

OLD ZIONSVILLE  
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

ANNUAL REPORT

October 2022 – September 2023



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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## **2023 Consistory**

**Elders:** Diane Berger  
Millie Kohler  
Cheryl Martucci  
Larry Stahler  
Jan Strobel  
Mark Weaver, Secretary

**Deacons:** Kathy Latshaw, President  
Gisela Thiel  
Roger Miller  
Robert Schmeltzle, Jr.  
Ruth Stansfield  
Sharon Trexler

Church Treasurer: Robin Yoder

## **2023 CHURCH STAFF**

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

### **Annual Report of Pastor October 1, 2022 to September 30, 2023**

October 2022 to September 2023 has been a year of Confirmation, two rounds of GriefShare, revising some important church documents like the facilities use policy and all employee job descriptions including mine. We had the church doors painted, faucets in the kitchen finally upgraded, the All Things Free program has grown and continues to serve more and more people. We recognized three of our employees for their years of service combined equaling seventy plus years!! We recognized Susan Jacobs for her 50 years of teaching Sunday School! Our computer systems, internet, and use of electronics in the building has increased and made new things possible for many groups. We have continuously improved the parsonage to meet the needs of the family living there. We completed the Fire Drill plan and practiced it with our Sunday School children and talked through it with our church family during worship in the event of ever having to actually use the plan. The Scouts continue their amazing activities with the support of our building and our care. The Windows to the Future program marches onward with the completion of the third window restoration almost completed as I write this. And so much more over the years and especially this year as we are back in full force since Covid. This summer, we started a Youth Group again. How wonderful it is to hear the laughter of youth in our halls playing games and learning together. But ultimately, we continue to be the Light of Christ here in Old Zionsville with the other churches in our Ministerium including our Lutheran, Mennonite and United Methodist brothers and sisters. Those relationships are growing stronger as we intentionally do more programs, worship, and activities together.

We are alive but it is not without struggle, deep conversation, and many prayers to pave the way as we grow together in Christ. May our work continue as we grow toward the future in faith.

Peace,  
The Rev. Lori Esslinger  
Part Time Pastor

## Statistics of Congregation

October 2022-September 2023

Due to letters that were sent out to members who have been previously dropped or transferred, we reinstate the following members at their request:

Ardyth Schaffer  
Richard and Sheila Daniel

Due to letters that were sent to our inactive members, telling them that we needed to hear from them in order to keep them on the church rolls, we move from inactive to active status:

Jeremy Hoch  
Erica Schmeltzle  
Betsy Eltz  
Nathan Yoder

Due to letters that were sent to inactive members, telling them we needed to hear from them in order to keep them on the church rolls, we have **dropped 17 members** because they did not respond to our request or they have moved and we could not locate them.

We continue to carry a list of 25 inactive members as of this date.

Our number of active members at this time: 207

This was made official by a unanimous vote of Consistory on Sept. 19, 2023

### **Average Sunday Worship Attendance: 57**

#### **Members Received:**

Tammy Walbert  
Dana Walbert  
MaryAnn Miller

#### **Baptisms:**

Willow Muth  
Aaliyah Kryzkowski  
Bryce Trexler

#### **Confirmands:**

Addison Trexler  
Owen Trexler  
Jacob French  
McGwire Martucci  
Piper Miller

#### **Deaths:**

Pauline Haring – 9/28/2022  
Carlton Dreas – 1/3/2023  
Phyllis Hoch – 2/2/2023  
William Yeakel – 6/8/2023  
Dorothy Mohr – 6/10/2023  
Patricia Horn – 8/29/2023

### **Giving Analysis from Oct. 2022-Sept. 30, 2023**

General Use - \$134,760.23  
Parking Lot - \$1,170.71  
Cemetery Association - \$8,214.99  
Memorial Fund - \$3,390.48  
Mission - \$3,390.00  
Flowers - \$1,440.00  
Bulletins – \$370.00  
Heat/Electric - \$635.00  
Sunday School - \$284.00  
Pastor Discretionary Fund - \$425.25  
Windows Fund - \$15,615.87  
Building Repair - \$2,172.51

**Proposed CHURCH BUDGET FOR 2024, Dec 2023**

	2023 Budget	Actual Oct 22 - Sept 23	2024 Budget
<b><u>INCOME</u></b>			
TOTAL REGULAR CHURCH INCOME	124,005	141,164	138,740
TOTAL BENEVOLENCE SUPPORT CONGREGATION	5,500	4,007	4,500
TOTAL MISC. INCOME	500	5,367	6,000
- Misc income includes \$ from fundraisers			
<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>	<b>130,005</b>	<b>150,537</b>	<b>149,240</b>

<b><u>EXPENSES</u></b>			
TOTAL PASTOR'S EXPENSE	44,431	43,069	44,500
- Includes Personnel Committee recommended increase			
CHRISTIAN ED SUPPLIES (SUNDAY SCHOOL)	300	1,139	600
TOTAL STAFF EXPENSE	53,900	53,400	54,950
- Includes Personnel Committee recommended increase			
TOTAL CHARITABLE CONTRIBUTIONS EXPENSE	6,000	4,205	4,500
TOTAL MUSIC & WORSHIP EXPENSE	5,250	3,975	5,050
TOTAL BUILDING & GROUNDS OPERATING EXPENSE	23,200	20,589	22,600
TOTAL OFFICE/COMMUNICATION OPERATING EXPENSES	4,610	5,546	9,150
TOTAL EXPENSE PROPERTY PROJECTS	5,721	5,946	5,000
- \$5,000 TBD projects - as necessary			
TOTAL PARSONAGE EXPENSES	7,800	7,235	7,800
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>	<b>151,212</b>	<b>145,105</b>	<b>154,150</b>

<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>	<b>130,005</b>	<b>150,537</b>	<b>149,240</b>
<b>TOTAL EXPENSE</b>	<b>151,212</b>	<b>145,105</b>	<b>154,150</b>

<b>NET CASH FLOW</b>	<b>(21,207)</b>	<b>5,432</b>	<b>(4,910)</b>
			<b>(1,610)</b>

net of computers

# COMMITTEE AND GROUP REPORTS

## **All Things Free (ATF) Report from October 2022 to September 2023**

With the help of faithful volunteers and a continuous flow of generous donations from church family and friends, we were able to celebrate another successful year of providing an amazing selection of free items for area food pantry families.

