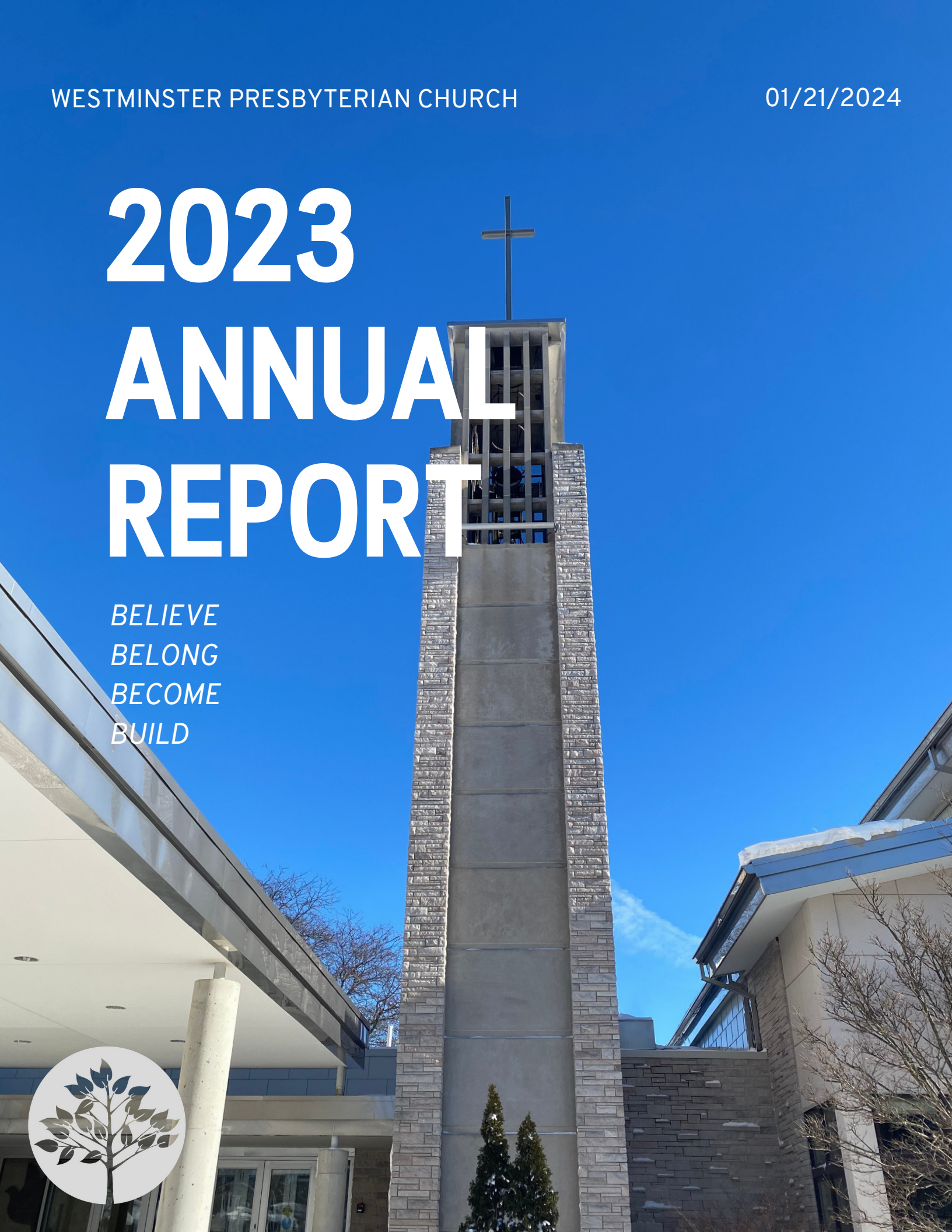


WESTMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

01/21/2024

# 2023 ANNUAL REPORT

*BELIEVE  
BELONG  
BECOME  
BUILD*



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# WESTMINSTER STAFF



**Jonny Craig**  
Senior Pastor



**Jodi Dieken**  
Office Manager



**Becky Dietz**  
Financial Secretary



**Becca Hoffman**  
Christian Education



**Dee Jordan**  
Member Care



**Charissa Lambert**  
Music Director



**Dr. Mariko Morita**  
Organist



**Larry Nosbisch**  
Custodian



**Alice Shirey**  
Teaching Associate



**Calli Tenson**  
Youth & Worship



**Jennifer Ponsart**  
Handbell Director



## REMEMBERING THOSE WE LOST THIS YEAR

Jackie Jensen	March 12
James Fox	April 19
Paul Brown	May 19
LaVonne Northey	July 1
Karen Fisher	July 16
Dottie Plager	November 23



And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, "Look! God's dwelling place is now among the people, and he will dwell with them... 'He will wipe every tear from their eyes. There will be no more death' or mourning or crying or pain, for the old order of things has passed away."

*REVELATION 21:3-4*





## FROM THE PASTOR

As I reflect on 2023 the word I find myself thinking most about is *Gratitude*. *Gratitude* for the incredible staff team I get to work with every day. *Gratitude* for the committee chairs, members, and volunteers who make the ministry of Westminster possible. *Gratitude* for the leadership of our Session, the care provided by our Deacons and the love and generosity of our church family.

