



United  
Protestant  
Church  
*of Grayslake*

**2025  
Annual Report**

**Meeting Held on  
January 25, 2026**

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# United Protestant Church of Grayslake, IL

## Annual Meeting Agenda

**January 25, 2026**

Declaration of Quorum and Call to Order	Dale Message
Opening Prayer	Pastor Jason Okrzynski
Approval of January 26, 2025 Annual Meeting Minutes	Dale Message
Approval of Special Congregational Meeting Minutes	Dale Message
<b><u>Finance</u></b>	
Approval of the 2025 Financial Reports	Lynn Hallen
Presentation of the Proposed 2026 Operating Budget	Lynn Hallen
Approval of the 2026 Operating Budget	Dale Message
<b><u>Membership</u></b>	
Presentation of the Membership Report	Pastor Jason Okrzynski
Approval of the Membership Report	Pastor Jason Okrzynski
Honorary Deacon and Steward	Sue Schmidt
<b><u>Nominations</u></b>	
Nominations Report & Nominations from the Floor	Pastor Jason Okrzynski
Election of Officers	Dale Message
Report from the Governance Task Force	Jennifer Cooper & Ann Friesema
Other Reports and Business	Dale Message
Closing Prayer	Pastor Jason Okrzynski
Adjournment	Dale Message

**2025 Annual Meeting Minutes**  
**United Protestant Church of Grayslake, IL**  
**January 26, 2025**

**Declaration of Quorum and Call to Order**

Dale Message, Chair of the Administrative Council, called the meeting to order at 11:18 a.m. and stated there was a quorum.

**Opening Prayer**

The opening prayer was given by Pastor Jason Okrzynski.

**Approval of the 2024 Annual Meeting Minutes**

Wendy Holliman made a motion to approve the 2024 Annual Meeting Minutes as submitted; Rose Pech seconded. A voice vote to approve the motion passed unanimously.

**Approval of the Special Congregational Meeting Minutes**

Jennifer Cooper made a motion to approve the October 2024 Special Congregational Meeting Minutes as submitted; Sean DelGrosso seconded. A voice vote to approve the motion passed unanimously.

**Approval of the 2024 Financial Reports**

Sue Schmidt gave an overview of the 2024 financial reports found on pages 11-16 of the Annual Report and introduced Lynn Hallen as our new Treasurer. The Balance Sheet on page 11 is an 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 as of December 31, 2024. This is the summation of all cash that is available. As of December 31, 2023, total assets were \$321,726.42. As of December 31, 2024, total assets decreased to \$274,550.85. 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, so the accounts balance. The Fund Activity Report on pages 12-13 lists all the funds and activities that occurred within the church in 2024. It shows the beginning balances, receipts, disbursements, and any internal transfers that occurred during the year for each fund. The operating fund is listed at the top of the page and ended with a negative balance of \$-29,833.46. This means that we spent more than we received. Transfers refer to money being taken from one fund and moved into another fund. Pages 14-16 show the detailed report of the operating fund. The top half of page 14 shows all the income for the year via pledges, donations, interest, building use, etc. Total income amounted to \$229,767.30. Under expenses, there is a line item for each expense and the amount spent on each item. On the bottom of page 15, total expenses amounted to \$259,650.76. At the top of page 16, it shows the negative deficit of \$-29,833.46 however, we anticipated a budgeted deficit of \$-36,865. On January 1, 2025, \$29,833.46 was transferred from the endowment fund to the general operating fund to bring that fund to a zero balance before we began our new accounting year for 2025. Also, on January 1, prepaid pledges of \$1,525 were transferred to general pledge income for 2025. The endowment fund had a balance of \$182,354.08, but after subtracting the \$29,833.46 deficit, it now has a balance of \$152,520.62. Craig Fischel made a motion to accept the 2024 financial reports as presented; Sean DelGrosso seconded. A voice vote to accept the motion passed unanimously.

## **Adoption of the Proposed 2025 Operating Budget**

Rick Burg, Chair of Operations, presented the proposed 2025 operating budget found on page 17 of the Annual Report. Rick first explained about our deficit problem and how, if we continue to keep running deficit balances, this trend is detrimental to the long-term health of our church. At our current rate, we could deplete our endowment fund in approximately two years. He stated that the Budget & Finance team and the Administrative Council have struggled with this issue for months to the point where we are presenting a “bare bones” budget with cuts where possible to the congregation. Going forward, the finance team will be providing monthly updates to the congregation on our financial status via the Sunday bulletins and the Tuesday emails. We are asking that all members consider ways to enhance the church’s revenue. This would include fundraising ideas, evangelism, opportunities to rent out our space for additional income, or consider tithing or increasing your pledge if you are able. As always, keep UPC in your prayers as we move through this challenge together. The first column of the budget report shows the budgeted amount for 2024. The second column shows the actual total for 2024, and the third column shows the budgeted amount for 2025. We are projecting revenue for 2025 to be \$201,540 due to expected pledges, contributions and some form of building usage fees. We anticipate a reduction of \$30,000 compared to 2024 due to loss of members and rental fees from the Grayslake Park District who will leave our space in June. Under expenses, we anticipate spending a total of \$264,030 this year. Mission Outreach refers to our contribution to both our denominations. The amount we give is unchanged from 2024. Spiritual Life and Outreach is for outreach to the community and necessary copyright licenses to allow us to use our music and some written materials in the church and online. This amount has been reduced by approximately \$1,200 compared to 2024. Christian Education covers the cost of youth curriculum and supplies which has been reduced by approximately \$600. Staff Parish covers the salaries of our staff. We had to cut hours and pay to help with the budget. We have reduced this amount by approximately \$11,500. The Church Office amount covers the cost of office supplies and the copier. The increase was caused by the need to replace our obsolete copier with a new lease to own copier since repair parts are no longer available. This acquisition caused the total amount to increase by approximately \$3,600. Building and Grounds cover all the costs associated with maintaining our church building and parsonage. It includes property and liability insurance, HVAC and elevator maintenance, general maintenance and snow removal. This was held to a \$1,000 increase. Utilities are costs we cannot control. We have long-term contracts for electricity and gas to help control rising costs. We expect a 10% increase this year. The Budgetary area pertains to bank fees and payroll service fees which are basically unchanged. The bottom line is that we project a deficit of approximately \$-63,000. We need to figure out ways to deal with this. Our endowment fund has money in it that we don’t want to spend, but we have been using it over the years to cover our deficits. The intention is not to empty the fund, but it is needed for these emergency situations. After answering questions and addressing concerns, Judy Ziegler made a motion to approve the 2025 budget as presented; Rose Pech seconded. A voice vote to approve the motion passed with three abstentions.

## **Membership Report**

Pastor Jason Okrzynski presented the Membership Cultivation Report on page 18 of the Annual Report. At the end of 2023, we had 186 members. In 2024, we welcomed 3 new members through Confirmation, 5 new members by profession of faith, plus reinstated one inactive member, which brings the total of new members to 9. During 2024, 5 members were retired due to death, and 4 retired by request. As of December 31, 2024, our membership remains at 186 members. Judy Ziegler made a motion to accept the membership report as presented; Karen Knapp seconded. A voice vote to accept the motion passed unanimously.

## **Honorary Deacon and Steward**

This year's Honorary Deacon and Steward is awarded to Dian Weinkauf. Ruth Gheysen presented this award in memory of Dian who was taken from us too soon. Although Dian cannot physically be with us to accept the award, she would have been so pleased with this honor. Dian was a member of the Children's Ministry Committee and taught Sunday School for many years. She had also been a member of the Adult Education Committee and taught some adult education classes. She maintained the UPC Shopper program, served on the Administrative Council, was a member of the bell choir, and was a good and faithful servant to UPC.

## **Nominating Report**

**Election of Officers (refer to pages 20-23)** – Pastor Jason presented the 2025 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 are highlighted in yellow. Pastor Jason then opened the floor for any nominations. After receiving none, Jennifer Cooper made a motion to accept the nominating report as presented; Judy Zieger seconded. A voice vote to accept the motion passed unanimously. The Governance Task Force is working to redo our bylaws to make our structure more efficient because we have too many open positions. They will be bringing updates to the congregation soon. Carol Roselli-Rasmussen has stepped down as our Moderator and has returned to her Catholic roots, so that position needs to be filled. Rose Pech made a motion to accept the officers listed on the report; Karen Knapp seconded. The motion passed with one abstention.