We currently serve an average of 64 families from three food pantries at each giveaway event. They include clients from our own Old Zionsville Area Food Pantry, Macungie Grace Lutheran Church's Food Cupboard and (since July) Emmaus Bethel Bible Fellowship Church's Groceries Plus.

In addition to our regular giveaway events, in November we had a table at the church bazaar and basket auction and donated our proceeds to a needy family. In December we provided winter coats for a woman and three children in an emergency situation. In June and September we donated our Emmaus community yard sale proceeds to our church's general fund.

Two meetings were held throughout the year at which our volunteers agreed on the following guidelines:

- Sort and store every Monday starting at 10:00am as needed.
- Hold giveaway days in January, March, May, July, September and November (dates to coincide with food distribution days of the Zionsville Area Food Pantry).
- All giveaway events will be held in the basement social hall with the exception of November when we move upstairs in order to expose clients to our beautiful sanctuary and Christmas music videos as they shop for their family and/or friends for Christmas.
- Continually place leftover books in the upstairs social room for anyone to take. (Donations accepted)
- Display a table at the Church Bazaar and Basket Auction. (Donations accepted)
- Continue donating each month's giveaway leftovers to any charity or organization in need at giveaway cleanup time.
- Sell any donated items as desired at yard sales or online to fund petty cash used to replenish needed supplies.
- Continue requiring clients to wear disposable gloves while shopping.
- Divide our sort and store workload by categories with a specific volunteer heading each category.
- Each month's giveaway will always include housewares, knickknacks, wall hangings, weather appropriate clothing, shoes and accessories, seasonal appropriate linens, towels, books, toys, games, jewelry and greeting cards.
- In addition to those standard items, each month will include special holiday items. January will feature Valentine's Day and St Patrick's Day. March will feature Easter and Mother's Day. May will feature Memorial Day, July 4th and Father's Day. July will feature school supplies and crafts. September will feature Halloween and Thanksgiving. November is ALL about CHRISTMAS. Nothing else will be available.

We continue to thank God for all who give donations so generously. We continue to thank God for our hardworking, dedicated, caring volunteers, our supportive church secretary and our faithful, supporting Pastor. We continue to pray God will bless all of us in our mission to help families in need.

This year's Monday sort and store volunteers included: Beth Eck, Heidi Beck, Jane Bedell, Sherri Harrison, Sue Hartman, Ethel Hollenbach, Millie Kohler, Sue Kohler, Alyson Miller, Phyllis Ritter, Debbie & Maynard Schaffer, Glenn Shingler and Gisela Thiel.

Extra volunteers for giveaway days included: Our confirmation class Jacob French, McGuire Martucci, Piper Miller, Addison Trexler, Owen Trexler and their families. Betty Lou Hartman, Debbie Gurgick, Susan Jacobs, Ken Kohler, Cheryl Martucci, Phil Rhode, Boy Scouts, Angela & Larry Stahler, Diane Urffer and Mark Weaver.

Respectfully submitted, Millie Kohler

## Cemetery Association Annual Report for Oct. 2022-Sept. 2023

The Cemetery Association continues to maintain the three cemeteries entrusted to us. The Committee is always looking for helpers to join to oversee the working parts of the Cemetery Association. If you are interested in supporting the Cemetery Association, see anyone on the Committee.

Cemetery caretaker for 2022-2023 was Michael Berger. We had four burials in the adjacent cemetery. No burials in the Union Cemetery. We made new brochures for Funeral Directors. Plots are available for purchase.

Members: Chris Schell, John Civitts, Jane Bedell, Dan Latshaw, Glenn Shingler and Larry Stahler.

Old Zionsville UCC Cemetery Association Profit & Loss October 2022 through September 2023	
	Oct '22 - Sep 23
Ordinary Income/Expense	
Income	
300 - Flat Stone Marker & Foundation	1,600.00
4003 - Perpetual Care	7,100.00
4004 - Donation	3,315.50
4005 - Interment	1,100.00
4011 - Miscellaneous Income	99.49
42000 - Gravesite Purchase	1,000.00
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>14,214.99</b>
Expense	
60504 - Petty Cash	422.02
60505 - Payroll	5,738.28
60507 - Federal Taxes	1,077.18
60509 - Local Taxes	81.30
60510 - State Taxes	216.19
<b>Total Expense</b>	<b>7,534.97</b>
<b>Net Ordinary Income</b>	<b>6,680.02</b>
<b>Net Income</b>	<b>6,680.02</b>

## Christian Education and Music and Worship Committees Annual Report for October 2022-September 2023

We began the Fall of 2022 with a great group in our Sunday School. There were 4 children in Early Elementary and Upper Elementary as well as 5 youth in the confirmation program to be completed in Sept. of 2023. We thank our dedicated teachers who have served this past year: **Susan Jacobs, Amber Kriebel, Deb Schoenberger, Linda and Mark Weaver, Lori Esslinger and serving Third Sunday Treats is Jack and Wendy Yeakel** with occasional assistance by **Pat Sajkowicz and Susan Jacobs**. Pat continues to play the piano for the children to sing at the start of each session. They occasionally share their talents in Worship.