I imagine that as you read through the reports from the staff and committee chairs in the following pages you may end up feeling some of that gratitude, too. This year the Personnel Committee made the decision to add two new staff members (p. 20) and it's been a joy for me to work alongside Becca and Calli as they've implemented new ideas and brought dynamic leadership in the areas of Christian Education (p. 6-10) and Worship and Music (p. 22-23). As our team has expanded, Dee Jordan has excelled working alongside the Deacons to care for our members (p. 11-12) and Charissa Lambert has continued to grow and develop our Traditional Worship service and various choirs while providing leadership to Mariko Morita (Organ) and Jennifer Ponsart (Handbells). And the ministries of Westminster wouldn't be possible without the administrative powers of Jodi Dieken and the financial wizardry of Becky Dietz (p. 13-14, 15). 2023 also brought Alice Shirey to our community and we have been blessed by her engaging teaching and Daily Scripture writing.

I was thrilled to read the report from the Mission Committee (p. 16-18) and the highlights from our Food Pantry as well as the partnerships Westminster has fostered in our community and around the globe. I believe that Westminster's commitment to setting aside 10% of our pledged giving for mission work helps keep us focused on being the hands and feet of Christ in our world and on our call to *do justice, love mercy, and walk humbly with our God (Micah 6:8)*. Of course, this type of work requires a strong "home base" which is why I am so *grateful* for our Property Committee (p. 21) that ensures our facilities are in tip-top shape for classes, groups, events, and services.

On a personal note, I was *grateful* for the love and excitement of Westminster as I was Ordained and Installed in July. You all took a little leap of faith with me when you hired me in December of 2022 knowing that there was still some work to do before an official "call" could be made. With your support and encouragement I wrote papers and took tests and officially became a *Reverend*--a title I truly feel God brought me to Westminster to hold.

It has been a year filled with the joys and pains that mark the life of a church family. I've had the honor of holding babies over baptismal fonts and the hands of beloved members as they've prepared to meet Jesus; of listening to the joy of new members excited to find a faith community and the angst of individuals facing difficulties and searching for answers. It is a privilege to stand in those spaces and I am *grateful* that you have entrusted me with this work. As I look forward to 2024 I have faith that God has amazing things in store for Westminster and I am excited to see where the Spirit will take us together!

Pastor Jonny  
**JONNY CRAIG** | PASTOR



# SESSION REPORT

## 2023 AT A GLANCE



**TOTAL MEMBERSHIP**  
**452**



**AVG. ATTENDANCE**  
**157**



**BAPTISMS**  
**4**



**CONFIRMATIONS**  
**3**



**NEW MEMBERS**  
**15**



Trunk or Treat



Food Pantry



Launch Sunday



Palmer's Night



Feed My Starving Children



Easter Joy

# CHRISTIAN EDUCATION AT A GLANCE

## COLLABORATIVE LEADERSHIP



### COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Jeff Morgan – Chair  
 Steven Jordan  
 Angelina Patel  
 Michelle Galanits  
 Trisha Crawford  
 Mike Sinram

### STAFF

Becca Hoffman  
 Calli Tenson  
 Dee Jordan



## OPPORTUNITIES FOR EVERY STAGE

**CHRISTIAN EDUCATION** offers Sunday School, events, groups and opportunities for Spiritual growth for people in every life stage.

## ENGAGING EVENTS



VBS

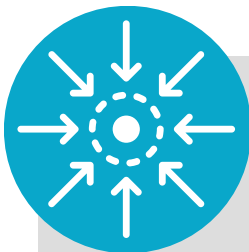
PALMERS

COCOA & CAROLS

EASTER JOY

TRUNK OR TREAT

WINTER CARNIVAL



## CHILDREN AND YOUTH FOCUS

**CHILDREN:** Sunday morning and Wednesday night classes for kids 3 years through 5th grade. VBS Program reaching 100 kids.

**YOUTH:** Confirmation, Middle and High School youth group, Great Escape, mission trip, fall retreats.



# CHRISTIAN EDUCATION



**Becca Hoffman**  
Christian Education

**Sundays** – Sunday school for 3yr olds through kindergarten and 1st – 5th grades was taught by me and a rotation of amazing volunteers: Sue Brainard, Vicki Cose, Jeff Morgan. We are using the *Spark House* curriculum, which is a great bible story-based curriculum that teaches the children the amazing stories from the bible and the lessons they can learn from them and how to apply these lessons in their everyday lives. Adult Sunday School is also taught by a rotation of amazing

volunteers. In the spring we had hospice come in and they discussed the services they offer and the process to take advantage of these services. We have also offered several topical classes and have been working through a curriculum called Feasting on the Word. Troyce Vich is leading a Journey Class on Sunday mornings. This is a small group of people meeting together for 16 weeks to study our Bibles to understand who God is, who we are, what God is doing in our lives and where God is leading us in our walk. This class has been offered since 2016 and is an amazing addition to our adult opportunities.

**Wednesdays** – We continue to be able to budget sufficient funds to provide a free meal on Wednesday nights thanks to the generous giving by our members. This is an amazing offering, and we are serving roughly 60 people each week. Activities begin for all following the meal. All the children are able to go to lessons, games and choir. Cody and Sarah Alberts and I have been leading the lesson portion for 1st through 5th graders and Sue Brainard leads the 3yr olds – Kindergarten. We are using the *Whirl* curriculum for lessons which consist of bible stories that teach us the goodness of God and how we can live like Jesus. This curriculum has a focus on the stories and how we can help the children apply the lesson from the story to their everyday lives. Kids have been working on scripture memorization – they are given a new bible verse to memorize every month or so that, hopefully, will help them through a tough day or just when they need encouragement. This is a new addition and the kids are doing a great job with it! Mike Sinram leads game time and has been concentrating on teaching teamwork, coordination, physical movement, and fun. One Wednesday a month we hold Worship Wednesday where all groups come together in the sanctuary to sing with Calli and hear a lesson from Pastor Jonny. In October we handed out new bibles to our three-year-olds and our third graders.

