

OLD ZIONSVILLE
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

ANNUAL REPORT

October 2023 – September 2024



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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2024 Consistory

Elders: Diane Berger
Cheryl Martucci
Brenda Shoemaker
Larry Stahler
Jan Strobel
Mark Weaver

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

Co-Presidents: Kathy Latshaw and Sharon Trexler

Secretary: Mark Weaver

Treasurer: Robin Yoder

2024 CHURCH STAFF

Pastor: Rev. Lori Esslinger
Organist: David Carlson
Choir Director: Carolyn Rhoads
Secretary: Brenda Seitz
Sexton: Richard Shoemaker
Computer and Media: Angela Stahler
Elizabeth Massa

Pastor's Report

October 2023 - September 2024 has been a year of ups and downs for our church family. Deaths of long time church members, many of them homebound, created times of sorrow and grief throughout this year. Some big projects were completed (painting the exteriors of the church carriage house and doors, and the window project) and some scary projects uncovered namely the parking lot, gas line, parsonage and boiler issues. Our consistory and property committee were consistently challenged with looking into ways to keep everyone safe as well as making good stewardship decisions. These efforts have brought about partial resolutions and ongoing issues which are partly the result of our aging building. There was good news too in several wonderful financial donations which have been gratefully received to keep us moving forward. You will learn more about these blessings in the pages ahead. We thank each of the committee leaders who reported these happenings for the historical record of what our church has been up to. Along the way, many hearts were warmed, learnings made, and the Spirit was present in this place. May God be praised for the past, present and the future of Old Zionsville United Church of Christ.

Peace,

The Rev. Lori Esslinger in her 10th year of serving this church part time.

Statistics of Congregation

October 2023-September 2024

Average Sunday Worship Attendance: 48

Members Received:

November 2023: Richard Yeakel
Lisa Talecki

Baptisms: 0

Marriages: 0

Deaths:

Grace Arce – October 28, 2023
Arlene Scheirer – November 4, 2023
MaryAnn Miller – February 1, 2024
Frederick Gibiser – February 22, 2024
Emily Dreas – June 8, 2024
Chester Yeakel – August 19, 2024

Congregation Membership

209 members as of October 1, 2023

Additions: 2

Deaths: 6

Giving Analysis from Oct. 2023-Sept. 30, 2024

General Use - \$157,319.65
Parking Lot - \$1,900.08
Cemetery Association - \$8,653.72
Memorial Fund - \$790.99
Mission - \$3,842.98
Flowers - \$2,185.00
Bulletins – \$420.00
Utilities - \$855.00
Sunday School - \$350.00
Pastor Discretionary Fund - \$863.00
Windows Fund - \$17,163.50
Building Repair - \$630.00

Proposed CHURCH BUDGET FOR 2025

	2024 Budget	Oct 2023 - Sept 2024 actual	Oct 2024 - Sept 2025 Budget
<u>INCOME</u>			
TOTAL REGULAR CHURCH INCOME	138,740	144,589	142,760
TOTAL BENEVOLENCE SUPPORT CONGREGATION	4,500	5,031	3,750
TRANSFER FROM MEMORIAL	-	2,070	
TOTAL MISC. INCOME	6,000	17,454	15,940
TOTAL INCOME	149,240	169,144	162,450
<u>EXPENSES</u>			
TOTAL PASTOR'S EXPENSE <i>- Includes Personnel Committee recommended increase</i>	44,500	43,320	45,000
CHRISTIAN ED SUPPLIES (SUNDAY SCHOOL)	600	576	450
TOTAL STAFF EXPENSE <i>- Includes Personnel Committee recommended increases</i>	54,950	53,958	56,134
TOTAL CHARITABLE CONTRIBUTIONS EXPENSE	4,500	5,761	3,900
TOTAL MUSIC & WORSHIP EXPENSE	5,050	5,207	4,825
TOTAL BUILDING & GROUNDS OPERATING EXPENSE	22,600	28,848	29,950
TOTAL OFFICE/COMMUNICATION OPERATING EXPENSES	9,150	8,208	7,425
TOTAL EXPENSE PROPERTY PROJECTS <i>- \$5,000 TBD projects - as necessary</i>	5,000	725	5,000
TOTAL PARSONAGE EXPENSES	7,800	9,504	11,100
MISC EXPENSES	-	7,161	6,200
TOTAL EXPENSES	154,150	163,268	169,984
TOTAL INCOME	149,240	169,144	162,450
TOTAL EXPENSE	154,150	163,268	169,984
NET CASH FLOW	(4,910)	5,876	(7,534)

COMMITTEE AND GROUP REPORTS

All Things Free Room (ATF)

Once again with the help of God, prayers, faithful volunteers and the continuous flow of donations from our church family and community friends, we were able to provide clients from our three food pantries with many of their everyday life necessities.

