



WALLINGFORD PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Annual Report 2024

Mission Statement

With grateful recognition that Jesus Christ is Lord of the church and of our lives, the mission of the people of Wallingford Presbyterian Church is to witness to Christ's presence and power.

We recognize that we have been transformed, yet are always being transformed into the likeness of Christ through the power of the Holy Spirit.

We witness through meaningful worship, Christian nurture, spiritual growth, caring service, fellowship, music, and mission in the broader community.

In faithful response to God's call, we remain open to the work of the Holy Spirit so that we continually are shaped as individuals and as the body of Christ.

.... God's growing people serving Christ in a changing world

WALLINGFORD PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
Wallingford, Pennsylvania
January 26, 2025

Annual Meeting of the Congregation and Corporation

AGENDA

MEETING OF THE CONGREGATION

Call to Order and Welcome

Opening Prayer

Certifying the Quorum- Elder Chris Darr, Clerk of Session

Call for New Business

Mission and Ministry Review

Nominating Committee Report – Ver Picher

The Nominating Committee presents the following members to serve as ‘at large’ members on the 2025 Nominating Committee: Ashley Drane, Walt Kaminski, Pat La Borie, Jenny Montague, Jim Oetinger
Alternate: Lisé Meloy

MEETING OF THE CORPORATION

Call for the Meeting of the Corporation – Bruce Clark, President

Certification of Quorum - Chris Darr, Clerk of Session

Call for New Business

Board of Trustees Report

Move to Receive Reports

RECONVENE THE MEETING OF THE CONGREGATION

New Business

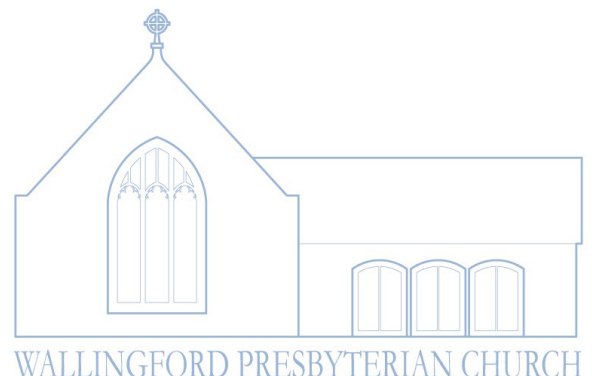
Treasurer’s Report- Ed Mattote and Todd Darr, Church Treasurers

2024 Financial Review

Review of the 2025 Budget approved by the Session

Review and Approval of Pastoral Terms of Call for 2025- Elder Helen Picher

Adjournment



WALLINGFORD PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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STAFF



Rev. François Lacroix
Pastor



Rev. Taylor Cornelius
Associate Pastor



Lee Hagon-Kerr
Minister of Music



Nathan Gibson
Church Administrator



Jodi Dawes
WCNS Director



Leslie Krowchenko
Communications
Coordinator



Michelle Hall
Financial Secretary

2024

CHURCH OFFICERS

SESSION

Class of 2025

Mary Lou Day (3)
Brian George, Jr. (3)
Kristine Mulhorn (3)
Shirley Rudd (6)

Class of 2026

Roger Demos (5)
Leslie Krowchenko (5)
Jenny Miller (3)
Ver Picher (3)
John Stauffer (3)
Earl Varney (3)

Class of 2027

Charlie Babcock (3)
Tom Erickson (3)

BOARD OF DEACONS

Class of 2025

Sally Clyde (3)
Chris Dearnaley (3)
Carol Freidinger (6)
Tracy Moran (3)
Polly Sacco Ezzell (3)

Class of 2026

Gail Clark (3)
Sheila Elmhurst (2)
Karen Emmons (5)
Chris Jacobsen (3)
Don Killian (3)
June Tolomeo (2.7)

Class of 2027

Lin Floyd (6)

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Class of 2025

Bruce Clark (3)
Mary Payne (3)
Dave Rudd (1)
Tony Tolomeo (3)

Class of 2026

Bud Fury (3)
Cary McHugh (3)
Mike Meloy (2)
Doug Shafer (2)

The parentheses following each name indicate the number of consecutive years that will have been served by the individual on that board.

Clerk of Session

Chris Darr

President of Trustees

Bruce Clark

Treasurers

Todd Darr and Ed Mattote

Moderator of Deacons

Polly Sacco Ezzell

FROM THE PASTOR

Dear Members and Friends,

You have heard me say from the pulpit that there is a joke among clergy that most pastors have only three sermons that they keep preaching in one way or another throughout their ministry.



As I approach my retirement, I have been reflecting on what my 'three' sermons have been.

Three Scriptures come to mind. The first from the prophet Micah 6:6-8. You know... *"With what shall I come before the Lord... He has told you, O mortal, what is good; and what does the Lord require of you but to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God?"* During difficult and challenging times; corruption and pretensions of leaders in Jerusalem, and religious practice untethered from ethical performance, the prophet Micah never lost hope and faith in the future. **Trust in the Lord, always.**

The second is chapter thirteen of Paul's First Letter to the Corinthians often read at weddings but in fact words he wrote for the entire community to live by. Again, you know... *"Love is patient: love is kind: love is not envious or boastful or arrogant or rude. It does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable or resentful; it does not rejoice in wrongdoing but rejoices in the truth. It bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things."* For Paul it was all about building one another up...**for the common good, in community with one another, always.**

The Third is Jesus' call to follow as his disciples which we find in Matthew 4:18ff, Mark 1:16ff, Luke 5:8ff, John 1:35ff. We are invited by God's Grace to follow. *"Follow me,"* Jesus calls out to us, called to be participants, not spectators, **to follow where Jesus leads.** The religion of Jesus as opposed to the religion *about* Jesus.



You have been kind, supportive and affirming throughout our years together, to listen to my sermons and to try, with me, to live the Word of God that informed them. Thank you. And thank the Holy Spirit who is always able to use my meager words to speak through them the gospel message of our crucified and risen Lord.

We have had a busy year together and the pages that follow, along with the images, show just how blessed we have been... and continue to be at Wallingford Presbyterian Church.



I am so very thankful for the strong and dedicated leaders of our church on the Session, Board of Deacons, and Board of Trustees. Of course, we good Presbyterians couldn't really function well doing things, 'decently and in order' without our Councils and Committees. And all the other groups that call WPC home, thank you, especially to all our 'quiet contributors' who selflessly do what needs to be done without prompting or being asked... you know who you are. And then, as I have shared many times, I have the best colleagues in the world with which to share in ministry here. Pastor Taylor, Lee, Nathan, Leslie are a treasure. So, to all of you, a great big THANK YOU for giving so generously of your time, talent, imagination, energy and love for the sake of the gospel here at WPC.

There is an exciting year ahead of us full of the promise of God and I so look forward to sharing it with you. As we face the coming pastoral transition, I am convinced that if we strive to follow the guidance of the Holy Spirit, God will send to WPC the right person to walk the journey of faith with this congregation.



Let us together **trust** in the Lord, **seek** the common good and **follow** where Jesus leads.

Blessings,
François Lacroix

FROM THE ASSOCIATE PASTOR



Friends,

God is up to something here at WPC! It has been a wonderful year with you all and I have loved every moment of serving alongside you all. Truly, the Holy Spirit is truly moving among us! I see it in how we are expanding our children's programs, we have ever increased attendance by young families, and how we have had the honor of baptizing and welcoming so many new members this past year. Praise be to God for how the Lord continues to be at work in and amongst us as we strive together to be seek first the Kingdom of God!

The year was filled with many times of celebration, meaningful worship together as a church family, and some fantastic memories we made together. They span across all of the fabulous groups I get to work with including the children, young families, youth, young adults, and Education Council.

Here are some highlights from this past year that I want to share:

- My highlight is that every week I get to have just so many children pour up to the front of the church and we get to spend time together and sing, and laugh, and pray! Thank you, parents, for your commitment to our church!
- This year's Christmas Pageant was the biggest one yet with 40 children participating! It was such a fun and exciting group of kids who did a beautiful job telling the Christmas story through song, skit, and drama!
- I got the chance to baptize Summer George, Kelsey Rendall, and all three Drane girls plus their father – what a year of celebration!
- When the kids were so excited to decorate our Advent Tree together during Time with Young Disciples, and also make our Thankfulness Chain for the sanctuary!





- It was truly so meaningful and fun to get to have a Pulpit Swap with my husband and I getting to preach at one another's churches! Thank you for welcoming him.
- My husband Doug and I got the chance to host a concert together which many of our WPC church friends attended, thank you for coming! Another highlight was our Staff Musical Review which really was so great to sing with all of our staff members together!
- A huge highlight was that we welcomed many new teachers into our Sunday School Teacher team, and they add such great fresh ideas to our program!

• The Easter Eggstravaganza was a huge success with hundreds of kids present and celebrating the joy of Easter – so many families they filled the upper parking lot!