The Confirmation program consisted of many parts. Students engaged in the Sunday School hour before worship, plus worship and then once a month gathered after worship for time to make and share lunch together as well as spend time with their mentors. They participated in

many service projects both at the church and in the community. We visited and participated in worship at The Temple Beth-El, a Jewish synagogue in South Whitehall Township, we served a meal and played BINGO with the residents of Safe Harbor in Easton. Safe Harbor is a homeless shelter/learning space for those in need. It was started many years ago by a United Church of Christ pastor, The Rev. John Thomas (who later went on to serve as the President of the UCC) and several churches in the Easton Area. We supported many of the mission projects of our church, provided skits during Advent and other occasions for worship, hosted a fundraiser for our General church fund which included BINGO, breakfast and lunch foods. We helped at the Spud Lunch, a fundraiser for the Windows to the Future project. Every first Sunday of the month, the teens prepared communion for the congregation. I would say it was a year full of learning, doing, and serving the Lord. On September 17, 2023, we joyfully confirmed all 5 of our confirmands into members of OZUCC.

Since the pandemic/Covid, we had not reinstated the Music and Worship Committee. After a rocky Advent of 2022, the group re-activated and began meeting quarterly to oversee worship and the music program as well as grapple with issues remaining since the pandemic. For the advent season, the Sunday School children traditionally sang at the White gift Sunday which includes wrapped gifts for Bethan Children's Home. Since our singers were in low number, Caroline French sang a solo, and Matthew Yenser also offered his vocal talent.

We poled the congregation on the best time for worship on Christmas Eve 2022 after having a 3 p.m., 5 p.m., 7 p.m. and 11 p.m. service for several years. The conclusion was to have a 3 p.m. (so those who don't drive at dark can attend) and the 7 p.m. to accommodate families who regularly attended that time.

At the January meeting of the committee, we discussed many things including:

- Taking down the cradle roll frame which had not been updated recently and putting back in that place a frame with pictures of our homebound members
- we thank Glenn Shingler and Beth Eck for joining the Altar Guild. They are learning from Susan Jacobs and changing the paraments and banners as needed.
- announcements and prayer requests will no longer be expanded upon during worship due to the live stream and confidentiality issues.
- Lent season was discussed and put together using the other churches in the ministerium as hosts for many parts of the potential opportunities for growth during this rich time before Easter.
- the time for summer worship was discussed
- documents for usher instructions, greeter instructions were discussed and will be updated.

At the March meeting:

- Cross Walk on Good Friday is planned and ready to go
- Easter services were planned
- Holy Humor Sunday was discussed
- we have New Members coming in on Mother's Day
- gifts for Mother's and Father's day will remain carnations
- Pentecost - wear red



- June 4th is the last day of Sunday School, children will sing in worship, there is communion that Sunday
- suggested we poll the congregation for time of summer worship, 9:30 or 10:15 a.m.
- David has a 30th anniversary this year, actually on the night of our meeting, we discussed staff vacation plans

At the June meeting:

- Carolyn will check the humidifier in the piano in the sanctuary
- we love the bunting around the exterior ramp rail. please have rich do this for each holiday
- new Bibles are being donated as a gift for the confirmation class. we are still working on which one to get.
- railings for the steps in the sanctuary going up the steps near the organ and at the back entrance to the loft were discussed. options will be looked into with the property committee
- the choir plan to sit together again was discussed
- staff reviews are due to personnel committee were discussed
- choir will start again Sept. 7
- calendar to the end of the year was discussed and agreed upon.

At Sept meeting:

- Lori will meet with employees and go over the staff reviews and salary expectations for the new year.
- report of the choir back in the loft discussion was shared
- services for fall and Christmas eve were discussed
- confirmation students and their families will be asked to take turns preparing communion for the rest of this year and the next

This report is prepared by Lori Esslinger on behalf of those participating in the committees throughout the year: Jane Bedell, Ruth Stansfield, Kathy Latshaw, Diane Berger, Jan Strobel, Cheryl Martucci, Millie Kohler, Brenda Shoemaker, Bobby Schmeltzle, Carolyn Rhoads, Susan Jacobs, Lori Esslinger and David Carlson. Thank you all.

## **Computer and Media Committee Annual Report for October 2022 to September 2023**

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

**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.

**Summary:** As the COVID-19 Pandemic waned to almost nothing over the past year, we continued our support for Live Streaming our Sunday Services to the Internet so those not

fortunate to attend could partake in our weekly worship. We also hoped to show those outside of the doors to this church that we are a strong community of faith, inviting those not our members to share in Christian belief. Comments coming back from those watching indicated that our viewing audience numbers are increasing. We had a somewhat limited budget for 2023, whereby we took the opportunity to "Catch Up" on some of the projects that have been delayed, mostly due to resource limitations. We pray that we can continue to support our church with our focus on Information Technology (IT), Sound & Audio, and Security.

### **October 2022:**

- A working detail of the Sound Team was held on October 5, with 3 Members and 1 Visitor present. Daniel Latshaw, Bobby Schmeltzle, and Mark Weaver, along with Rich Shoemaker worked on installing the new Wireless Microphones and hanging the Large Screen TV in the Lower Social Hall.
- Amber Kriebel joined our team to help with various duties on Sunday mornings.
- The proposed budget for 2023 was submitted on October 26<sup>th</sup>. Waiting for Finance and Consistory review.
  - IT Capital: (Solid State Drive upgrades for Office Computers)
  - IT Operating: (Typical Subscriptions for Computer Operation)
  - Sound Capital: (Projects Postponed – No budget requested)
  - Sound Operating: (Misc. Supplies)
  - Security Capital: (No budget requested)
  - Security Operating: (No budget requested)
- Media Coordinators:
  - Beth Massa continued working on updates to our Facebook Page, Google Calendar, and Website, along with participating in some online training.
  - Angela Stahler has still provided the primary directing of the Video Streaming operations.
- Live Streaming of Services:
  - Not sure how to proceed with transferring our recordings to CWTAP TV now that Jeff Tapler (Uncle Jeffrey) has passed.
- Sound System:
  - The new Wireless Microphones were installed and used for 2 Sunday services.
  - The large flat screen TV was mounted on the wall in the Lower Social Hall. Daniel Latshaw began building a cabinet to house the various other components associated with this installation.

