and adults shared a potluck meal and participated in multiple activities.

This committee strives to provide quality Sunday school programs for our children. Students are encouraged to invite friends and relatives to attend our classes and events throughout the year. Special thanks are extended to Ryan Aubrey, DCE, and committee members: Lexie Craig, Katelyn Rasmussen, and Cathy Vick. We also extend our gratitude to all of our teacher volunteers and helpers: Emily Aubrey, Jennifer Cooper, Dale Message, Rose Pech, Stephanie Perdew, Linda Rambo, Mark Rasmussen, Katelyn Rasmussen, Carol Roselli-Rasmussen, Sue Schmidt, Cathy Vick, Dylan Okrzynski, Soren Okrzynski, and Evan Kutsin. The Children's Ministry Committee meets on the 2nd Monday of the month as needed at 7 p.m.

On behalf of the CMC,

Sue Schmidt, Chair

Youth Ministry Committee Report

There is no report for Youth Ministry for 2024 as there is no chairperson for this committee. The youth were able to participate in a Christmas party in December.

Confirmation Task Force Report

Pastor Jason and Erik Fries continued teaching the Confirmation program at UPC in the fall. This past May 2024, we confirmed three students.

In the fall of 2024, we welcomed one new student. The Confirmation Committee is continuing to work on its goal for building a mentorship program and in November had an open house to discuss expectations with both confirmands and their mentors. As of January 2025, all confirmation students have reached out to a member of our congregation and asked someone to be their confirmation mentor. As the year progresses, we will continue to hold meetings and build upon this program, mediating the building of relationships with our confirmands and their mentors.

We switched curriculums this year and it has been well received by the confirmands. The current Confirmation class has four students, three of whom are 8th graders and will be confirmed in May.

Submitted by,

Erik Fries, Confirmation Chair

Cradle Roll Committee Report

The Cradle Roll Committee did not function in 2024 due to a lack of volunteers; therefore, there is no report. The nursery was open as a “cry room” whenever there were no volunteers to staff it. Although we do not have a nursery coordinator on staff, Mary Lillstrom provided childcare in the nursery when her schedule permitted.

Spiritual Life & Outreach Commission Report

There was no chairperson for the Spiritual Life and Outreach Commission in 2024, therefore, there is no report. Committees include Worship, Home Team, Membership and Outreach, Mission, and Stewardship. Reports from the various committees follow.

Worship Committee Report

In 2024 we found ourselves without a Music Director and we were fortunate as a congregation to have our choirs step up and work totally on their own. They continued to provide us with worship music every Sunday. Our musicians are incredibly dedicated, talented people. Late in 2024 we welcomed our new Music Director Kurt Mockenhaupt. We greatly appreciate how much he has done in such a short time with our bell choir and our chamber/chancel choir. He is an extremely talented, patient person!

I am always thanking the people on the Worship Committee for all they do. Our committee is small (Linda Markham, Marcia Twadell, Pastor Jason and me). We welcome anyone who would like to join us. God keeps us busy in every season of the church. We no sooner take down our holiday decorations at Un-hanging of the Greens, then we jump into a New Year with plans for Ash Wednesday, Lent and Easter. Shortly after Easter, we have Confirmation and say thank you to our choirs for another year of great music. With summer comes summer music and we love our volunteers who are willing to sing or play an instrument for us during the summer months. Fall brings us back to our regular schedule with World-wide Communion in October and All Saints in November. And then once again, we are planning our Advent/Christmas services around the celebration of the coming of the Christ Child.

I always say we on the Worship Committee serve a living Lord and you better be ready to step up when he calls on you. The church is an important stabilizing factor in our lives. We wish more people would realize that in this chaotic world we live in.

We ask for God's continued support for our committee and for everyone here at United Protestant Church. Through all the seasons of the church one thing is most evident, our God is an Awesome God and with Him all things are possible!

Yours in Christ,

Barb Fischel, Worship Chair

Home Team Report

The Home Team is a volunteer ministry designed to provide contact with church members and their families who may be home-bound, or who may be in need, sick, grieving, or simply in some manner of distress. Through our contacts we aim to foster a sense of community, compassion and caring by sharing God's love in the name of Christ.