Invited clients come to us from the Old Zionsville Area Food Pantry, the Food Cupboard of Grace Lutheran Church in Macungie and the Groceries Plus of Bethel Bible Fellowship Church in Emmaus.

Our Mission Statement

The ATF Room is a sub-group of FUN Group. In following God's teachings to help our fellow man (1 Corinthians 9:2) our committee is created and committed to providing clothing and other household amenities (with the exception of food) to those in surrounding communities with extenuating circumstances.

Guided by our Mission Statement we are grateful to have completed the following this year:

- Served an average of 74 families at each month's giveaway
- Held giveaway days in January, March, May, July, September and December (one extra in February)
- Secured new items for November giveaway days so clients could shop for family Christmas gifts
- Used the sanctuary and upstairs social room for Christmas giveaway days
- Decided to hold future Christmas shopping giveaway days downstairs
- Redesigned client giveaway day invitations
- Continued to sort and store Monday mornings
- Accepted clean, gently used, smoke free and in working order items for distribution
- Donated any leftover items to Boy Scout drives, Bethany Children's Home, Bright Hope and Goodwill
- Accepted monetary donations to supplement operating expenses
- Displayed a selection of free leftover books for anyone to take
- Bid farewell and good wishes to volunteers Debbie and Maynard Schaffer
- Held a five year celebration of ATF during worship service
- Purchased four used rolling clothing racks
- Accepted used storage racks from Zionsville Area Food Pantry
- Set up a vendor table at FUN groups Basket Bazaar in November
- Began planning use of additional approved storage space in Sunday School room

Special and many thanks to Pastor Lori, Secretary Brenda Seitz, Computer and Media Committee Chair Mark Weaver and faithful dedicated volunteers who this year included: Beth Eck, Heidi Buck, Jane Bedell, Sherri Harrison, Sue Hartman, Ethel Hollenbach, Millie Kohler, Sue Kohler, Alyson Miller, Phyllis Ritter, Phil Rhode, Debbie and Maynard Schaffer, Pat Sajkowicz, Glenn Shingler, Gisela Thiel and Robin Yoder.

Respectively submitted by Millie Kohler

Boy Scout Troop 31

No report was received in time for publication.

Cemetery Association

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

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 2023-2024 was Glenn Shingler. We had one burial in the adjacent cemetery. There was one cremation burial on the Union Cemetery. Plots are available for purchase. Please contact the Church office for more information.

Two new footers were poured on the adjacent cemetery (Chester Yeakel and John Rogers). There were two other foundations repaired. Seven small stones were lowered flush with the ground to make grass cutting easier.

As a fundraiser, Hivel Und Dahl are trying to clean 250 Revolutionary War Headstones for America's 250 (Semiquincentennial). This project will benefit people's personal headstones, Revolutionary War Headstones, and the Schubert Graber Cabin. **If any church member would like to make a donation for them to clean their family headstone please contact the Church office.**

Peter Yeakel and Chris Schell replaced the roof on the cemetery shed. Time and materials were donated. Peter Yeakel also trimmed back the trees along the top of the Cemetery so we can now drive through the back gate.

Respectfully Submitted by Chris Schell

Old Zionsville UCC Cemetery Association	
Profit & Loss	
October 2023 through September 2024	
	Oct '23 - Sep 24
Ordinary Income/Expense	
Income	
300 - Flat Stone Marker & Foundation	700.00
4002 - Transfer from Savings	960.84
4003 - Perpetual Care	4,700.00
4004 - Donation	2,289.00
4005 - Interment	1,000.00
4008 - In Memory of	750.00
4010 - Fundraiser	1,153.88
4013 - Cremation Open & Close	400.00
Total Income	11,953.72
Expense	
60504 - Petty Cash	863.47
60505 - Payroll	5,733.84
60507 - Federal Taxes	994.32
60509 - Local Taxes	69.48
60510 - State Taxes	199.56
60512 - Reimbursement	1,096.79
Total Expense	8,957.46
Net Ordinary Income	2,996.26
Net Income	2,996.26