• Every year, I can't help but claim that my all-time favorite memory which is always when we sing Silent Night by candlelight on Christmas Eve – but what supersedes that this year was the bittersweet yet beautiful moment of singing carols by candlelight at the last Women of Wallingford Party with Cyndi here!

• At the Easter Sunrise Service, there was such a sense of joy and peace as we praised God in the morning mist out in the courtyard as the sun gently shone down.

• What a wild and fun week it was at Vacation Bible Camp, full of singing, skits, crafts, story, and more!

I am beyond grateful to have had another wonderful year serving God with you all, as a community of faith! As we step into this new year together, I trust that the Spirit will continue to lead, guide, and nurture our church family as we seek first the Kingdom of God together.

With a grateful heart,
Pastor Taylor



MUSIC MINISTRY

- Music ministry continues to explore a wide range of genres and styles for worship, including bluegrass for Easter, Taizé for Ash Wednesday and contemporary Christian praise music.



- We hosted a carol-sing during the annual Advent Open House, which included adults and children alike for a fun, festive music experience! This is such a special moment for everyone to sing together, regardless of whether they are in an ensemble or not!

- We hosted Wednesdays at Wallingford involving music, like the Staff Musical Revue where Leslie, Taylor, François, Nathan and Lee performed Broadway favorites and even got the audience to sing along, too!



- Our “Concerts for a Cause” series continues to bring varied talented musicians to WPC to perform benefit concerts. In February, we hosted a “Love is Love” Valentine’s Cabaret to benefit PFLAG Media, an organization that supports and advocates for members of the LGBTQ+ community and those who love them. In May, we hosted an “Afternoon of A Cappella”, with two a cappella groups returning to WPC to help raise money for “Keep Music Alive”, an organization that provides access to music education for all in Delco. In December, we supported “Keep Music Alive” once again as part of the new program year (’24-’25) with a Christmas Cabaret, featuring our very own François, Tyler and Nathan! Music ministry continues to work in tandem with the Mission & Service Committee to help support the non-profit organizations chosen for each performance. Deep thanks and gratitude to everyone on that committee for their support of this fun and impactful work!



Concerts
FOR A CAUSE

Celebrate great music
and make a difference
in our community

CHILDREN'S MUSIC MINISTRY



- Our children continue to have fun and informal music opportunities once a month during “Kids’ Cafe”, where they can sing and play songs with Miss Lee and Pastor Taylor.



- The Chapel Choir has performed the Sunday following Kids’ Cafe, with a featured performance as the “music for meditation” during worship.



- For Easter 2024, we produced an Easter Pageant, featuring costumes, scenery, props, dramatic reading and music!
- The third Sunday of Advent featured our traditional children’s Christmas Pageant, during which the children sang songs with the congregation and a featured anthem as the Chapel Choir. We had a record-breaking number of participants this year!

- Our children led the way during our Advent Open House carol-sing, picking their favorite carols to sing and competing for the most emphatic “five golden rings” during “The Twelve Days of Christmas”! It was a blast, thanks to the energy and talent of our wonderful kids!

- In the fall of 2024, we started the Chapel Ringers, a bell choir for our middle-school aged children. They had their first performance on Christmas Pageant Sunday and made an encore performance for Christmas Eve! We are very excited to continue with this new ensemble and watch it grow!



ADULT MUSIC MINISTRY



- Our adult music ministry has seen growth and new membership in every ensemble, including Chancel Choir, Bell Choir and Wallingford Winds! We are always so happy to welcome new members and would like to remind everyone that you can join at any time, no need to wait for September!
- Wallingford Winds continued to play for special services at WPC, including Easter, Music Appreciation Sunday, Reformation, and Christmas Eve.
- Our Bell Choir and Chancel Choir performed regularly throughout the program year in a variety of styles and genres, often featuring solos by our wonderful staff singers, Meghan Cakalli (soprano), Corinna Brueckner (alto) and Tyler Gibson (tenor).
- During the summer, we held a pick-up choir that met the morning of worship to put together special anthems. Using our new snazzy business card invitations, we were happy to welcome some new participants to our pick-up choirs!

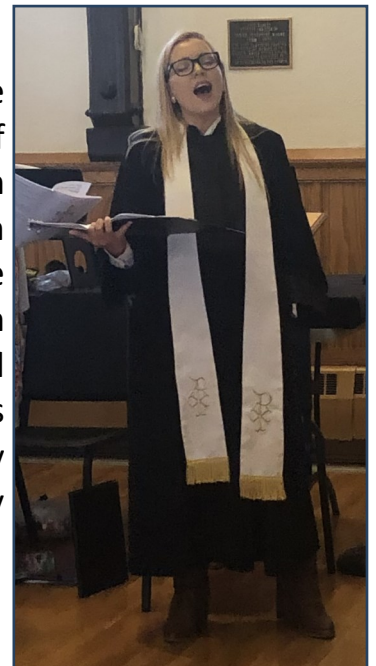




- We had fantastic soloists and small groups perform anthems over the summer, and continued this throughout the program year, allowing our wonderful musicians to shine in a variety of contexts and settings.



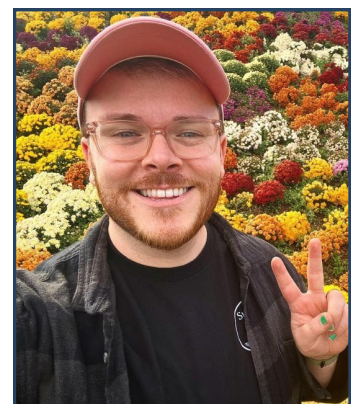
Our adult musicians have continued the tradition of celebrating all their hard work with two “musician parties”, one in June at Iron Hill Brewery and one in December at the Manse. With all the time, energy, devotion and talent our volunteer musicians contribute to our ministry, they deserve to kick back and enjoy some fellowship together!



Meghan Cakalli
soprano



Corinna Brueckner
alto



Tyler Gibson
tenor

COMMUNICATIONS COORDINATOR

Keeping folks up-to-date about WPC is an enjoyable assignment.

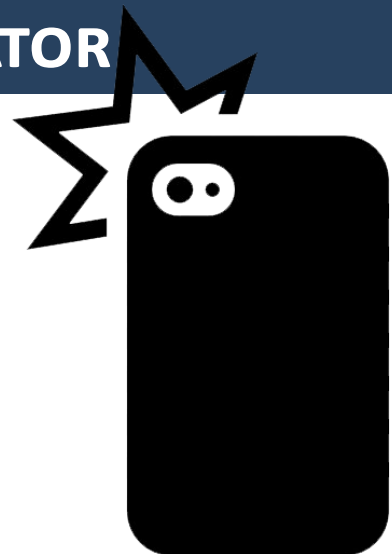
Communicating about our church couldn't be easier – there's always something happening (even the traditionally slow months are busy!). Whether on your phone, tablet, laptop or desktop, hopefully you have heard (and will continue to hear) about WPC's community of wonderful people.

A special shout-out to my partners in communications crime – everyone who sends pics, videos and/or info about upcoming events. It may seem as if I am frequently asking you to smile, but



I don't always deserve the photo credit. Keep those snaps coming!

Leslie Krowchenko



NOMINATING COMMITTEE

The Nominating Committee works to identify those individuals whom God is calling to serve the church as members of Session, Deacons and Trustees. The Committee's goal is to present a diverse slate of committed and faithful members who are elected by the congregation to two- and three-year terms. The work was handled via in-person meetings, video meetings, email and phone calls. There were 12 positions to be filled.

The church has reduced the number of officers on Session, Deacons and Trustees from 15 to 12, and it has also reduced the term of service from three years to only two years. In conversations with candidates, it was clear that people were willing to undertake a two-year term of service where they might have declined a three-year term.

This coming year, there are 13 positions to be filled, all for two-year terms.

The slate of church officers was presented to the congregation in September and the officers began serving their terms in October. Many thanks to the 2024 Nominating Committee for their service: Ken Ezzell, Lise Meloy, Pam Mattote, Jenny Montague, Jim Oetinger, Ver Picher, Dave Rudd, June Tolomeo, Nancy Curtis (alternate), Walt Kaminski (alternate).

Respectfully submitted, Kristine Mulhorn, Committee Chair

CHILDREN'S MINISTRY

Here at Wallingford Presbyterian Church we strive to create a warm, loving, safe environment for children to grow in friendship, fellowship, and faith. This year our children's ministry was booming with great attendance and bursting with renewed energy – the Spirit is up to something here at Wallingford Pres! We have many programs for children and here are some of the highlights from each this past year:

- Sprouts Monthly Program (K-5th) which is a themed night full of fun and friends where the kids get to eat dinner together, do activities, games, and end with a guitar-led song, devotion-al, and prayer.



-Highlights included Bowling Night at Sproul Lanes where the kids enjoyed a night of fun (many tried their hand at bowling for the first time!) and our End of the Year Celebration where the kids got to run through the sprinkler squealing with joy!



