

## WALLINGFORD PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

### Annual Report 2025

#### *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  
February 1, 2026**

Annual Meeting of the Congregation and Corporation

**AGENDA**

**ANNUAL MEETING OF THE CONGREGATION AND CORPORATION**

Call to Order

Opening Prayer and Welcome

Certifying the Quorum

Call for New Business

Pastoral Transition Update from the PNC

Mission and Ministry Review

Associate Pastor's Remarks

Nominating Committee Report

**MEETING OF THE CORPORATION**

Call for the Meeting of the Corporation

Certification of Quorum

Call for New Business

Board of Trustees Report

**RECONVENE THE MEETING OF THE CONGREGATION**

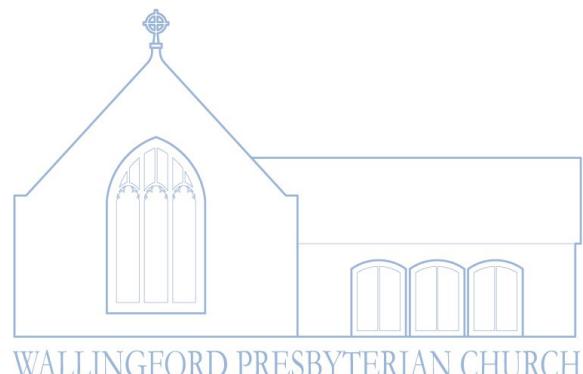
Treasurer's Report

2025 Financial Review

Review of the Session Approved 2026 Budget

Review and Approval of Pastoral Terms of Call for 2026

Adjournment



# Table of Contents

Agenda .....	2
Table of Contents.....	3
Staff and Officers .....	4
Report From the Clerk of Session .....	5
Statistical Report .....	5
From the Associate Pastor .....	6
Music Ministry.....	7
Children's Ministry .....	8
Youth and Young Adults.....	8
Children's Music Ministry .....	9
Adult Music Ministry .....	9
Trustees.....	10
Deacons.....	11
Worship Council .....	12
Education Council.....	13
Abilities Initiative.....	13
Women of Wallingford .....	14
Stephen Ministry .....	14
BookLook .....	15
Adult Bible Study.....	15
Peacemaking and Social Justice .....	16
WPC Connections .....	16
Strawberry Festival .....	17
Communications Committee .....	17
Mission and Service.....	18
Stewardship Council .....	19
Memorial Committee .....	19
Communications Committee .....	18
Nominating Committee .....	20
Personnel Committee .....	20
Wallingford Cooperative Nursery School .	21
Scout Pack 228.....	22
Scout Troop 277.....	22
Scout Troop 2019.....	23
Pastoral Terms of Call.....	24
Treasurer's Report .....	25
Statement of Activity (Unconsolidated)....	26
Statement of Financial Position (Unconsolidated) .....	28
Consolidated Statement of Activity Including WCNS .....	30
Consolidated Statement of Financial Position Including WCNS .....	31
Benevolence Report .....	32
Annual Meeting Previous Year Minutes ...	33

# STAFF 2025

<b>Rev. Taylor Cornelius</b>	Associate Pastor - Acting Head of Staff
<b>Lee Hagon</b>	Minister of Music
<b>Jodi Dawes</b>	WCNS Director
<b>Nathan Gibson</b>	Church Administrator
<b>Leslie Krowchenko</b>	Communications Coordinator
<b>Michelle Hall</b>	Financial Secretary

## CHURCH OFFICERS

### SESSION

<u>Clerk of Session</u>	<u>Class of 2026</u>	<u>Class of 2027</u>
Chris Darr	Roger Demos (5)	Teresa Ahern-Sawyer (2)
	Leslie Krowchenko (5)	Charlie Babcock (3)
<u>Treasurer</u>	Jenny Miller (3)	Joanne Callahan (2)
Todd Darr	Ver Picher (3)	Tom Erickson (3)
	John Stauffer (3)	Don Holloway (2)
	Earl Varney (3)	Doug Thomas (2)

## BOARD OF DEACONS

<u>Moderator of Deacons</u>	<u>Class of 2026</u>	<u>Class of 2027</u>
Lin Floyd	Gail Clark (3)	Barb Demos (2)
	Sheila Elmhurst (2)	Deb Dunbar (2)
	Karen Emmons (5)	Ken Ezzell (2)
	Chris Jacobsen (3)	Lin Floyd (6)
	Don Killian (3)	Lindsay Gursky (2)
	June Tolomeo (2.7)	Frank Noyes (2)

## BOARD OF TRUSTEES

<u>President of Trustees</u>	<u>Class of 2026</u>	<u>Class of 2027</u>
Elizabeth Hansen	Bud Fury (3)	Elizabeth Hansen (2)
	Cary McHugh (3)	Walt Kaminski (2)
	Mike Meloy (2)	Louise Rowland (2)
	Doug Shafer (2)	Joe Vaccone (2)

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

# 2025 REPORT OF THE CLERK OF SESSION

I have been honored to serve as WPC's Clerk of Session since the beginning of 2022. 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. We continue to review our rolls annually and work to remove those who have ceased participating in the life of the church (as reflected in "Other" losses below).