*We are using the Whirl curriculum for lessons which consist of bible stories that teach us the goodness of God and how we can live like Jesus.*

We also have men's and women's groups that meet on Wednesday nights: each group is working through different curriculum of their choosing--you can read more about those and our Bible studies on page 25!





# CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

**Events** – We offer a number of different special events throughout the year.

In January we kick off the new year with a **Winter Carnival** for our Wednesday night kids where they play games, get their faces painted, jump in a bouncy house, and do a cupcake walk. It is a great way for everyone to come back together after winter break.



**Easter Joy** is held every year and is another great community outreach event. We have games, great food, crafts, live bunnies, pictures with the Easter Bunny, a couple bouncy houses, face painting and of course an easter egg hunt! Hundreds of kids come and have a great time every year.

To close out our Wes Pres Wednesday program year we do a picnic celebration outside. Following the meal, the kids play outside and can choose from options such as disc golf, bouncy house, and obstacle course; in addition, it is not unusual to see a pretty awesome game of either kickball or baseball break out, and sometimes both.



**VBS** is held in June every morning for a week. The summer of 2023 saw about 100 kids from our church and the community join us for a great week. This year's theme was *Hero Hotline*. and our Heroes were called to *follow Jesus, help others, work together, and listen to God*. We spent the week solving superhero problems by learning bible stories, making crafts,

doing science experiments, dancing, and singing, playing games, and eating hero themed snacks. It took a small army of amazing volunteers to put this on and everyone had a great time.

In August we hosted a **Palmers Family Fun Night** to get the new program year started. This is a fun tradition where everyone can gather together and share a meal out at Palmers family fun and enjoy all of the activities they offer. It is a great event to bring everyone back from summer break.



Halloween 2023 saw a new event this year called **Trunk or Treat** which was an outreach event for our community. We had over 600 kids and their families come to church to trick or treat out of auto trunks, eat hotdogs and popcorn, paint pumpkins and enjoy fall themed games and activities. There were 20 cars that decorated their trunks to hand out candy and each one was super unique and fun. It was a great event, and we look forward to making it bigger and better next year.

We closed out the year helping Worship and Music with **Cocoa and Carols**. CE was in charge of the table decorations, plating all the cookies and making the hot cocoa. It was a fun filled night with lots of singing, prizes and delicious cookies and cocoa.

It goes without saying that none of these activities could take place without the tremendous work of many volunteers. We are very thankful for the time and energy those volunteers provide which makes it possible for all ages to have an opportunity to grow in their faith in many different settings.

Respectfully submitted,  
**Rebecca Hoffman | Christian Education Director**

# CHRISTIAN EDUCATION



**Calli Tenson**  
Youth & Worship

I have had a great time getting settled in my role with the youth and I'm excited to share the Annual Report for the Middle School and High School Youth Ministry. It's been a year of change, growth, fellowship, and impactful experiences that enriched our students' lives. Through engaging programs and exciting events, we've nurtured a community where students are growing in their faith and in their connections with one another.

A big highlight has been the successful implementation of our new *Grow Curriculum*. Designed to nurture spiritual growth, it provides a comprehensive and dynamic learning experience. Interactive lessons, group discussions, and real-world applications have led to engagement and connection with the students. The *Grow Curriculum* has helped us focus on Jesus together each week and helped create a wonderful faith community.

Something new this year were Middle and High School Retreats to Riverside Bible Camp this fall! These retreats gave students a chance for spiritual reflection, connecting with peers, and building lasting friendships. Our students engaged in small groups, team-building activities, and worship sessions. We're excited for more retreats like these in the future!

As always our middle schoolers had an unforgettable adventure at Great Escape. This trip fostered unity among our middle school students through games and laughter as well as great chapel sessions. Great Escape is always a great memory maker for our youth.

High schoolers went on a mission trip to Tennessee, giving them a chance to grow and serve together. Engaging in service, outreach, and cultural exchange, our youth embraced the opportunity to make a positive impact. This mission trip broadened their perspectives, instilling compassion and social responsibility that they can carry with them into the future.

## 2023 HIGHLIGHTS

- .....
- TN Mission Trip
- Great Escape
- Fall Retreats
- New Curriculum

This year is a testament to the growth, hospitality, and vibrancy of our Middle School and High School Youth Ministry. The efforts of dedicated volunteers, the implementation of *Grow Curriculum*, enriching retreats, and unforgettable trips have contributed to the spiritual and personal development of our youth.

Looking ahead to 2024, we're excited about the continued growth of our ministry and its impact on our students' lives. Together, we'll navigate the path of faith, fellowship, and community, creating an environment where our youth can thrive.

Respectfully submitted,  
**Calli Tenson | Youth & Modern Worship Director**



# CHRISTIAN EDUCATION



**Dee Jordan**  
Member Care

Our nursery is open during worship times and during our Wes Pres Wednesday program. We welcome all children from birth to kindergarten (with special accommodations when needed). We also provide childcare, from our nursery staff, for young children up to middle school age of volunteers/chaperones during our middle school dances. During the dances, the children are supervised in the Game Room. The Nursery Staff also assist in the kindergarten room during Wes Pres Wednesdays.

We are very pleased that our staff take pride in providing a clean and safe environment for the children of Westminster. We have a system in place to keep children safe with a sign-in and out for each event and currently have 4 nursery staff and one director.