- Kid's Café: Sing and Play! (All ages) is a chance for children to sing songs with Miss Lee and eat kid-friendly snacks in the choir room together. They often rehearse their next chapel choir song together as well.

-Highlights included our newest additions to Kid's Café (including some new babies even!) and also the day when the children practiced their Christmas anthem with hand motions and bells!

- Vacation Bible Camp was a huge success this past summer! We hosted an energetic group of kids who learned many Bible lessons throughout the week which was themed as Scuba: Diving Into Friendship with God!

-One highlight was when the shepherds and I made up little skits to start out the night and the kids laughed and laughed! Also, another favorite memory is when the kids did a beautiful job on their last night's performance and we closed the week with a celebratory hot dog dinner – thank you Connections!





- The Children's Christmas Pageant was a roaring fun time and children did a splendid job (40 children in all!) Our theme was BREAKING NEWS: Live from Bethlehem!



-Highlights include: having the kids get so excited to actually help choreograph the closing hand motions and dance for the pageant, seeing them laugh when I was being an overly-silly director, and seeing them feel so proud when the congregation clapped!



- Advent Open House had the best attendance in years! This is the best intergenerational event I've ever been part of – many thanks to Gail and Shirley and all of the Ed Council! Together our church family had the opportunity to sing, do crafts, enjoy one another's company, watch the Eagles game, eat good food, and celebrate together.

-Highlights include: sitting with the children on the floor for the reading of the children's story, and singing carols with Miss Lee including a very rowdy version of The 12 Days of Christmas!

- Time with Young Disciples is a time when children come forward during the service to have a little mini-sermonette just for them. The kids got the opportunity this year to do many new things including singing on-the-spot songs, searching for hidden clues, decorating the church, and learning about Bible stories.

-Highlights include: their amazing and honest answers to the questions posed, seeing how excited they are to share about their week, and decorating the church with angels together!





- Worship Involvement was fantastic this past year as we had many children, youth, and young adults help in worship by serving as liturgists, ushers, hymn number helpers, singers, hand-bell ringers, pageant performers, and more!

- Highlights were having only Confirmands serve as our Christmas Eve liturgists who did such a beautiful job, and seeing the children play HAND BELLS for the congregation!

- Sunday School is a program we offer during our 10am Sunday Services which is available to ages 18 months all the way up to 12 years of age. We have a Toddler Room, K – 2nd Room, 3rd – 5th Room, and also a monthly Breakfast Club class for our youth group students.

- Highlights include: having so many new parents serve as teachers this year, and seeing their beautiful artwork they show their parents in coffee hour after Sunday School!



What a Spirit-filled year we have had in Children's Ministry and we are truly thankful and blessed. I look forward to seeing all that God will do in 2025 through our church to touch the hearts and lives of our littlest disciples!



Respectfully Submitted,
Pastor Taylor Cornelius



YOUTH AND YOUNG ADULTS



At Wallingford Presbyterian Church we are committed to offering opportunities for our youth and young adults to grow in their knowledge and understanding of God and offer them the opportunity to form friendships and enjoy fellowship with one another. This past year they enjoyed many programs which allowed them to bond with one another and also maintain a strong connection to their faith.

- Youth Group meets every month for a new opportunity to have fun with friends and be reminded of God's love! On the last Sunday of the month, our youth gather for an outing in the community where they can have fun and fellowship together and share a meal together. -Highlights include making our Halloween Trunk at Trunk or Treat together, and having our youth group be elves at the Advent Open House together!

- The Young Adult Group is comprised of college-aged young adults who meet during their breaks in school. We have all kinds of events which include meals together, outings, and more.

-Highlights from this year include our night in Media where we had fun enjoying dinner and ice cream, and our Pizza day in January when we had our biggest group in years!

- Youth and Young Adult Service in the church greatly expanded this year as they helped out at many events to benefit those other than themselves. The youth and young adults helped out at:

- Sunday School as teacher's aids and Nursery Care Workers
- Advent Open House as crafters and set-up helpers
- Vacation Bible camp as shepherds and decorators and helpers all week
- The Christmas Pageant where they served as Junior Directors
- Sunday Morning services where they served as liturgists and ushers
- Bell Choir Participants with Miss Lee (they played on Christmas Eve!)
- Rise Against Hunger
- Sprouts where the young adults regularly come as leaders to help the children with their crafts and help with set-up and breakdown (Many thanks specifically to Zoe Andrews and Noel Petherbridge!)





- Breakfast Club is a program offered for 6th-12th graders in which they meet once a month during the Sunday service for a lesson, and games – and also, breakfast is included! Many thanks to our teachers Frank, Bowe, and Kevin for making this possible!
- Highlights include: Welcoming our new teacher Frank to the group, and exploring new and updated curriculum for this new generation of kids!



- Confirmation is a program offered for our 9th - 12th graders in which they explore and wrestle with their faith through monthly lessons with Pastor Taylor and their mentors. They address the hard questions of faith in order to figure out what they believe, and at the end of the year-long journey they are given the opportunity to become members of WPC officially!
- Highlights include: Having a group this year who is particularly interested in understanding the Bible, and also our fun conversations where we bounce back and forth with ideas and creativity together!



Our youth and young adults have so much to offer our congregation and serve with such open hearts. Now that you know all the ways they are involved – be sure to thank a youth or young adult today!



Respectfully submitted,
Pastor Taylor



DEACONS

In September 2024 the Board of Deacons was reduced from 15 members to 12.



American Red Cross Blood Drive Wallingford Presbyterian Church has hosted Red Cross blood drives for 75 years. In March 45 pints were donated and 48 pints in October.

Care Networks Each WPC member is assigned a Deacon. Deacons send a letter or email to those in their Care Network to help build community and keep members informed about the life of the church. Members may contact their Deacon if they need assistance from Deacon Helpers. Photos of each Deacon and a list of their Care Network members is posted on a bulletin board near the choir room.



Visitation Each week a list of members with upcoming birthdays or anniversaries, illness, joys or sorrows is emailed to the deacons. On Sunday 2 deacons take the flowers from the sanctuary and divide them into small bouquets to deliver with a card to those on the list. Cards are usually sent to those members that may live a distance from WPC. Balloons are often given to children for their birthday. In this way we can celebrate and support each member of our congregation. This year the deacons have invited former deacons to help with visitations.



Deacon Helpers A questionnaire was distributed with the Sunday bulletin fall 2024 requesting volunteers to act as Deacon Helpers. Deacon Helpers can assist their fellow congregates by providing meals or a ride to church or pet sitting. Deacon Helpers also assist the deacons by visiting those who are ill or at home. To request a Deacon Helper contact the church administrator or any deacon. To volunteer as a Deacon Helper, contact your deacon.

General Mission The General Mission committee exists to help the members of WPC and our local community with an immediate need. Assistance is typically given in the form of gift cards to local big box stores. Assistance may also be given for an emergent need such as help with a specific bill. Requests for assistance usually begin with a call to the church administrator or by directly contacting a deacon. All assistance is recorded in the church office. A packet of information for local food banks and county services is also provided.





Red Wagon WPC members, community members and the WCNS families generously fill the 3 Red Wagons with non-perishable foods, cleaning supplies and personal hygiene items. These donations are then given to 'Life Werks' at the Foundry Church Wallingford, City Team-Chester and the Media Food Bank. The Red Wagons are strategically placed at WPC events like Trunk or Treat and Strawberry Festival for the community to contribute.

Holiday Gift Cards In the fall deacons receive a list of families in need from the social worker for the Wallingford-Swarthmore School District. This 2024 holiday season the deacons delivered gift cards to the district office to be given to 51 families totaling \$2775.00.



Giving Tree All of the gift tags were taken from the Christmas trees and returned. The enormous generosity of the WPC family and the WCNS provided gifts and gift cards to local children. Chester Eastside received 20 \$25.00 Target and Walmart gift cards. City Team received 20 Walmart gift cards and 50 + toys, books and games.



Angel Tree Angel Tree is part of Prison Fellowship and provides children of an incarcerated family member to get a gift from that person. This year Prison Fellowship required a 20 child minimum to participate. WPC deacons agreed and were provided the contact information of the caretakers of the 20 children. Eventually, not all of the caretakers chose to participate and 16 gift requests were placed on the tree and all returned with gifts.

Member Fellowship Deacons host Coffee Hour quarterly.

Respectfully submitted,
Polly Sacco Ezzell



BOARD OF TRUSTEES



The Trustees are responsible for maintenance and upkeep of the Church building, both Manses and all the grounds to ensure that they are safe for use, meet the needs of the many individuals and groups that use them throughout the year, and present a positive image within the surrounding community. Routine maintenance of the building structures and their grounds along with all utility systems, mechanical equipment, finishes, and fixtures is ongoing, along with larger repair projects and planned enhancements as needed to meet anticipated future needs. This work is done by members of the Trustees and volunteers from the congregation, often behind the scenes, who donate their time and expertise, and, for larger projects or where specialized skills or services are needed, by outside contractors. Valuable assistance is also provided by members and leaders of our several Scouting troops during our Spring and Fall grounds-cleanup days.