### **November 2022:**

- Our meeting dates were changed to the First Wednesday of the Month to accommodate several of the folks that were no longer able to attend on the Third Tuesday. A meeting of the IT Team was held on November 2<sup>nd</sup> with 4 members and one visitor present.
- Budgets:
  - The proposed budget for 2023 was approved by Consistory on November 22<sup>nd</sup>.
- Media Coordinators:
  - Beth Massa stated that her work on the various media platforms is Status Quo.
  - Angela Stahler continued directing the Video Streaming operations each Sunday and is looking forward to learning and helping with additional media functions.
- Live Streaming of Services:
  - There has been no progress on transferring our recordings to CWTAP TV since Jeff Tapler (Uncle Jeffrey) has passed.
- Sound System:
  - The new Wireless Microphones are working well.
  - Daniel Latshaw has fabricated and installed a nice cabinet in the Lower Social Hall to house our equipment.

### **December 2022:**

- There was no Sound Team meeting in December.

- Budgets:
  - The budget for 2023 was approved by the Congregation on December 4<sup>th</sup>, including the line items for the C&M Committee.
- Media Coordinators:
  - Amber Kriebel has shown interest in learning the Video Streaming process.
  - Media Coordinators will meet with Pastor Lori to refine roles and responsibilities on January 5th.
- Live Streaming of Services:
  - We tried to contact Jim Ritter to arrange for transferring our recordings to CWTAP TV since Jeff Tapler (Uncle Jeffrey) has passed.
- Office Projects:
  - Mark Weaver has made instructional checklists for the PowerPoint slide operation and for rebooting the Internet Router.
- Sound System:
  - There is more work needed to complete the installation of the Sound System in the Lower Social Hall as well as the Auxiliary Speakers.
  - Sound System Training was scheduled for January 2023.

### **January 2023:**

- A Combined Teams meeting was held on Wednesday January 4<sup>th</sup> with 8 Members and 1 Visitor present.
- Media Coordinators:
  - Beth Massa started a Daily Post on Facebook selecting passages from the Bible in order to complete the entire Bible in one year. She also worked on collecting statistics for all our Social Media outlets.
  - Angela Stahler reported that the Video Streaming is going well and is looking forward to taking on more responsibilities in 2023.
  - Beth and Angela met with Pastor Lori and Kathy Latshaw on January 5th to refine roles and responsibilities.
- Office Projects:
  - Installation of the computer for the Media Coordinator in the back office was completed on December 26<sup>th</sup>.
  - Office PC Solid State Drive Upgrades were scheduled. Materials were purchased and received.
  - New Backup Software was ordered. Installation to be scheduled once received.
- Live Streaming of Services:
  - Pastor Lori attempted to make initial contact with Jim Ritter regarding the transfer of our recordings to CWTAP TV.
- Sound System:
  - Sound System Training was held on January 22<sup>nd</sup> after church.
  - The Sound Team worked to correct a battery issue with the new microphones as well as made adjustments to improve the volume on the left side of the sanctuary.

### **February 2023:**

- In lieu of a meeting, a Sound Team work detail was held on Wednesday February 1<sup>st</sup> with 3 Members and 1 Visitor present.
- Media Coordinators:
  - Beth Massa continued the Daily Post on Facebook for reading the entire Bible in one year. She also continued to collect statistics for all our Social Media outlets.
  - Angela Stahler reported that the Video Streaming was still going well and that she was starting to take some on-line learning courses.
- Office Projects:
  - Pastor Lori had some PC trouble. Mark fixed several issues and began the upgrade work for 2023.

- The annual PC Administrator Password changes were in progress
- Office PC Solid State Drive Upgrades were scheduled.
- Backup Software was received and installation in progress.
- Live Streaming of Services:
  - Pastor Lori was still working to connect Jim Ritter and Beth Massa to get our recordings on CWTAP TV.
- Sound System:
  - Handheld Mic 2 still had some noise and needed to have the frequency changed.
  - Leftover Speakers, that had been replaced in the sanctuary, were installed in the Lower Social Hall. Various pieces of equipment that we have acquired were used for the sound System in the Lower Social Hall.
  - A donated PC was installed and connected to the Large Screen TV in the Lower Social Hall. We can now show slides if we need to have services downstairs in the summer.

### **March 2023:**

- The IT Team Meeting was canceled for March 1<sup>st</sup> (Personnel conflicts without pressing issues).
- Office Projects:
  - Annual PC Administrator Password changes were completed.
  - Office PC Solid State Drive Upgrades were completed.
  - Backup Software installation was completed except for the Streaming PC.
- Live Streaming of Services:
  - We were unable to Stream the Service on Sunday 3/5 due to some issues with the Streaming PC.
  - Seems there was a Microsoft Update or Dell Update that caused the VMix Software to crash the network connection. The PC was restored to an earlier date, MS Updates turned off, and VMix re-installed. Streaming went out fine on Sunday 3/12.
- Sound System:
  - Handheld Mic 2 still needed to have the frequency changed but it was used on 3/12 without issue.
  - Sound System installation in Lower Social Hall was still in progress.

### **April 2023:**

- The Sound Team Meeting was canceled for April 5<sup>th</sup> (Holy Week / No Urgent Business).
- Live Streaming of Services:
  - No update on connecting Jim Ritter and Beth Massa to get our recordings on CWTAP TV.
- Sound System:
  - Handheld Mic 2 frequency change was completed 4/13.
  - Sound System installation in Lower Social Hall was to be part of the work detail on 4/26.
  - Discussion with the Bill Yeakel Family concerning the installation of Assistive Listening equipment.
  - The work detail scheduled for April 26<sup>th</sup> was then canceled due to illness.