Respectfully submitted,  
**Dee Jordan | Director of Member Care and Nursery**

## DATES TO REMEMBER FOR 2024:

### FAMILY

Easter Joy	March 30
Last WPW* Picnic	April 24
Graduation Sunday	April 28
Confirmation Sunday	May 5
Teacher Appreciation	May 5
VBS	June 17-21
Palmer's	August 14
Begin WPW*	August 28
Trunk or Treat	October 27
Cocoa & Carols	December 8

### YOUTH

High School Lock-in	April 12
Confirmation Lock-in	April 19
Great Escape	July 8 - 13
High School Mission Trip	July 21-26
Middle School Fall Retreat	November 8-9
High School Fall Retreat	November 15-17

\*WesPres Wednesday



## DEACONS



Vicki Cose  
Deacon Chair

The eleven Deacons of Westminster are committed to being spiritual guides and dedicated disciples to our special care and congregation members. We are a cohesive group who are honored and privileged to take our duties seriously and respectfully. We serve as liaison with Pastor Jonny and Dee Jordan--our Director of Member Care--to enable all of us to be spiritual warriors.

Visitation reports are given each month from each deacon allowing each of us to acknowledge the health and prayer needs of our members. Our care list is constantly reorganized, added or deleted based upon people's needs, deaths or illnesses. Communion was given by several deacons and the session is informed of the dates and people who receive the sacraments. Pastor Jonny also coordinated visits to get to know those folks who are unable to join us in church. He also served communion.

Bonnie Smith Davis completed the sixteen hour training on Grief Support Services provided by Cedar Valley Hospice.

Our labyrinth was available to anyone who wished to walk, pray and meditate. The Deacons feel people need opportunities for fulfillment to feed their souls and spirituality.



Easter lilies were delivered to each of our care team members. They truly appreciate and enjoy this gift.

The Deacons donated funds for Dairy Queen gift cards to each of the Kingsley Elementary staff, who are the churches Partners in Education. A luncheon was also held serving soup, sandwiches and dessert as a token thanking the educators for their year long dedication educating students.



The Deacons gave monetary funds for Try Pie goodies on the Back to Church Sunday in September. These delights were delicious and allowed a local bakery to be acknowledged and give them rave reviews.

The G Love tree was a tremendous success in which we gave two huge bags of hats, mittens and gloves to the children at Lowell and Kingsley Elementary. They are always appreciative of our kind gifts and much needed. The congregation were generous with these blessings.

Poinsettias were delivered December 8, 9 and 10 to our shut-ins. Once again, the members are thrilled to receive these beautiful flowers.

The Card Ministry continues to flourish mailing monthly birthday cards to congregation members. Bonnie Smith Davis, Faith Sonksen, Ann Northey and Vicki Cose are faithful servants.



## DEACONS

Our final meeting for December was hosted at Ms. Heidi Warrington's home. Our team reflected upon our roles as Deacons within our church. Thanks were given to each individual and appreciation to Pastor Jonny, Jodi Dieken and Dee Jordon for their guidance and our ministry. We are grateful for Matt Haines and his six years of dedicated service.

The Deacons continue to support, pray and listen to our special care list members. We diligently reach out to these individuals with our time, cards, visits, phone calls, and prayers. We also thank our congregation for their monetary giving as we look forward to another great year!

Many blessings and peace from our eleven team Deacons.

*2023 Deacons: Ann Northey, Nancy Osgood, Matt Haines, Monica Johnson, Bonnie Smith-Davis, Faith Sonksen, Keary Secor, Vicki Cose, Heidi Warrington, Susan Larsen, Troyce Vich*

Respectfully submitted,  
**Vicki Cose | Chair of Deacons**



**Dee Jordan**  
 Member Care

It is with great pleasure that I serve as the Director of Member Care. This position was created in August of 2023 with the purpose of serving the needs of the church community. This position allows several opportunities to support our church. I have regular visits and phone calls with members to build relationships, offer support, and check in on their well-being. This includes visits to the retirement communities, homes, and an occasional restaurant.

I also manage the First Impressions ministry and work to ensure that visitors to the church feel welcome and comfortable. This included helping to create the Information Wall in the Welcome Center to attract visitors' attention to information on our ministry services. I also schedule greeters to be at each door on Sunday mornings to welcome our members and guests. Each week I follow up with visitors who have completed a Visitor Card with a postcard and email. I have created a workflow to help take our visitors through their next steps of involvement and/or membership of our church.

Our first "Get to Know Us" gathering was held on October 29 where we shared our history and information about the church with regular visitors. We then welcomed 13 members into membership during our December 3rd service.

I work closely with the Pastor to ensure emergency needs within the church community are met. This includes visits to the hospital and other forms of support.

I also support our Deacons in their efforts to ensure that all members are being cared for. I attend the Deacon Meeting to support their ministry in any way I can.

I'm very much looking forward to continuing to get to know our members and guests in 2024.

Respectfully submitted,  
**Dee Jordan | Director of Member Care and Nursery**

# FINANCE & STEWARSHIP AT A GLANCE

## FAITHFUL LEADERSHIP



### FINANCE

John Speas - Chair  
 Ryan Greve      Matt Loesche  
 June Klein-Bacon      Jolan Adams  
 Roger Davis      Felicia Cass

### STEWARDSHIP

Cindy Thede  
 Ryan Greve  
 Harrison Cass  
 Margo Grimm

### STAFF

Becky Dietz



## INTEGRATED OVERSIGHT

**FINANCE AND STEWARDSHIP** work closely with other committees to determine budgets and oversee spending.

## RESPONSIBLE MANAGEMENT



### 2023 BUDGET

\$613,777

### 2023 TOTAL SPENDING

\$579,740

### 2023 TOTAL INCOME

\$620,859

### 2023 PLEDGES

\$493,217

### 2024 PLEDGES

\$523,175



# FINANCE & STEWARDSHIP



**John Speas**  
Finance Chair

Although we do not have our final year end financial results, I can report that 2023 should be another strong year for Westminster. Through November the church is showing a surplus of over \$26,000 and December should continue that trend.