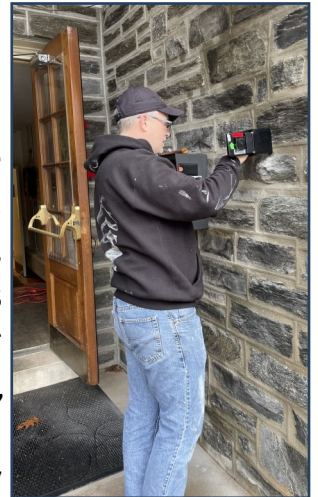
Some significant projects completed during 2024 include: installation of carbon monoxide detectors hardwired into the existing monitored fire detector system, installation of blinds over the new Fellowship Hall casement windows, replacing the 11 remaining basement casement windows in the office/classroom wing with energy-efficient double hung windows, restoration of the red outer doors to the sanctuary hallway along with repainting of the doors plus the interior hallway and stairwell areas, replacing the leaking gutter of the kitchen roof on the Avondale Rd. side, professional pruning, maintenance and cabling of several trees and large shrubs consistent with the approved long-term tree maintenance plan for the property, and perhaps most noteworthy, installing air conditioning in Fellowship Hall made possible by significant financial support for the project coming from the Parks Bequest. Both the Spring and Fall grounds clean-up projects were again successful with the critical manpower assist provided by our Scouting organizations.





Non-routine projects requiring attention in 2025 include rebuilding the frame of the A Manse front door plus related wall repairs, upgrading the exterior doors of the office/classroom wing for purposes of improved security and weather-tightness, and preparing for the A Manse change of occupancy (focus on heating and A/C systems, hot water heater, insulation, flooring maintenance, wall and ceiling painting, etc.) Longer term projects currently under Board consideration include installation of solar roof panels to offset daily electricity demand, and improved accessibility to Fellowship Hall, the Office wing and the Sunday School and nursery co-op areas.

Many thanks to outgoing 2024 Trustees Roger Freidinger, Ken Ezzell, Jean Stromberg, John Tiedeck and Walt Kaminski for their years of dedicated service, and welcome to incoming Trustees for 2025 Doug Shafer, David Rudd, and Mike Meloy. With the incoming 2025 Trustees, the size of the Board has been officially reduced from the previous 12 members to 8, while the scope of the Board's responsibility remains the same. Therefore, any member of the congregation (church member or not) who has experience working in areas such as electrical, plumbing, heating or air-conditioning, painting, carpentry, flooring, roofing, woodworking, gardening, etc. and who would be willing to assist by working on a small task from time to time, would be welcome. Please let us know by contacting either a member of the Board or the Church office of your interest.



Respectfully Submitted,
Bruce Clark, President



EDUCATION COUNCIL



2024 was a vibrant, warm, and FULL year for the Education Council's initiatives. In May 2024, the leadership of the Education Council transitioned from Gail Weaver, who had moderated for many years, to Michelle George, who took over as moderator beginning in June. Additionally, we were pleased to welcome new members to the Education Council this year: Ashley Drane, Erin Vaccone, and Kristine Mulhorn.

Pastor Taylor started the year in her usual organized fashion by hosting a Sunday School teachers' luncheon in February. The meeting provided an opportunity to discuss the progress of each classroom and proactively address any unmet needs.

On Sunday, May 19th, the Education Council held the Sunday School teacher appreciation during the church service. Each teacher was gifted a plant, and a video was played to celebrate their contributions. The children sang a beautiful song in thanksgiving for our dedicated teachers.

Throughout the year, Pastor Taylor continued to organize and promote various activities for the Youth Group, Young Adults, and Sprouts group. Youth Group events included Putt-Putt and pizza outings. Sprouts activities included lessons on spending, saving, and sharing, crafting valentines for shut-ins, and an end-of-year BBQ. Additionally, Kids Cafe was offered for children in Kindergarten through 5th grade on the first Sunday of each month following the church service.



In a meeting with Pastor Taylor, the Education Council agreed to introduce a weekly Summer Sunday School program for nursery-aged children (18 months to 5 years) and a video lesson with activities for children in 1st-5th grades. We were thrilled to have new parent volunteers who eagerly offered to teach during the summer months.

In July, the Education Council and volunteers worked together to organize a SCUBA-themed Vacation Bible Camp (VBC). The event featured lively music, crafts, and story time from 6:00 pm to 7:30 pm each evening for one week. Throughout the event, families contributed supplies for the Red Wagon, which were collected each evening.

In August, Pastor Taylor planned a Sunday School teachers' meeting to review the roles and procedures for teaching positions and to assign teaching dates for each classroom. Pastor Taylor also generously gifted each teacher a Sunday School teacher shirt. The classes offered this year included the Nursery (18 months to 5 years old), a "Mid-Level" class (5 years old through the end of 2nd grade), and a 3rd-5th grade class. Additionally, a Breakfast Club was held monthly for our teen members. We were grateful to have new parent volunteers joining our teaching team alongside our experienced and seasoned teachers.



In September, the Education Council kicked off the new school year with a fun and festive Rally Day. Students and families celebrated a new beginning by receiving new backpacks, goody bags, and participating in a Blessing of the Backpacks ceremony. Afterward, everyone enjoyed a children's-themed coffee hour.

October brought the annual "Socktober Drive," which was led by Shirley Rudd and Roger Demos in collaboration with the Mission and Service Committee. The drive collected new socks for adults in need, which were greatly appreciated by the recipients.

In November 2024, Roger Demos shared fascinating insights from his role as the church historian. Over the past 9-12 months, Roger compiled valuable historical data, including the early history of the church trustees, the history of the Strawberry Festival, the story of the church Chancel, and previous anniversary celebrations at WPC. Roger also uncovered "older" photos of the church and continues to work on updating the history of WPC. This month also included a discussion on upcoming updates to child safety procedures, as recommended by the church's insurance industry. These updates will be revisited in 2025.



December brought the exciting Advent Festival, where members of the Education Council and other gracious volunteers hosted an event that appealed to all ages. Attendees enjoyed children's crafts, listened to a Christmas story with Pastor Taylor, watched the Eagles game, savored children's snacks, and indulged in adult appetizers and drinks. The evening concluded with a heartwarming Christmas hymn sing. Later in December, over 35 children participated in the Christmas Pageant, which was led by Pastor Taylor, a group of dedicated volunteers and Music Director, Lee.

Submitted by Michelle George

ABILITIES INITIATIVE



The Abilities Initiative continued to work diligently in 2024 to highlight and educate our congregation on topics that foster compassion and understanding for those experiencing a variety of impairments and different stages of life.

In the winter of 2024, Shirley Rudd and Michelle George led a well-attended presentation on the "Last Third of Life." The session sparked strong interest and laid the foundation for the year's focus on aging, which was officially launched with the "Series on Aging."

In the spring of 2024, a survey was distributed to assess the needs of the congregation regarding aging and related concerns. Additionally, four new books were added to the Abilities Initiative library to further support education on these topics.

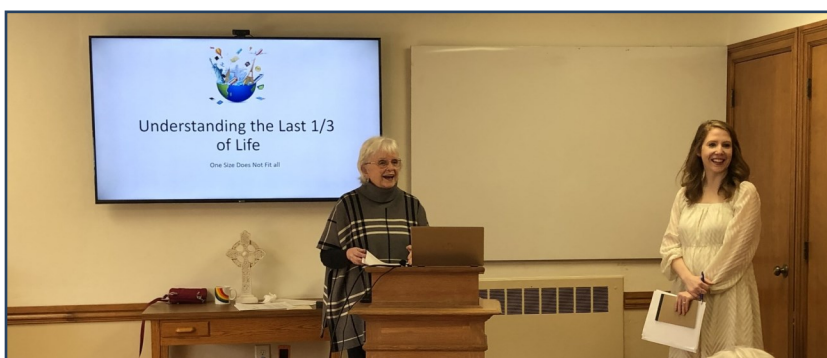
At the end of September, Erin Vaccone spoke to over 20 members about "Advocating for Yourself in the Healthcare Arena." This presentation was highly beneficial to members of all ages, equipping them with practical tools for navigating healthcare systems and advocating for their own needs.



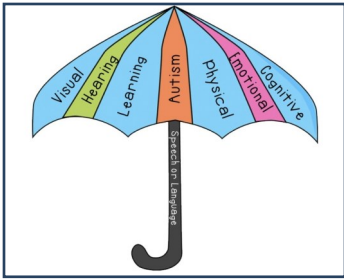
On November 17th, Cyndi LaCroix delivered a lighthearted and engaging presentation on "The Winter of Your Life" to over 20 members and their families. Cyndi introduced the "Five Wishes" program, which helps individuals organize their thoughts about end-of-life care, allowing them to express their wishes in a meaningful way.