### **May 2023:**

- The IT Team Meeting was canceled for May 3<sup>rd</sup> (Supper Club Conflict / No Urgent Business).
- Live Streaming of Services:
  - Jim Ritter was no longer managing the broadcast schedule and content at CWTAP TV. Jim told us he would discuss our need with Kevin Carl and get back to us.
- Sound System:
  - Assistive Listening System (Headphones for Hearing Impaired):

- Bill Yeakel (and family) had requested a way to get headphones to better hear the service.
- Mark Weaver contacted Full Compass for bids on a system that came in at approximately \$1000.
- We had an anonymous donor that offered to pay for the system in its entirety.
- A system of 1 transmitter and 4 receivers from Listen Technologies was purchased and installed as of Monday May 1<sup>st</sup>.
- Bill Yeakel used the system for the first time on Sunday May 7<sup>th</sup> and reported that it worked well.
- Sound System installation in Lower Social Hall:
  - Mark Weaver completed most of the work on the system on Wednesday May 10<sup>th</sup>.
  - Some additional work was still needed to complete the job, but it was operational with 1 wired and 1 wireless microphone.
  - Note: The Amplifier is temporary and on loan from Mark Weaver until such time as a permanent one can be budgeted and purchased.

### **June 2023:**

- A Combined Teams Meeting was held on June 7<sup>th</sup> with 4 members present.
- Live Streaming of Services
  - Due to the difficulties with the reorganization of CWTAP TV and with the success of our current Live Streaming program, we decided not to pursue getting our services produced by CWTAP.
- Sound System
  - Assistive Listening System (Headphones for Hearing Impaired):
    - The system was functional, and we are mentioning it on the preview slides at the Services.
  - Sound System installation in Lower Social Hall:
    - Tested and used the system at the Ascension Service on May 18<sup>th</sup>.
    - Some additional work was still needed to complete the job.

### **July and August 2023:**

- No meetings in July (7/5) or August (8/2).
- Mark Weaver completed the Employee Personnel Evaluations and submitted them on June 14, 2023
- Office Projects:
  - Backup Software was installed 6/26 on the Streaming PC.
  - Basement PC was used for 2 services. Some minor adjustments were still needed.
- Live Streaming of Services:
  - Amber Kriebel has been trained in directing the Live Streaming of Services and has filled in for Angela Stahler on several occasions.
  - Weekly Streaming of Services to YouTube and Facebook continues to go well.
- Sound System
  - Lower Social Hall Sound System:
    - Considering relocation of the speakers and/or adding 2 more.
    - Need to connect Basement PC to the Sound Mixer.
  - Aux Speakers:
    - The Narthex speaker was connected and tested.
    - The Nursery speaker was replaced and tested.
    - The Kitchen speaker still needs to be installed and wired.
- Security:
  - Concern for vandalism at Cemetery Shed. A Wireless Camera System to monitor that area needs to be discussed.

## **September 2023:**

- A Combined Teams meeting was held September 6<sup>th</sup> with 6 members present.
- We welcomed Jacob French to our team to begin learning the various systems.
- 2024 Budget Planning: A list of potential spending for 2024 was discussed, which Mark will finalize and send to the Finance Committee, and will include:
  - IT Capital: (Replace 3 PCs for Windows 11 Upgrade)
  - IT Operating: (Typical Subscriptions for Computer Operation)
  - Sound Capital: (Projects Postponed – No budget requested)
  - Sound Operating: (Misc. Supplies)
  - Security Capital: (UPS for PTZ Camera in Pastor's Office)
  - Security Operating: (No budget requested)
- Media Coordinators:
  - Beth continued to work on updates to our Facebook Page, Google Calendar, and Website.
  - Angela Stahler continued as the primary Director for the Live Streaming of Services.
- Sound System
  - Pastor's Microphone Feedback – Rear speaker was re-aligned / Continued to adjust.
  - Ordered 2 new microphones for the Bell Choir that hopes to restart soon.

## **Looking Forward - There is still a bit more work to be done:**

- Media Coordinators:
  - Beth Massa continues as our primary Media Coordinator
  - Angela Stahler will provide an assistant role and continue as our primary Streaming Director.
  - Amber Kriebel assists with the Live Streaming and can direct in Angela's absence.
- Office Projects:
  - With the end of support by Microsoft for Windows 10 in October 2025, we will need to upgrade most of the 5-6 computers within the church. We plan to upgrade at least 3 of the PCs, including the new Windows 11 operating system, in 2024.
  - Along with the Windows 11 upgrade comes new software. We will also be upgrading MS Office to MS 365 in 2024.
- Sound System:
  - Assistive Listening System (Headphones for Hearing Impaired): Still need to install the signage.
  - Lower Social Hall Sound System: Still some small open items and Training needed.
  - Aux Speakers: The Kitchen speaker still needs to be installed and wired.
- Security:
  - Cameras #5 and # 6 need to be installed in the Bell Tower.
  - Need to install a small UPS for PTZ Camera powered from Pastor's Office.
  - If the Cemetery Committee is still in need of Security Camera coverage for the shed area, then it was discussed and suggested that the Wireless Camera System needed should potentially be paid for by the Cemetery and not from the General Fund.
- Implementation of our 2024 Budget Line Items, if approved

Respectfully submitted by Mark Weaver

## **Cub Pack 31: Highlights from Oct. 2022 through Sept. 2023**

No report was submitted for this year.

## **Faith Uniting Neighbors (F.U.N.) Group Annual Report for October 2022 to September 2023**

Our 25<sup>th</sup> annual Bazaar and Filled Basket Auction was quite a success on November 13, 2022. Our total profit was \$2,997.91 and we were able to donate \$3,015.00 to the following:

- \$200.00 – Hackerman-Patz House
- \$300.00 – Lehigh County Conference of Churches
- \$200.00 – Lehigh Valley Hospice
- \$165.00 – Macungie Ambulance
- \$250.00 – Meals on Wheels
- \$200.00 – Phoebe Auxiliary/Phoebe Ministries
- \$400.00 – Second Harvest Food Bank
- \$400.00 – Sixth Street Shelter
- \$200.00 – OZUCC Parking Lot
- \$200.00 – Upper Milford Fire Company
- \$500.00 – OZUCC General Fund

Please note that 23% went back to the church. Thank you to everyone who donated baskets, baked goods, and bought food and tickets, and volunteered.