We are very thankful for all of your financial support and our Committee continues to work diligently to provide stewardship over these gifts. November's revenues totaled over \$540,004 with disbursements standing just shy of \$514,000.

The year 2024 is setting up to be a solid year as we seek to control expenses while expanding programming and propose offering our full-time staff assistance with healthcare expenses.

We are beyond grateful for all your support with our 2024 Stewardship efforts.

Respectfully submitted,  
**John Speas | Chair of Finance**



**Becky Dietz**  
Financial Secretary

Westminster Stewardship Committee met several times in the fall of 2023 to kick off our Stewardship Campaign "Faithful Generosity". The vision was to encourage the congregation of all ages to embrace stewardship as a way of life and understanding through our speakers what is needed to keep Westminster a healthy church. The pledging numbers for 2024 were significantly higher than 2023. Thank you for your generosity. Thank you also to our Chair, Harrison Cass

Respectfully submitted,  
**Becky Dietz | Financial Secretary**



# ENDOWMENT



**Becky Dietz**

Financial Secretary

Endowment Funds are kept in Trusts and are professionally managed by the trust departments of Community Bank & Trust and Lincoln Savings Bank. Investments are in keeping with the philosophy of supporting current needs but with an eye towards growing the investments in the long term to assure increasing level of support over many years to come.

## COMMITTEE APPROVED EXPENDITURES FOR 2023

### GENERAL ENDOWMENT FUND

(LINCOLN SAVINGS BANK)

A-1 Striping (parking lot) \$3,500  
 Randalls Stop & Shop (Pastor Installation) \$2,226  
 Funds to Personnel (Thank you gifts) \$7,000

### ECKHOFF SPECIAL EDUCATION FUND

Christian Education Director Salary \$6,709  
 Francis & Dorothy Winter Sanctuary Fund  
 Light Bulbs for the Sanctuary \$210

### SHIREY FUND

(COMMUNITY BANK & TRUST)

Visitation Associate/Member Care \$21,075  
 First Impression Ministry \$5,000  
 Feed My Starving Children (Food Packing) \$2,223

### ECKHOFF BUILDING FUND

(LINCOLN SAVINGS BANK)

A-1 Striping (Parking Lot) \$12,625

### FRANCIS & DOROTHY WINTER SANCTUARY FUND

(LINCOLN SAVINGS BANK)

Light Bulbs (Sanctuary) \$210

### FERN GRAY FUND

(LINCOLN SAVINGS BANK)

Fern Gray Fund allows members of the church to apply for Scholarships to help fund their college tuition. In 2023, \$22,500 was allocated to eighteen students that applied.

Memorials were contributed to the church from the following friends and families of:

- Paul Brown
- LaVonne Northey
- Frederick Jones
- Ann Mieke
- Dorothy Plager

One Estate was received from a member's death.

Respectfully submitted,  
**Becky Dietz** | Financial Secretary





# MISSION AT A GLANCE

## COLLABORATIVE LEADERSHIP



Jean Gardner Siler  
Gary Iversen  
Missy Pooch

Jodi Fabrizio  
Kassy Grosser  
Lois Sinram

Judy Morris  
Regina River



## INTENTIONAL PARTNERSHIPS

Our **MISSION COMMITTEE** connects with and supports ministries that are making an impact in our community and around the world.

## FOCUS ON FOOD INSECURITY

### FOOD PANTRY

490 Households Served  
2,565 Boxes  
97,300 Pounds

### CHRISTMAS DINNER

43rd Year  
313 To-Go Meals  
117 Hot Meals Served



## MISSION



Jodi Fabrizio  
Mission Chair

The Mission Committee is supported by a long-standing Westminster practice of tithing. Our operating budget comes from 10% of the annual pledges and additional monetary receipts and it is the responsibility of the Mission Committee to prayerfully determine how those gifts will be used to assist people and organizations locally, nationally, and worldwide. In addition to financial gifts, the Mission Committee relies on the generous number of volunteers to carry out the mission work of Westminster.

The FOOD PANTRY continued to grow during 2023. Over 490 different households received food from the PANTRY at least once during 2023; we distributed 2,565 boxes of food during the year which represented approximately 97,300 pounds of food. In comparison, we distributed 1,882 boxes (approximately 77,000 pounds) during 2022. We were fortunate to receive a grant from the Iowa Department of Natural Resources during the year to allow us to purchase another freezer unit



which in turn allows us to receive and distribute more frozen food items. We are extremely thankful for all the members of Westminster who volunteer in many ways to allow the FOOD PANTRY to operate effectively, including those members who continue to donate food items each month to supplement our food boxes. Our FOOD PANTRY is a vibrant and vital extension of Westminster and through your support we continue to serve the community on the first Saturday and third Thursday of every month.



Additionally, The Mission Committee sponsored several programs supported by Westminster members, collecting items for the Stork's Nest; purchasing Christmas gifts for children in foster care; assisted residents referred by Love Inc in paying their water bills; participated in Habitat for Humanity's annual Women's Build; hosted a Feed My Starving Children Packing event in October; and closed the year serving our 43rd free annual Christmas Day dinner. Our committee also adopted a family for Christmas from our Partner in Education, Kingsley Elementary School.



## MISSION



Financially, your gifts supported many people and organizations in our community and our world that are doing amazing mission work. Support was given to Lakeshore retreat center, Dubuque Seminary, our Missionaries home and abroad, Cedar Valley Angels, House of Hope, Meals on Wheels, Salvation Army, and Cornerstone of Hope Orphanage just to name a few.