As part of the ongoing efforts to support our congregation, the Yellow Dot Program was made available. This program provides members with a simple but effective tool to keep in their cars in case of emergency, ensuring emergency medical services (EMS) can access important health information quickly.

Throughout 2024, the Abilities Initiative was fortunate to add a few new members, bringing the total to five. After leading the initiative with dedication and enthusiasm for four years, Shirley



Rudd stepped down as leader in September 2024. Michelle George took over leadership, continuing the important work with renewed energy.



Looking ahead, the Abilities Initiative plans to host a Children's Training Series in the summer of 2025. This series will focus on educating children about compassion for people experiencing impairments such as challenges with speech, physical abilities, and hearing. The sessions will take place during the Sunday school hour, and the initiative will also begin planning events for the fall of 2025.

In addition, the Education Council continued to provide large-print bulletins, fidget items for individuals during church services, and children's visual schedules for those who request them. The Education Council also worked closely with the Sanctuary Committee, which is dedicated to making physical and technical updates to the church, such as improving video and audio capabilities, to ensure that everyone can access, view, and hear the services with ease.

Submitted by Michelle George



STEPHEN MINISTRY

Stephen Ministry is a complete system of training and organizing lay persons for caring ministry in and around their

congregations. Stephen Ministers provide distinctively Christian care to those among us who are experiencing a time in their lives when they need to have a committed Christian friend journey with them for awhile. The WPC has been enrolled as a Stephen Series congregation since 1997. In 2024, the combined Stephen Ministry programs of WPC, Swarthmore Presbyterian Church (SPC) and Trinity Episcopal Church (TEC), continued to provide this care to all in our congregations and community who requested it. While virtual contact, which was necessary during the pandemic, is still happening, in-person meetings with care receivers is the norm now.

While the confidential nature of what we do prevents us from sharing the details of any of our relationships and makes providing photo images difficult, this ministry is deeply fulfilling to those providing care as well as to the care receivers. Over the 25+ years that WPC has been enrolled in Stephen Ministry, scores of care receivers have been helped and over 35 WPC members have been trained for and involved in providing care.

The currently serving Stephen Leaders from WPC are Roger Demos, Russ Kinder, and Bob Kenworthy.

Mission and Service



The Mission and Service Committee continues to be able to provide ongoing support for the amazing work of local and worldwide missions because of your generosity. Our church leadership faithfully includes our work in the budget and your additional gifts of money and time have made it possible for us to reach out in times of great need.

- The 2024 Christ Market raised \$4,020, in support of 10 organizations and their ministries to help those in need. This is doubled with a matching gift from Mission and Service funds.
- In the Fall, M&S partnered with the Sunday School and the congregation for Socktober where socks for men and women went to Savage Sisters in Kensington. Children's socks went to Chester Eastside. We also had a last-minute clothing drive to support Savage Sisters.
- We partnered again with our music director, Lee as she hosted three "Concerts for a Cause" throughout the year. We matched donations dollar-for-dollar up to \$500 for the concerts.



Your contributions to WPC continue to support our missionaries in their varied and much-needed ministries around the world: John Stauffer and The America Team for Displaced Eritreans, Jeni Pedzinski at her new position as Director of Mission Mobilization, New Life Center Foundation in Asia, Corey Booker and the Making a Change Group in Chester, and Chester Eastside and CityTeam in Chester. We spent time reviewing and revising our support as needs and conditions have changed.

Committee Members during 2024: Roger Demos, Lisé Meloy, Shirley Rudd, John Stauffer, Gail Weaver, and Francois Lacroix

Respectfully submitted, Roger Demos, Chairman



CONGREGATIONAL WELLNESS MINISTRY

A full four years has past since the dark time of Covid. While Covid will always be with us in one form or another, I will tell you that as long as you get an annual Covid, Flu and RSV vaccine, it will not kill you. With this new administration's Public Health person, Mr. Kennedy will argue about getting rid of vaccines in general, I implore you to continue to get your children's vaccines from birth through high school and aforementioned vaccines through adulthood to old age. Life is changing in the world we are bringing our children into with vaccines muting, climate changes that bring allergies and respiratory issues, maturation starting earlier especially for girls. Please be not only mindful but also informed by science and real medical professionals that spend their life watching the developments taking place and those constantly changing. Mr. Kennedy is none of those things. My faith comforts me in the knowledge that God created science and men and women to use their God given intellect to make sure His people have a fighting chance from the beginning to the end. 2024 I was able to use the certifications I received in 2023 to be able to inform parents of small children about a rash or a cough. Put bandages on booboos, ice packs on sprains, listening ears on troubled hearts, and traveling journeys related to shingles and forgetfulness. I will probably always do Nursing at Glance and Across the Crowded room. The Strawberry Festival gives me such a wonderful look at our community. Having a Blood Pressure station where people can just check on themselves. Last year was so hot and at least 3 people were sent home with elevated HR and BP and showing signs of heat stroke. Everyone is always amazed that we have a Wellness component in our church and to our community. Our relationship with COSA and the Department of Aging has been growing with the help of the Out Reach committee. Reminder that the programs are always free and never too far to go to participate.

Another important reminder, that there are 3 first aid areas in the church. In back of the church, in the kitchen, in the office area. There is also a AED charged and ready to go in the social hall. We have bandages, tourniquets, CPR masks, Choking mask suction, fire blankets, ice packs and various sizes of splints.

I loved working with your Pastors, Session, Deacons and the Stephen ministers in order to bring thoughtful confidential care to all the needs of all of our members. I encourage you all to utilize the wealth of compassion and leadership of our community of faith.



It is with a heart overflowing that for the past ten years I have grown in my faith and in my profession serving all of you to the best of my abilities as a child of God in mind, body and spirit. Thank you for trusting me and loving me back.

Cyndi Lacroix, RN
Congregational Wellness Nurse
Wallingford Presbyterian Church

WOMEN OF WALLINGFORD



The purpose of the Women of Wallingford (W.O.W) is to bring together all the women of our church family to nurture their spiritual growth. During our monthly meetings we encourage each other to share our joys, sadness, concerns, and celebrations.

Our Wednesday evenings include a time of refreshments and “catching up” followed by lessons and discussions of our faith.

In February we enjoyed a day long retreat at the IHM Conference Center in Bryn Mawr. After being treated to breakfast and lunch, Sister Rose led us in discussions based on the book *The Four Agreements* by Don Miguel Ruiz – a personal guide to personal freedom.

Cyndi had a busy fall so Karen Emmons brought us a” *A Recipe for Friendship*” in September and Chris Dearnaley continued the theme with her talk on “Kindness and Being Kind to those Nearest and Dearest to You.”





To further our sense of community we have had two pot-luck suppers – one in May in the garden of the manse and a second one in December to celebrate the birth of Christ. This year 49 women met in the reception room to share in a heart-warming beginning to the Christmas season as we “broke bread together.” Following our meal, we walked to the gorgeously decorated Manse, enjoyed a hot chocolate bar, read the Christmas story, and sang “Silent Night by candlelight. It was a magical evening.

This month Cyndi shared her musings on Joseph and his importance in Jesus’s upbringing and life. In January we welcomed some younger women looking for the fellowship of other women of faith.

We have scheduled a day-long retreat at the magnificent IHM Conference Center in Bryn Mawr in April. During the day we will enjoy breakfast and lunch prepared by the sisters, and Sister Rose (IHM) will inspire us with a study.

Blessings,
Chris Dearnaley and Cyndi Lacroix



WORSHIP COUNCIL



The purpose of the Worship Council is to support the Church staff in planning worship services and music ministry. The Council meets regularly with the Pastors and Music Director to review the liturgical calendar, plan for services and propose changes to the flow and arrangement of services, and to provide feedback from the Congregation and Church community on worship services. In coordination with the staff, the Council makes recommendations for, and arranges for, all aspects of our services to make worship more meaningful for the entire congregation.

In addition, the Council coordinates and performs (or arranges for the performance of) many activities that support worship at WPC including:

- The Council sets the Communion schedule to be approved by Session. Once set, *Barb Demos*, *Karen Emmons*, and *Chris Dearnaley* plan for the preparation of the communion elements and arrange for a group of Elders and Deacons to serve communion once a month as well as on special holidays.
- *Jenny Miller* has arranged for volunteers from the congregation to serve as liturgists to assist in worship services.
- *Lin Floyd* arranges with Marcus Hook Florists to provide chancel flowers for our Sunday services, and for the Deacons to distribute during their visitation to members.
- *Barb Demos* arranges for the purchase of Poinsettias and Easter plants.
- The Council decorates the Sanctuary and Narthex for Christmas and Easter.
- Judy Kenworthy coordinates volunteers from the congregation to serve as ushers for all our services.
- The Council prepares and serves coffee hour on a rotating basis with other Councils and Committees.
- *Shirley Rudd* with support from members of the Christian Ed Council, works to make worship more inclusive to all abilities.
- The Sanctuary Committee continues to work on adding new audio-visual equipment in the Sanctuary.