This somewhat unique ministry has provided transportation to/from Sunday worship for Library Lane and Alto Grayslake residents and for non-driving members and friends. Transportation has also been provided (when possible) for medical appointments (within reasonable distance) throughout the year for members or regular attendees who need assistance. We continue to send cards to mark birthdays, marriage anniversaries, deaths of a church member or family member, and to comfort those suffering from illness. In partnership with Pastor Jason, we try to maintain contact by phone calls to, or by making personal visits with, elderly or chronically ill church members and/or their families. Currently we have three volunteers responsible for sending cards to folks on a regular basis. Our transportation team (currently three volunteers) has been providing rides for a variety of needs, such as to/from church, doctor/dentist appointments, and hospital services throughout much of 2024.

The Home Team is a valuable ministry made up of dedicated, compassionate people, with many having served in this capacity for many years. For the transportation services, phone calls, the sending of cards, home/residence visits, and just spending time listening, we are very grateful to these faithful servants of God. Thank you to all of you so very much.

Blessings and yours in Christ,

Jerry Wessale, Home Team Chair

Membership and Outreach Report

The Membership and Outreach Committee (MOC) is designed to work toward promoting Christian fellowship at UPC and beyond our doors. This team hosted two familiar and popular events in 2024, which were:

- Ice Cream social, combined with hot dog lunch and outdoor service on August 27. MOC served ice cream and provided toppings and helped with set-up and clean up.
- Cider Sunday on October 13, where we provided cider and apple cider donuts from Royal Oaks Orchard for congregants after the service. This is a well-received event by the congregation.

Our team also contributed some ideas for structuring the new members class, which was held in February, 2024. We then provided flowers for our new members and a sheet cake to welcome them to UPC during the Sunday service on February 25.

Thanks to this year's members for their work and stepping up to provide help when needed: Terese Bell, Laurie Bethmann, Lori Rische, and Sue Schmidt.

Respectfully submitted,

Emily Aubrey, Chair

Mission Committee Report

Our motto for this year was, "We can do more in 2024!" And our church family went over and above!

The Mission Committee is in awe of the generosity of our UPC family and friends donating their time, talents, and treasures in our mission to help all of God's children and sustain His creation, planet earth.

Committee members include Cinda Bartz, Judi Becker, Mary Ann McDowell and Linda Rambo. Lynn Hallen and Sally Kelly have been attending our meetings and supporting our efforts in anticipation of becoming members in 2025. Thanks to the amazing committee members and Pastor Jason for their dedication in bringing new missions to our attention and for continuing to strengthen the bond that we have with our existing mission partners. We also would like to thank Dave Bartz who, along with Cinda, coordinates the collection bins to keep items out of landfills and bring additional funds to our mission partners. The committee meets on the fourth Monday of each month at 7:00 p.m. in room 103. We are open to suggestions from the congregation regarding new missions and Joy Sharing opportunities.

Joy Sharing is an opportunity to give on the third Sunday of the month to one of the UPC supported missions. Funds may be received any time during the year. The organizations chosen for 2024 are listed below.

The committee sincerely thanks our congregation for their generous support. There are many other organizations in need, and it is always a challenge for the committee to prayerfully determine which organizations to support financially through Joy Sharing.

January	Lake County Haven	\$680.00
February	Tyler & Brittany (missionary in Africa)	585.00
March	UPC Adult Mission Trip	445.00
April	Curt's Café	1,065.00
May	Malaria No More	790.00
June	Living Water International	770.00
July	World Relief	455.00
August	American Foundation for Suicide Prevention	715.00
September	INK180	1,052.50
October	Feed My Starving Children	1,045.00
November	Veteran's Tree	255.00
December	CWS Best Gifts	630.00

A huge THANK YOU to all of you for your generosity on behalf of our country's hospitalized veterans. We were again able to select names from the Veteran's Tree and purchase individual gifts. Together with Bank of America, we collected gifts for 77 veterans. A huge thank you to Wende Fry, Denise Fuller, and Jamie Fuller for organizing and working with the Mission Committee on this mission and keeping us involved with this amazing organization. Please consider joining us to deliver the gifts to the veterans next year.