## **Proposed Changes to the UPC Constitution**

Dale Message proposed a change to Article VI, paragraph 3, and Article IX, paragraph 2.D. of the UPC Constitution to delete the restriction that a member cannot serve in the same position for more than six consecutive years. This rule currently applies to the Administrative Council Chair, the Administrative Council Vice Chair, and the Moderator. Ruth Gheysen made a motion to approve this change; Wende Fry seconded. Questions were addressed. A majority vote was taken by the raising of hands. Motion passed.

Dale Message proposed a change to Article VI, paragraph 1, to change the quorum of the Administrative Council meetings from six members to five members. Ruth Gheysen made a motion to approve this change; Rick Burg seconded. A majority vote was taken by the raising of hands. Motion passed.

## **Proposal of Worship Time Change**

Dale Message stated that a request was made to the Administrative Council in January to change the worship time to 10:30 a.m. and Christian education classes to start at 9:15 a.m. There is a conflict between adult education classes and choir rehearsals on Sunday mornings. Dale wished to bring this topic to the attention of the congregation to address opinions and suggestions. If a time change were to take place, we would need approximately three weeks to a month to advertise the change before implementing it. Many comments were made and discussed. Dale thanked everyone for their suggestions and comments. This will go back to the Administrative Council to discuss further. Administrative Council meetings are not closed session meetings, so anyone is welcome to attend. This group meets on the third Monday of each month at 7 p.m. in Fellowship Hall.

## **Other Reports and Business**

The remaining commission and committee reports are listed in the Annual Report. Members are encouraged to read them for more information. The Governance Task Force will be updating the congregation quarterly on their progress. They are trying to flatten our structure so there are not as many committees and positions to fill in the future.

## **Closing Prayer**

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

## **Adjournment**

Dale Message thanked everyone for attending the Annual Meeting. Barb Fischel made a motion to adjourn the meeting; Judy Ziegler seconded. The meeting adjourned at 12:20 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
*Sue Schmidt, Clerk*

## **2025 Special Congregational Meeting United Protestant Church of Grayslake, Illinois September 21, 2025**

### **Declaration of Quorum and Call to Order**

Dale Message, Chair of Administrative Council and acting Moderator and member of the Staff Parish Relations Committee, called the meeting to order at 11:05 a.m. and stated there was a quorum.

### **General Introduction to the Vote**

Dale Message stated that in order for Sean DelGrosso to continue his ordination candidacy process through the United Methodist Church (UMC), the UPC congregation needs to vote to recommend him to the UMC District Committee of Ordained Ministry. Sean DelGrosso spoke briefly to the congregation and offered to answer any questions. The next step in the process is Sean's interview on October 16, 2025, where he will appear before the UMC Board to be a certified candidate. Sean is currently serving a church in Salem, WI, but his heart remains with UPC. He thanked UPC members for their support and continued prayers.

### **Results of the Vote for Sean DelGrosso**

A vote was taken by members via a written ballot. The majority of UPC members voted yes to recommend Sean DelGrosso as a candidate to continue the ordination ministry process within the United Methodist Church.

## **Adjournment**

The meeting adjourned at 11:20 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	\$164,832.86
Contributions	39,928.26
Prepaid Pledges	325.00
Loose Offerings	2,258.07
Building Use	7,685.15
Initial Offering	125.00
Heating	190.00
Easter/Ash Wednesday/ Good Friday	1,318.00
Thanksgiving	105.00
Christmas/Advent	518.00
Prior Year	2,600.00
Capital Improvements	1,000.00
Fundraising	2,634.70
Marketing/Promotions	2,126.00
75/75 Fund	66,353.26

### DESIGNATED FUNDS

Youth Activities	\$ 319.74
Youth Assistance	500.00
PADS	362.50
Home Team	100.00
Operation Christmas Child	50.00
Miscellaneous	689.32
Adult Ed.	148.00
Bell Choir	700.00
Worship/Membership	1,498.00
Music	500.00
Love Gift	1,355.00

### REIMBURSEMENTS TO GENERAL FUND

Sacred Grounds	\$ 214.45
Church Repairs	51.00
Shopper Cards	26,320.00
Electronic Trf. Expense	9.50

### RECAP

General Fund	\$291,999.30
Reimbursements	26,594.95
Designated Funds	6,222.56
Joy Sharing	6,294.00
Memorials	<u>970.00</u>

**Total Received** **\$332,080.81**

### JOY SHARING

Adult Mission	\$ 370.00
Living Water International	\$ 771.00
Depke Mission	697.00
Malaria No More	540.50
Feed My Starving Children	505.00
Haven House	480.00
INK180	1,281.50
Feed6	460.00
Avon Food Pantry	195.00
Veteran's Tree	131.00
Curt's Café	485.00
Suicide Foundation	378.00

**United Protestant Church of Grayslake - Grayslake IL**  
**Balance Sheet as of December 31, 2025**

**Thursday, January 15, 2026**

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Account #	Account Name	Previous Year Balance	YTD Balance
<b>Assets</b>			
1.100.101	PNC Checking	49,204.94	13,809.70
1.100.102	PNC Money Market	16,982.42	10,167.56
1.100.103	Capital One	208,363.49	0.00
1.100.104	Edward Jones Cash Account	N/A	0.22
1.100.105	Federated Trust for US Treasury Obligations (MM)	N/A	242,147.78
	<b>Total Assets</b>	<b>\$274,550.85</b>	<b>\$266,125.26</b>
<b>Liabilities</b>			
2.400.400	Prepaid Pledges	1,525.00	325.00
	<b>Total Liabilities</b>	<b>\$1,525.00</b>	<b>\$325.00</b>
<b>Fund Balances</b>			
3.100.100	General Operating Fund Balance	(29,883.46)	(12,462.69)
3.200.200	Helping Hand Fund Balance	1,016.00	1,016.00
3.201.200	Bell Choir Fund Balance	69.30	719.71
3.202.200	Capital Improvement Fund Balance	71,592.21	25,052.71
3.203.200	Music Fund Balance	1,765.78	2,146.09
3.204.200	Youth Activity Fund Balance	(269.74)	50.00
3.205.200	Home Team Fund Balance	1,652.41	1,712.41
3.206.200	Childrens Ministry Activity Fund Balance	1,673.44	1,673.44
3.207.200	OCC/OCH Fund Balance	1,493.62	2,043.62
3.208.200	Endowment Fund Balance	182,354.08	177,970.62
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	5,579.83	5,579.83
3.214.200	Adult Education Fund Balance	0.00	64.00
3.215.200	Nursery Coordinator Fund Balance	3,562.50	2,637.50
3.216.200	\$75k for 75 Balance	N/A	31,353.26
3.217.200	Youth Activity Assistance Fund Balance	N/A	500.00
3.303.300	CWS Best Gifts Fund Balance	150.00	0.00
3.304.300	Tyler and Brittany Fund Balance	12.50	100.00
3.310.300	PADS Joy Sharing Fund Balance	110.00	0.00
3.313.300	Veterans Tree Balance	599.20	393.17
3.314.300	Northern Illinois Food Bank Balance	60.00	0.00
3.400.400	PADS Fund Balance	2,075.04	1,282.21
3.500.500	Memorials Fund Balance	8,097.32	4,577.64
3.600.600	UPC Shopper Card Fund Balance	5,226.45	3,301.37
	<b>Total Fund Balances</b>	<b>\$273,025.85</b>	<b>\$265,800.26</b>
	<b>Total Liabilities and Fund Balances</b>	<b>\$274,550.85</b>	<b>\$266,125.26</b>