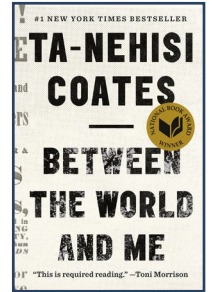
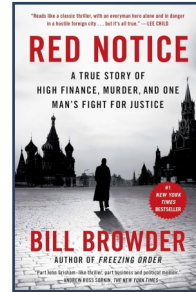
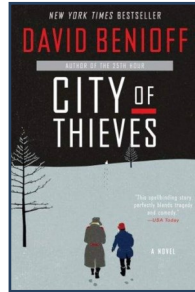
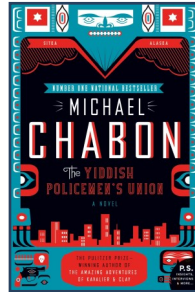
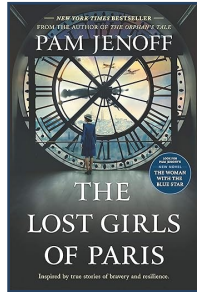
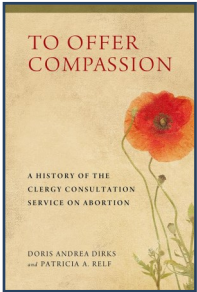
The Worship Council would be happy to welcome new members to help ensure that all aspects of worship and the music ministry are supporting and meaningful to are available to our Church community.



In his service,
Christine Dearnaley, Chair; Barb Demos; Lin Floyd;
Lee Hagon-Kerr; Judy Kenworthy; Jennifer Miller;
Shirley Rudd; Erin Vaccone; Gwyn Vernon; and
Pastors Francois and Taylor.



BookLook



The BookLook is a group of people who like to read and talk about what they have read. We meet on the third Wednesday of odd numbered months (January, March, etc.) to discuss a book that was selected several months in advance to allow lots of time to get the book and read it. No rush. Books can usually be ordered from the library or purchased on line (Walt Kaminski will place a group order for each session.) We try to alternate between fiction and non-fiction. 2024 books included: The Lost Girls of Paris, To Offer Compassion: A History of the Clergy Consultation Services on Abortion, City of Thieves, Red Notice: A True Story of High Finance, Murder and One Man's Fight for Justice, The Yiddish Policemen's Union and Between the World and Me. Anyone is welcome to join us at 7:30 in the library, even if you have not read the book.

ADULT BIBLE STUDY



The Adult Bible Study is a welcoming community of people who meet on Monday mornings to read various books of the Bible and discuss how what we read applies to our lives today. During 2024, we have been reading and discussing the Gospel of John. Interspersed among the lessons, there are occasional field trips and the annual ugly Christmas sweater luncheon. There are no homework assignments and no prior Bible

knowledge requirements. The only thing needed is a desire to dig into the issue of what the Bible tells us it means to be a Christian, a willingness to have existing views challenged, and a sense of humor.

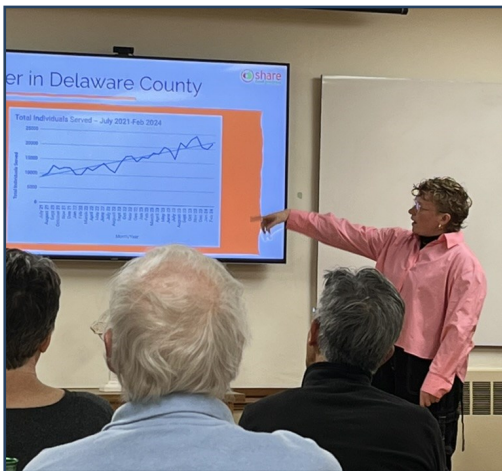


PEACEMAKING AND SOCIAL JUSTICE COMMITTEE



The Peacemaking and Social Committee is charged with keeping peacemaking and social justice issues before the Session and congregation. We do that through monthly presentations by outside speakers preceded by potluck dinners to increase conversation between congregation members with different views on the month's issue. Because of the charter, the subject matter is often controversial: decreasing gun violence (first assistant DA of Delco), environmental justice in Chester (Mike Meloy), food insecurity (Tiffany Kea, Ops Mgr Chester Eastside and Ellie Cromwell from Share Food), women's productive rights (Dayle Steinberg, President of Planned Parenthood of SE Pennsylvania and Marvin Marsh, an American Baptist Minister who accompanies women to Planned Parenthood), etc. Dinners are held on the fourth Wednesday of the month from

September through April. Whatever your viewpoint, come out with an open mind and prepare to learn something different.



FELLOWSHIP OF FRIENDS

The Fellowship of Friends started out as a Men's Book Discussion Group many years ago. It has continued to evolve so that in 2024 it became co-ed and discussions tended toward the political subject of the day. Since we have a mix of right and left leaning people, the discussions are lively and informative, but not combative. Fellowship of Friends will be inactive during the first half of 2025. If you have a great question you want to discuss, save it bring it to the first meeting in September.

WPC CONNECTIONS

WPC Connections had a busy year in 2024, as attendance and participation continue to grow.

Host events to draw people to the church:

- Annual Easter Egg-stravaganza (estimated 125+ kids)
- Trunk or Treat (estimated 180+ kids)
- Speaker series on various child raising issues for parents of the co-op and WPC



Host events to make it fun for kids to be here:

- Pony rides
- Zoo on wheels
- Bounce houses
- Cater the after VBC hotdog dinner





Sponsor events to help create community within the WPC congregation:

- Chili cook-off
- Lamb roast
- Beef and beer night
- PrimeTime luncheon/speaker series
- Progressive dinner
- Deliver Welcome Bags to visitors to let them know they were noticed and provide a face to recognize if they return
- Develop electronic directory

If any of these activities interest you, let someone on Connections know.



STRAWBERRY FESTIVAL



The Strawberry Festival is WPC's annual outreach to the Wallingford community. Held on the first Monday in June since 1948, we invite our neighbors to share food, games, books, treasures and fellowship.

On June 3, 2024, God and the weather shone brightly upon WPC for the annual Strawberry Festival. By all accounts this year's Festival was quite a success, due of course, to the many volunteers, both seasoned veterans and new, the BSA Scout Troops, the various activity leaders and all of their tireless hard work. Aside from the delicious strawberries, food and cakes, Attic Treasures and the Book Nook were leaders in popularity both with donors and customers. The games and Bounce Houses were very popular with the kids. As last year, the Attic Treasures opened early to allow for dealers and earnest treasure hunters to get a first crack at things. New this year was the use of POS for credit sales. This along with early ticket sales helped make for shorter lines and quicker transactions.



In addition to community outreach, the Strawberry Festival supports mission work with 75% of the net proceeds donated to an organization approved by Session based on recommendations by the Mission and Service Committee. This year's recipient was Chester Eastside, Inc. to support their afterschool club and summer program. In addition, 15% is given to the BSA Scout Troops and Cub Pack for their support of the Festival, and 10% is retained to support future Festivals. This year the Strawberry Festival netted \$6,392.23. Scout Troop 277 donated their portion to support the church's chosen mission thus enabling us to make the following donations:

- Scout Troop 2019 - \$383.53
- Cub Pack 228 - \$191.77
- Chester Eastside, Inc. - \$5,177.70



WALLINGFORD COOPERATIVE NURSERY SCHOOL



Down here in the basement of WPC, the Co-op is thriving. We continue to provide high quality nursery school for local families. Most of our applications come from alumni families and word of mouth recommendations. Our enrollment is full but not quite maxed out this year. One of our three's classes had several unexpected late to midyear withdrawals which resulted in a much smaller than normal class. The enrollment for that

class will likely affect the size of the four-year-old classes and the kindergarten complement classes in the subsequent years.

There were a lot of staffing changes from 22/23 to 23/24 but many of which were just role changes. The biggest of these was personal. After 15 years as the teacher of the Elephant class, I stepped down to focus on the director position and frankly to work a little less. Allison Constable moved from teacher in the Meerkat class to the Elephant class. After many years of teaching the Hippo class Emma Clauser-Schwartz was thrilled to be able to teach the Meerkat class. Stephanie Dykes began teaching the Hippos in addition to the Giraffe class and the afternoon Kindergarten Complement class. Some staff left the co-op. Abby Finney moved away and Jess Trout took on a new job. Filling the open aide positions was an easy task. Several of our co-op parents and some on the Executive Committee reached out with



interest. Hilary Lear was hired in the Meerkat class, Ashley Drane was hired as the Hippo Aide. Aimee Hodges was hired as an aide in the Lion class. Arianne Allan was hired to teach gym. After a brief departure Theresa Burch was rehired to work in the Meerkat classroom.