During this time of transition for WPC, we are fortunate to have Pastor Taylor and a talented staff, a dedicated group of officers, and strong leadership in our councils and committees.

Your Clerk, Christine Darr

## ANNUAL STATISTICAL REPORT FOR WALLINGFORD PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

<b>Members on January 1, 2025</b>	<b>270</b>
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### Gains

Certificate of Transfers	4
Youth Professions of Faith	3
Adult Professions & Reaffirmations of Faith	5
<b>Total Gains</b>	<b>12</b>

### Losses

Certificate of Transfers	2
Deaths	5
Other	15
<b>Total Losses</b>	<b>22</b>

<b>Members on December 31, 2025</b>	<b>260</b>
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Infant Baptisms	4
Adult Baptisms	0
<b>Total Baptisms</b>	<b>4</b>

# FROM THE ASSOCIATE PASTOR

Dear Church Family,

As I reflect on this past year, my heart is filled with profound gratitude. Stepping into the role of acting head of staff following Pastor Francois's retirement has been a deeply humbling experience. Leading this congregation during a season of transition is a responsibility I do not take lightly, and I am constantly moved by your grace, patience, and steadfast commitment to our shared life in Christ. While our leadership structure has changed, the spirit of this church remains as vibrant and dedicated as ever!

This year was defined by moments of celebration and the beauty of our community coming together. We shared a bittersweet Farewell Concert and Reception for Francois and Cyndi, honoring their years of service, and yet also welcomed the joy of having our halls filled to the brim with the energy of our youth through the Palm Sunday and Children's Christmas pageants. We've enjoyed togetherness at our Strawberry Festival and Advent Open House, and yet each week we maintain that same togetherness through the tie that binds us – worship! Our souls have been stirred week after week by the exceptional offerings of our music ministry, Lay preaching series, and journeying through the liturgical year with one another. We have also grown as a family, welcoming new members into our fold and celebrating the joy of new births, even as we held one another close through the loss of dear friends. In every high and low, we have seen God's hand at work.

Beyond our fellowship, we have taken significant steps to modernize how we share our message. The installation of our new AV system and the integration of slides into worship have enriched our Sunday mornings, and our long-awaited electronic sign is finally standing tall. This sign is more than just a project completed; it is a warm invitation to our neighbors, a way to let our community know exactly what is happening in the life of our church. These tools are helping us open our doors wider than ever before, ensuring that the light of our ministry shines brightly for all to see.

As we look toward the year ahead, I am filled with a sense of hopeful expectation! Though we are in a period of change, we are not adrift; we are united. Together, we stand on a firm foundation, which is Christ Himself, and we look expectantly toward the future, ready to follow wherever the Holy Spirit leads us next! Thank you for the honor of serving alongside you, I truly cherish this beautiful church family God has placed in my life. Now in this new season together, I am eager to see the new chapters God will write in the story of our church!

Blessings,  
Pastor Taylor Cornelius

# MUSIC MINISTRY

Music ministry continues to explore a wide range of genres and styles for worship, including folk, classical, Taizé, spirituals, gospel and contemporary praise music with both organ and piano accompaniment.

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. We also hosted the Farewell Concert for François and Cyndi in October, featuring our very own choir.

Our “Concerts for a Cause” series continues to bring varied talented musicians to WPC to perform benefit concerts. In February we hosted four professional singers to perform the Brahms “Liebeslieder” as a benefit for PFLAG Media, an organization that supports and advocates for members of the LGBTQ+ community and those who love them. In April our Chancel Choir and other volunteer singers from the community performed Vivaldi's Gloria and other choral works in support of Chester Eastside.

## CHILDREN'S MINISTRY

Our children's ministry focuses on bringing programs to our children ages 0-12 and offers Sprouts Nights (K-5th), Weekly Sunday School (12months – 12yo), Children's Choir (all ages), and two pageants per year.

Our yearly Christmas Pageant was a success, as we had 36 little ones perform "The Fourth Wise Man!" We also have been blessed with many new families participating in Sunday worship, Sunday School, and Sprouts!

Pastor Taylor Cornelius, June Tolomeo, Michelle George, Caroline Bellum, Ashley Drane, Doug Thomas, Sally Flemer, Pam Mattote, Charles Babcock, Erin Vaccone, Roger Demos

## YOUTH AND YOUNG ADULTS

WPC offers programs for youth (grades 6th-12th) and young adults (college aged students) which include Breakfast Club (monthly education), Confirmation Classes, Youth Events on and off site, and Young Adult dinners together!

This year we've seen a boom in youth group, and we are so pleased that our youth are not only coming to the events, but also volunteering as ushers, AV assistants, pageant co-directors, and more! A big highlight for us was our Christmas party when old friends and new friends gathered to celebrate the holiday season!

Pastor Taylor Cornelius, Caroline Bellum, Craig Bellum, Bowe Hansen, Frank Noyes, Kevin Montague

## 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 several times in 2025, with a featured performance as the "music for meditation" during worship.
- We kicked off Holy week with a Palm Sunday 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 and sang an anthem in two parts!
- 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!
- Our Chapel Ringers, a bell choir for our middle-school aged children, continues to grow and perform for Easter and Christmas, both at the pageant and on Christmas Eve.

## 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, Transfiguration, 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 Bueckner (alto) and Tyler Gibson (tenor). Corinna resigned as of the fall of 2025 and we wish her all the best as she focuses on grad school auditions!
- During the summer, we held a pick-up choir that met the morning of worship to put together special anthems.
- 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 church. 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!

# 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 2025 include: Repair and repainting of walls and ceiling in the hallway and stairwell between the Sanctuary and Fellowship Hall and repainting of the exterior wood fascia trim of the Sanctuary, the portico over the Youth Room exterior door, and the metal fire escape from the Fellowship Hall; cleaning and flushing of all downspouts, window well drains, and courtyard inlet drains around the church building to minimize future basement water infiltration; installation of Carbon monoxide detectors and electronic monitoring system; set up ongoing monitoring of rodent and insect infiltration activity in church building with as-needed extermination; repair of failed ceiling section in rear of Sanctuary; preparation of A Manse for anticipated change of occupancy, included several projects. 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 2026 include tree removal and maintenance, replacing a water heater, adding remote timers to thermostats, and repairing the ceiling in the Fellowship Hall. 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 2025 Trustees Bruce Clark, Tony Tolomeo, Dave Rudd, Mary Payne for their years of dedicated service, and welcome to incoming Trustees for 2026 Walt Kaminski, Louise Rowland, and Joe Vaccone. 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.

# DEACONS

The Book of Order describes the role of the deacons as “one of compassion, witness, and service” to those who are in distress. The twelve deacons of WPC embrace this calling to directly connect with people within and outside of our congregation.

What are examples of this ministry?

- Deacons collect and distribute the generous donations of WPC and associated groups through our Red Wagons to three food bank programs in the immediate area: Media Food Bank, Chester Eastside, and Foundry Church.
- Our programs of visitation with members, weekly floral distributions noting member life events (birthdays, anniversaries, illnesses, etc.), and provision of meals, rides, and other temporary assistance help members feel seen and included.
- Our Christmas season Giving Tree program for families in our surrounding area and the Angel Tree program to provide gifts to children of incarcerated people are an important outreach effort.
- Two times a year Deacons host an American Red Cross Blood Drive that continues a tradition more than 75 years long.



# WORSHIP COUNCIL

The purpose of the Worship Council is to support the Church staff in planning worship services and music ministry.

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.
- 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.
- 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
- The Council prepares and serves coffee hour on a rotating basis with other Councils and Committees.
- Shirley Rudd and Michelle George with support from members of the Christian Ed Council, works to make worship more inclusive to all abilities.
- After many long years of planning and waiting, thanks to the hard work of Joe Vaccone and his team, in the fall of 2025, right before Francois' retirement, our new Audio-visual project was presented to the congregation.
- Sadly, for us, our dear Pastor Francois LaCroix retired in October – fittingly on Reformation Sunday. Though he will be missed, Pastor Taylor Cornelious has taken over the reins and is doing an outstanding job in leading our ever-growing flock.

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

## EDUCATION COUNCIL

The Education Council oversees all children's and youth ministries throughout the year, including Sunday School curriculum and activities, Vacation Bible School, major church-year events (such as the Christmas and Palm Sunday pageants), and the ongoing development of youth group and Sprouts children's programs.

-Organized an intergenerational Advent Open House that brought together members of all ages for crafts, hymn singing, fellowship, snacks, and hors d'oeuvres, fostering connection across generations.

Caroline Bellum, Shirley Rudd, Pam Mattote, Sally Flemer, Ashley Drane, Erin Vaccone, Theresa Ahern-Sawyer, Doug Thomas, Roger Demos and Michelle George

## ABILITIES INITIATIVE

The Abilities Initiative seeks to educate and support the congregation and wider community by increasing awareness, understanding, and inclusion related to differing abilities across the lifespan.

-Concluded the Aging education series in early 2025 with a presentation by Cyndi LaCroix on aging gracefully and a presentation by Laura Albany from Amedisys Hospice, providing insight into hospice care and available support options.

-Planned and facilitated a Children's Summer Training Series for kindergarten through fifth grade students, helping children learn about differences related to hearing, speech, physical abilities, and more in an age-appropriate and engaging way.

-Planned and organized WPC's first Day of Service, coordinating with local organizations in need, securing donation partners, and leading product drives and promotion throughout 2025 to prepare for the event.

Shirley Rudd, Caroline Bellum, Dottie Celebre, Leslie Krowchenko, Michelle George

# 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 December we have a special Christmas Potluck dinner with carol singing and reading of the Christmas story.
- In April we went to the IHM Retreat Center for our Annual retreat. Sister Marie gave a lesson on “Community:” A Wheel of Fortune?
- In May we will have a potluck supper – hopefully in the beautiful garden of the manse.
- Our numbers have been growing and we welcome all Women Wallingford Presbyterian Church to join us for our meetings and activities.
- We miss our dear friend and mentor Cyndi LaCroix but wish her well in her retirement in Kittanning, PA

Chris Dearnaley

## 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. In 2025, 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 the confidential nature of what we do prevents us from identifying those who provide this care and sharing the details of any of our relationships, this ministry is deeply fulfilling to those providing care as well as to the care receivers. The currently serving Stephen Leaders from WPC are Roger Demos, Russ Kinder, and Bob Kenworthy.



# BOOKLOOK

Meet every other month to discuss a variety of books chosen by the group. We try to alternate between fiction and non-fiction

Popular books of 2025:

- Maggie Farrell – The Marriage Portrait
- Mark Kurlansky – Salt: A World History

Chris Darr & Walt Kaminski

# ADULT BIBLE STUDY

We continue to study a variety of books of the Bible in a way that connects the Word to our every day lives. Beginning in 2025, we began a study of the Book of Genesis.

Walt Kaminski



# PEACEMAKING AND SOCIAL JUSTICE COMMITTEE

Bring before Session and the congregation important current topics related to Peacemaking and Social Justice

- Presentation by Dr Zeke Hernandez of the Wharton School on The Truth About Immigration
- Presentation by Dr Dave Metzger on the opioid epidemic
- Bus trip to African American Museum in Washington, DC

Walt Kaminski (Chair), Cathy Chamblee, Andrea Couzens, Deb Dunbar, Lin Floyd, Carol Freidinger, Helene Furlong, Don Holloway, Lisé Meloy, Kristine Mulhorn, Louise Rowland, Pat LaBorie



## WPC CONNECTIONS

Connections focuses on several things, predominantly of a fun nature:

- Events to draw the community in (Easter Egg-stravaganza, Trunk or Treat, etc)
- Events to promote connections between church members (intergenerational bowling, bingo, etc)

The Easter Egg-stravaganza and Trunk or Treat each drew about 150-200 people to the church.

Walt Kaminski (Chair), Chris Darr, Mary Lou Day, Teresa Ahern-Sawyer, Noelle Coker, Joanne Callahan, Brian George



# STRAWBERRY FESTIVAL

The Strawberry Festival is WPC's annual outreach to the Wallingford community held on the first Monday evening in June, when we invite our neighbors to share food, games, books, treasures and fellowship. Secondarily, the net proceeds from the Festival support mission work that is approved each year by Session based on recommendations by the Care Council's Mission and Service Committee and the Strawberry Festival Leadership Team.

The 2025 Strawberry Festival was held on June 2nd with record crowds and the help of our many amazing volunteers. This year's proceeds benefited the following organizations:

Chester Eastside, INC: \$6607.27 (75% of net profit)

Troop 277: \$528.58 (6% of net profit)

Troop 2019: \$528.58 (6% of net profit)

Pack 228: \$264.29 (3% of net profit)

SF retains: \$880.97 (10% of net profit) for capital improvements for future Strawberry Festivals

In addition, \$679.69 from the 2024 Strawberry Festival was transferred to the general operating fund to purchase additional tables for the Fellowship hall and to cover operating expenses incurred by the Festival.

Lise Meloy and Mary Lou Day

## COMMUNICATIONS COMMITTEE

The communications committee supports the internal and external messaging of the church, keeping members informed and attracting visitors by overseeing newsletters, websites, social media, and publicity, ensuring clear, consistent, and engaging communication aligned with the church's mission and fostering a strong sense of community.

A representative of the Presbytery of Philadelphia rated WPC's social media presence as one of the top 10 in the Presbytery.

Highlights of the year include:

-Articles in the *Daily Times* and *Swarthmorean*

-An article about our Abilities Initiative appeared in the PC(USA) Mission Yearbook, the digital daily devotional resource highlighting activities in churches throughout the country

Don Holloway (chair), Leslie Krowchenko, Ver Picher, Walt Kaminski, Jenny Montague

# 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. 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, Chester Eastside, CityTeam, and the Green House Project in Chester. We spent time reviewing and revising our support as needs and conditions have changed.

- The 2025 Christ Market raised \$5,040, 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.

Roger Demos, Don Holloway, Lisé Meloy, Shirley Rudd, John Stauffer, Heather Warley, Gail Weaver

# STEWARSHIP COUNCIL

Stewardship Council oversees the church's financial resources, including developing and monitoring the annual budget.



This year, Stewardship Council:

- Completed the 2025 fiscal year with slight surplus of funds.
- Ran the annual campaign asking for pledges for 2026 support, with the theme "Open Hands, Open Hearts." Illustrated our progress in getting pledges with help from the children of the congregation (see photo).
- Developed 2026 budget, approved by Session, working with staff, Trustees, other councils and committees.

Helen Picher and Jim Oetinger (co-chairs), Chris Dearnaley, Tom Erickson, Leslie Krowchenko, Pat LaBorie, Ed Mattotte, Earl Varney, Todd Darr (Treasurer)

# 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 past year.

This year Memorial Funds were used to purchase the new Audio/Visual system that supports our services in the Sanctuary, activities in the Reception Room, and allows those in the Nursery to see and hear services that are in the Sanctuary.

Also Memorial Funds were used to purchase WPC History books to be placed in libraries and be presented to former Pastors.

Roger Demos, Alva Hayes, Judy Kenworthy, John Stauffer.

## NOMINATING COMMITTEE

The Nominating Committee assembles a slate of candidates for church officers for Session, Trustees, and Deacons, as well as for other selected church positions.

- Assembled 10 candidates for the Pastor Nominating Committee (PNC)
- Found 4 candidates to serve as Elders, 4 candidates for Trustees, and 5 for Deacons for 2026/27
- Assembled a slate of candidates to serve on the Nominating Committee for 2026

Ver Picher, Jenny Montague, Jim Oetinger, Walt Kaminski, Ashley Drane, Patricia La Borie, David Rudd, Polly Sacco Ezzell, Tom Erickson; Alternates: Lise Meloy, Carol Friedinger

## PERSONNEL COMMITTEE

The Personnel Committee oversees and manages the staff of the church, including hiring, compensation & benefits, performance evaluations, policies, and procedures. After considering performance evaluations and recommendations from the Presbytery, we prepare the annual compensation proposal for approval by Session and, with regard to pastor compensation (called the “Terms of Call”), by the congregation. Personnel also manages through any staff issues as they arise. Congregation members reach out to our members from time to time to provide their own feedback (good or bad) with regard to staff which we then discuss and/or pass along as and when appropriate.

We are pleased to report that the current staff is a true team that works well with one another. We managed through Francois’ retirement and continue to manage through this interim period and anticipate supporting the transition to the new pastor as well. We have also been working to revise and update policy manuals for staff and volunteers.

Jenny Miller (Chair), Helen Picher, Mike Meloy, Charlie Babcock

# WALLINGFORD COOPERATIVE NURSERY SCHOOL

WCNS continue to provide quality nursery school to local families and fill our classes mostly by word of mouth. We have an active Executive Committee and parent group. Together they do a wonderful job fundraising for our school that allow for us to make improvements. We have been steadily making improvements to our playground. In March of 2025, we removed the large wooden play structure. The upkeep on it was becoming too much. The structure was close to 20 years old (if not more). The new much larger structure was an instant hit. We also made improvements to the fence. All loose or rotten posts as well as the wire were replaced. The gates were fixed or adjusted.

## Staff 2024-2025

### Teachers

Jodi Dawes – Director/Fun Friday  
Stephanie Dykes – Hippo/Giraffe/PM KC  
Emma Clauser-Schwartz – Meerkat  
Allison Constable – Elephant  
Jeannie Wynn – Zebra  
Katie Crawford – Lion  
Shelley Pellegrini – AM KC

### Assistants

Olivia Miller – Giraffe  
Kami Rose – Zebra  
Aimee Hodges – Lion/Elephant  
Sam Mirante – Elephant/Lion  
Ali Schaffstall – Meerkat  
Theresa Burch – Meerkat  
Hilary Lear – Meerkat  
Jess Trout – AM KC  
Shelley Pellegrini – PM KC  
Ashley Drane – Hippo  
Arianne Allan – Gym  
Laurie Moyer – Spanish

### Staff Changes from 2024-2025 to 2025-2026:

- Shelley Pellegrini left. Jess Trout became the teacher of AM KC. Arianne Allan became the assistant PM KC.
- Ashley Drane left. Amanda O'Brien became the assistant in Hippo class.
- Allison Constable left. Heidi Ballas became the teacher of the Elephant class.
- Laurie Moyer our Spanish teacher left. Fiona Murray is now our music teacher.



2025 was the 70th Anniversary for the Co-op!  
We took a whole school photo to  
commemorate this event!

## SCOUTS — PACK 228

Pack 228 is a pack of 65 scouts in the Minquas district of Cradle Liberty Council Scouting America. We are a family-centered program that helps young children build character, learn outdoor skills, serve their community, and develop confidence through fun, hands-on activities led by caring adult volunteers.

- Winter: First Aid and Emergency Services Night, Pinewood Derby Race Night, Pack Nerf Day at Rose Tree Park
- Spring: Blue & Gold Ceremony and Bear Carnival, Pack Scavenger Hunt in Swarthmore
- Late Spring/Early Summer: Pack Overnight Campout at Ridley Creek State Park, Pack participation in the Wallingford Presbyterian Church Strawberry Festival
- Fall: Pack Air-Rocket Build event at Smedley Park, Webelos and AOL Overnight Trip to Camp Henlopen, Fall Pack Overnight Trip to Camp Garrison at Musser Scout Reservation, including the Castle and Fort experience, Raingutter Regatta, Pack participation in the WPC Trunk or Treat event, Rise Against Hunger pack service event, Fall grounds cleanup service project at Wallingford Presbyterian Church, Christmas Train Display visit.

## SCOUTS — TROOP 277

Troop 277 is a Boy lead troop of 45 scouts in the Minquas district of Cradle Liberty Council Scouting America. We are dedicated to helping youth develop leadership, service, and skills in a fun rewarding environment.

- 45 registered scouts from across Media and Wallingford.
- Three new Eagle Scouts in 2025, and 4 more on a path to finish in 2026.
- One Eagle project building a Pavillion and one building a fire circle in Leiper Park; one project at the WSSD Middle school, and one at Ridley Creek Park completed.
- 5 day Summer Camp at Resica Falls
- Two crews of 8 scouts attended Philmont High Adventure Scout Ranch in New Mexico and completed a 7 day backpacking challenge
- Community Service hours at WPC Strawberry Festival and clean-ups, Philly Thanksgiving Parade, Scouting For Food, WPC, Rise Against Hunger, and Media Cemetery.
- Troop planning to lead the Minquas District Klondike at Camp Hart in Feb 26 for troops across the district.

# SCOUTS — TROOP 2019

We have tallied a total of 6 Eagle Scouts. Our current roster is 17 scouts, they earned 18 rank advancements, 60 merit badges, and had scouts participate in 2 high adventure trips, Sea Base Out Island and Philmont Scout Reservation.

-Held 2 Eagle Scout Courts of Honor

7 Service Projects including:

- Spring and fall clean up
- Scouting for Food at the Thanksgiving Day Parade
- Strawberry Festival
- 2 Eagle Scout Projects

9 Camping trips including:

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



# TREASURER'S REPORT

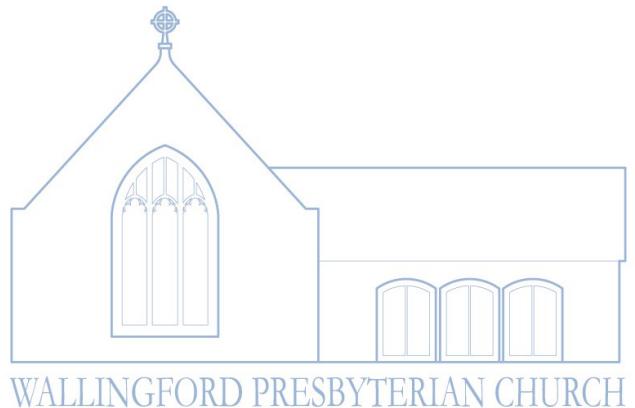
## 2025 Financial Highlights:

- Net Revenue adjusted to exclude non-cash unrealized gain on investments was \$51,712.
- The greater than expected surplus was the result of a \$60,000 capital gain distribution. Without the capital gain there would have been a net revenue deficit/loss of \$8,256.
- Pledge and plate offerings, WPC's key revenue source, was essentially equal to those of 2024 -- \$478,000 in 2025 compared to \$479,000 in 2024,
- Expenses were under budget by \$17,000 due to lower expenses incurred for head pastor when Pastor Francois retired in October, and lower benevolence expense. These lower expenses were offset by significantly higher expenses for building and grounds maintenance, most notably electric and gas which jumped by 15%.
- Overall asset and reserve levels declined by year end as a result of large drawdowns primarily for updates to the A Manse and repairs to the church sanctuary ceiling (about \$50,000) and the purchase and installation of audio/visual equipment (about \$38,000). These were paid from the restricted net asset funds, MEND and Memorial Funds respectively, and not the operating budget.

## 2026 Budget Highlights:

- Expenditures are budgeted to increase about 3% over actual expenses in 2025 and are roughly equal to 2025 budgeted expenses.
- Costs in several areas—personnel, utilities, insurance—were identified with Wallingford Coop Nursery School that could be shared more effectively which resulted in approximately \$15,000 in savings to the church.
- Staffing costs increased approximately 4% year over year. The Head of Staff was budgeted at annual level.
- Pledges to date for 2026 are \$365,364, only 71% of the \$514,000 in pledge and plate offerings required for a balanced budget.
- Rental revenue is uncertain as B manse tenants are moving from the property in February 2026 resulting in several months of vacancy.

**Annual Meetings of the  
Congregation and Corporation  
Wallingford Presbyterian Church  
Wallingford, Pennsylvania  
January 26, 2025  
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 28, 2024 (found in the Annual Report). There was no new business.

**Mission and Ministry.** Pastor Lacroix commented on his work and the ministry of the congregation. He praised each member of WPC's excellent staff, as well as others, including the deacons, trustees, Sunday School teachers, "quiet contributors," the Wallingford Cooperative Nursery School, and his wife and WPC Congregational Wellness Nurse Cyndi Lacroix.

Clerk Chris Darr updated the congregation on the process to call a new pastor given Pastor Lacroix's retirement in the fall.

1. She said that the Mission Study Team has been hard at work gaining input from the congregation through surveys and listening sessions and has just completed their Mission Study Report. Darr thanked Ver Picher for his leadership of the Mission Study Team as well as the other members of the team: Ben Drane, Lin Floyd, Lisé Meloy, Rick Miller, David Rudd and Erin Vaccone.

2. Darr relayed that after the report is approved by Session and the Presbytery's Commission on Ministry, our new nominating committee will work to identify members to serve on the Pastor Nominating Committee (PNC). Session will call a special congregational meeting for the congregation to approve the members of the PNC.

3. The PNC will put together a "Ministry Discernment Profile" describing our church and the areas of focus for our next senior pastor; pastors will be able to view this profile and "put their names in the hat." The PNC will review information provided by pastors and interview those who appear to be a good fit. Our goal is to complete the work prior to Pastor Lacroix's retirement.

Darr added that Session and the PNC will be appreciative of the congregation's prayers and the Holy Spirit's guidance during the process.

Pastor Lacroix then turned the meeting over to Pastor Cornelius to moderate.

Pastor Cornelius highlighted that she is grateful for all of the good things happening in WPC's ministry and for her opportunity to serve. She thanked the members of the Education Council, the deacons and those who work with the children's programs.

**Nominating Committee.** Nominating Committee Co-Chair Ver Picher presented the following members to serve as "at large" members of the 2025 Nominating Committee: Ashley Drane, Walt Kaminski, Pat La Borie, Jenny Montague and Jim Oetinger and alternate members Carol Friedinger and Lisé Meloy. There were no nominations from the floor. The congregation voted to approve the nominees.

Picher thanked Co-Chair Kristine Mulhorn, Ken Ezzell, Pam Mattote, Lisé Meloy, Jenny Montague, Jim Oetinger, David Rudd and June Tolomeo, and alternate members Nancy Curtis and Walt Kaminski for their service on the 2024 Nominating Committee. Pastor said they were officially relieved of their duties.

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 referred members to the report of the Board of Trustees in the Annual report. He noted that capital projects completed in 2024 included the electronic sign and air conditioning in Fellowship Hall, and he said that 2025 will include projects in the Avondale manse. Clark thanked the scout groups for their assistance with maintaining the grounds, as well as those rotating off of the Trustees (Ken Ezzell, Roger Friedinger, Pat La Borie, Walt Kaminski and Jean Stromberg). Clark also welcomed new Trustees David Rudd (completing the unexpired term of John Tiedeck, who moved away from the area), Mike Meloy and Doug Shafer. Clark added that the Trustees welcome assistance from those with skills in areas such as electrical, plumbing, heating and air conditioning, painting, carpentry, flooring, roofing, woodworking, and gardening, particularly since the number of Trustees serving has been reduced to eight.

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

### **The Congregational Meeting reconvened.**

**Treasurer's Report.** Co-Treasurer Todd Darr reviewed the 2024 financials. (See Annual Report.) He noted that 2024 was positive overall from a financial standpoint and included a generous bequest from Ralph and Jean Parks.

Of note, Darr said that in 2024, WPC began realizing investment income on the income statement rather than solely recognizing it on the balance sheet (as had been done previously). This change resulted from a review of our accounting practices by the CPA firm Brinker Simpson, who said that reporting income on the income statement improves clarity and is a best practice in financial reporting. Without the Parks bequest and the recognition of investment income on the income statement, Darr said there would have been a deficit of about \$30,000. Darr noted that investment income has historically been reinvested for future growth, new initiatives, and contingencies, and it would therefore limit our future growth if we relied on investment income to cover any deficits.

**Budget.** Pastor Lacroix reminded the congregation that the Session approved the budget. Todd Darr then presented the budget. (See Annual Report.) There were no questions. Pastor Lacroix thanked Darr as well as Co-Treasurer Ed Mattote (who will be stepping down from the position in 2025) and Financial Secretary Michelle Hall.

**Parks Bequest.** Stewardship Co-Chair Helen Picher highlighted the service of long-time members Ralph and Jean Parks and their generous bequest of nearly \$95,000, received in 2024. She indicated that after the bequest was received, the Stewardship Council requested input from the councils and committees on ways to use the funds. The funds, approved by Session, were used or were set aside for: air conditioning in Fellowship Hall, the final amount needed for the electronic sign, updating the WPC website, the commissioning of a choral piece to honor the Parks, and to cover certain pastor transition costs as we search for and install a new senior pastor.

**Pastoral Terms of Call for 2025.** Personnel Committee Chair Helen Picher reviewed the 2025 terms of call (see Annual Report) after Pastor and Cyndi Lacroix and Pastor Cornelius left the sanctuary. She highlighted a change in the cost of benefits instituted by the Presbyterian Board of Pensions. The cost of benefits is now calculated based on the people being covered (pastor, spouse, and/or children) and the actual costs of the benefits. Previously, we paid an amount that covered a full family, regardless of who we were actually covering. This change was beneficial to WPC and resulted in a 15 percent decrease in expense for comparable benefits. Under the new formula, Pastor Cornelius' benefits are covered by WPC, but her husband's benefits are covered by his church (rather than both churches covering the full family). Pastor Cornelius' daughter is covered by her husband's church, so part of the WPC budget includes a line item for a contribution to Paoli Presbyterian Church to cover one-half of the cost of the coverage for the Cornelius' daughter. In addition, Picher noted that the budget includes a 6 percent salary increase for staff to "catch up" since salary increases since the pandemic began were lower than the cost of living (COLA).

After a motion to approve the terms of call, the congregation unanimously approved them.

Pastor and Cyndi Lacroix and Pastor 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.

Pastor Cornelius closed the meeting with prayer.

Respectfully submitted,

Christine M. Darr, Clerk

François L. Lacroix, Moderator



## WALLINGFORD PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

WALLINGFORD PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH  
110 E. BROOKHAVEN RD, WALLINGFORD, PENNSYLVANIA 19086  
WEBSITE: [wallingfordpres.org](http://wallingfordpres.org) PHONE: 610-566-1644  
EMAIL: [OFFICE@WALLINGFORDPRES.ORG](mailto:OFFICE@WALLINGFORDPRES.ORG)