In December, our Share the Warmth Collection provided soups and beverages donated to the Zionsville Area Food Pantry.

The Souper Bowl on February 26<sup>th</sup> was attended by 42. Soups were collected, plus an additional \$45.00 in donations for the Food Pantry. Twelve donated soups, bread, crackers and desserts were enjoyed by all attending.

Two large boxes of toiletries and cleaning supplies were collected in April for the Food Pantry.

The Friends and Families Spring Fling, also in April, was a new addition this year. A dinner catered by Diana's Café, followed by a laughter-filled program by Marian and Friends Ventriloquist was enjoyed by 48 adults, 7 youth and 3 children. Good food and fellowship abounded on April 15<sup>th</sup>.

June saw a successful Peanut Butter and Jelly collection for the Food Pantry.

And on September 17, FUN Group provided New Member Bags for the five confirmands as well as thank you treats to Pastor Lori and her assistant, Amber Kriebel.

Submitted in Christ's Service by Jan Strobel

## **Finance Committee Annual Report October 2022 to September 2023**

The Finance committee consists of the Finance Chair: Cheryl Martucci, Treasurer: Robin Yoder, Consistory President: Kathy Latshaw, Staff/bookkeeper/administrator: Brenda Seitz, Deborah Gurgick, Ruth Stansfield, and Paula Lilly.

### **Oct 2022**

Committee reviewed the financial report and motion carried to approve the reports and pay the bills. Discussed the match drive for the window fund. Discussed adding a computer to the budget for next year. Discussed the use of the Pastor's discretionary fund to be brought to Elders on consistory. Recommended that Property Committee receive bids for an awning in the front of the church.

### **Nov 2022**

Committee reviewed the financial report and motion carried to approve the reports and pay the bills.

Dec 2022

Committee reviewed the financial report and motion carried to approve the reports and pay the bills.

Jan 2023

Committee reviewed the financial report and motion carried to approve the reports and pay the bills. Updated Parsonage lease to include non-refundable deposits for extra cats. Discussed opening new CDs and Money Market accounts.

Feb 2023

Committee reviewed the financial report and motion carried to approve the reports and pay the bills. All matching gifts from Window Challenge came in, discussed upcoming fundraisers for Spring. New Money Market and CD were opened at New Tripoli Bank. Discussed fundraisers for General Fund.

March 2023

Committee reviewed the financial report and motion carried to approve the reports and pay the bills. Updated Pastor's Discretionary Fund and was signed by Consistory. Discussed CCLI and CVLI and decided that One License and Streaming license will go under Computer and Media Account; CCLI will go under Music and Worship Account in QuickBooks. ChurchTrac and QuickBooks will be placed under Office Supplies on P&L.

April 2023

Committee reviewed the financial report and motion carried to approve the reports and pay the bills. Walk through inspection of parsonage went well and rent increase will take place in July. Window fundraiser Spud lunch was a success and raised \$375. Church awning project is in process and will be taken care of by Outlook Committee. Dealing with offering envelope delay and getting prices from other vendors. Discussed letters to members regarding church finances to keep them updated throughout the year. Discussed long and short term options of possible income if we sold the parsonage.

May 2023

Committee reviewed the financial report and motion carried to approve the reports and pay the bills.

June 2023

Committee reviewed the financial report and motion carried to approve the reports and pay the bills. Discussed getting a Small Games License. Added Cemetery Investment money to Bank balance sheet. Reviewed budget and currently on track.

July 2023

Committee reviewed the financial report and motion carried to approve the reports and pay the bills. Decided letters to members will go out in August regarding church finances.

August 2023

Committee reviewed the financial report and motion carried to approve the reports and pay the bills. Discussed that we will redeem CD's as they mature and place at New Tripoli where rates are higher. Social and Aid dissolved their committee and balance of their checking account will be distributed between general fund and cemetery. Discussed conference guidelines for salary increases. Personnel Committee is recommending a 1% raise across the board and asked if there were any finance concern.

Sept 2023

Committee reviewed the financial report and motion carried to approve the reports and pay the bills. Window challenge of \$5000 has begun. 6 Challengers have come forward. The CD's were closed without penalty and deposited in Money Market. Discussed opening new CD's for possible 6 months, 18 months, and 24 months for best rates. Discussed combining accounts with General with separate tabs in QuickBooks and will take recommendation to Consistory.

Respectfully submitted by Cheryl Martucci



## Historical Task Force Annual Report for Oct. 2022 - Sept. 2023

No further movement has been made on our application to apply National Historic Registry Status during this past year. Perhaps we will be able to pick up the progress where we left off.

Submitted by Lori Esslinger

## Membership and Evangelism Committee Annual Report for October 2022-September 2023

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

**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.

**Summary:** We had a great year with many fine events and lots of new faces, albeit finding venues that would take reservations for larger groups, allow us to dine from the menu, and to pay individually continues to plague the planning process. Our "Dining Around the World" program in the spring of 2023 was a huge success, we added the Picnic Pavilion to our annual Iron Pigs outing, and we saw a great show at the Pines Dinner Theatre. All-in-All, we managed a new record of 37 events and thank all for generating such great fellowship throughout.

In addition, GriefShare, a national 13-week program for helping people walk through the grieving process, has again been well received by the many recipients who have participated. We thank our leaders Terry Eck, Paula Lilly, and Nancy Weitzel for their continued faithfulness. In the fall of 2022, we had 6 participants begin the program with only 2 completing it because of various reasons. Spring of 2023, we had 10 participants begin the program with only 6 completing it. Now in Fall of 2023, we had 12 participants begin, but it is common for folks to have trouble completing the program. It is a long process, but we always say they can come back to participate again. We have three repeat participants this time around who are a great help with discussions. We thank the church for supporting this worthwhile program for our church and our community.