We were able to support Westminster's youth program providing scholarships for summer camp programs. Westminster continued our partnership with other Presbyterian churches of the Cedar Valley for Sunday Supper, a free weekly meal served Sunday evenings at First Presbyterian Church in downtown Waterloo.

The Mission Committee held its annual campaign for The Blessing again in 2023. We received 9 nominations for community charities in the Cedar Valley doing incredible work in our community. Following a vote of the congregation, Hospitality House of the Cedar Valley was given the \$7,000 to use in their work providing a daytime homeless shelter in Waterloo. Runner up nominees, The World Grace Project and Magical Mix kids were given \$500 each and we were able to send \$250 each to the remaining nominees: Together for Youth, Job Foundation, House of Hope, NE Iowa Area on Aging, OneCity, and Love Inc. Thank you to everyone who spent time and energy to nominate each of these deserving organizations. We are blessed to have the opportunity to make a significant impact in our community through this gift.

One of Westminster's greatest strengths is its commitment to mission work. Our thanks to each of you who support the Mission programming financially, hands-on, or in both ways.

### MINISTRY PARTNERS

Cedar Valley Angels  
House of Hope  
Meals on Wheels  
Salvation Army  
Cornerstone of Hope

### BLESSING NON-PROFITS

Hospitality House  
World Grace Project  
Magical Mix Kids  
Together for Youth  
Job Foundation  
NE Iowa Area on Aging  
OneCity  
Love Inc.

Respectfully submitted,  
**Jodi Fabrizio** | Chair of Mission



# NOMINATING



**Karen Siler**  
Nominating Chair

The Nominating Committee is responsible for finding active members of the Congregation to serve on standing and certain ad-hoc committees, to serve as Deacons and to serve as Elders. Our goal is to maintain an engaged group of members actively serving on each committee.

The Nominating Committee met numerous times from September through October to fill openings for terms beginning in January 2024. The group faithfully and prayerfully worked towards finding the right persons to serve in the open positions. The committee is confident in the slate of individuals put forward to serve.

Ann Northey and Nancy Osgood will return for a second term and Sara Cornette and Jean Gardner will begin a new term as Deacon.

Scott Cose will be returning to serve as Elder for a second term. Additionally, Kerri Powell, Jeff Morgan, Matt Haines, and Bonnie Smith-Davis will be joining Session as new Elders representing Worship and Music, Christian Education, and Missions respectively.

Members of the 2023 Nominating Committee were: Judy Clauson – Session, Christina Sales – Session, Karen Siler, Chair, Don Kester, Susie Heaton, Lori Johnson, and Vicki Cose. There was one resignation from the committee. Lori Johnson has agreed for a second term and Mark Shreiner will be joining as a new member for 2024.



This year the Nominating Committee is grateful for the willingness and generosity of the congregation of Westminster Presbyterian in participating in the decision making and planning of the church. I would like to thank all WPC members for their dedication, especially those finishing their committee duties. I encourage everyone to be an active and engaged member of our Church and reach out to the Committee Chairs or Session members throughout the upcoming year if you are interested in serving our Church.

“Each one should use whatever gift he has received to serve others, faithfully administering God’s grace in its various forms.” 1 Peter 4:10

Respectfully submitted,  
**Karen Siler** | Chair of Nominating



# PERSONNEL



Jeane Speas  
Personnel Chair

At the beginning of 2023, Personnel continued to discuss staffing needs, this time with input from our new pastor, Pastor Jonny. He took a few months to review and observe the duties of the staff we had in place and then came to Personnel with his conclusions and ideas.

With much discussion and discernment, the committee reached some difficult decisions. These included restructuring the position of Visitation Associate (Mary Lisa Mueller). When presented with the restructured job description, Mary Lisa declined to continue in the position. The committee also voted to create a position that merged Youth Ministry Leader and Contemporary Worship Leader. Steven Jordan--who served our youth well during his time--could not continue with the new job requirements so we looked outside our church and hired Calli Tenson to fill the newly created job. Charissa Lambert continues as Director of Traditional Music.

Pastor Jonny felt that with more visitors coming to services, we needed to work on retaining these visitors and turning them into members. The committee decided that we could merge the role of Visitation Associate with the role of "First Impressions," making everyone feel welcome, follow-up with visitors, make calls on our sick members, etc. Dee Jordan accepted this position in addition to her part-time office secretarial duties.

All these staffing changes were challenging but the committee felt necessary to help grow our membership as well as retain current members. None of the changes were made lightly but we are already seeing the fruits of the changes made!

The committee continues to look at ways to help our staff while staying competitive in the job market. This include looking at health insurance options, health reimbursement agreements, salary structure, etc.

Performance reviews were conducted by Pastor Jonny and we also asked the chair of each church committee to submit a review of Pastor Jonny's interaction with their respective committees. All were positive.

Our last decision of 2023 was to recommend to Session to hire Alice Shirey as a part-time Teaching Associate, and Session approved. Alice is a wonderful addition to the staff and help for Pastor Jonny.

*2023 Committee Members:*

*Scott Cose, Jennifer Owen-Kuhn, Eric Johnson, Jesse Knight,  
Amy Miehe, Joe Vich, Kristie Brown, Jeane Speas*



Respectfully submitted,  
**Jeane Speas | Chair of Personnel**



## PROPERTY



Don Kester  
Property Chair

The Property Committee is responsible for maintaining the Building and Grounds of the Church property. Our budget has line items for utility bills, maintenance contracts, snow and lawn care, kitchen and janitorial supplies, insurance, new equipment and equipment repair and maintenance of the Church van. We also set aside money annually for major repair costs of the Church building.