Christian Education and Music and Worship Committee

Committee Members: Pastor Lori, Kathy Latshaw, Cheryl Martucci, Patti Mittl, Susan Jacobs, Deb Schoenberger, Ruth Stansfield, Jan Strobel, David Carlson, Carolyn Rhoads

Due to Cheryl Martucci's excellent note taking, we have full minutes of the meetings we held during this time period. These committees have found it helpful to meet quarterly and together since the work overlaps and informs each other of the good things happening in the church family.

I noticed that we failed to report in the 2022 - 2023 Annual Report that in June of 2023, we celebrated in worship, the **50 year anniversary of our beloved Sunday School Teacher, Susan Jacobs!** Let it be known that the congregation shared their love and appreciation that day for Susan and several of our church Staff who had significant anniversaries last year too!

Here are some of the things we discussed and decided upon during this year:

- since Covid the choir has not been sitting together in the choir loft and that discussion continues. During worship, the choir comes forward to the loft to sing the anthem and then returns to their seats. Gowns are no longer worn by choir or clergy.
- in consultation with Property committee, grab bars have been placed at the places in the sanctuary with steps into the altar area and the choir loft. Thanks to Rich Shoemaker!
- in consultation with the Sound and Streaming team, we are still working on the balance between organ volume and hearing the congregation - ongoing
- Harvest Home has become a 2 Sunday celebration! We appreciate Nancy Civitts and Carolyn Rhoads for preparing an amazing display each year.
- in 2023, for Veteran's Sunday - Angela Stahler created a PowerPoint Program lifting up each of the Veterans of the church using information gathered from the church members. It was very well received. Thanks Angela!
- Christmas Eve was a Sunday so we had a morning service and one evening service at 7:30 p.m. with a Bell Choir prelude
- Monthly Communion Preparation was done by our newly confirmed Members throughout the year.
- Narthex housecleaning was completed by Ruth Stansfield. Thanks Ruth for creating a welcoming look for our members and guests!
- Altar flowers were discussed and after working on this for several meetings, we switched in July to RichMar flowers and have been impressed and pleased.
- Lenten services were discussed. Ministerium did not have Lenten Soup and Services. Instead the Ministerium had a book study, "Hear Us Out", on Sunday mornings at 9 a.m. The Mennonites had the largest group and OZ and Zions Lutheran met together at OZ and used the internet to meet together via computer. We shared discussion and leadership weekly during Lent and concluded on Palm Sunday with a visit by one of the authors, The Rev. Dr. Bonnie Bates, Conference Minister of PNEC, UCC. The book stimulated much discussion and a good time to get to know one another in a new way.
- During the weeks of Lent, members were invited to our lower social hall for snacks to watch "The Chosen" season 1. This was well attended.
- Ash Wednesday service was held at OZ as a joint venture of the Ministerium with all clergy participating.
- Maundy Thursday communion was a regular service.
- Good Friday service of darkness was shared with our United Methodist siblings at OZ with their Pastor Robin participating with Pastor Lori. We used the stations of the cross model for worship.

- Easter services were held at 7:30 a.m. and 10:15 a.m. with a light breakfast and an inside egg hunt for the children in between the services. Our Sunday School children sang 4 songs at the 10:15 a.m. service on Easter.
- Pastor Lori took a 3 week vacation during April to visit Amsterdam. Supply preachers: Homer Royer and David Schnaars carried the services with lay helpers each week.
- Our Social Media Coordinator, Beth Massa, helped us understand more about licensing of the music we sing. She prepared an information sheet so we could get the music information to her in plenty of time for her to investigate the copyright permissions needed and to use our already purchased music license information especially because we stream our services and everything is online now, this is necessary.
- Mother's and Father's Day had women and men picking a package of candy as their "treat" this year because the men didn't want carnations.
- It was our turn to host the Dillingsville Annual "homecoming" service this year. A subcommittee was formed. We had a Polka Band lead worship with us, there was a joint choir to share several pieces of music, and a lovely lunch afterward provided by Social And Aid workers. A bake sale was held too. All was successful even in the midst of very humid and warm weather under the big tent on June 30.
- Summer worship time was 9:30 a.m. - since the choir doesn't sing in the summer, we had several music videos shown.
- Regular worship time resumed after Labor Day. With Sunday School happening at 9 a.m. We have one student in the Early Elementary room and 2 students in the upper elementary room. We are grateful to all of the teachers for coming back to lead this small troop of learners this year.
- Sept. 29, we helped with the Window Dedication Service that was held at 3 p.m. in the afternoon with special music and a light reception.
- We began watching Season 2 of "The Chosen" during September on a Wednesday afternoon.
- Youth Group met during the year but took off for the summer. They resumed meeting in September. We thank Alyson Miller for her help with leading the lessons and gathering all youth from elementary school to high school and beyond.