### October 2022:

- October 7<sup>th</sup> - Supper Club – Bally Hotel – 13 attended.
- October 15<sup>th</sup> – State Theatre – David – 15 attended.
- October 16<sup>th</sup> – Sunday Brunches – Mercantile Club – 17 attended.
- October 28<sup>th</sup> – Lunch Bunch – Ham Fam – 18 attended.

### November 2022:

- November 4<sup>th</sup> – Supper Club – Washington Grille and 20 attended.
- November 18<sup>th</sup> - Lunch Bunch – Pennsburg Diner – 11 attended.
- November 20<sup>th</sup> – Sunday Brunches – Mercantile Club – 15 attended.

### December 2022:

- December 2<sup>nd</sup> – Supper Club Christmas Party – Mercantile Club – 22 attended.
- December 12<sup>th</sup> – Dinner Theatre Event – Pines Dinner Theatre – 12 attended.
- December 16<sup>th</sup> – Lunch Bunch – Superior Restaurant – 21 attended.

### January 2023 – Dining Around the World (DAW) begins:

- January 6<sup>th</sup> - Supper Club DAW Japan – A1 Japanese Steak House – 15 attended.
- January 15<sup>th</sup> – Sunday Brunches – Mercantile Club – 16 attended.
- January 27<sup>th</sup> – Lunch Bunch – Trivet – 14 attended.

### February 2023:

- February 10<sup>th</sup> – Supper Club DAW America – Washington Grille and Pub – 18 attended.

- February 19<sup>th</sup> – Sunday Brunches – Mercantile Club – 18 attended.
- February 24<sup>th</sup> – Lunch Bunch – East Penn Diner – 13 attended.

### **March 2023:**

- March 3<sup>rd</sup> – Supper Club Extra – Spinnerstown Hotel – 15 attended.
- March 8<sup>th</sup> – Supper Club DAW Scotland – Braveheart – 11 attended.
- March 10<sup>th</sup> – State Theatre – Rhythm of the Dance – 11 attended.
- March 19<sup>th</sup> – Sunday Brunches – Mercantile Club – 17 attended.
- March 24<sup>th</sup> – Lunch Bunch – Chino’s – 16 attended.

### **April 2023:**

- April 14<sup>th</sup> – Supper Club DAW Italy – Ruffino’s – 19 attended.
- April 23<sup>rd</sup> – Sunday Brunches – Mercantile Club – 7 attended.
- April 28<sup>th</sup> – Lunch Bunch – Perkins – 9 attended.

### **May 2023:**

- May 3<sup>rd</sup> – Supper Club DAW Hungary – Paprika’s – 11 attended.
- May 5<sup>th</sup> – Supper Club Extra – Ozgood’s – 11 attended.
- May 21<sup>st</sup> – Sunday Brunches – Mercantile Club – 17 attended.
- May 26<sup>th</sup> – Lunch Bunch – Sunrise Diner – 9 attended.

### **June 2023:**

- June 2<sup>nd</sup> – Supper Club DAW Mexico – Casa Catrina – 9 attended.
- June 11<sup>th</sup> – Sunday Brunches – Mercantile Club – 18 attended.
- June 17<sup>th</sup> – Iron Pigs – Coca Cola Park Picnic Patio – 50 attended.
- June 23<sup>rd</sup> – Lunch Bunch – Ham Fam – 12 attended.

### **July 2023:**

- Supper Club and Lunch Bunch took a summer break in July and August
- July 16<sup>th</sup> – Sunday Brunches – Mercantile Club – 14 attended,

### **August 2023:**

- August 20<sup>th</sup> – Sunday Brunches – Mercantile Club – 14 attended.

### **September 2023:**

- September 8<sup>th</sup> – Supper Club – Delizioso Italian Grill – 17 attended.
- September 24<sup>th</sup> – Sunday Brunches – Topton Fish and Game Assoc. – 15 attended.
- September 29<sup>th</sup> – Lunch Bunch – Perkins – 17 attended.

### **Looking Forward to Fall 2023 and 2024:**

- We continue our plans for our familiar activities, including Supper Club, Sunday Brunchers, and Lunch Bunch through the fall of 2023 and are beginning to work on the schedule for the new year. Plans for some additional activities include:
  - a) A gala Christmas Party at the Superior Restaurant on December 9<sup>th</sup>.
  - b) Several events at the State Theatre in Spring 2024, which include Abba Tribute, Queen Tribute, and Chicago the Musical.
  - c) Returning to the Picnic Pavilion at the Iron Pigs on June 22<sup>nd</sup>.
- Finally, GriefShare is again planning to run the program with evening sessions in Spring 2024 and afternoon sessions beginning again in August of 2024. Stay tuned to our newsletter and bulletins for more specific information.

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

## **Outlook Committee Annual Report for Oct. 2022-Sept. 2023**

Committee Members: Robert Schmeltzle, Sharon Trexler, Randy Trexler, Richard Shoemaker, Henry Heil, Roger Miller, Mishelle Miller, Brenda Shoemaker

March 6, 2023 was the first meeting since 2022 and fundraisers for the church were discussed.

Next meeting was on April 4, 2023 and an awning for the front entrance of the church was discussed. The bid of \$8,100 given by Reinhardt Awning and was accepted. The Committee gave Reinhardt the okay to place the order.

In May we did a Fundraiser of Ham and Cheese and Lebanon Bologna and Cheese Sandwiches. We sold 184 Ham and Cheese Sandwiches; 27 Lebanon and Cheese Sandwiches. Profit was \$642.00.

We also gave money toward the bill for the Suppression System repair in the Kitchen a total of \$884.50.

We met again on August 3, 2023 and decided to do a Sausage Sandwich Fundraiser in October. Two weeks prior to due date the Committee canceled the fundraiser because they did not receive enough orders.