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 12/31/2025**

**Thursday, January 15, 2026**

**Account #**

**Beg Balance**

**Receipts**

**Disbursements**

**Transfers/JE's**

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**End Balance**

<b>Account Name</b>	<b>Beg Balance</b>	<b>Receipts</b>	<b>Disbursements</b>	<b>Transfers/JE's</b>	<b>Page 1 of 2</b>	<b>End Balance</b>
3.100.100 General Operating Fund Balance	(29,883.46)	230,044.83	242,507.52	29,883.46	(12,462.69)	
3.150.100 Above and Beyond Fund Balance	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	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	1,016.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	1,016.00
3.201.200 Bell Choir Fund Balance	69.30	700.00	49.59	0.00	0.00	719.71
3.202.200 Capital Improvement Fund Balance	71,592.21	2,126.00	48,665.50	0.00	0.00	25,052.71
3.203.200 Music Fund Balance	1,765.78	500.00	119.69	0.00	0.00	2,146.09
3.204.200 Youth Activity Fund Balance	(269.74)	319.74	0.00	0.00	0.00	50.00
3.205.200 Home Team Fund Balance	1,652.41	100.00	40.00	0.00	0.00	1,712.41
3.206.200 Childrens Ministry Activity Fund Balance	1,673.44	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	1,673.44
3.207.200 OCC/OCH Fund Balance	1,493.62	50.00	2,000.00	2,500.00	2,043.62	
3.208.200 Endowment Fund Balance	182,354.08	0.00	9,500.00	5,116.54	177,970.62	
3.209.200 Endowment Programs & Facility Balance	807.75	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	807.75
3.210.200 Endowment New Ventures Balance	15,281.62	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	15,281.62
3.211.200 Missions -General Fund Balance	5,579.83	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	5,579.83
3.212.200 WCF - Mission Balance	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	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	0.00	64.00	0.00	0.00	64.00	
3.215.200 Nursery Coordinator Fund Balance	3,562.50	0.00	0.00	(925.00)	2,637.50	
3.216.200 \$75k for 75 Balance	0.00	0.00	0.00	(35,000.00)	31,353.26	
3.217.200 Youth Activity Assistance Fund Balance	0.00	500.00	0.00	0.00	500.00	
3.300.300 Adult Mission Fund Balance	0.00	370.00	370.00	0.00	0.00	
3.301.300 Bishop's Appeal Fund Balance	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	
3.302.300 Curt's Cafe Balance	0.00	485.00	485.00	0.00	0.00	
3.303.300 CWS Best Gifts Fund Balance	150.00	0.00	150.00	0.00	0.00	
3.304.300 Tyler and Brittany Fund Balance	12.50	697.00	609.50	0.00	100.00	
3.305.300 Feed My Starving Children Fund Balance	0.00	505.00	505.00	0.00	0.00	
3.306.300 Lake County Haven Fund Balance	0.00	480.00	480.00	0.00	0.00	
3.307.300 INK 180 Fund Balance	0.00	1,281.50	1,281.50	0.00	0.00	
3.308.300 Neighbors in Need Fund Balance	0.00	0.00	0.00	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	110.00	0.00	0.00	(110.00)	0.00	
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	599.20	131.00	337.03	0.00	393.17	
3.314.300 Northern Illinois Food Bank Balance	60.00	0.00	60.00	0.00	0.00	
3.315.300 Malaria No More Balance	0.00	540.50	540.50	0.00	0.00	
3.316.300 American Foundation for Suicide Prevention Balance	0.00	378.00	0.00	0.00		

United Protestant Church of Grayslake - Grayslake IL  
 Consolidated Fund Activity Report as of 12/31/2025

Thursday, January 15, 2026

Account #

Account Name

Page 2 of 2  
 End Balance

	Beg Balance	Receipts	Disbursements	Transfers/JE's	
3.317.300					
Avon Township Food Panty Fund	0.00	195.00	195.00	0.00	0.00
Balance					
3.318.300					
Living Water Intl' Fund Balance	0.00	771.00	771.00	0.00	0.00
Feed6 Balance	0.00	460.00	460.00	0.00	0.00
PADS Fund Balance	2,075.04	362.50	1,265.33	110.00	1,282.21
Memorials Fund Balance	8,097.32	970.00	4,489.68	0.00	4,577.64
UPC Shopper Card Fund Balance	5,226.45	27,637.33	27,212.41	(2,350.00)	3,301.37
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$273,025.85</b>	<b>\$336,021.66</b>	<b>\$342,472.25</b>	<b>(\$775.00)</b>	<b>\$265,800.26</b>

**United Protestant Church of Grayslake - Grayslake IL**  
**Treasurer's Report as of December 2025 for General Operating Fund**

**Thursday, January 15, 2026**

**Page 1 of 2**  
**Over/Under**  
**YTD+(-)**

Account #	Account Name	YTD Balance	Annual Budget	
<b><i>Income</i></b>				
4.100.100	Pledges	165,799.65*	150,760.00	15,039.65
4.100.101	Contributions	40,626.27*	37,000.00	3,626.27
4.100.102	Interest	5,076.16	5,500.00	(423.84)
4.100.103	Loose Offerings	2,258.07*	1,800.00	458.07
4.100.105	Church School	0.00	5.00	(5.00)
4.100.106	Initial Offerings	125.00	250.00	(125.00)
4.100.107	Heating	190.00	300.00	(110.00)
4.100.108	Lent\Easter	1,318.00*	1,100.00	218.00
4.100.109	Thanksgiving	105.00	150.00	(45.00)
4.100.110	Building Use	7,685.15*	2,500.00	5,185.15
4.100.111	Advent\Christmas	518.00	2,000.00	(1,482.00)
4.100.112	Prior Year	2,500.00		
4.100.113	Sacred Grounds	214.45*	175.00	39.45
4.100.114	Fund Raising	2,266.20		
4.100.115	Mis Income	1,355.00		
4.100.117	Gain/Loss (Security Sale	7.88		
<b>Total Income</b>		<b>\$230,044.83*</b>	<b>\$201,540.00</b>	<b>\$22,375.75</b>
<b><i>Expenses</i></b>				
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
5.100.302	Membership/Community Outreach	605.16*	600.00	5.16
5.100.303	Worship Supplies	(111.26)	350.00	(461.26)
5.100.305	Copyright License	553.40	800.00	(246.60)
5.100.308	Sacred Grounds Expense	0.00	175.00	(175.00)
5.100.315	Piano Maintenance	175.00	250.00	(75.00)
5.100.401	Adult Education	52.00		
5.100.404	Church School Supplies	0.00	200.00	(200.00)
5.100.407	Teacher Recognition	25.99	50.00	(24.01)
5.100.409	Confirmation	0.00	200.00	(200.00)
5.100.410	Cradle Roll	0.00	75.00	(75.00)
5.100.412	Youth Curriculum	0.00	200.00	(200.00)
5.100.413	Senior Gifts	48.55	50.00	(1.45)
5.100.501	Pulpit Supply	450.00	500.00	(50.00)
5.100.502	Senior Pastor Expense	1,241.04	1,500.00	(258.96)
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	12,000.00	(126.84)
5.100.506	Sr Pastor Medical & Dental Insurance	41,440.34*	41,000.00	440.34
5.100.507	Christian Education Director	8,080.51	21,584.00	(13,503.49)
5.100.510	Church Secretary	7,627.50	7,956.00	(328.50)
5.100.511	Organist\Pianist	9,123.33	9,360.00	(236.67)
5.100.512	Sunstitute Musician	0.00	0.00	0.00
5.100.513	Adult Music Director	9,897.40	10,500.00	(602.60)
5.100.514	Custodian #1	9,308.00	9,308.00	0.00
5.100.518	FICA - Employer Portion	2,727.60	3,000.00	(272.40)
5.100.519	Background Checks	0.00	100.00	(100.00)
5.100.520	Medical Care FSA	(3,554.17)	0.00	(3,554.17)
5.100.521	SECA - Employer Portion	5,782.56	6,000.00	(217.44)
5.100.522	Sr. Pastor Mileage	0.00	1,500.00	(1,500.00)
5.100.601	Office Supplies	799.63	1,250.00	(450.37)
5.100.602	IT Hardware/Software/Repairs	2,245.82	2,500.00	(254.18)
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**United Protestant Church of Grayslake - Grayslake IL**  
**Treasurer's Report as of December 2025 for General Operating Fund**