Thanks to all who make this church vibrant with Sunday School and meaningful worship and activities all year long.

Prepared by Lori Esslinger on behalf of the Committees.

Computer and Media Committee

Committee Members: Mark Weaver (Chair), Beth Massa, Joan Muth, Kelly Kowalewski, Robert Schmeltzle, Jr., Daniel Latshaw, Angela Stahler, Amber Kriebel, McGwire Martucci

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: Our focus this year has been the continued support for Live Streaming our Sunday Services to the Internet so those not fortunate to attend could partake in our weekly worship. We also began the task of a major 2-year effort to upgrade all our computers to Windows 11, as Windows 10 will be end of life in October of 2025. Small improvements and maintenance issues

were also completed with our sound equipment and security camera system. We continue to pray that we can support our church with our focus on Information Technology (IT), Sound & Audio, and Security.

Fall 2023 (October, November, December):

- General:
 - We continued Sound System Operation and Streaming for our Sunday services.
 - The Sound Team supported extra events including a Funeral for Arlene Scheirer, ATF Christmas Give-a-way days, and the two Christmas Eve Services.
 - With little to no new business, there were no committee meetings held during the fall months.
- Budgets:
 - We finished 2023 with spending under budget by about 10%.
 - The proposed budget for 2024 was submitted on October 15th.
 - IT Capital: (Three new Windows 11 Computers, Peripherals, and Software)
 - IT Operating: (Typical Subscriptions for Computer Operation)
 - Sound Capital: (Projects Postponed – No budget requested)
 - Sound Operating: (Misc Supplies)
 - Security Capital: (PTZ Camera Replacement)
 - Security Operating: (No budget requested)
- Media Coordinators:
 - Beth Massa continued working on updates to our Facebook Page, Google Calendar, and Website.
 - Angela Stahler continued directing the Video Streaming operations.
 - Our Streaming Viewership continues to grow.
- IT Systems:
 - No new issues or maintenance required.
- Sound Systems:
 - No new issues or maintenance required.
- Security Camera Systems:
 - No new issues or maintenance required.

Winter 2024 (January, February, March):

- General:
 - Sunday Services Sound System and Video Streaming Operations continued.
 - McGwire Martucci has begun helping with various tasks on Sunday Mornings.
 - Extra events included Ash Wednesday, Maundy Thursday, and Good Friday Services.
 - A Combined Teams meeting was held on Wednesday January 3rd with 3 Members present.
 - In lieu of a Sound Team meeting, we held a brief work detail on February 7th with 3 members present.
 - There was no IT Team meeting in March.
- Budgets:
 - Our proposed budget for 2024 was approved.
 - Three new computers, peripherals, and software were ordered and received (under budget).
- Media Coordinators:
 - We continue to use the slides for weekly worship.
 - Our committee members collaborate on proofreading the slides.

- Amber has assumed responsibility for downloading the slides on Sunday mornings to have them available for worship.
 - We make posts to our Facebook and Instagram accounts on a rough average of 4 times per week.
 - The website is being updated at least quarterly to ensure information and links are correct.
- IT Systems:
 - Planning for the purchase, preparation, and installation of three new Windows 11 PCs (Sound PC, Office PC, and Pastor's Laptop).
 - The new PCs were received and work began on preparing them for service.
- Sound Systems:
 - Looking to purchase a new Microphone to pick up more of the Congregation during Hymns.
 - Considering some small improvements in the Sanctuary System.
 - Have a small list of fixes needed for the Lower Social Hall System.
 - The Kitchen Speaker (as part of the Sanctuary System) was installed.
- Security Camera Systems:
 - The PTZ Camera (at Pastor Lori's Office) failed – Used Camera #5 (inventory) to replace.
 - Planning for the installation of Camera #6 under the awning at the front door.