Respectfully submitted by Brenda Shoemaker

## **Personnel Committee Annual Report for Oct. 2022 – Sept. 2023**

This past year has been quiet for the Personnel committee. We have been monitoring the workings of our staff and making sure that evaluations were conducted and turned in for our review. We have made ourselves available for any staff issues as always, but haven't worked on anything this year. We met to consider raises in light of the economic times and made our suggestions to consistory and finance committee. Raises are not based on merit but cost of living and the best guess we have for the future financial picture of the church. Thanks to our committee for their faithfulness.

Submitted by Lori Esslinger, for Diane Berger, Jan Strobel, Kathy Latshaw.

## **Property Committee Annual Report for Oct. 2022 – Sept. 2023**

Committee members: Diane Berger, Consistory Representative; Bobby Schmeltzle; Brenda Shoemaker, Rich Shoemaker; Randy Trexler; Sharon Trexler; Pastor Lori; Beth Massa, chair

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.

We typically meet every other second Monday of the month at 7 PM, usually at the church. Our meeting months are February, April, June, August, October, and December. If you're interested in joining the committee, please reach out to any of our current members.

### **Administrative**

- We met in person in October and December, 2022, and February, June, and August, 2023. No meeting in April 2023.
- 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.
- Robin Yoder continues as tenant liaison. Thanks for her work in that role this past year.
- No major project work was done due to budgetary limitations.

### **Work completed in past year**

- Continued interactions with tenant liaison to ensure situations with parsonage are handled in a timely manner
- Clock in upper social hall repaired with support of congregation member who supported the work financially
- Outside doors of the building painted
- Windows renovation work continued; see report else in this annual meeting packet
- Sanctuary curtain repaired
- Well/sewage system of the church and parsonage met state portability guidelines.
- Facilitated fire drills for Sunday school and Sunday worship services
- Performed ongoing maintenance work around the church and parsonage (fire extinguishers inspected and approved, boiler upkeep/maintenance, snowplowing, etc.).

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

### **Scout Troop 31: Highlights from Oct. 2022-Sept. 2023**

No report was submitted for this year.

### **Social and Aid Society Annual Report for Oct. 2022-Sept. 2023**

Committee Members: Annie and Bob Souder, BettyLou Hartman

April 2023 – Gave \$200.00 toward the Suppression System repair in the Kitchen

May 18, 2023 – Helped Outlook Committee make Ham and Cheese Sandwiches

June 4, 2023 – Made Hamburger Barbecue for Church covered dish luncheon

June 10, 2023 – Gave Hamburger Barbecue for Confirmation Class visit to Safe Harbor

June 17, 2023 – Held a Hamburger Vegetable Soup Sale, made 55 quarts of soup, profit was \$451.00 to the Church's General Fund

August 2, 2023 – Gave \$959.50 to the Church's General Fund and \$959.50 to the Cemetery Association.

Respectfully Submitted by Annie Souder

### **Windows to the Future Annual Report for Oct. 2022-Sept. 2023**

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

#### **RESTORATION**

Phase 3 of the project began and will include restoration of the nativity window and side twin windows, the addition of new protective glass, and the repair and painting of the exterior trim.

A contract was signed with Cumberland in November for restoration of the nativity window and a 25% deposit was made towards the cost of \$44,975. Cumberland removed the window on May 31 and June 1. Replacement is expected in October 2023.

#### **FUNDING**

The nativity window glass restoration is fully funded. The remainder of the work in Phase 3 will cost \$41,740. Member support and fund raising will see us to completion of the project.

#### **FUND RAISING**

2022 Matching Gift Challenge The \$3,000 challenge continued during October and November. When the challenge was met by mid-October, another member increased the challenge by

adding another \$1,000. By the end of November, the new goal of \$4,000 was also met, raising \$8,681 in just three months.

Quilt Sales The two remaining handmade quilts were offered for sale in October for \$350 each or best offer. A member purchased one of them in December for full price, resulting in \$2,258 raised for five quilts. A raffle is being held for the final quilt, with tickets priced at \$5 or three for \$10. Ticket sales began at the Vera Cruz Homecoming in August and will continue until the church bazaar and basket auction on November 11 when a winner will be chosen.

Baked Potato Bar Lunch Following worship on March 20, 40 members enjoyed a baked potato bar. The potatoes, fixings, desserts and beverages were donated by the committee and parents and mentors of the confirmands, resulting in a profit of \$375. The confirmands participated by setting up the room, wrapping all the potatoes for baking, and making sure the many fixings were replenished.

Change Jar The change jar continued in the narthex every Sunday and has successfully raised a total \$1,064 since it first appeared in 2020.

2023 Matching Gift Challenge The fourth annual challenge kicked off September 10 with six donors combining funds to offer a \$5,000 challenge. The challenge will continue through the end of November.

Thank you members and friends for your faithful support of the restoration of our beautiful stained glass windows.

Respectfully submitted by Ruth Stansfield

## **New Committee is Emerging**

Throughout the year, several friends of the congregation decided to do something different to raise money for our General Fund. In spring, we sold Soft Pretzels several times to the congregation after worship for cash and carry. These were purchased at a fundraising price from The Pretzel Factory. A few weeks later we discovered bags of gourmet popcorn that we also then offered to the congregation for cash and carry. For the confirmation BINGO event in August, we made hot dogs on the rollers, red beet eggs, pasta salad, and soft pretzels all for sale at the event. For the Vera Cruz Homecoming, we made pickled cabbage and fruit salad for sale at our coin toss stand with the other churches in our Ministerium. These were all successful fund raising events that required our hands and energy while we were having fun getting to know each other. We are now in the process of creating a mission statement and applying to Consistory to be considered a committee of the church so we may move forward with more fundraising through our hands and the use of the church kitchen for new and interesting ways to serve our church family and eventually the community. Thanks to all for their support.

Submitted by Lori Esslinger, on behalf of Lisa Talecki, Richard Yeakel, Angela Stahler, Diane Berger and Jane Bedell