**Thursday, January 15, 2026**

**Page 2 of 2**  
**Over/Under**  
**YTD+(-)**

Account #	Account Name	YTD Balance	Annual Budget	
5.100.603	Offering Envelopes	430.55	500.00	(69.45)
5.100.605	Copier Expense	3,232.31	4,035.00	(802.69)
5.100.606	Postage	156.00	1,100.00	(944.00)
5.100.701	Property/Liability Insurance	11,826.96*	11,000.00	826.96
5.100.702	Workers Comp Insurance	1,524.00*	1,200.00	324.00
5.100.703	Maintenance Supplies	153.70	1,900.00	(1,746.30)
5.100.704	Church Repairs	1,551.98	6,000.00	(4,448.02)
5.100.705	Pest Control - Church	770.47*	500.00	270.47
5.100.707	Park Ave Repairs	389.10	3,000.00	(2,610.90)
5.100.708	Fire Prevention	2,433.42*	2,100.00	333.42
5.100.709	Elevator Maintenance	2,976.21	3,000.00	(23.79)
5.100.710	Snow Removal	1,810.00	1,900.00	(90.00)
5.100.711	Lawn Maintenance	(163.67)		
5.100.712	HVAC Contract	13,102.11*	10,000.00	3,102.11
5.100.713	State Boiler Inspection	100.00	120.00	(20.00)
5.100.801	Electricity	11,382.66*	10,500.00	882.66
5.100.802	Water/Sewer	649.08	900.00	(250.92)
5.100.803	Refuse Collection	919.24*	900.00	19.24
5.100.804	Natural Gas	12,481.72*	10,500.00	1,981.72
5.100.805	Park Ave Utilities	4,150.39*	3,600.00	550.39
5.100.806	Telephone	3,585.28	3,900.00	(314.72)
5.100.901	Bank Charges	147.00	156.00	(9.00)
5.100.902	ACH Fees	237.17	286.00	(48.83)
5.100.903	Payroll Services	1,415.28	1,725.00	(309.72)
5.100.904	Misc. Expense	1,355.00		
<b>Total Expenses</b>		<b>\$242,507.52</b>	<b>\$267,330.00</b>	<b>(\$26,065.81)</b>
<b>Difference</b>		<b>(\$12,462.69)</b>	<b>(\$65,790.00)</b>	

\* = Income/Expense exceeds amount budgeted to date

## 2026 Proposed Budget

Account Name	2025	2025	2026
	Annual Budget	YTD Actual	Proposed
<b>Income</b>			
Pledges	150,760.25	165,875.40	169,000.00
Contributions	37,000.00	40,550.52	39,000.00
Interest	5,500.00	5,076.16	7,500.00
Loose Offerings	1,800.00	2,258.07	2,500.00
Church School	5.00	0.00	0.00
Initial Offerings	250.00	125.00	100.00
Heating	300.00	190.00	150.00
Lent\Easter	1,100.00	1,318.00	1,250.00
Thanksgiving	150.00	105.00	100.00
Building Use	2,500.00	7,685.15	6,200.00
Advent\Christmas	2,000.00	518.00	1,500.00
Prior Year	0.00	2,500.00	0.00
Sacred Grounds	175.00	214.45	175.00
Fund Raising	0.00	2,266.20	1,500.00
Miscellaneous Income	0.00	1,355.00	0.00
Gain/Loss (Security Sale)	0.00	7.88	0.00
<b>Income</b>	<b>\$201,540.25</b>	<b>\$230,044.83</b>	<b>\$228,975.00</b>
<b>Expenses</b>			
Mission Outreach	2,000.00	2,000.00	2,000.00
Spiritual Life and Outreach	2,175.00	1,222.30	5,426.00
Christian Education	775.00	126.54	525.00
Staff Parish	176,508.00	159,497.27	160,458.00
Church Office	9,385.00	6,864.31	7,900.00
Building and Grounds	40,720.00	36,474.28	47,330.00
Utilities	30,300.00	33,168.37	34,600.00
Budgetary	2,167.00	3,154.45	2,171.00
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>\$264,030.00</b>	<b>\$242,507.52</b>	<b>\$260,410.00</b>
	<b>(\$62,489.75)</b>	<b>(\$12,462.69)</b>	<b>(\$31,435.00)</b>

**Membership Report**  
**December 31, 2025**

<b>Members as of December 31, 2024</b>	<b>186</b>
<b>Members Received by Confirmation:</b> Joseph Friesema, Timothy Knapp, Evan Kutsin	<b>+3</b>
<b>Reinstated by Request:</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>Transfer from UCC Churches:</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>Transfer from other churches:</b> Bill Leider, Ken Gipple, Katie Merrill	<b>+3</b>
<b>Total New Members</b>	<b>+6</b>
<b>Total Members</b>	<b>192</b>
<b>Members Removed by:</b>	
<b>Deaths:</b> Marjorie Miller, Richard Craig, Judy Ruhnke-Pfeil, Suzanne Sweeney	<b>-4</b>
<b>Transfer to UMC Churches:</b> Dennis Craig, Katie Merrill	<b>-2</b>
<b>Transfer to UCC Churches:</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>Transfer to other Churches:</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>Retired by Request:</b> Katelyn Rasmussen, Mark Rasmussen, Carol Roselli-Rasmussen, Lillian Eldridge, John (Jay) Eldridge	<b>-5</b>
<b>Retired by UPC:</b> Don Eisenhour, Heather Eisenhour, Jonathan Eisenhour, Madison Eisenhour	<b>-4</b>
<b>Total Removed</b>	<b>-15</b>
<b>Total Members as of December 31, 2025</b>	<b>177</b>

## Honorary Deacons and Stewards

### 1950 – 2025

2025	Jennifer Cooper	2003	Frank Osburn	1987	Bernadine Poska
2024	Dian Weinkauf	2002	Edna Munsinger	1986	Florence Madsen
2022	Jerry Wessale	2002	Howard Munsinger	1986	Edith Manusos
2021	Jackie Ianson	2001	Mark Rasmussen	1985	Elaine Francis
2020	Kelly Truckenbrod	2001	Carol Roselli-Rasmussen	1985	Joseph Francis
2019	Lillian Eldridge	2000	Doug McDowell	1985	Winifred Manuel
2018	Cherlyn Lowe	2000	Mary Ann McDowell	1985	Evelyn Turner
2018	Dale Message	1999	Alice Broadhurst	1984	Blanche Hawkins
2017	Diane Rarick	1999	Dennis Craig	1984	Eleanor Roberts
2016	Jim Fisher	1999	Darlene George Craig	1983	Ruth Tidlund
2016	Steve Truckenbrod	1999	Rose Pech	1982	Clarence Perry
2016	Kristen Johnson	1998	Candi Becker	1982	Florence Perry
2014	Karen Knapp	1998	Ted Becker	1981	Helen Pegg
2014	Chuck Martin	1998	Lois Bemis	1980	Berenice Friend
2013	Sue Schmidt	1997	John Harnagel	1979	Florence McKay
2013	Eric Stahl	1997	Janet Kendrick	1978	Lillian Watters
2012	Steve Rarick	1996	Barb Fischel	1977	Alta Neville
2012	Bill Churchill	1996	Craig Fischel	1976	Dorothy DeGraff
2011	Brian Hides	1995	Hal Alvin	1976	Kathryn Hook
2011	Christine Hides	1995	Nancy Alvin	1975	Charles Connelly
2011	Kevin Smith	1995	Laurel Bruggen	1974	Clara Rehder
2011	Val Smith	1994	Verlee Jones	1973	Harold Burge
2010	Lloyd Lowe	1994	Jean Tanner	1972	Emma Laursen
2010	Linda Rambo	1993	Bob Peterson	1971	Stanley Evans
2009	Cliff Grost	1992	Janice Peterson	1970	Irene Welty
2009	Tom May	1992	Jerry Badgerow	1968	Gertrude Kocher
2009	Peggy Grost	1992	Marlene Badgerow.	1967	Helen Beckwith
2008	Joe Hobson	1992	Roger Baumeister	1966	Charles Manuel
2008	Sarah Pressly-James	1992	Ruth Ann Baumeister	1965	Belle Shanks
2008	Tammy Swick	1992	Alan Knickerbocker	1964	Alice Washburn
2007	Sandy Findlay	1992	Karleen Knickerbocker	1963	Thyra Wicks
2007	Marjorie Miller	1992	Doris Craig	1962	Robert Washburn
2007	Rosanne Taylor	1991	Joanne Lawrence	1961	Lloyd Odell
2006	Paula Rothacker	1991	Richard Lawrence	1960	Ethel Rich
2006	Dorothy Smith	1990	Jane Conradi	1959	Ebenezer Harris
2006	Cathy Vick	1990	Helen Simpkins	1958	Gwyneth Duddles
2005	Rick Burg	1990	Warren Simpkins	1957	Grace Harris
2005	Marie Frandsen	1989	Rose Hornberger	1956	Margaret Vassau
2005	Joyce Norton	1989	Arthur Hornberger	1955	Adelia Englert
2004	Bruce Bassett	1989	Elaine Johnson	1954	Sarah Longabaugh
2004	Carol Bassett	1989	Ruth Pester	1953	Cora Wightman
2004	Sharry Lockhart	1988	Dale Craig	1952	Mabel Hook
2004	Linda Markham	1987	Eugene Davis	1951	Anne Pester
2003	Cinda Bartz	1987	Lois Fenters	1950	John Allen
2003	Helga Churchill	1987	Melva Kerry	1950	Harry Rich