We have a company that takes care of our lawn fertilizing and weed control, and another company that takes care of parking lot snow removal. Lawn mowing is done by members of the property committee, as is the sidewalk salting and snow shoveling. Larry Nosbisch is our part-time maintenance person, and also does room set-ups when needed. We have two women who come in once a week to do general cleaning. We had a spring outdoor cleanup, with members of Westminster helping to clean the outside to get ready for summer.

The back parking lot was resurfaced and restriped, a new John Deere zero turn lawn mower was purchased to replace the old one that was in need of much repair, a new sump pump was purchased to replace the one at the bottom of the stairs in the social hall, and an outside drain issue was corrected. I want to thank Cody Alberts for his 6 years on the committee.



There are always a lot of little things that need to be done to keep a building like Westminster running, and I want to thank every member of the committee for their willingness to always help.

*2023 Committee Members:*

*Loren Duchman, Mark Kennedy, Don Kester, Dan Grosser,  
Cody Alberts, Dwight Van Wyngarden, Steve Grimm,  
Rick Gorman, Dean Thede, Troy Elliott.*

Respectfully submitted,  
**Don Kester | Chair of Property**



# WORSHIP & MUSIC AT A GLANCE

## HARMONIOUS LEADERSHIP



### COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Kim Porter – Chair	Judy Kester
Vicki Grimes	Marv DeWaard
Marie Hills	Connie Duchman
Kendal Crawford	Amy Greve

### STAFF

Charissa Lambert
Calli Tenson
Jenn Ponsart

## VARIED AVENUES FOR WORSHIP



WORSHIP AND MUSIC is proud to support two services--Traditional and Modern--as well as a variety of opportunities for musical expression including Chancel Choir, Handbells, and kids choirs.

## EVENTS FOR EVERYONE

CHRISTMAS PAGEANT

COCOA & CAROLS

CHURCH MICE

HANDBELL CONCERT

CHRISTMAS CANTATA

MESSENGER CHOIR



## OPPORTUNITIES TO SERVE & CONNECT



CHANCEL CHOIR

LITURGISTS

MUSICIANS

MEISTERINGERS

WORSHIP TEAM

TECH



# WORSHIP & MUSIC



**Charissa Lambert**  
Music Director

- On Good Friday 2023 Westminster Choir combined with other Presbyterian church choirs in the area to sing for the service at Cedar Heights Presbyterian in Cedar Falls.
- Jennifer Ponsart continues to lead our Meisteringers Bell Choir.
- Summer special music was filled with musicians from our church and also friends of Westminster.
- Starting in the Fall I became the Director of Traditional Music which includes The Church Mice Choir, The Messenger Choir, Chancel Choir, and being responsible for Special Music and arranging instrumentalists for service and special events.
- All Choirs returned in September with weekly rehearsals.
- On December 3rd, Cocoa and Carols took place in the Shared Life Center. All Choirs participated and individuals and small groups also joined in for a night of family fun to kick off the Holiday Season.
- On December 3rd, Meisteringers led a one service Sunday as they shared the music of Advent with several musical offerings.
- On December 10th, the Chancel Choir shared a cantata entitled, "Love" written by Joel Raney.
- On December 17th, the Messenger Choir shared a musical entitled, "On Our War To Bethlehem". Junior Hlgh Students were also involved and we're excited to start having them included into music ministry again.

Respectfully submitted,

**Charissa Lambert | Director of Traditional Worship**



**Calli Tenson**  
Youth & Worship

I can't believe it's been five months since I began serving at Westminster! It's been a year of growth, deepened relationships, and a commitment to enhancing our worship experience. A significant achievement has been expanding our volunteer base, bringing diverse talents to enrich our services.

In 2023, we broadened our musical library with new songs that resonate, reflecting our commitment to a well-rounded worship experience. The congregation's positive response affirms our focus on worshipping God and engaging with the Holy Spirit.

Building relationships within our worship community has been a priority. Our rehearsal time involves connecting through life sharing, answering questions, devotionals, and games, strengthening bonds for better music.

The Christmas Eve service was the highlight, integrating traditional carols, contemporary worship songs, and creative elements. The overwhelming response led to setting up over a hundred extra chairs for everyone.

I am so grateful for 2023 and I look forward to continuing growth in 2024!

Respectfully submitted,

**Calli Tenson | Youth & Modern Worship Director**



# BIBLE STUDIES

## TUESDAY MEN

The Men's Bible Study meets in the Coffee House most Tuesday mornings between 9:00 and 10:00 pm. Each week, there is a scriptural study from a specific book of the Bible. The curriculum is based on a created guide that deals with biblical concepts elucidated by Scripture.

This study encourages attendees to discuss Scripture and the ramifications of current issues, including issues experienced in personal lives and the Christian walk. All adult males are welcome to attend. The study is facilitated by William Kay with consultation by Dr. John Butler, CLP.

Respectfully submitted,  
**William Kay**

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## MONDAY WOMEN

In 2024, the Women's Bible Study will celebrate its 10th anniversary. We began our study with Matthew 1:1 and have worked our way through the New Testament verse by verse.

- We'll soon complete our study of Revelation, the most challenging book of the N.T.
- We'll then begin a study of the most important parts of the Old Testament, with an emphasis on how they find fulfillment in Christianity.
- We meet on Monday mornings from 9 to 10 a.m. via Zoom so participants can join via computer, phone, or I-pad from anywhere.
- All women, even those living in other locations, are welcome to join us! If you're interested, please email me at [cathyyoung4@gmail.com](mailto:cathyyoung4@gmail.com).
- We continue to learn a tremendous amount together, deepen our faith, and mutually support/pray for one another.