This year the committee selected CWS Best Gifts as our partner to provide an opportunity for UPC to give alternative Christmas gifts to their family and friends. \$630 was given to buy much needed items for people in underdeveloped countries.

UPC continues our dedicated support of Feed My Starving Children. During our many volunteer sessions in 2024, we have provided 1,304 volunteer hours to pack 304,410 meals to feed 918 kids for a year.

We added 3 Fifth Sunday Collections in 2024. These collections highlight some of the ongoing collections that we have all year. In March we had a collection for Lord of Glory Food Pantry. We have decided to change the food pantry collection to support Avon Community Food Pantry to align with Circle 2's monthly volunteering. June's Fifth Sunday highlighted our continuing collections and support of PADS. September's Fifth Sunday highlighted our Soles for Jesus (SFJ) shoe collection. UPC was able to donate 2,427 pairs of new or used shoes. In a large part this is due to the efforts of Jack Powell getting donations from area churches and resale shops, and Dave Bartz making the trek to Milwaukee to deliver the shoes to SFJ. Thank you to all who donated.

In addition to Joy Sharing, UPC supports several other missions, collections and recycling opportunities. We collected 3.5 pounds of pop top tabs for Ronald McDonald House and donated clean, used plastic and paper grocery bags to an area food pantry. Please check out the UPC website and select Missions to see the full list, which is

updated regularly, to see where you can get involved. You can also visit our collection bins in the Narthex where you can obtain a list of items for donating and recycling.

This year UPC packed and mailed 252 shoe boxes during our Operation Christmas Child event. These boxes are sent to children living in poverty around the world. This year's boxes traveled to Trinidad and Tobago, Jamaica and Zambia. The children who receive the boxes also hear the story of Jesus Christ! What an amazing gift! The committee also helps to promote the UPC Shopper Cards, which are available throughout the year. These funds help cover shipping costs for Operation Christmas Child. Our thanks to the members of Circle 2 for helping us create over 500 games to send in the shoe boxes.

This summer and fall, UPC volunteers and some very ambitious friends worked together to glean from our local farms and orchards. The combined group gleaned 13,087 pounds of corn, 264 pounds of potatoes and 3,139 pounds of apples. These items were donated to the Northern Illinois Food Bank, Blessed Trinity Church, Faith Acres, Woodstock and other area food pantries. Many thanks to Stade's Farm and Orchard, Royal Oak Orchard and Heinz Orchard for their generosity.

The committee is working with Rose Pech and Rick Burg to assist PADS in collecting food to distribute to our homeless neighbors in local hotels.

Companions Journeying Together mission provides cards for prisoners to help them stay connected with their families and friends. There were 1,579 Christmas cards and 347 various other cards provided for the inmates to send. There were also 216 Christmas cards with uplifting messages to be given to the inmates.

The mission work described above happened only because of the gifts of time, donations, and dedication from our committee members and the support and generosity of the UPC congregation who showed extraordinary generosity for the mission outreach of UPC. A heartfelt thank you to all!

Our challenge for next year is, "Missions Thrive in 2025." Help us to fulfill this goal!

Respectfully submitted,

Linda Rambo
Mission Committee Chair

Stewardship Committee Report

The Stewardship Committee of 2024 consisted of: Linda Rambo, Katelyn Rasmussen, Carol Roselli-Rasmussen, and Sue Schmidt. Senior Pastor Reverend Dr. Jason Okrzynski supported the committee.

The 2025 Pledge Drive has received 49 pledges for a total of \$186,515, which is the second year in a row we have exceeded recent giving. THANK YOU, members, and friends, for your generous support of the **UPC mission to make disciples for Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world.**

In 2024, the Stewardship Committee continued the work we began in 2023, including:

- Offered frequent testimonials by members during the Worship Services.
- Contributed informative, monthly articles to the *Unifier* Newsletter.
- Sent personal, handwritten THANK YOU notes and Stewardship magnets to all members and friends who submitted a 2025 pledge.
- Assisted in the work to raise an AV Fund with which our Audio, Visual, Streaming networks and related technology were replaced in late 2024.

In 2025, we hope to increase our goals to include:

- Protecting our savings account, i.e., Endowment Fund, from depletion by day-to-day bill paying.
- Generate new pledges.
- Collaborate with our new Treasurer/Bookkeeper team to find new ways to solicit and invest monetary assets.
- Find ways/programs to encourage our membership to increase their financial knowledge and savings/giving habits for both the benefit of Christ's mission and their family's welfares.

Pledging our time, talent and financial assets is a sacred act of worship. We are made in the image of a generous and loving God who provides all that is good in our lives. As you give back to Him, please know you are helping to bring His love and goodness into the world.

Trusting Our God Who Provides,

Carol Roselli-Rasmussen, Chairwoman

Operations Commission Report

We had another busy year keeping our building in good shape. A partial list of items we addressed is shown below:

- Numerous plumbing repairs clearing our many sink drains.
- Replaced the boiler room water heater.
- Replaced the impeller housing of the boiler room sump pump.
- Installed a backup sump pump to protect the elevator power/control unit.
- Transitioned the AV work from Dennis Craig to a team.
- Replaced the AC compressor at the parsonage.
- Trimmed trees at the parsonage and the church proper.
- Added landscaping around the digital sign and cleaned up the flagpole landscaping.
- Recaulked all the outside sanctuary windows.
- Replaced several old breakers in the boiler room.
- A dedicated emergency telephone line was installed in the elevator that is cell phone based.

We had a great group of volunteers from Boy Scout Troop 671 and our church that painted a protective silver coating on the entire education wing this fall. This will allow our 2-year-old roof to last for many years.

Our custodian, Jackie lanson, resigned in November and we are now using an outside cleaning service for this work.

Our old AV (Audio Visual) system did not allow us to stream in a consistent manner, had poor sound projection in the sanctuary, and did not allow the best quality of video images on our wall screen.

A special group was formed to address our AV system issues. Our amplifiers were so out of date that any failure would have been catastrophic in that no repair parts are available. With special funding from some very generous church members and using existing funds from a memorial fund, we were able to buy and install a state-of-the-art AV system. The new system allows much better sound in our sanctuary, better projection quality to our digital wall screen and allows high quality streaming. We had a tight schedule but the vendor, Sound Planning, was able to deliver the system to us before Christmas!

I have a shoutout to the effort that Jackie lanson put in while in her dual position of custodian and head of Buildings and Grounds. A special thank you to Jerry Wessale, Drew Madden, and Pastor Jason Okrzynski for their great work on getting the AV system to come to fruition!

Yours in Christ,

Richard Burg, Chair

Memorials Report

The purpose of the Memorial Committee is to preserve the memory of the person who has passed and direct their memorials to a gift that the committee and the family would appreciate.

Memorials gifts this year were used for: Church's General Fund, Glass for the Altar Table, Funeral and Wedding Banners, Sound Board, Tree Trimming and Pruning, Recaulking the Sanctuary Windows, PADS Shopper Cards and to update Gardens in front of the church.

Gifts were received from the families of Roger Richardson, Susan Green, Laurel Bruggen, Donna Obrecht, Edna Witte, Dian Weinkauff, Diane Caldwell, and Deanna Hinkley.

There are memorial gift envelopes that can be found on the front table near the stain glass windows and at Strang's Funeral Chapel.

Respectively submitted by:

Cynthia Lee, Chair

Women's Christian Fellowship Report

During 2024, WCF members of Circles 2, 4/5 and 9 enjoyed fellowship time during regular meetings and during spring and fall Saturday BUNCO events. Meetings for Circle 2 were held in the Meeting Room at 11:30 a.m. one Sunday a month except for January and February when there were no meetings. The Sunday for the meeting varied each month, depending on other congregational events. Circle 2 voted to meet monthly and to start a new monthly ministry with the Avon Township Center beginning in January 2025. The specific Sunday for meetings will still depend on other congregational events. Circle 4/5 continued their monthly meetings at Culver's Restaurant at 11:30 a.m. on the first Wednesday of the month. Circle 9's meetings started being held at 5:30 p.m. at Mrs. V's Restaurant on Rollins Road in Round Lake Beach on the second Tuesday of each month. Attendance at all these circle meetings varied. Circle 10 members kept in touch on Facebook. Catherine Vick (Circle 2), Sue Schmidt (Circle 4/5), Ruth Gheysen (Circle 9), and Jasmine Walker (Circle 10) continued as chairpersons. The contact person for WCF was Rose Pech. There was nothing for Catherine Vick to do as Secretary, so WCF no longer has officers. No large group meetings are held, except for spring and fall BUNCO which Sue Schmidt coordinates.

- BUNCO gatherings were held in both March and October with members and other friends enjoying a fun afternoon at each event.
- Communication was done in person as well as via internet and phone, with regular mail used for members when needed.

- WCF members continued to assist with worship services as ushers, liturgists, and greeters along with the men and youth of the church.

We were deeply saddened by the loss of dear friends and long-time members Laurel Bruggen, Susan Green, and Donna Obrecht. Their families continue to be in our prayers.

WCF has maintained the connection with the Lake North District of the Northern Illinois Conference as part of United Women of Faith through Rose Pech, the contact person. Rose shares emailed information from the district and conference to those who are listed as WCF members. WCF does not pledge donations because we collect no funds and have no treasury.

Ministry & Mission Expenditures in 2024:

- Individual donations to Tyler & Brittany UPC Fund, Curt's Café, and World Relief.

Circles as a group served in additional ways; some of these include the following:

- PADS: Monetary and other donations for PADS Lake County guests in motels.
- Companions Journeying Together: Christmas card messages and cards for inmates to use.
- Operation Christmas Child (OCC): cutting game parts and assembling games.
- Gifts for veterans at the James A. Lovell Federal Health Care Center whose names were on the Veteran's Tree.
- Avon Food Pantry: donating food and volunteering onsite to sort food donations.
- Sacred Grounds: providing treats, serving and cleaning up.
- Soles for Jesus: shoes and monetary donations.
- Meals, visits, cards, and calls to members.

We are thankful to all who supported WCF throughout 2024 and look forward to 2025!

Rose A. Pech, WCF Contact Person

History and Archives Report

2024 came with a host of activity for the ministries of the United Protestant Church. Some highlights of the year include, in no particular order:

- Continued Sunday morning worship in the Sanctuary, which was livestreamed on YouTube, along with weekly Christian education opportunities for all ages.
- Confirmation service where 3 youth were confirmed as members of UPC.
- Music Sunday in May to celebrate our choirs and musicians.
- Wednesday night outdoor worship services in June and July to reach out to the community and farmers market attendees.
- Collection of items for Operation Christmas Child shoe boxes throughout the year, culminating in a packing party in November at which 252 shoe boxes were packed.
- Meaningful Holy Week worship and activities, including Palm Sunday, Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, Easter Sunrise and Easter worship services, and an Easter egg hunt for children on Saturday afternoon.
- In lieu of VBS, 4 Parks and Practices events for children were held throughout the summer.
- Adult volunteers participated in Habitat for Humanity's Blitz Build in June to help build new homes in Mayfield, KY.
- A presentation by Chris Baker of INK 180 during a worship service in September where he spoke about human trafficking.
- Monthly Joy Sharing opportunities continue to support projects outside our walls as did monthly packs for Feed My Starving Children.
- Fall Fest at the end of October on the front lawn of the church in conjunction with the downtown Grayslake's trick-or-treating at businesses.
- Outdoor worship on August 27 followed by a picnic, ice cream social, and registration for Christian Education. Backpacks, both those being used by UPC students and those being given to be sent to others, were blessed during the worship service.
- A Feast of St. Nicholas potluck and event which featured various stations of activities for children and adults.
- The installation of a new audio/visual system to enhance our sound and streaming capabilities to reach those outside of our community through our online presence.

We look forward to 2025 with excitement as we continue our journey in ministry together in Grayslake and the world beyond.

Edited by,

Sue Schmidt