## Nominating Committee Report 2026

### Administrative Council

Chair	<b>Dale Message</b>	<b>2026</b>
Vice Chair	<b>Bill Churchill</b>	<b>2026</b>
Spiritual Life and Outreach Commission Chair	<b>TBD</b>	<b>2026</b>
Operations Commission Chair	<b>Rick Burg</b>	<b>2026</b>
Christian Education Commission Chair	<b>Sue Schmidt</b>	<b>2026</b>
At-large member	<b>Jennifer Cooper</b>	<b>2026</b>
At-large member	<b>Rose Pech</b>	<b>2026</b>
At-large member	<b>Cinda Bartz</b>	<b>2026</b>
At-large member	<b>Ken Gipple</b>	<b>2026</b>
Moderator/Lay Leader	<b>TBD</b>	<b>2026</b>

### Non-Voting Members

Senior Pastor	<b>Jason Okrzynski</b>	
Director of Christian Education	<b>NA</b>	
Director of Youth Fellowship	<b>N/A</b>	
Clerk	<b>Sue Schmidt</b>	<b>2026</b>
Financial Secretary	<b>Jan Kendrick</b>	<b>2026</b>
Co-Financial Secretary	<b>Cinda Bartz</b>	<b>2026</b>
Treasurer	<b>Lynn Hallen</b>	<b>2026</b>

### Church Officers/Lay Leaders/Administrative Council Committees

Clerk	<b>Sue Schmidt</b>	<b>2026</b>
Financial Secretary	<b>Jan Kendrick</b>	<b>2026</b>
Co-Financial Secretary	<b>Cinda Bartz</b>	<b>2026</b>
Treasurer	<b>Lynn Hallen</b>	<b>2026</b>
UCC Delegate	<b>TBD</b>	<b>2026</b>
UMC Delegate	<b>Dale Message</b>	<b>2026</b>

### Staff Parish Committee

Moderator/Chair	<b>TBD</b>	<b>2026</b>
Administrative Council Chair	<b>Dale Message</b>	<b>2026</b>
Administrative Council Vice Chair	<b>Bill Churchill</b>	<b>2026</b>
At-large member	<b>Andrew Friesema</b>	<b>2026</b>
At-large member	<b>Abby Madden</b>	<b>2026</b>

### Nominating Committee

Chair	<b>Pastor Jason Okrzynski</b>	
	<b>Sue Schmidt</b>	<b>2026</b>
	<b>Rose Pech</b>	<b>2026</b>
	<b>TBD</b>	<b>2026</b>
	<b>TBD</b>	<b>2026</b>

## Spiritual Life and Outreach Commission

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

### Historian

TBD	2026
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### Stewardship Committee

Chair	TBD	2026
	Stephanie Perdew	2026
	Sue Schmidt	2026
	TBD	2026

### Worship Committee

Chair	Barb Fischel	2026
	Linda Markham	2026
	Ruth Gheysen	2026
	Dick Dzwonkiewicz	2026
	Linda Dzwonkiewicz	2026

### Membership & Outreach Committee

Chair	TBD	2026
	Terese Bell	2026
	Ann Drevolas	2026
	Lori Rische	2026
	Sue Schmidt	2026
	TBD	2026

### Non-Voting Members

Pastor	Jason Okrzynski
Music Director/Organist	Kurt Mockenhaupt

### Home Team

Chair	Jerry Wessale	2026
	Lois Wessale	2026
	June Smith	2026
	Kim Lenzen	2026
	Candi Becker	2026
	Cathy Vick	2026

### Mission Committee

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

### Communications Committee

Co-Chair	Jason Okrzynski	2026
Co-Chair	Jennifer Cooper	2026
Press Releases	TBD	2026
Marketing	TBD	2026
Website	Administrative Assistant/Staff	
Facebook	TBD	2026

## Operations Commission

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

### Non-Voting Members

Treasurer	Lynn Hallen	2026
Financial Secretary	Jan Kendrick	2026
Co-Financial Secretary	Cinda Bartz	2026

## Budget & Finance Committee

Chair	TBD	2026
	Ken Gipple	2026
	June Smith	2026
	Jerry Wessale	2026
	Sue Schmidt	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	2026
	June Smith	2026

## Christian Education Commission

Chair	<b>Sue Schmidt</b>	<b>2026</b>
Vice Chair	<b>TBD</b>	<b>2026</b>
Adult Education Committee Chair	<b>TBD</b>	<b>2026</b>
Children's Ministry Committee Chair	<b>Sue Schmidt</b>	<b>2026</b>
Cradle Roll Committee Chair	<b>TBD</b>	<b>2026</b>
Youth Ministry Committee Chair	<b>TBD</b>	<b>2026</b>
Confirmation Task Force Chair	<b>TBD</b>	<b>2026</b>

### Non-Voting Members

Senior Pastor	Jason Okrzynski
Director of Christian Education	N/A
Director of Youth Fellowship	N/A

### Adult Education Committee

Chair	<b>TBD</b>	<b>2026</b>
	<b>Abby Madden</b>	<b>2026</b>
	<b>TBD</b>	<b>2026</b>

### Non-Voting Member

DCE	N/A
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### Youth Ministry Committee

Chair	<b>TBD</b>	<b>2026</b>
	<b>TBD</b>	<b>2026</b>
	<b>TBD</b>	<b>2026</b>

### Non-Voting Member

DYF	N/A
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### Children's Ministry Committee

Chair	<b>Sue Schmidt</b>	<b>2026</b>
	<b>Lexie Craig</b>	<b>2026</b>
	<b>Stephanie Perdew</b>	<b>2026</b>
	<b>Cathy Vick</b>	<b>2026</b>

### Non-Voting Member

DCE	N/A
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### Confirmation Task Force

Chair	<b>TBD</b>	<b>2026</b>
	<b>TBD</b>	<b>2026</b>

### Non-Voting Members

DCE	N/A
DYF	N/A

### Cradle Roll Committee

Chair	<b>TBD</b>	<b>2026</b>
	<b>TBD</b>	<b>2026</b>
	<b>TBD</b>	<b>2026</b>

### Non-Voting Members

Nursery Coordinator	N/A
DCE	N/A

\*Vacant positions are highlighted in yellow.

## Administrative Council Report

Thank you to the church membership and leadership that maintained the Spirit of the Lord at United Protestant Church during 2025.

There were transitions in the staff as Ryan Aubrey tendered his resignation as Director of Christian Education, and Marcia Twadell tendered her resignation as Accompanist. Kurt Mockenhaupt accepted the additional position of Accompanist.

The Governance Task Force made great strides in the development of proposed By-Laws for the new governance model for the church. Plans are to present the By-Laws to the congregation in early 2026 and request approval to initiate nominating for the leadership positions.

The celebration of the 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of United Protestant Church was held June 22, 2025.

The Membership Cultivation Subcommittee completed its tasks and the Council approved to disband the subcommittee.

The church was involved in several Grayslake events. The church participated in the Grayslake Memorial Day Parade, and planned to participate in the Grayslake Summerfest Parade until the parade was canceled due to severe weather. Several members volunteered to act as guards at the road crossing for the Grayslake Chamber of Commerce 5K Run in July. The church manned a booth selling muffins, coffee, lemonade, and popcorn at the Grayslake Car Show.

Finances continue to challenge the church. Thanks to the efforts of the committees and commissions, several fundraising opportunities helped with the church finances including ordering from Panera Bread, Culver's, Milwaukee Pretzel Company, and offering Christmas Cards.