Spring 2024 (April, May, June):

- General:
 - Sound and Streaming Operations continue to run smoothly.
 - The April Sound Team meeting was canceled as it was scheduled the Wednesday after a very busy Holy Week.
 - Due to no significant new business, there were no meetings in May or June.
 - The Sound Team supported the Funeral of Emily Dreas in June.
- Budgets:
 - 2024 continued within budget, with only the renewal of our Web Domain as an expenditure.
- Media Coordinators:
 - We continue to use the slides for weekly worship, even when we are in the lower Social Hall.
 - Posts to our Facebook and Instagram accounts continue on a rough average of 4 times per week.
 - The website continues to be updated at least quarterly to ensure information and links are correct.
 - Angela assisted Pastor Lori in providing PowerPoint presentations for our Confirmation class and staff anniversaries.
- IT Systems:
 - Still preparing the 3 new PCs (First one is 90%, Second one is 75%, and Third one not started).
- Sound System:
 - No new issues or maintenance required.
 - Improvements are still pending.
- Security Camera Systems:
 - Shipped the failed PTZ Camera back to the supplier for Warranty Replacement.
 - Camera #6 installation is still pending.

Summer 2024 (July, August, September):

- General:
 - Sunday Services continue to run smoothly for both the Sound and Streaming Teams.
 - Summer Break with no meetings in July or August.
 - A committee-wide meeting was held on Wednesday September 11th with 3 members present.
 - The Sound Team supported the Funeral of Chester Yeakel in August and the Windows Dedication Service in September.
 - McGwire Martucci continues doing a great job helping with the Slides on Sundays
 - Mark completed the Employee Evaluations on 9/13.
- Budgets:
 - 2024 Budget – Continues On Track.
 - 2025 Budget Planning – The strawman budget that Mark prepared was discussed at the meeting on 9/11. A few things needed additional clarification, and several things were to be held over until 2026. Mark will update and send to the team for additional review prior to sending it to Finance.
- Media Coordinators:
 - Several services needed to be held in the Lower Social Hall due to extreme hot temperatures and the Streaming / Recording of these services continued with some help from Angela and Amber using their Cell Phones.
- IT Systems:
 - Mark is still working on preparing the new PCs for service.
 - The Sound PC Setup was completed and will be installed in October.
- Sound System
 - No new issues or maintenance required.
 - Improvements are still pending.
- Security:
 - Received the warranty replacement PTZ Camera. This will be kept for use in the Lower Social Hall for either Zoom Meetings or future Streaming.
 - Camera #6 installation is still pending.

Looking Forward - There is still work to be done:

- Personnel Support:
 - Beth Massa continues as our primary Media Coordinator responsible for Weekly Slides, Website, and other Internet based support.
 - Angela Stahler continues as our Assistant Media Coordinator and as our primary Streaming Director.
 - Amber Kriebel also continues to support Live Streaming and can direct in Angela's absence.
 - Daniel Latshaw continues as our Lead Sound Tech and is very faithful to his position.
 - We continue to have additional support from Bobby Schmeltzle, Amber Kriebel, and McGwire Martucci for various tasks, including Sound Board and Slide Operations.
- Budgets:
 - Implementation of our 2025 Budget Line Items, if approved.
- IT Systems:
 - Mark is still planning to finalize the preparation of the Office PC and Pastor Lori's Laptop by year's end.

- Sound System:
 - We have budgeted the new Microphone for the Congregation Voices to be heard on Streaming, hopefully to be purchased and installed in 2025.
 - Sanctuary Sound System: We have some very minor issues to be worked on.
 - Lower Social Hall Sound System: Still some small open items and more Training needed.
- Security:
 - Cameras # 6 installation under the awning at the front door is still pending.

I thank all our loyal Team Members for their help and continued support of all our Technical Activities and Achievements.

Respectfully submitted by Mark Weaver

Cub Pack 31

No report was received in time for publication.

Faith Uniting Neighbors (F.U.N.) Group

Committee Members: Patti Mittl, Debbie Gurgick, Robin Yoder, Deb Schoenberger, Angela/Larry Stahler, