

OLD ZIONSVILLE
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

ANNUAL REPORT

October 2020 – September 2021



5981 Fountain Road, P. O. Box 215
Old Zionsville, Pennsylvania 18068-0215

OLD ZIONSVILLE UCC MISSION STATEMENT

The mission of our church is to be a congregation devoted to our community where we experience and share the loving presence of God by teaching the Good News of Jesus Christ, by celebrating God's Word in the Bible, and through loving service to all people.

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2021 Consistory

Elders: Diane Berger
Patti Mittl
Darlene Schmeltzle*
Brenda Shoemaker
Larry Stahler
Jan Strobel

Deacons: Millie Kohler
Kathy Latshaw
Sharon Trexler
Mark Weaver

President: Kathy Latshaw
Vice President: Jan Strobel
Secretary: Mark Weaver
Treasurer: Todd Griesemer

*Died September 27, 2021

2021 CHURCH STAFF

Pastor:	Rev. Lori Esslinger
Organist:	David Carlson
Choir Director:	Carolyn Rhoads
Secretary:	Brenda Seitz
Sexton:	Richard Shoemaker
Interim Social Media Coordinator:	Beth Massa

Annual Report of Pastor October 1, 2020 to September 30, 2021

This has been a very different kind of year indeed. The pandemic caused us to be much more thoughtful about all the ways we gather and how to protect each other in the process. Our Consistory made the decision to continue worshipping in the sanctuary requiring masks and social distancing. That was helpful for those who attended. We couldn't get close to each other, but we could at least see our sisters and brothers in Christ on a Sunday morning. That was a strong reminder to everyone that we were not alone in this journey. (Just a note of mention for today - most churches who did not keep worshipping together are having a tough time getting their congregations to come back together.) Although our worship attendance isn't up as high as it was before the pandemic, we are very close because of the faithfulness of our people of God.

We were creative in the way we held meetings this past year. We used Cisco WebEx thanks to Mark Weaver for Consistory meetings. Thanks to Beth Massa we used Zoom for several meetings and just now we are starting to come back together in person still masking and social distancing to be safe.

We had a rough year in terms of saying goodbye to several church leaders who died. There was a great layer of grief in our church family. That led me to pursue investigating and proceeding to offer GriefShare for our church family and for our community. We have completed one full class and the second class will complete at Thanksgiving. All who have completed the program have found it to be helpful - mostly the talking together and learning from the video portion. We will continue to offer GriefShare twice a year as long as it seems helpful for the years to come. We appreciate the anonymous donors who underwrote the cost of the startup and are grateful to Paula Lilly, Nancy Weitzel and Terry Eck who were trained to be leaders.

Some programs in our church stopped due to the pandemic. Offering dinners, breakfasts, funeral luncheons or any food preparation from our kitchen ceased. Sunday School stopped. The Village School closed. Our choirs ceased to practice and share the word of God through music on a Sunday morning. The Scouts held meetings outside or in other venues. The church became a quiet place but was well maintained by our faithful sexton who cleaned and sanitized everything.

Brenda Seitz "held down the fort" by faithfully coming to work on her regular schedule in the church office. Folks didn't stop by or visit as usual but she spoke to many people on the phone, through the computer and through the intercom at the door.

One program that didn't stop was our Windows to the Future program of fundraising for the restoration of the stained glass windows in the sanctuary. We are in phase 2 of the project and have raised enough to completely restore the twin windows on the side of the Shepherd window (thanks to a generous donation from Craig and Linda Schell in memory of Ruth-Ann and Carl Schell). The fundraising is continuing now to complete the Shepherd window too. We expect all five windows will be done sometime in the new year of 2022 - inside and outside - debt free! We thank our very generous congregation for this amazing effort and look forward to seeing the windows back to their original glory and ready to face another 100 years of weather and worshipful gazing from the congregation. More information about that project can be found in the following pages of this Annual Report.

We look forward with great anticipation as things continue to change through the pandemic and finding a new normal in our journey to follow Christ and make disciples!

Peace,
The Rev. Lori Esslinger

Statistics of Congregation

October 2020-September 2021

Average Sunday Worship Attendance: 32

Members Received:

April 2021: John Kohler, Reaffirmation of Faith
Debi Kohler, Reaffirmation of Faith
Stephen Ritter, Reaffirmation of Faith
Kelly Ritter, Adult Confirmation
Shirley Spohn, Adult Confirmation

Adult Baptisms:

Kelly Ritter

Baptisms:

Levi Brown
Gavin & Veronica Wright

Deaths:

Carl Lorish, December 25, 2020
Paul Snyder, December 25, 2020
Jacqueline Puschock, January 17, 2021
Frances Hetrick, January 20, 2021
Jean Meck, March 13, 2021
Connie Yothers, April 19, 2021
*Troy Lilly, July 5, 2021
Anna Benner, July 21, 2021
*Lucille Kelly, August 17, 2021
Barbara Keller, September 23, 2021
Darlene Schmeltzle, September 27, 2021

*Denotes non-member

Congregation Membership

220 members as of September 30, 2021

Additions: 5

Put on Inactive List by action of Consistory: 17

Deaths: 9

Giving Analysis from Oct. 2020-Sept. 30, 2021

General Use - \$103,094.55
Parking Lot - \$493.00
Cemetery Association - \$14,770.00
Memorial Fund - \$8,620.00
Mission - \$5,894.77
Flowers - \$1,847.00
Bulletins - \$390.00
Heat/Electric - \$433.00
Sunday School - \$12.00
Pastor Discretionary Fund - \$672.08
Windows Fund - \$51,021.78
Building Repair - \$425.00

Proposed CHURCH BUDGET FOR 2022, 10/17/21

(Aug 2020 -
July 2021)

	2021 Budget	2021 Actual	2022 Budget
<u>INCOME</u>			
TOTAL REGULAR CHURCH INCOME	133,278	127,808	131,050
- Reflect downward trend regular giving			
TOTAL BENEVOLENCE SUPPORT CONGREGATION	5,200	6,296	5,500
TOTAL MISC. INCOME	3,000	1,237	1,000
- No planned committee funded project			
TOTAL INCOME	141,478	135,341	137,550
<u>EXPENSES</u>			
TOTAL PASTOR'S EXPENSE	42,582	40,629	43,859
- Includes Personnel Committee recommended increase			
CHRISTIAN ED SUPPLIES (SUNDAY SCHOOL)	700	-	300
TOTAL STAFF EXPENSE	51,257	44,505	51,358
- Includes Personnel Committee recommended increases)			
TOTAL CHARITABLE CONTRIBUTIONS EXPENSE	5,400	7,396	5,200
TOTAL MUSIC & WORSHIP EXPENSE	5,800	2,867	4,000
- Special Music/services was under budget			
TOTAL BUILDING & GROUNDS OPERATING EXPENSE	28,476	18,562	22,400
TOTAL OFFICE/COMMUNICATION OPERATING EXPENSES	7,780	6,344	7,670
TOTAL EXPENSE PROPERTY PROJECTS	9,885	6,499	8,500
- \$3500 Wireless mics, downstairs sound			
- \$5,000 TBD projects			
TOTAL PARSONAGE EXPENSES	8,098	7,595	6,900
TOTAL EXPENSES	159,978	134,397	150,187
TOTAL INCOME	141,478	135,341	137,550
TOTAL EXPENSE	159,978	134,397	150,187
NET CASH FLOW	(18,500)	943	(12,637)

COMMITTEE AND GROUP REPORTS

Boy Scout Troop 31: Highlights from Oct. 2020 through Sept. 2021

Membership: 17 youth and 11 adult leaders

Year in Review:

The scouts of Troop 31 have continued to prosper over the past year. While a few scouts have chosen to move on from the troop, we gained four more throughout the year.

For the first time in a number of years, the troop was big enough to actually have patrol leaders, an Assistant Senior Patrol Leader, and a Senior Patrol Leader. The scouts that have filled these positions went through some basic training and have done a great job in their roles. In December, the scouts will nominate and elect new leaders for these positions.

Colin Nonnemacher, Troop 31's Senior Patrol Leader, was elected by the scouts of the troop to be inducted into the Boy Scouts of America's Honor Society, officially called the Order of the Arrow. He is the first scout in a few years from the Troop to have been nominated and inducted in the OA.

2021 continued to be a challenge due to the ongoing pandemic, but the scouts decided to keep being actively involved and made sure to have activities planned throughout the year. There were numerous camp outs, hikes, a trip down to the Museum of the American Revolution in Philadelphia, a few service projects, and summer camp.

The Scouts helped the All Things Free Pantry on several occasions and will continue to help them if the need is there. They also served BBQ to many state and local police officers in Fogelsville.

Troop 31 has held several fundraisers throughout the past year so that the Scouts can cover the costs of camping and activities. There have been a few hoagie sales, a pie sale, selling meat sticks, and a very successful clothing drive. The proceeds from the clothing drive were used to help cover the costs of gutting and rehabbing the Quartermaster's Bay. A project which is nearly complete. Special thank you to church member Maynard Schaffer for helping put the new flooring down for us. Also, the Troop would like to thank the members of Old Zionsville UCC for your patience and understanding as we had to stow our gear in the social hall.

A brand new enclosed trailer was donated to Troop 31 to use for hauling gear for campouts and other activities. The scouts will soon be designing the shelving and getting it ready for many years of adventures.

Summer Camp was attended by 14 of the 16 scouts at the time. Collectively, the scouts earned almost 100 merit badges in one great week camping at Camp Trexler.

Achievements since September of 2020:

- 3 Scout Ranks earned
- 6 Tenderfoot Ranks earned
- 7 Second Class Ranks earned

- 5 First Class Ranks earned
- 1 Star Rank earned
- 1 Life Rank earned
- 110 merit badges earned since October 2020
- 25 rank advancements earned since October 2020

Community Service/Volunteering:

- Scouting for Food - the troop participated in the annual food drive supporting the Zionsville Area Food Pantry
- Participated in the Veteran's Day Ceremony at Kospia Farms
- All Things Free Pantry
- Wheels of Time Food Collection
- Work weekend at Camp Trexler (Beaver Weekend)
- BBQ at the PA State Police Fogelsville Barracks
- Scouts also participated in other service projects, including:
 - Earth Day events
 - Community cleanups
 - Flight 93 tree work
- Combined total of 294 service hours recorded from Oct. 2020 to Oct. 2021

Activities since September of 2020:

- Several fundraisers were held to earn money for the scouts and the troop
- Wilderness survival weekends
- Capture the Flag Campout
- Klondike Derby
- Hikes
- Summer camp
- Visited the Museum of the American Revolution in Philadelphia, PA
- Beaver Weekend at Camp Trexler

Submitted by Dave Ruyak, Troop 31 Committee Chair

Cemetery Association Annual Report for Oct. 2020-Sept. 2021

No written report submitted.

Old Zionsville UCC Cemetery Association
Profit & Loss
 October 2020 through September 2021

	Oct '20 - Sep 21
Ordinary Income/Expense	
Income	
300 · Flat Stone Marker & Foundation	1,200.00
4000 · Grave Open & Close Fee	150.00
4002 · Transfer from Savings	1,400.00
4003 · Perpetual Care	7,115.00
4004 · Donation	2,760.00
4005 · Interment	1,100.00
4008 · In Memory of	30.00
4012 · Permit for Cremation	15.00
42000 · Gravesite Purchase	1,000.00
Total Income	14,770.00
Expense	
43000 · New Checks	30.58
60504- · Petty Cash	417.10
60505- · Payroll	5,738.28
60507 · Federal Taxes	994.32
60508- · Service	1,700.00
60509 · - Local Taxes	83.52
60510- · State Taxes	199.56
60516 · Flatstone Memorials	525.00
Total Expense	9,688.36
Net Ordinary Income	5,081.64
Net Income	5,081.64

Christian Education Committee Annual Report for
October 2020-September 2021

This report finds us in the middle of the pandemic. We continued sending out Sunday School worksheets for the children to complete at home so they were at least contacted weekly by the church in the mail. (We thank Diane Berger for donating vintage stamps from her stamp collection to make the mailing more fun and no expense for the church! She even put the stamps in the right value on each envelope!)

We decided NOT to start Sunday School until we felt more sure of the future of the virus and the safety of our students and teachers. As the year wore on and more people were vaccinated, the Committee met in July to look ahead to the future. It was decided to start Sunday School in September 2021 with everyone wearing masks.

The Village School had closed the year before. We were graciously gifted some of their toys and craft supplies. Our rooms, left empty for many months, needed to be rearranged and organized without the Village School's bright and cheery bulletin boards and art hanging on the walls. The Sunday School children had grown since we last saw them. Our questions remained. How many would come back? What grade are they in now? Could we continue to do Sunday School as we had? (In the summer of 2021, the All Things Free Room (ATF) which gives items to the food pantry clients had to vacate Phil Rhode's house since he was selling it. The decision was to put the ATF room in the back Sunday School room which made things rather crowded but we are working it out)

When our opening day came for Sunday School, September 13, we were pleasantly surprised to see so many familiar faces - grown up for sure but familiar none-the-less. Thank you to all of the families who have returned faithfully to continue their Sunday School education.

On Sept. 27, we were shocked and saddened to learn of Darlene Schmeltzle's death. She had been our preschool Sunday School teacher for many many years. We are continuing without her, but she is missed. If any of you reading this are interested in being a part of the Preschool Sunday School, please speak with Pastor Lori. It is a great group of children to teach and grow in Christ with!

As we look ahead, we won't be singing for the holidays this year. There is still concern with germs projected through singing. So we tread lightly and learn boldly as we move on.

Thanks to our Faithful Teachers: Darlene Schmeltzle**, Amber Kriebel, Patti Mittl, Susan Jacobs, Alyson Miller, Kim DeWire*, Debbie Schoenberger and our pianist, Pat Sajkowicz.

*not able to return to teaching in Sept. 2021

**Darlene died September 27, 2021

Respectfully submitted, Lori Esslinger

Computer and Media Committee Annual Report for October 2020 to September 2021

Committee Members: Lori Esslinger (Pastor), Mark Weaver (Chair), Beth Massa, Joan Muth, Kelly Kowalewski, Tyler Rhoads, Robert Schmeltzle, Jr., Daniel Latshaw, Phil Rhode

Committee Purpose: The faith-based purpose of the Computer and Media Committee is to foster communication both inside and outside of Old Zionsville UCC (OZUCC). The committee promotes community, ideas, and activities by helping people experience and share the loving presence of God and to understand what OZUCC stands for and who we are. All Information Technology, including software and hardware, of OZUCC is maintained at an affordable price.

The COVID-19 Pandemic slowed us down a bit this year. Due to the lower-than-average weekly church attendance, we held off on executing our project to install the fixed equipment for recording and streaming our church services. We did hire a Media Coordinator at the beginning of 2021, but she was later unable to fulfill her role due to some personal issues. We pray that the pandemic will eventually subside and give way to a more normal church environment where we can continue in this very important support role for the church, utilizing our two sub-committees functioning within our framework: that of Information Technology (IT) and Sound & Audio.

October 2020:

- The Media Coordinator Hiring Committee (Pastor Lori, Beth Massa, Mark Weaver) met on October 15th resulting in narrowing the field to 4 candidates. Pastor Lori proceeded with phone interviews.
- A combined team meeting was held on October 19th with 5 members present.
- The search and interview process for the Media Coordinator was discussed in detail, with the hope that the position can be filled by the beginning of 2021.
- The proposed budget for 2021 included the following projects:
 - Fixed Camera Video and Audio Recording and Streaming Equipment and Installation
 - Peripherals for the Media Coordinator's PC
 - Backup Power UPS for the Network Cabinet
 - Finish to the Installation of Auxiliary Speakers (Narthex, Kitchen, & Nursery)

November 2020:

- Pastor Lori and Beth Massa worked to further narrow the field for the Media Coordinator's position and the Hiring Committee agreed on proceeding with the hiring of Jennifer Carl. Her information was passed on to the Personnel Committee, who agreed to send her information to Consistory for approval.
- With the recommendations in place for the hiring of the Media Coordinator and due to the increased concerns with COVID-19, the IT Team meeting scheduled for November 17th was canceled.
- A work detail was held November 27th to install the Security Camera on the North side of the building.
- The 2021 budget was approved for the following:
 - IT Capital: (Computer Peripherals)
 - IT Operating: (As requested)
 - Sound Capital: (Video Streaming System)
 - Sound Operating: (As requested)
 - Security Capital: (No budget requested)
 - Security Operating: (No budget requested)

December 2020:

- There was no Sound Team meeting in December due to personnel availability and the pandemic.
- Jennifer Carl was hired as the part-time Media Coordinator and was able to start late in the month.
- Sound System operation for the Christmas Eve Service was covered by Dan Latshaw.

January 2021:

- A combined team meeting was held January 18th with 8 members present in person or virtually (Zoom).
- Jenn Carl, our newly hired Media Coordinator, was in attendance for this meeting to meet our team. Jen gave an update on the many things she started working on in her brief time in the position, including looking into updates for the Website, Facebook Page, and Twitter Account, as well as opening an Instagram Account and a YouTube Channel (neither live yet).
- Mark handled the Sound System for the funeral of Jacki Puschock on January 30th.
- As we begin Live Streaming our services, a "Privacy Policy / Consent Form" will need to be developed.
- Live Streaming of Services
 - Mark began researching hardware / software and Jenn will help with the streaming to the web.
 - Pastor Lori offered to contact Uncle Jeffery to see what is required to play the recorded services.
 - The Sound Console will eventually need to be modified for the additional streaming equipment.
- Wireless Microphone Replacement
 - Mark had several communications with Phillips' Sound and the frequencies we are currently using, although slated for use by Cellular Phones, are not in imminent danger of being overtaken. Phillips suggested we plan for this soon.
 - Mark will research and get quotes for purchase of new microphones in 2022
- Security Cameras (already purchased)
 - Camera #5 will be located in the Bell Tower and aimed to capture the ramp and side doors
 - Camera #6 will be located in the Bell Tower and aimed down to capture the Main Entrance
- 2020 spending came in slightly under budget

February 2021:

- A virtual (Zoom) IT Team meeting was held February 15th with 4 members present.
- The annual update of the Administrator passwords on all 4 church PCs was completed as of 2/17/2021.
- Jenn Carl submitted a report for the balance of her progress in January which was summarized by Beth Massa. Jen continued with her updates and improvements to the Website, including adding some Analytics to gather data on the demographics of those viewing the site. She has also been copying the Facebook Recorded Services to YouTube that Pastor Lori has been doing in place of the weather canceled live services. She also assisted with Calendars, Newsletters, Facebook, and Twitter.
- Live Streaming of Services
 - Pastor Lori contacted Jim Ritter, who works with Uncle Jeffery, to lay out what we would like to do. Jim was to work with Uncle Jeffery to get us additional information. Pastor Lori also sent Jim a reminder.

March 2021:

- A Sound Team meeting was held March 15th with 3 members present.
- The schedules and Sound Team coverage for the Holy Week services was discussed.
- We need more help with the Sound System, especially once we install the Video Streaming Equipment.
- Live Streaming of Services
 - Pastor Lori sent another email to Jim Ritter asking for a status update on showing our services on Uncle Jeffrey.
 - An outline of the system was reviewed, and the component costs were discussed.
 - How and where to install the Streaming Equipment was discussed.
- A work detail was scheduled for Saturday April 24th.

April 2021:

- An IT Team meeting was held April 19th with 5 members present in person or virtually (Zoom).
- The work detail scheduled for April 24th was canceled due to Connie Yothers funeral.
- It was announced that Phil Rhode will join the Sound Team and has already been doing an excellent job recording the services on his phone for upload to social media.
- Social Media
 - Jenn Carl submitted a report depicting her recent Social Media progress which was confirmed by Beth Massa. Jenn continued with her updates to the Website. In addition, she has been uploading the recorded services to YouTube as well as creating the links from the Website.
 - There was discussion regarding some out-of-date data on the Website. Mark sent a list of what he found to Beth Massa, who then worked with Jenn to get this data corrected.
 - There was discussion on the need and level of the CCLI License for streaming our services to social media and we agreed that the "Plus" version is required.
- Joan Muth and Kelly Kowalewski agreed to collaborate on developing the Privacy Policy.

May 2021:

- A Sound Team meeting was held May 17th with 4 members present.
- We welcomed Phil Rhode as the newest member of the Sound Team.
- Live Streaming of Services
 - Pastor Lori received an email from Uncle Jeffrey with his interest in adding OZUCC recorded services to his lineup. We will still need to set up a meeting with him to understand what is needed to make this happen.
 - Mark reviewed the pricing for the hardware and software with the Sound Team as he had done with the IT Team in April.
 - We continued to wait to get additional data on how many views we get on our YouTube to rate the use and need. The Sound Team agreed with the IT Team in holding off on the purchase of the professional equipment while we gather this data.

- Options on how and where to install the Streaming Equipment was again discussed.

June 2021:

- The Sound / Security Team Work Detail scheduled for Saturday June 12th was canceled due to the predicted heat, whereby working in the attic would not have been good...
- The IT Team Meeting scheduled for June 21st was canceled. There was little to discuss this month.
- Last month we lost Jenn Carl as our Media Coordinator due to "Personal Issues".
- Beth Massa volunteered to fill the Media Coordinator position for up to one year in order to give us time to better recruit a more permanent replacement for Jenn Carl. Beth began work on updating and correcting various Website pages and issues.
- Joan Muth and Kelly Kowalewski began collaboration on the Privacy Policy.
- Live Streaming of Services
 - Mark planned to catch up with Uncle Jeffery at Dillingersville to evaluate what he needs to produce our recorded services on his cable channel.
 - There was no further discussion on purchase of the professional streaming equipment. With the lapse of Jenn Carl posting the services, we were not able to collect the data we had wanted in order to make a better evaluation.

July 2021:

- The Sound Team Meeting scheduled for July 19th was canceled due to last-minute personnel conflicts.
- Beth Massa began work on various Social Media tasks as the interim Social Media Coordinator, including:
 - Processed and uploaded weekly services to YouTube
 - Weekly Wednesday and Friday postings to Facebook along with various Facebook corrections
 - Weekly updates and various adjustments to the Website
 - Updated the June and July Google Calendar
- Live Streaming of Services
 - Mark met with Jeff Tapler (Uncle Jeffrey) at Dillingersville, but is still waiting for information from Jeff to begin sending him the recorded services. Jeff has been slow to respond...
 - Jeff Tapler introduced us to Stan Statler from Encompass Media in Reading. Mark had a call with Stan, who provided a formal quotation for the Professional Streaming Equipment needed to get us started. The full C&M Committee will take this under advisement when we meet in August.

August 2021:

- A combined team meeting was held August 16th with 5 members present.
- The focus this month was on brain-storming a budget for 2022 to include Capital and Operation of the IT, Sound, and Security environments. Various issues were discussed for planning purposes and the committee decided on several key projects whose budget will be presented to the Finance Committee by the September deadline.

- Beth Massa continued work on Social Media tasks as the interim Social Media Coordinator, including:
 - Processed and uploaded weekly services to YouTube
 - Weekly Wednesday and Friday postings to Facebook along with YouTube links
 - Weekly updates to the Website along with an update to the August Google Calendar
- We will begin planning for finding a more permanent Social Media Coordinator in late fall / early winter.
- Joan Muth and Kelly Kowalewski continued their “Work in Progress” on the Privacy Policy.
- Live Streaming of Services
 - Still waiting for information from Jeff Tapler (Uncle Jeffrey) to begin sending him the recorded services. Jeff has been slow to respond... Pastor Lori sent him another reminder and will meet with him personally at the Dillingersville Meeting in September.
 - The quotation for the professional streaming equipment from Encompass Media was discussed in detail. The committee has decided to move forward with the “Single Camera” option. Mark prepared a description and budget for Pastor Lori to present to the Finance Committee in September for final approval.

September 2021:

- A meeting of the IT Team was held September 20th with 3 members present.
- Beth Massa continued as the interim Social Media Coordinator.
- We again agreed to begin the search for a permanent Social Media Coordinator in late fall / early winter.
- We continue to look for at least one more person to join the Sound Team.
- We are also looking for anyone interested in helping with the Live Streaming production.
- Joan Muth presented a “Draft” of the Privacy Policy, which was reviewed with no significant comments. We will add some formatting and have it ready for approval by the Consistory in October.
- Live Streaming of Services:
 - Pastor Lori met with Jeff Tapler (Uncle Jeffrey) again at the Dillingersville Meeting in September. He is still very interested in televising our services but has not yet given us a time slot.
 - Finance has approved the purchase of the equipment and Mark began work on placing the orders.
- The Sound Team again provided equipment and operation for the Outdoor (Parking Lot) service on September 5th

Looking Forward - There is still more work to be done:

- Selecting and hiring a more permanent Media Coordinator.
- Purchasing and installing the Fixed Camera Video and Audio Recording and Streaming Equipment.
- Completing the installation of the Auxiliary Speakers for the Narthex, Nursery, and Kitchen

- Replacing the Wireless Microphones with new FCC Frequency Compliant equipment.
- Upgrading the Secretary and Finance PCs Operating System and support software.
- Implementation of our 2022 Budget Line Items, if approved
- Updated IT Audit and comparison to 2017 with Committee review

Respectfully submitted by Mark Weaver

Cub Pack 31: Highlights from Oct. 2020 through Sept. 2021

Membership: 16 total, combination of 14 boys, 2 girls, and 10 adult leaders
1 Crossed over in the spring of 2021

Month-by-Month List of Highlights

October:

- Group of cubs went to Pool Wildlife Sanctuary. They worked on requirements for their badge rankings.

November:

- Cubs participated in Scouting For Food. Cubs went around to people's homes and collected donations that participants had set out by their mailbox.

March:

- Pinewood Derby
- Cubs participated in youth mentor fishing day.
- Winter fun day at Camp Serranova with snow tubing and fun in the snow.

April:

- The cubs got together and did an Earth Day clean up at Fulmer Tract Park. They walked around with garbage bags and picked up any non-natural debris on the walking path.
- The pack had a dine and donate event at Countryside. It was promoted through word of mouth, flyers, and Facebook. 10% of the sales from 6-8pm were then given to the pack. Countryside donated additional money. This fundraising event helped cover the cost for the pack's outdoor sleepover event at Camp Serranova.
- Webelo II's Crossover to Boy Scouts. The pack had one crossover to Boy Scouts.

May:

- Outdoor sleepover event at Camp Serranova. The cubs had fun working on requirements, doing a scavenger hunt, playing games, fishing, and enjoying campfire food.
- The pack held a boat regatta. We had a tremendous turn out and the cubs had a lot of fun making their own boats.
- We had 4 of the cubs make the district Pinewood Derby. We ended up having 3 of the cubs place in the top 5 for districts. Taking home places 1, 3, and 5.

July:

- Cubs helped at the Zions Evangelical Lutheran Church food pantry. They helped box items to be handed out to local families.

- Four cubs and two adult leaders went to the Summer Camp at Akelaland. A great time was had by all and everyone is looking forward to 2022 Summer Camp.
- Cubs went to an Iron Pigs sleepover where they watched the game and got to sleep on the field overnight.
- We had our summer pool picnic for the pack.

August:

- Wheels of Time volunteer with food bank collections.

September:

- We held our first meeting for the 2021/2022 year on September 7th.
- We held 2 recruiting events both at Shoemaker elementary and Macungie elementary.
- We had 9 new scouts sign up. We have 5 new lions, 2 new tigers, 1 new webolo I, and 1 new bear.
- Current total pack is at 22 and growing.

Year in Review:

While the fall of 2020 into the spring and summer of 2021 has proven to be a challenge for everyone, the cubs of Pack 31 have persevered. When council visited a pack meeting in the spring, their comment was that we were one of a select few packs that continued meeting and did activities throughout the year. They were very pleased with the pack and everything we were able to accomplish. All of the cubs progressed through their ranks and earned their respected badges.

We were able to accomplish a lot of this by staying in compliance with current regulations from the State of Pennsylvania and the US Center for Disease Control, along with directives sent out from the Boy Scouts of America and the Minsi Trails Council. The pack has adopted all the safety measures that have been put into place. Masks are worn at all times during indoor meetings. While camping, each cub camped with their own immediate family members, and we took extra precautions when handling food, utensils, and cookware.

Submitted by Jason M Espenshade on behalf of the Cub Pack

Faith Uniting Neighbors (F.U.N.) Group Annual Report for October 2020 to September 2021

Our 15th year as F.U.N. Group began October 2020.

Hobby Night continues to be on HOLD due to COVID19.

A total of 29 boxes were collected in October for Operation Christmas Child. Thank you to Sharon Trexler for delivering them.

The Church Bazaar and Basket Auction was cancelled in November. We did have collections during church for various organizations that would normally receive our donations. Lehigh County Conference of Churches received \$160 and Macungie Ambulance received \$69.79 through FUN Group. Other organizations received donations through the church.

In January, 24 Hygiene Kits were collected and delivered to Colonial Park UCC in April. A \$50 check was mailed to Church World Service for processing the boxes.

Our annual toiletry collection in March/April was delivered to the Zionsville Area Food Pantry. The ATF (All Things Free) Room has had a few outdoor giveaways at the Zionsville Area Food Pantry. Donated household items are available for Food Pantry patrons.

New Member Baskets were given to 5 new members of our congregation. What a blessing we received during this COVID year.

Our annual PB&J collection yielded 25 jars of PB and 20 jars of jelly. All were given to the Zionsville Area Food Pantry.

And school supplies were collected and distributed to EHS, LMMS and Lincoln Elementary schools. Thank you, Diane Berger, for taking the supplies to the schools.

F.U.N. Group managed to maintain some of our annual activities, even though it was such a challenging year, thanks to the generosity of our congregation. All church members are encouraged to attend our meetings. We need more input and would become more productive if we had more people in attendance, even if you can't commit to coming every month. So join us on the second Tuesday of the month.

We hope to have more FUN in 2022!!

Members: Patti Mittl, Debbie Gurgick, Robin Yoder, Jan Strobel, Ardyth Schaffer*, Deb Schoenberger, Millie Kohler and Larry Stahler.

*Moved to Arizona in August 2021

Submitted in Christ's Service by Jan Strobel

Finance Committee Annual Report October 2020 to September 2021

While things are far from normal, we have settled into the new normal. Finance Committee has met in person this year, just at a distance within the basement meeting area. We have made much progress during this time.

Changes and accomplishments:

- PPP LOAN --Received and utilized the PPP loan from last year. We also successfully filed and were approved for repayment forgiveness. A special thank you to Brenda for the countless hours of red-tape and rework getting us to this point.
- INSURANCE --In the spring, we investigated different insurance providers for our property, liability, and workman's comp insurance. A new provider, Brotherhood Mutual who specializes in church and non-profit insurance, was selected for property and liability; however, we stayed with Selective for workman's comp. This change increased our coverage and saved the congregation over \$1000 annually.
- INVESTMENTS --Our investments (CDs and Money Market) have been held with State Farm. They no longer have a banking and investment division. Everything was taken over by US Bank whose processes are cumbersome and there are no local branches.
We have moved the money market funds to our account with Key Bank while we

search for the best place to reinvest. Our CDs will stay at US Bank until they mature due to good interest rates and significant penalties for early withdrawal. As they mature, we will move the investments to another institution.

- RETIREMENT --We also want to take this opportunity to thank Todd Griesemer for the 8 years he has served as church treasurer. His insight and contributions will be greatly missed. We specifically appreciate his dedication attending meetings and conducting activities on our behalf during the pandemic; despite the demands his work placed on his schedule.

Respectfully submitted by Robin Yoder for the current Finance Committee: Robin Yoder, Chair; Todd Griesemer, Treasurer; Brenda Seitz, staff/bookkeeper/administrator; Kathy Latshaw, Consistory President; Deborah Gurgick, Millie Kohler, Paula Lilly, and Cheryl Martucci.

Historical Task Force Annual Report for October 2020-Sept. 2021

The committee did not meet this year; however, Historical Room activity was alive this year. The Upper Milford Historical Committee approached us about looking at the photos of the confirmation classes through the years. They said that Rev. Blatt taught school in the eighth grade and possibly our confirmation photos could help them identify some of the missing school photos they were looking for.

Mr. Neil Moser came to the church to see the photos we had. He was very grateful to see how organized they were (thanks to Connie Yothers). As I looked at them too, we realized that some of the photos we thought were confirmation photos could have indeed been eighth grade graduation photos!

Neil took all the photos to the Historical Society to scan into their system. He returned them a few weeks later and was very pleased to be able to have all of them in their system. Many of the photos have the girls in short dresses instead of confirmation gowns. This could be the difference between eighth grade graduation and Confirmation.

Neil's wife was sure to carefully type the names of the participants in the photos. In many cases we had just a hand written note attached.

Later in the year, Neil came back with a Photographer, Mr. Gary Heller, Historic Rescue Photography. Gary took several photographs of the sanctuary using a special technique to equalize the lighting in the photo so the pews and the stained glass windows could be seen clearly. He came back a few days later to present us with print copies of the photos!

We are grateful for our connection with the Upper Milford Historical Society.

Submit by Lori Esslinger

Membership and Evangelism Committee Annual Report for October 2020-September 2021

Committee Members: Lori Esslinger (Pastor), Linda Weaver (Chair), Mark Weaver

Committee Purpose: This Committee desires to enrich the lives of our members through meaningful activities that help us get to know each other. We also strive to involve newcomers into the faith and family of the church through advertising, personal invitation, and involvement.

2020 and the continuing Pandemic: Though the Committee had a strong desire to re-start activities as the Pandemic began to reside, there was still much concern regarding the spread of the disease and the need for Social Distancing. As such, Lunch Bunch only had 1 outing and only 2 Supper Club events were held in this timeframe. All other outings, including those to the State Theatre and Iron Pigs Baseball games were either canceled or re-scheduled to much later dates.

GriefShare: Membership and Evangelism Committee agreed to sponsor GriefShare at our church. The teaching materials were purchased by an anonymous gift. Pastor Lori invited Nancy Weitzel and Paula Lily to be co-leaders. They met for several weeks before the first session started to go through the training together, preview the recorded portion of the lessons which were the teaching parts, and strategizing for how to proceed.

We advertised on the National GriefShare website, locally in as many places as we could find that would hang the poster, and with all the local churches as well as the PNEC newsletter. Everyone is welcome to participate in GriefShare and can join the classes at any time.

March 2021:

- Our first round of GriefShare began on Tuesday March 2, 2021 for 13 weeks from 1 p.m. to 2:30 p.m. with 9 participants and 3 leaders. We learned a whole bunch of things through running the program during the middle of the Covid pandemic. We did our best to social distance, wear masks as necessary, and be as safe as possible. Although we had many video issues through the first course, all were resolved, and we did our best to provide a good, all-around program for those grieving.

April 2021:

- Lunch Bunch was held at Perkins Lehigh Street on April 23rd with 10 in attendance.
- We also took an outing to Lenhartsville where 16 of us enjoyed the German Cuisine of Deitsch Eck on April 30th.
- GriefShare continued each Tuesday in April.

May 2021:

- GriefShare continued each Tuesday in May, with the final session held on May 25th. 8 participants finished the course.

Summer 2021: The summer months of 2021 were quiet.

August 2021:

- GriefShare Round 2 - In recruiting participants for the second round of GriefShare, we spread the word as best we were able. Many folks were contacted via former participants, we gave brochures to a doctor at the VA Clinic, and once again advertised on the National GriefShare website. We welcomed one member who registered on the National Website, several members who heard about it through word of mouth, and two returnees from our Spring course. In light of events that happened in the lives of our co-leaders, Pastor Lori invited Terry Eck, a participant in the Spring course to come on board as another leader. He went through the training program and has been an excellent help to our leadership team giving our co-leaders a little "slack" as they work through their own grief issues during the fall course.

Our second round began on August 31, 2021, 13 Tuesdays from 1 p.m. to 3 p.m. Our group for this Fall round consists of 4 leaders, 6 new participants and 2 returnees. We are excited with the resolved computer/technical issues with the purchase of a new TV and DVD player. We are also excited by the way the group has formed a trust base already and has been sharing to get the most out of each lesson.

September 2021:

- Supper Club once again ventured out to Deitsch Eck in Lenhartsville with 9 of us sampling some Pig Stomach and other fine PA Deutsch cooking on September 29th. We have had to adjust our typical Friday evening schedules to mid-week affairs due to restaurant staffing issues produced by the Pandemic.
- The second round of GriefShare continued each Tuesday in September and will finish up right before Thanksgiving unless there will be inclement weather cancellations.

Looking Forward to 2022:

- We have high hopes that the COVID-19 Pandemic and its many variants will continue to disperse and allow more social activities again.
- We are currently planning Lunch Bunch and Supper Club activities through the fall of 2021 and hope to resume a more regular schedule in the new year.
- We do have tickets for 20 of us to attend River Dance at the State Theatre on April 3, 2022 and hope that schedule will hold true.
- Thanks to the Membership and Evangelism Committee for sponsoring the worthwhile GriefShare program. We intend to offer the program during evening hours in the Spring of 2022 and then again in the Fall, time TBD.

Respectfully submitted by Linda Weaver with Pastor Lori Esslinger and Mark Weaver as contributors

Music & Worship Committee Annual Report for Oct. 2020-Sept. 2021

This was a very unique year for worship since we were still in the middle of the pandemic, not much information was known, and our leadership held firm to the idea that we needed to continue to meet in person. That was the best thing for our congregation. People could socially distance, wear masks and still see each other on a Sunday morning. We took various things out of the worship service, including:

collecting the offering (we had a plate at the door), passing the peace (we just waved at each other and took care to keep separated with the appropriate amount of space), passing out communion (we purchased self-contained wafers and communion juice cups that were handed out at the door before worship) and singing all verses of all hymns. Bulletins were still printed plus Mark Weaver and team put the bulletin and hymn information on the big screen for those who preferred to read the service from the screen. We stopped using hymnals and Bibles and had all of the important information on the screen or in the bulletin. Worship was shortened to about 40 minutes. Members seemed to like the changes and we had a fairly steady attendance even though the pandemic carried on.

We took attendance at the door with phone numbers in case we needed to call upon anyone to tell them that someone in worship contracted the virus.

Starting in the Fall of 2020, since the Bazaar and Filled Basket Auction was cancelled for 2020, we took the charities that would have received money from that effort of the FUN group, and explained each one on the fall Sundays. We also collected money for each charity that was then passed on to the charity with a note that explained what we had done.

The Ministerium decided that we would not host an in-person Thanksgiving Eve service due to the pandemic. So we decided to video tape record it two weeks before Thanksgiving and then on Thanksgiving Eve it was shown on WCTAP - Uncle Jeffrey's station.

We held only one Christmas Eve service at 7:30 p.m. which was well attended considering the circumstances. There were no choirs and minimal singing but the candles and Silent Night happened so that it felt like Christmas Eve.

Our worship services were cancelled several times during winter months due to snow and ice storms. We kept the safety of everyone in mind.

Easter was fairly normal in that we had 7:30 a.m. worship, 9 a.m. coffee and donuts and 10:15 a.m. service of worship.

Pentecost was a special service with a coffee, milk, and Moravian Sugar Cake reception held on the front lawn of the church outside.

We scheduled two outdoor services during the summer of 2021 but neither were held outside due to weather/rain.

Beginning September of 2021, we started getting back to some normalcy by having Sunday School starting Sept. 13 at 9 a.m. and regular worship resuming at 10:15 a.m. that day also. We have kept the stream-lined order of service and began video taping worship on a cell phone and then uploading it onto the computer to be put on Facebook and our YouTube channel weekly.

Choir will begin meeting in November and I'm sure there will be changes in how they provide leadership in worship but we will be glad to have them back.

It has been a crazy year and we have been grateful to remain together as a worshipping congregation of Jesus Christ!

Submitted by Lori Esslinger on behalf of the Music and Worship Committee: David Carlson, Susan Jacobs, Kathy Latshaw, Carolyn Rhoads, Brenda Shoemaker, and Darlene Schmeltzle (who died suddenly on Sept. 27. She will be missed).

Outlook Committee Annual Report for Oct. 2020-Sept. 2021

Due to the pandemic, no activities were conducted by the Outlook Committee during the time period of this report. For the church Annual meeting and budget presentation in Nov. of 2020, the Committee agreed to pay for the new microphones and other components of the sound system as we work to get the Worship Service into the homes and computers of our members. Our church family thanks us for this gift.

Submitted by Lori Esslinger

Personnel Committee Annual Report for Oct. 2020 – Sept. 2021

The Committee was busy this year with revamping the whole Employee Handbook. We took several drafts to Consistory for their feedback and correction until the end result was finally approved on Feb. 16, 2021. It was rolled out to the staff over the summer. Since it offers some new concepts regarding PTO and holidays for staff, we are working with it to monitor its effectiveness. So far, so good.

The Committee collected employee evaluations from each of the overseeing committees of our employees. Since we are not offering merit raises this year, it was just a trial period to get this information from the committees to be moving forward. Because of the virus, some of the committees have not met, so we only received three evaluations, but this will be improved for next year. We suggested to Finance Committee our recommendations for raises for the 2022 fiscal year. Finance Committee will take our suggestions into consideration when developing the new budget to present to the congregation.

The Committee also met several times to review and revise each job description of our employees and our volunteer Treasurer and Financial Secretary. We have put them together in a way we believe is consistent and correct for the jobs they do. We will be taking those to Consistory sometime during the Fall of 2021 to have them approved and placed into the policy manual and then reviewed again by each employee.

Thanks to our Personnel Committee: Diane Berger, Jan Strobel, Kathy Latshaw.

Reported by Lori Esslinger

Property Committee Annual Report for Oct. 2020 – Sept. 2021

Committee members: Beth Massa, Chair; Brenda Shoemaker, Consistory Representative; Bob Schmeltzle, Bobby Schmeltzle, Darlene Schmeltzle, Rich Shoemaker, Sharon Trexler

The faith-based purpose of the Property Committee is to maintain a historically beautiful church for worship where we can experience and share the loving presence of God as a Congregation and Community. All property and equipment of OZUCC are maintained for an affordable price.

Administrative

- Long-time committee member Darlene Schmeltzle passed away on September 27, 2021. Her ongoing work for and support of this group will be very deeply missed.
- Due to the Corona virus pandemic, our meetings were held virtually via Zoom during this church year.
- Many, many thanks to the volunteers who are not part of this committee but who help with the repairs and maintenance to our buildings and grounds this past year.
- Phil Rhode resigned as the Tenant Liaison; Robin Yoder stepped in to fill the role. Thanks to both.
- Again, due to the global pandemic, our building was not used much during the year, so much of our regular repairs and maintenance were postponed.

Work completed in past year

- With Finance Committee, performed a maintenance/safety inspection of the rental home (formerly parsonage) and remediated issues
- Completed key inventory; all keys to the church are either appropriately signed out or secured on church property
- Appropriate signage regarding parking installed
- Moved the water filtration system from the parsonage to the church
- Repaired wood doors on King's Highway side of building, including at top of entrance access ramp
- Replaced parsonage water heater
- Performed ongoing maintenance work around the church and parsonage (bell wheel and minor leaks repaired, caulking/sealant laid down as needed, etc.).

Respectfully submitted on behalf of the Committee,
Beth Massa, Chair

Social and Aid Society Annual Report for Oct. 2020-Sept. 2021

Committee Members: Annie and Bob Souder, BettyLou Hartman, Chester Yeakel

December 2020 – Gave church employees Christmas gifts.
Purchased potatoes for the Food Pantry.

May 2021 – Purchased flowers for Laura Wieder’s grave.
July 2021 – Gave \$1,500 to Windows for the Future Fund.
Gave \$1,500 to Cemetery Association.

Respectfully Submitted by Annie Souder

Windows to the Future Annual Report for Oct. 2020-Sept. 2021

Committee Members: Pastor Lori Esslinger, Beth Massa, Ruth Stansfield

RESTORATION

PHASE I: On October 7 Cumberland Stained Glass removed the two twin windows flanking the organ for transport to their studio in Mechanicsburg, PA. While the restoration took place, the openings were closed with homasote. The restored windows were reinstalled December 14 and 15 in time for Christmas as promised. The exterior work of installing the protective coverings and scraping and painting of the trim took place on April 17 and 18. This concluded Phase I of the restoration at a cost of \$24,890.

PHASE II: A contract was signed in April covering restoration of the Good Shepherd Window (glass only); a contract was signed in May covering restoration of the twin windows flanking the Good Shepherd as well as protective coverings; a contract was signed in August covering a protective covering for the Good Shepherd window. The total cost for this phase of the restoration is \$86,715.

Cumberland began work on Phase II on June 30 with the removal of six medallions from the rear windows for restoration by their artist. Cumberland returned September 16 and removed the twin windows for transport to their studio. The windows will be completed and returned by Thanksgiving. Depending on weather conditions, the exterior glass and trim work could be completed this fall. Restoration of the four panel Good Shepherd window will begin in December or January, 2022.

FUNDING

Phases I and II were fully funded through member contributions, fund raising and designated memorial donations. Additionally, when the Village School permanently closed due to the Covid virus, its leadership gifted the school's remaining financial assets to the fund. And, with agreement by the finance Committee, \$18,000 of undesignated memorial money was transferred to the fund. Families of departed members were contacted and advised that the Good Shepherd window will be declared the “Memorial Window” with a plaque placed under the window honoring the memory of their loved ones.

FUND RAISING

Sale of Windows note cards began in December. Two styles of cards were offered in

packs of five depicting the Nativity Window and Good Shepherd Window. To date, \$600 has been raised. 100% of the sales benefit the windows and the cards remain available for purchase.

In July the Social and Aid Society donated \$1,500 to the windows fund from previous fund raisers.

The Change for the Windows jar was available in the narthex during July and August resulting in \$365 in donations, far surpassing the \$135 collected in 2020.

In August an anonymous donor offered six beautiful like-new hand-made quilts to benefit the windows. The committee is researching the value of the quilts and the best way to maximize the return on the donation.

A second Matching Gift Challenge was rolled out during worship on September 12. Three members have pooled resources and will match member contributions during September, October and November up to \$5,000. The challenge is off to an amazing start with \$1,728 raised in September.

COMMUNICATIONS

The committee met almost monthly and project updates were included monthly in the newsletter. A slide presentation was given during worship on June 13 updating the congregation on the status of the project and funding. A summary was emailed/mailed to all members. During worship On September 12, the committee updated the congregation on the progress and timing of Phase II and kicked off the 2021 Matching Gift Challenge.

Respectfully submitted by Ruth Stansfield