United Protestant Church hosted the Ecumenical Thanksgiving Service with members of Saint Andrew's Episcopal Church attending.

I thank all the council membership - commission chairs, 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 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**

Andrew Friesema and Abby Madden joined the committee.

The committee had to deal with two staff resignations, Ryan Aubrey, the Director of Christian Education, and Marcia Twadell, the Accompanist.

Kurt Mockenhaupt accepted the additional staff duty of Accompanist. A Music Director/Joint Accompanist job description was developed.

The committee led the Special Congregational Meeting to support Sean DelGrosso's Ordination Candidacy.

The committee reviewed and agreed the Staff Handbook is current and does not require any changes or additions.

We want to acknowledge and thank our staff for their dedicated service and leadership to the United Protestant Church to help deliver God's grace to all we contact each day.

Thank you to the members of the Staff Parish Committee. Your commitment and dedication are appreciated more than you can know or that I can adequately express.

Blessings,

**Dale A. Message**  
Interim Chair, Staff Parish Committee

## Report of the Senior Pastor

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

This year has been marked by gratitude, growth, and God's unmistakable faithfulness. Above all else, UPC celebrated its 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary as a congregation—a milestone that reminded us of the countless saints whose witness, generosity, and service have shaped our life together. I am happy to highlight again the members of our 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Committee: Barb Fischel, Sally Kelly, Terry Norton, Stephanie Perdew, Margaret Porteous, and Jerry Wessale.

Our anniversary year was not only a celebration of our past, but also a renewed call to live boldly into the future God is preparing for us. It was marked by the joy of gathering together and welcoming former pastors of UPC at a celebration and luncheon in June. We are now looking forward to celebrating the 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the consecration of the existing sanctuary, and it has been a joyful celebration of the anniversary.

### **Ministry Highlights**

One of the things that stand out from this year is the remarkable leadership at United Protestant Church. Dale Message, who served as chair of the Administrative Council and interim moderator this year, provided exemplary service to our congregation. Dale was joined by an exceptional Council who led the congregation throughout the year. Thanks to Cinda Bartz, Rick Burg, Bill Churchill, Jennifer Cooper, Ken Gipple, Lynn Hallen, and Rose Pech for their inspired leadership. I want to also highlight the service of Lynn Hallen who completed her first full year as treasurer. Lynn's generosity and tireless commitment to detail is a blessing to our financial housekeeping, and we are lucky to have her.

### **Governance Task Force**

While most of our members did not see their work, the Governance Task Force worked tirelessly this last year. Bill Churchill, Jennifer Cooper, Ann Friesema, Dale Message, and Jerry Wessale have offered inspired cooperation and diligent service as they have produced a sorely-needed update to our congregation's bylaws. We hope to see the installation of these new processes adopted by the entire congregation in 2026.

### **The Stewardship Committee**

The Stewardship Committee continued to nurture a culture of gratitude and generosity. The committee, consisting of Linda Rambo, Stephanie Perdew, Sue Schmidt, and myself, produced a rise in the pledge totals from last year's campaign. On top of this, they worked with the 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Committee to run the 75 for 75 Campaign in honor of the 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary. While the campaign is still open through the end of February 2026, to-date our members have responded to the invitation with great generosity, having already surpassed the goal of \$75,000 committed funds to our endowment.

Beyond these highlights, there are too many day-to-day victories to name. As always, the Building & Grounds Committee, under the leadership of Rick Burg, included the purchase of a remarkable, newly-rebuilt Boston Steinway piano. We have had several fabulous members step up to keep our Christian education running at UPC for children, youth, and adults alike. Our Mission Committee has gone above and beyond to lead our congregation and our members in Christian service in our world and with our partners.

Finally, I cannot celebrate our staff enough. Sue Schmidt's and Kurt Mockenhaupt's service to our church is second to none. Their skill and dedication are surpassed only by their passion for our congregation. United Protestant is blessed to have them.

### **Looking Ahead**

As we step into 2026, we do so with hope. We continue to grow into our identity as a church that welcomes all, serves generously, worships with depth, and seeks justice with courage. The work ahead will call us to listen for God's Spirit, to remain agile in a changing world, and to invest deeply in forming disciples, strengthening families, and expanding our mission footprint.

In Christ,

Rev. Jason Okrzynski, PhD

## **Christian Education Commission Report**

The Christian Education Commission (CEC) consists of the Adult Education Committee, Children's Ministry Committee, Confirmation Task Force, Cradle Roll Committee, and Youth Ministry Committee.

The Cradle Roll Committee did not function in 2025 due to a lack of volunteers or a Nursery Coordinator. Mary Lillstrom was hired as our nursery caregiver on Sunday mornings during worship as her schedule allows. The Youth Ministry Committee continues to plan and organize youth group events 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 on Sunday mornings and other seasonal fellowship events for children. 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 and Pastor Jason Okrzynski who provided guidance and leadership to make our programs successful. We also thank those who supported and participated in our programs throughout the year.

You are all encouraged to participate in our educational opportunities offered in 2026 to continue to grow your faith as Christ's disciples.

Blessings,

Sue Schmidt, Chair

## **Adult Education Committee Report**

This year, our Adult Ministry covered many topics. We offered six classes from January through December. We began in January studying the Book of Luke led by Ryan Aubrey. We then held our annual Lenten Study reading and discussing *The Season of Repentance and Renewal*. Our final study before the summer break focused on *Lord, Teach Us to Pray* led by Rev. Stephanie Perdew. Coming back in September, our book discussion was based on *The Red Tent* led by Abby Madden. Following that class, we explored the Reformation and UPC with a 4-week class taught by Pastor Jason Okrzynski. Finally, we concluded our year with our annual Advent Study titled *Voices of Advent*.

Throughout the year, we had some meaningful discussions as we went through each of these studies. Thank you to all our participants, and to those who have helped lead the studies. Special thanks are extended to Abby Madden and Jerry Wessale for serving on the Adult Education Committee. Their insights and opinions are appreciated in helping choose our studies and guide this ministry.

Submitted by,

Sue Schmidt, CEC Chair

## **Children's Ministry Committee Report**

Sunday School classes were offered to preschoolers through 6<sup>th</sup> graders in 2025 each Sunday morning at 9:00 a.m. The curriculum used was lectionary-based called *Living the Word*. Children's Church was offered from January through April each Sunday morning during the worship service where preschool children through 1<sup>st</sup> graders attended a shortened Sunday School class after the Children's Moment. This was led by our Christian Education Director, Ryan Aubrey, who resigned from his position at the end of April. The Director of Christian Education (DCE) position was not filled once he resigned. Children's Church was not offered for the rest of the year.

On February 21, Children's Ministry 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 April 19 where approximately 21 children and their families participated. The VBS program was cancelled in June due to not having a DCE to organize this event. The Back-to-Sunday School registration and celebration, as well as the blessing of the backpacks, was held in conjunction with an outdoor worship service, picnic, and ice cream social on August 24. We also had a lot of fun participating in UPC's annual Fall Fest on October 25 in conjunction with downtown Grayslake's trick-or-treating event where we offered our bouncy house, candy, and refreshments to the community.

This team of volunteers strives to provide quality Sunday School programs and events 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 our Sunday School teaching team: Jennifer Cooper, Stephanie Perdew, Linda Rambo, and Sue Schmidt, along with our youth helpers: Joseph Friesema, Greyson Madden, Dylan Okrzynski, and Soren Okrzynski. The Children's Ministry Committee members include Lexie Craig, Stephanie Perdew, Cathy Vick, and Sue Schmidt. Children's Ministry Committee (CMC) meets as needed, usually on the second Monday evening of the month if all members are available.

Blessings,

Sue Schmidt, Chair

## **Cradle Roll Committee Report**

The Cradle Roll Committee did not function in 2025 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.

## **Confirmation Task Force Report**

Pastor Jason Okrzynski and Erik Fries continued teaching the Confirmation program at UPC in January through April 2025. In May 2025, we confirmed three students.

In the fall of 2025, there was only one continuing 8<sup>th</sup> grade confirmation student. The Confirmation Task Force is continuing to work on its goal for building a mentorship program. As of January 2026, our confirmation student has a member of our congregation as his confirmation mentor. As the year progresses, we will continue to build upon this program, mediating the building of relationships with our confirmands and their mentors.