Respectfully submitted,  
**Rev. Cathy Young**



## WEDNESDAY GROUPS

### WOMEN OF WESTMINSTER

The Women of Westminster continue to meet Wednesday evenings 6–7pm in the Coffee House. We have spent time in prayer, in fellowship and studying the women of the old testament. In the new year, WOW provided support to the carnival on January 17th and will resume with women of the Old Testament the following week. Once we finish studies of the old testament we will look to women of the New Testament. We welcome any women at Westminster to join us on Wednesdays!

Respectfully submitted,  
**June Klein-Bacon**

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### MEN OF WESTMINSTER

The Wednesday night Men's group, which meets from 6–7 pm, is working its way through a multi-volume series called "Authentic Manhood." Each volume (6 in total, 6 episodes each) focuses on specific parts of the life and teachings of Jesus Christ. Since beginning the series in late fall of 2022, we have completed the first four volumes: A Man and His Design, A Man and his Story, A Man and his Traps, and A Man and His Work. Each episode builds on previous material, but anyone is welcome to join us whenever they are able. We will start Volume V, A Man and His Marriage when class begins later in January. Then conclude the series around with A Man and His Fatherhood late in the Spring.

We usually spend the first 10 to 15 minutes of class discussing issues that have come up in our personal lives and we are free to share whatever we want without fear of shame or judgment. Whatever is said in Men's Group, stays in Men's Group. Then we watch the episode of the week and go through the discussion questions. About once a month, we take a week off from the video series and go out for a drink and just bond with each other. The group currently includes Leader Matt Engelhardt, along with Ryan Greve, Joe Schuster, and Jim Wilson, a friend of Matt's. During the summer months, when Wes Pres is not meeting, we occasionally get together for grill outs at each others homes in order to keep in touch.

Respectfully submitted,  
**Matt Engelhardt**



# PEACEMAKERS & PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN

## PEACEMAKERS

We use mainly donated Fabrics cut into 4 inch four square quilt blocks and 8 inch quilt blocks to sew a simple pattern which can work for several different sizes of quilts. We have made everything from baby quilts to full size quilts this year.

We do our best to coordinate colors and patterns in the prints and the solid fabric.

Currently, we are working on a Crazy quilt made with all 4 squares which will be very bright, very colorful, and using lots of fun prints put together to use the last bits and pieces of a bunch of fabrics.

We purchase batting for the middle and backing fabric to cover the back of each quilt. We do our best to coordinate the back of the quilt with the color on the front.

We gifted a quilt to Pastor Jonny when he was ordained and donated 10 quilts to the veterans.

We meet on Thursday mornings weekly, doing matching fabrics for cutting blocks to sew small squares together, laying out the quilt, assemble finished tops with batting and backs. We pin the large quilt to the adjustable rack then tie it with yarn and then we bind the backing to the front and apply our Westminster label. At this point, the quilt is ready to be donated.

We would welcome more helping hands. Sewing skills are not necessary to help.

Respectfully submitted,  
**Kim Porter**

## PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN

Presbyterian Women did not formally meet in 2023. Our Moderator moved out of town and we have not had our regular meetings. We continue to support the National, Presbytery, and Synod of the PCUSA. We gave gifts to our graduating seniors in May. We continue to assist in the setting up and serving of funeral lunches. The lunches are now catered, but Presbyterian Women do the kitchen and cleanup work and provide drinks.

Respectfully submitted,  
**Jean Gardner**



# 2024 COMMITTEE LISTS

## ELDERS

June Klein-Bacon, Judy Clauson, Scott Cose, Trisha Crawford, Bonnie Smith-Davis, Marv DeWaard, Jodi Fabrizio, Rick Gorman, Ryan Greve, Matt Haines, Don Kester, Jennifer Owen-Kuhn, Jeff Morgan, Kim Porter, Kerri Powell, Christina Sales

## DEACONS

Sara Cornette, Vicki Cose, Bonnie Smith-Davis, Jean Gardner, Monica Johnson, Susan Larsen, Ann Northey, Nancy Osgood, Keary Secor, Faith Sonksen, Troyce Vich, Heidi Warrington

## CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

Trisha Crawford, Steven Jordan, Jeff Morgan, Regina Porter, Jeff Sales, Mike Sinram

## ENDOWMENT

Ron Coenen, Bob Heaton, Sam Holden, Eric Johnson, Jeff Morgan, Kathy Schreiner, Shelly Smith, Jeanne Speas

## FINANCE

Jolan Adams, June Klein-Bacon, Felicia Cass, Roger Davis, Ryan Greve, Matt Loesche, Chuck Shirey, John Speas

## MISSIONS

Bonnie Smith-Davis, Jodi Fabrizio, Kassy Grosser, Matt Haines, Jackie Malecek, Missy Pook, Regina River, Lois Sinram

## NOMINATING

Judy Clauson, Vicki Cose, Lori Johnson, Susan Larsen, Christina Sales, Mark Schreiner, Karen Siler

## PERSONNEL

Kristie Brown, Scott Cose, Eric Johnson, Jesse Knight, Jennifer Owen-Kuhn, Amy Mieke, Jeanne Speas, Joe Vich

## PROPERTY

Loren Duchman, Troy Elliott, Rick Gorman, Steve Grimm, Dan Grosser, Mark Kennedy, Don Kester, Dean Thede, Dwight Van Wyngarden

## STEWARSHIP

Harrison Cass, Ryan Greve, Margo Grimm, Cindy Thede

## WORSHIP & MUSIC

Kendal Crawford, Marv DeWaard, Connie Duchman, Amy Greve, Judy Kester, Kim Porter, Kerri Powell, Shirley Van Wyngarden