The summer months of 2024 were productive at the co-op. Stephanie Dykes ran a successful summer camp program. We hired a painter and had several classrooms, hallways and bathrooms painted. After many years of use (18?) we replaced the train on the playground. We were happy to have a co-op family come take the old one for their own use.

After a year of using Jovial, we are hooked. It's been a great system to use for tuition billing and collection, getting families to read and sign our health, billing and co-op policies. Using Jovial means that tuition and extended day payments are collection on time with much less work on our part.

We held several successful fundraisers, were held and financially our year was strong. As we build up our financial reserve, we are beginning to plan for replacing the large wooden playground structures.



The Wallingford Co-op is so grateful to be part of the Wallingford Presbyterian Church and it's ever supporting staff and members.

Jodi Dawes, Director



SCOUTS — TROOP 277 & PACK 228

In 2024 both Pack 228 & Troop 277 continue to be healthy and strong post pandemic. Troop 277 is now 40 scouts and Pack 228 is 71. We continue to welcome new members to the Troop & Pack with their families, and the Pack is now a Family Pack enjoying both Boys & Girls aged 5 through to 11.



Both Pack 288 and Troop 277 continue engage in the WPC community, the wider community and environment, and provide tremendous opportunities for the youth to learn and grow. Both Troop & Pack made a significant contribution to the annual Cradle of Liberty Fundraising effort – being the top troop & pack in the district, and the 3rd largest Troop across the whole council.



The highlights of the year include:

Community Service & Outreach

- 5 trunks at Trunk or Treat at WPC by both Pack and Troop
- Running food and games stands at WPC Strawberry Festival
- Rise Against Hunger – over 60 youth participated in the effort with the church
- Scouting for Food ABC's Thanksgiving Day Parade – food collection during the Parade
- Upland Baptist Church - Scouting For Food
- Rutledge Memorial Preb. Church food drive
- Youth help to church needs – school floors, choir seating.
- Spring & Fall WPC leaf cleanup and mulching

Troop 277 Camping Trips highlights

- Summer Camp in West Virginia
- Cabin Camping at Rodney
- Hawk Mountain Camping
- Cape Henlopen Camping

Troop 277 Meetings & Events (some highlights)

- Orienteering Event in Smedley
- Appalachian Trail hiking
- Fundraising
- Shot Gun & Rifle event at Delaware Field & Stream
- Rocket Launch in Smedley
- Planning for a Philmont 2025 63 mile 12 day hike in New Mexico

Troop 277 Eagle Scout Projects

- 6 scouts preparing for Eagle Projects

Pack 228 Meetings & Events

- Media Scavenger Event in Media
- Rocket launch event to welcome new cubs at Smedley Park
- Rain Gutter Regatta held outside at WPC in the fall
- Pinewood Derby
- First Aid evening with First Responders and NP Police
- Trunk or Treat Event
- Helping to run Strawberry Festival
- Henlopen State Park Camping
- Ridley Creek Spring Camping

SCOUTS — TROOP 2019

2024 Milestones

We celebrated our 5th anniversary



Held 2 Eagle Scout Courts of Honor

We have tallied a total of 5 Eagle Scouts. Our current roster is 19 scouts, they earned 15 rank advancements, 126 merit badges, and 3 national outdoor achievement awards.

7 Service Projects including:

- Spring and fall clean up
- Scouting for Food at a very wet Thanksgiving Day Parade
- Strawberry Festival



9 Camping trips including:

- Summer camp at Bashore Reservation
- Backpacking on the Appalachian Trail
- Game night lock in at Wallingford Presbyterian Church



Coming Up

This summer the troop is looking forward to a week of summer camp at Resica Falls, East Stroudsburg, PA. Support our summer camp adventures and get ready for your summer garden with our Flower Power sale starting in March.

FAMILIAR AND FRIENDLY FACES AROUND WPC







STEWARDSHIP COUNCIL



As stewards of the church, Stewardship Council oversees its financial resources and the application of church funds toward purposes approved by Session. It has two subcommittees—Annual Giving and Capital Campaign (currently inactive). It coordinates with the Legacy Committee and Financial Oversight committees and works closely with the church treasurers to develop and monitor the annual budget. The Stewardship Council meets every couple of months (more toward the end of the year) to

monitor income and expenses.

This year, the Stewardship Council also managed the process to surface ideas on how to use the very generous bequest from the Parks family and made recommendations to Session on special projects that were outside the regular budget. In addition, we commissioned a review of the financial accounts of the church and the nursery school, and we will make adjustments accordingly to our financial statements. Overall, the review confirmed the church's financial record keeping.

Annual Budget

The church ended 2024 with income over expenses by about \$20,000. This was due in large part because we are now reflecting investment income in the P&L (profit and loss statement, also known as the statement of activities). In previous years, investment income was accounted for on the balance sheet but not the active budget. Expenses were slightly below budget, which helps the bottom line, but pledge and plate offerings were also below budget. We again made an end-of-year appeal to the congregation to remember the church with year-end giving, and there was a nice increase in contributions.

The 2024 budget, like the year before, reflected the increase in activities that we have experienced since the end of the pandemic. For 2025, the Stewardship Council recommended, and Session approved, an aspirational budget that reflects the busyness of our church, supports our mission to serve members and the community, compensates staff in a way that makes up for previous years of low compensation, and preserves our historic church and operations. In addition, Stewardship developed an estimate of costs that will likely be incurred in the search for and transition to the new senior pastor.

Annual Giving Committee

The Annual Faith Giving Campaign this year celebrated what an exciting church we have become, able to make changes while respecting our traditions and history, resulting in an ever-growing family of faith. We asked members to tell us what they anticipate being able to give next year, and we marked each pledge with a visual reminder of our growth, based on the old nursery rhyme “here is the church, and here are the people,” giving the children a chance to put a happy face for each pledge onto a large



representation of our church. We are deeply grateful to the 78 families and individuals who responded to the call by pledging a total of \$360,000. We note, with some concern, that this is somewhat fewer people and lesser amount of funds than the previous year. We need continued support if we are too experience continued growth and participation.

Thank you to co-treasurers Ed Mattote and Todd Darr as well as our counters and bookkeeping staff, with special appreciation to retiring co-treasurer Ed Mattote. He has providing outstanding service to the church and Stewardship Council.

Council members: Pat LaBorie, Leslie Krowchenko, Chris Dearnaley, Elizabeth Hansen, Earl Varney, Tom Erickson, Todd Darr, Ed Mattote

Respectfully submitted on behalf of the Stewardship Council,
Helen Picher and Jim Oetinger, co-chairs

MEMORIAL COMMITTEE

The Memorial committee recommends to Session ways to use moneys in the Memorial Fund to better the worship experience at WPC. Funds are from donations to the church in memory of loved ones. We would like to thank those who donated funds in memory of their loved ones.

This year Memorial Funds were used to purchase the blinds for the new windows in Fellowship Hall.

Members of the committee include Marty Ashenfelter, Roger Demos, Alva Hayes, Judy Kenworthy, John Stauffer, Gwyn Vernon, and Pastor Francois Lacroix.

Respectfully submitted, Roger Demos, Chair

FINANCIAL OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE

Present: Jim Oetinger, Ed Mattote, Todd Darr, Earl Varney

Background The Available to Spend Accounts were established by Session and detailed in the Wallingford Presbyterian Gifts and Funds document to encourage spending from the Legacy and MEND Funds by the responsible committees without having to make a formal request to Session.

Financial Oversight is charged with determining how much to allocate to these accounts each year based on the financial performance of the underlying reserve funds for the previous 3 years, amount of spending in the previous year and anticipated needs in the coming year. The maximum allocation cannot exceed 4.5%.

The committee reviewed the 10/30/24 balances in the reserve fund accounts and Available to Spend accounts for Legacy and MEND. Based on the anticipated needs, it was decided to give \$10,000 allocations to both the Legacy and MEND available to spend accounts 2295 and 2297.

These allocations do not reduce the respective reserve fund balances until there is spending.

Jim Oetinger, Chair

PERSONNEL COMMITTEE

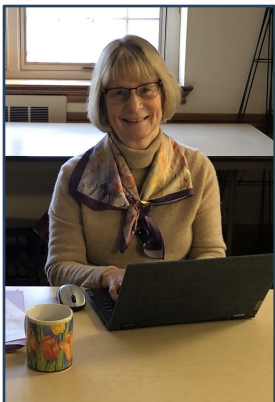
The Personnel Committee supports the staff through annual reviews and salary recommendations, maintaining the employee handbook, and managing the hiring process as needed. In 2024, the staff remained the same, and the annual reviews of all the staff were quite positive. The Personnel Committee recommended salary increases that brought staff salaries in line with COLA changes over the past 4 years (making up for very low increases in past years). The Stewardship Council and Session approved the increases.