Since we only have one student this year, Pastor Jason has been holding weekly meetings online and things are going well. This student will be confirmed in May 2026.

Submitted by,

Erik Fries, Chair

## **Youth Ministry Committee Report**

The UPC Youth Group started in September 2025 with 12 youth signing up at our first meeting where we outlined and planned our goals for 2026, which were:

- Increased youth participation in the church and missions.
- Hold at least one monthly event.
- Have youth start taking ownership of the group.

While we have not had a meeting every month, we have attempted to make that happen. Finding time where everyone is available has been difficult. Despite these growing pains, the youth met in September to help with a shoe drive for Soles for Jesus, helped distribute Christmas gifts to veterans in December at the VA facility in North Chicago, held a Christmas party at the parsonage, and helped pack meals at Feed My Starving Children in December. While trying to find time for everyone to meet with their busy high school schedules has been difficult, attendance at these events has been good, averaging 8-10 youth along with family volunteers.

We will continue to plan events and find ways to help the church's missions in 2026.

Submitted by,

Erik Fries, Chair

## **Spiritual Life & Outreach Commission Report**

There was no chairperson for the Spiritual Life and Outreach Commission in 2025, therefore, there is no report. Committees include Worship, Home Team, Membership and Outreach, Mission, and Stewardship.

### **Worship Committee Report**

We welcomed three new people to our committee in 2025: Ruth Gheysen, and Dick and Linda Dzwonkiewicz. All three hit the ground running and have been a great addition to our committee. In addition, we still have Linda Markham and me, along with Pastor Jason, serving on this busy committee. Our committee is responsible for so many aspects of the worship service, starting with the paraments, bulletins, candles, and whatever else may be needed each and every Sunday. We flow with the liturgical seasons of the church from Epiphany in January to Ash Wednesday, Lent, and Easter. We are busy throughout the summer as well. With fall comes Worldwide Communion in October and All Saints in November. Then, we are once again planning for Advent and our Christmas services. We change banners, straighten pews, sign up liturgists, and make sure that everyone feels welcome and gets the most out of each and every service. All of this includes, of course, working very closely with Pastor Jason.

We meet the fourth Monday of every month and start our meeting with “concerns and comments from the congregation.” So, feel free to talk to any one of us regarding something you would like us to discuss or even if you love everything we are doing (we appreciate good feedback as well). We serve this church because we love this church. We serve our God because we know He is the one true God and loves us all.

Yours in Christ,

Barb Fischel, Chair

### **75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Committee Report**

Even though this was a temporary committee, we had a good group of dedicated people serving on it to make our 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary truly special. Our goal was to celebrate the United Protestant Church, our past and the people who made it all possible, our present, and our future. The committee consisted of Margaret Porteous, Jerry Wessale, Sally Kelly, Stephanie Perdew, Pastor Jason Okrzynski, Barb Fischel, Terry Norton, and Sue Schmidt. All worked hard to make our 75<sup>th</sup> a success. We put up signs, interviewed people, and invited the community and past clergy who served here at UPC. We had a special service which included some of our past clergy, and with the help of Membership & Outreach, we held a catered luncheon with over 100 people in attendance. We raised money by selling T-shirts with our UPC logo, special Christmas cards, and we are still hoping to be able to offer a medallion this spring. This was one very hard-working and successful committee. We hoped to set a precedent for other “temporary committees” so that when a special event comes up, we can take care of it

and move on to other events. One thing we learned is that no committee succeeds without a chairperson, no matter how many people you have. To that end, I was happy to serve as the chairperson and make this report available.

Yours in Christ,

Barb Fischel, Chair

## **Home Team Report**

The Home Team is a volunteer ministry designed to provide and maintain contact with church members and their families, and in particular to those 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.

The Home Team can provide transportation to/from Sunday worship, generally for seniors, such as residents of Library Lane and Alto Grayslake, and for non-driving members and friends. Transportation is also available (when possible) for medical appointments (within reasonable distance) for members or regular attendees who need assistance. The transportation team currently consists of three volunteers: June Smith, Lois and Jerry Wessale. There are also three volunteers who undertake the task of sending greeting cards throughout the year to church members and regular attendees; they are Kim Lenzen, Cathy Vick, and Candi Becker. This dedicated group continues to send cards to mark the Christmas holiday, and to recognize birthdays, marriage anniversaries, illness, and the death of a church or family member.

The Home Team is a valuable ministry made up of dedicated, compassionate people, with most having served in this capacity for many years. For the transportation services, the sending of cards, home/residence visits, and phone calls, we are very grateful to these generous and faithful volunteers. If anyone is interested in becoming involved with the Home Team in the future, please contact any of our current volunteers.

Blessings and yours in Christ,

Jerry Wessale, 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 helped with the following activities in 2025:

- MOC provided lunch for the new member classes in January. Flowers were given to our new members, and cake was served to welcome them to UPC on February 9.
- Pastor Jason joined the Grayslake Chamber of Commerce on behalf of UPC, and our church sponsored three community events—a 5K Run in July, the downtown Grayslake Trick-or-Treating event in October, and the Festival of Lights in November.
- MOC organized and hosted a St. Patrick's Day potluck on March 16 for the congregation in Fellowship Hall.
- UPC participated in the Grayslake Memorial Day Parade on May 26 by driving our newly-acquired, donated parade car and distributed candy.
- MOC organized the 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary luncheon on June 22. We purchased the food, helped set up, serve, and cleaned up during this event.
- UPC volunteers helped with the Grayslake 5K Run on July 12.
- We were going to participate in the Grayslake Summerfest Parade on August 16, but it was cancelled at the last minute due to severe weather.
- MOC held an ice cream social, in conjunction with a hot dog lunch and outdoor worship service, on August 24.

Laurie Bethmann created new UPC T-shirts for our congregation to purchase so that we can advertise our church as we participate in community events. Thanks to the team members for their work and providing help when needed: Terese Bell, Laurie Bethmann, Ann Drevalas, Lori Rische, and Sue Schmidt.

Submitted by,

Sue Schmidt, Committee Member

## **Mission Committee Report**

Our motto for this year was, "Missions Thrive in 2025!". And, again, our church family went over and above!

The Mission Committee is overwhelmed by 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, Lynn Hallen, Sally Kelly, Mary Ann McDowell, and Linda Rambo. Thanks to the 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, coordinate the collection bins to keep items out of landfills and bring additional funds to our mission partners. The committee meets 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 2025 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 Co. Haven	\$ 480.00
February	Tyler & Brittany (missionary in Africa)	\$ 697.00
March	American Foundation for Suicide Prevention	\$ 378.00
April	Curt's Café	\$ 485.00
May	Malaria No More	\$ 540.50
June	Living Water International	\$ 771.00
July	Feed6/Outreach	\$ 460.00
August	Adult Mission Trip	\$ 370.00
September	INK180	\$1,281.50
October	Feed My Starving Children	\$ 505.00
November	Veteran's Tree	\$ 31.00
December	CWS Best Gifts	\$ 638.00

A huge THANK YOU to all of you for your generosity on behalf of our country's 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 continuing to support the Mission Committee on this mission to support this amazing organization. What a blessing it was for the group of youth and adults who were able to deliver the gifts this year. Please consider joining us 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. \$638.00 was given to buy much needed items for people in under-developed countries. UPC continues our dedicated support of Feed My Starving Children. During our many volunteer sessions in 2025, we provided 1,717 volunteer hours to pack 415,483 meals to feed 1,136.5 kids for a year.

We had four Fifth Sunday Collections in 2025. These collections highlight some of the ongoing collections that we have all year. In March we had a collection for Avon Township Food Pantry to align with Circle 2's monthly volunteering. June's Fifth Sunday highlighted our continuing collections and support of PADS. August's Fifth Sunday highlighted our Soles for Jesus shoe collection. UPC was able to donate 2,452 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 our UPC youth for distributing flyers and collecting shoes for SFJ. December's Fifth Sunday highlighted the collection of coats and comforters for World Relief. Thank you to all who donated!

In addition to Joy Sharing, UPC supports several other missions, collections, and recycling opportunities. We collected five pounds of pop-top tabs for Ronald McDonald House, over one pound of bread tabs for Danielle Cares, and donated clean, used plastic and paper grocery bags to an area food pantry. Recycling ink cartridges added \$119.00 to our INK180 donations, and \$33.44 was donated to FMSC from TerraCycle recycling. We collect personal care items and more for A Safe Place to assist in their support of families threatened by abuse and violence. 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. Through the years, we have recycled over 130 pounds of "trash". Let's do more!

This year, UPC packed and mailed 216 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 Zambia and Malawi so far. The children who receive the boxes also hear the story of Jesus Christ! What an amazing gift! Our thanks to the members of Circle 2 for helping us create games to send in the shoe boxes. The committee also promotes the UPC Shopper Cards, which are available throughout the year. These funds cover shipping costs for Operation Christmas Child.

This summer and fall, UPC volunteers and some very ambitious friends worked together to glean from our local farms and orchards. UPC's group gleaned 3,705 pounds of corn, 4,483 pounds of apples, and 85 pounds of other produce. These items were donated to the Northern Illinois Food Bank, the Lake County Haven, and the CROP Hunger Walk. Many thanks to Stade's Farm and Orchard.

The committee is working with Rose Pech and Rick Burg to assist PADS. UPC continues our partnerships with St. Gilbert Church to support PADS Lake County programs with donations of food, clothing, toiletries, gas and food gift cards, diapers, and other items for infants, in addition to getting volunteers for PADS fundraising and special events. Plans are in progress and volunteers are being recruited to provide a weekly dinner for 60 people in the fixed family site when it opens, hopefully in April.

Rick Burg organized our Adult Mission Trip in October to Spring Pine, NC. Six adults participated in helping to rebuild homes that were heavily damaged by hurricane Helene. They had a very fulfilling experience since they had extended contact with the homeowners.

Companions Journeying Together mission provides cards for prisoners to help them stay connected with their families and friends. 2,469 Christmas cards and 988 various other cards were provided for the inmates to send. There were also 189 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 you all!

Our challenge for next year is, "Be Part of the Fix in 2026". Help us to fulfill this goal!

Respectfully submitted,

Linda Rambo, Chair

## Operations Commission Report

The year had its share of opportunities to keep the building and parsonage shipshape. A partial list of items we addressed is shown below:

- Many visits from our HVAC contractor to correct issues in our 60-year-old building.
- Main fan motor of basement HVAC unit was replaced, as well as several control valves.
- Replaced our obsolete copier. We are doing a lease to own, which spreads out the cost over six years. (No replacement parts were available for the old one.)
- We lost The Grayslake Park District as a renter of one classroom, but they were replaced with Apogee Lake County School with year-round rental payments. They hope to be able to rent more rooms in the future as they expand.
- A replica 1901 Oldsmobile surrey in great shape was donated to the church! We have used it in the Grayslake Memorial Day parade so far, and it won an award at the Cruisin' on Center car show this fall. It also drew customers to our fund-raising popcorn booth at the event! The popcorn booth was a big hit, and we plan on doing this fundraiser again in 2026!
- We had a very productive spring-cleaning event with 14 folks pitching in!
- The old parsonage dishwasher and range both failed and had to be replaced. A HomeShield home warranty has been taken out to minimize future replacement costs of the other existing appliances.
- The parsonage also had a minor flooding event after heavy rains. The offending crack has been repaired, and the two affected walls have been replaced and the room repainted.

I led an adult mission trip to Spruce Pine, NC addressing home damage caused by the October 2024 hurricane Helene. Our group of six were able to complete the rehab of one room in each of two homes. Being able to speak with the homeowners as we did made me realize that besides the physical repairs volunteers give to these victims, we are actually acting as grief counselors by letting them tell their stories to folks that care.

Lynn Hallen organized a group that cleaned out financial documents older than ten years in the archive room and installed several shelving units to protect all the documents we have.

Our existing Kohler & Campbell grand piano has been somewhat problematic over the years. It has been replaced by a slightly larger, rebuilt Steinway Model A that should last us many years. It will be an asset to the church. A local group is renting our sanctuary several times a year for recitals only because we have a grand piano. This piano will be a plus for our rental activities as well as our use of it. Also, having our AV streaming capabilities opens up further possibilities of renting our sanctuary space to outside groups.

Thanks to all that helped in keeping the church in top shape and for joining in the adult mission trip this year!

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, music, garden plants, mulch around our gardens, and cleaning and repair of the handbells.

Gifts were received from the families of Darwin & Elinor Schwaderer, Alan Knickerbocker, Phil Bjerning, Lynmarie Schalk, Richard Craig, Ralph Gotlund, Sharry Lockhart, Valerie Jones, and Judy Ruhnke.

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

Respectively submitted,

Cynthia Lee, Chair

## **Women's Christian Fellowship Report**

During 2025, WCF members of Circles 2, 4/5, and 9 enjoyed fellowship time during regular meetings. Additional fellowship time and fun were had during a spring Saturday BUNCO event, to which all women of the church and friends were invited. Attendance at the circle meetings varied. Circle 10 members continued to keep 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, and Rose Pech continued to be the contact person for WCF. Communication was done in person as well as via internet and phone, with regular mail used for members when needed.

We were deeply saddened by the loss of dear friends and long-time members Sharry Lockhart and Marjorie Miller. Their families continue to be in our prayers.

Meetings for Circle 2 were held at 11:30 a.m. one Sunday each month in the Meeting Room or in Room 103, depending on each month's mission project. The Sunday for the meeting still varies each month based on the schedule of other congregational events. Members of Circle 2 started a new monthly ministry with the Avon Township Center on the fourth Tuesday of each month beginning in January. The ministry expanded to become the Avon Community Night of Giving, as Boy Scout Troop 188 partnered with UPC, and other volunteers began to come from the surrounding area. Volunteers arrive at 6:30 p.m. and sort clothing, food, or other items, prepare items for upcoming events, sort and clean, or do other tasks as needed.

Circles 4/5 and 9 continued their meetings, with Circle 4/5 meeting at Culver's Restaurant at 11:30 a.m. on the first Wednesday of the month and Circle 9 meeting at 5:30 p.m. at Mrs. V's Restaurant on Rollins Road in Round Lake Beach on the second Tuesday of each month.

WCF has continued to maintain the connection with the Lake North District of the Northern Illinois Conference and with 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:

- WCF members continued to assist with worship services as ushers, liturgists, and greeters, along with the men, youth, and other women of the church.
- Individual donations were made 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 clients in motels and on the streets.
- Companions Journeying Together: Christmas card messages and cards for inmates to use.
- Operation Christmas Child (OCC): cutting game parts and assembling games.
- SCARCE: sorting and stripping crayons for various recycling purposes.
- Gifts for veterans at the James A. Lovell Federal Health Care Center whose names were on the Veteran's Tree.
- Avon Food Pantry & Township Center: donating food and volunteering onsite monthly.
- 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 2025 and look forward to 2026!

Rose A. Pech, WCF Contact Person

## History and Archives Report

2025 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 children and adults.
- 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 the Saturday afternoon before Easter.
- Confirmation service in May where three 8<sup>th</sup> graders were confirmed as members of UPC.
- Church Music Sunday in May to celebrate our choirs and musicians.
- Participated in the Grayslake Memorial Day Parade.
- Monthly Joy Sharing opportunities continue to support projects outside our walls, as did monthly packs for Feed My Starving Children in Libertyville.
- Held our 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Worship Service and Luncheon Celebration on June 22 with members, friends, and several past clergy attending.
- Outdoor worship on August 24 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.
- Participated in the Grayslake Car Show on September 6 where our parade car was entered and won in its division. We also sold refreshments as a fundraiser.
- Chris Baker of INK 180 preached during a worship service in September where he spoke about human trafficking.
- Adult volunteers participated in a mission trip in October to help build new homes in Spruce Pine, NC.
- Held Fall Fest at the end of October on the front lawn of the church in conjunction with downtown Grayslake's trick-or-treating event.
- Collected items for Operation Christmas Child shoe boxes throughout the year, culminating in a packing party in November at which 216 shoe boxes were packed.
- Collected and distributed Christmas gifts to 77 veterans at the VA facility in North Chicago.

We look forward to 2026 with excitement as we continue our journey in ministry together in Grayslake and the world beyond.

Submitted by,

Sue Schmidt