In addition, the Personnel Committee helped the pastors make the transition to the new benefits plan provided by the Presbyterian Board of Pensions. The new plan tailors benefits to the individual needs of each pastor and saved the Congregation about 15% on benefits costs while still providing the same level of benefits to our staff.

Committee members: Michael Meloy, Jenny Miller, Helen Picher and Gwyn Vernon

Respectfully submitted on behalf of the Personnel Committee, Helen Picher, chair

2024 REPORT OF THE CLERK OF SESSION



I have been honored to serve as WPC's Clerk of Session for the past two years. In addition to taking minutes of the Session and congregational meetings, the Clerk is responsible for maintenance of the church records (such as new members, transfers to and from other churches, deaths, baptisms, marriages, review of the active membership rolls), and annual statistical reports for the Presbyterian Church USA.

It has been a joy to welcome so many additions to our rolls. In addition to our members, we have more than 40 people who worship with us regularly, some of whom plan to join in the coming year.

Your Clerk, Christine Darr

ANNUAL STATISTICAL REPORT FOR WALLINGFORD PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

for the Year Ended December 31, 2024

Members on January 1, 2024 **273**

Gains

Certificate of Transfers	9
Youth Professions of Faith	0
Adult Professions and Reaffirmations of Faith	8
Total Gains	17

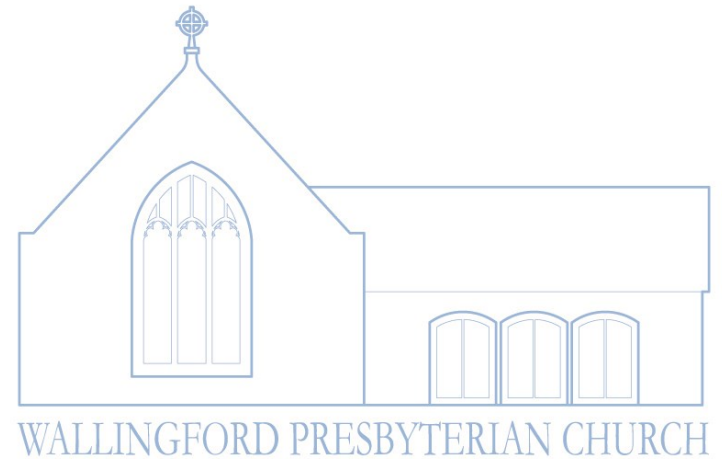
Losses

Certificate of Transfers	0
Deaths	4
Other	16
Total Losses	20

Members on December 31, 2024 **270**

Infant Baptisms	6
Adult Baptisms	1
Total Baptisms	7

**Annual Meetings of the
Congregation and Corporation
Wallingford Presbyterian Church
Wallingford, Pennsylvania
January 28, 2024
Minutes**



Following the worship service, moderator the Reverend François Lacroix called the meeting to order and opened with prayer. He reminded the congregation that only members can vote. Clerk Chris Darr certified that there was a quorum.

The congregation moved to dispense with the reading of the minutes of the Annual Meetings of January 29, 2023 (found in the Annual Report).

Clerk report. Clerk Chris Darr described the 2023 review of the church rolls, the first one done in several years as the last one was interrupted due to the pandemic and it did not seem appropriate to review the rolls until the church had returned to a more “normal” post-pandemic environment. While many members were removed from the rolls due to inactivity, the number of truly active people increased in 2023 as 18 new members joined.

Darr also reminded the congregation of the online church directory on the Church Center app and encouraged members to update their pictures on the app and to “join” the directory if they had not already done so.

New Business: None

Mission and Ministry. Both Pastors Lacroix and Cornelius commented on their work and the ministry of the congregation. They noted that 2023 felt like the first year that the church was able to move past the pandemic and that there was renewed energy and commitment. They recognized staff members and volunteers, with special mention of the parents of children who have made a commitment to bring them to church. Pastor Lacroix said that the Wallingford Cooperative Nursery School celebrated its 68th year.

Several members complimented Pastor Cornelius on the work she had done to grow the children and youth programs. Several new members provided positive feedback on the church.

Nominating Committee. Nominating Committee Member Lisé Meloy thanked Chair Nancy Oetinger, Zoe Andrews, David Haury, Judy Kenworthy, Pam Mattote, Lisé Meloy, Kristine Mulhorn, Helen Picher, David Rudd, and alternates Pat Tillson and Walt Kaminski for their service on the Nominating Committee and stated that they officially were relieved of their duties.

Meloy presented the following members to serve as 'at large' members of the 2024 Nominating Committee: Pam Mattote, Lisé Meloy, Jenny Montague, Jim Oetinger and David Rudd, and alternate members Nancy Curtis and Walt Kaminski. Pastor Lacroix added that there will also be two Session members, one Deacon and one Trustee serving on the Nominating Committee. There were no nominations from the floor. The congregation voted to approve the nominees.

The meeting of the congregation was suspended so that the meeting of the corporation could be held.

Corporation Meeting. President of the Board of Trustees Bruce Clark called the meeting to order. The Clerk certified that a quorum was present. There was no new business. Clark thanked the outgoing Trustees David Haury and Gail Weaver and welcomed new trustees Cary McHugh and Bud Fury.

Clark highlighted the 2023 work of the Board and longer-term projects under consideration as presented in the Annual Report. He also highlighted that in 2023, a survey of the property was done and the Trustees discovered that two abutting properties had encroached on the church property. The Trustees sought legal advice regarding how to proceed, informed both property owners, and asked them to enter into an agreement indicating that (1) they knew they had encroached and (2) the church could ask them to remove the encroachment in the future. One owner removed the encroachment; the other owner signed the agreement, which was subsequently recorded in the courthouse in Media.

Following a question regarding an electronic sign, Pastor Lacroix indicated that a separate committee is working on this initiative.

The congregation voted to receive the report and to adjourn the Meeting of the Corporation.

The Congregational Meeting reconvened.

Treasurer's Report. Treasurer Ed Mattote reviewed the 2023 financials. (See Annual Report.) Mattote also thanked the counters and financial secretary Michelle Hall for their service. He then presented the 2024 Budget which was adopted by the Session. (See Annual Report.) There were no questions.

Pastoral Terms of Call for 2024. Personnel Committee Chair Helen Picher reviewed the terms of call (see Annual Report) after Pastor and Cyndi Lacroix and Pastor Cornelius left the sanctuary. After a motion to approve the terms of call, the congregation unanimously approved them.

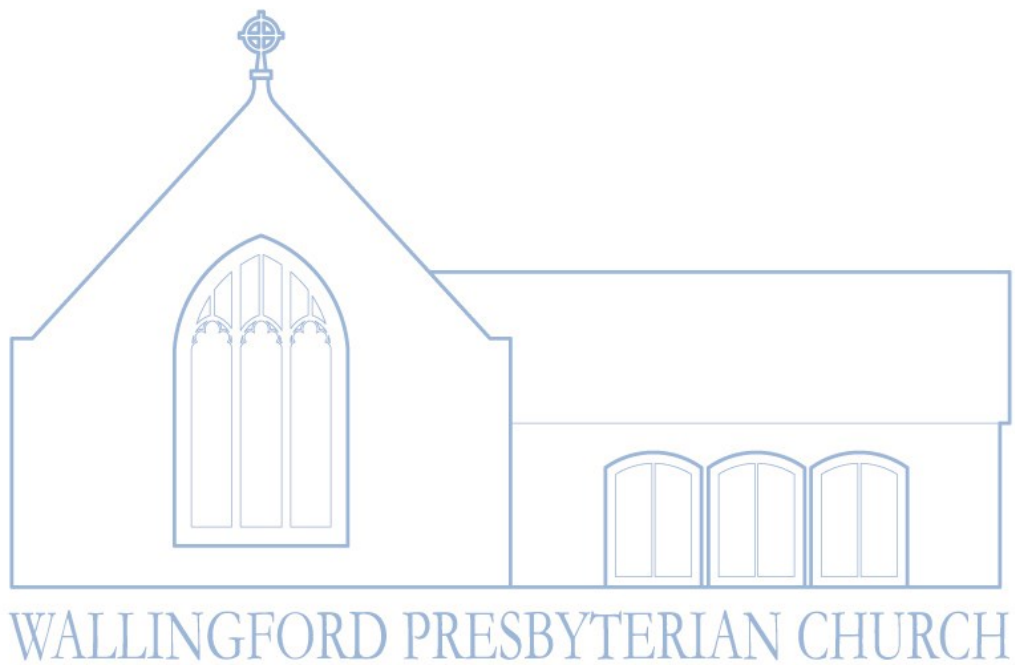
Pastors Lacroix and Cornelius returned to the meeting and the congregation voted to receive reports of the Boards, Councils and organizations.

The congregation voted to adjourn the meeting.

Pastors Lacroix and Cornelius closed the meeting with the benediction.

Respectfully submitted,
Christine M. Darr, Clerk





WALLINGFORD PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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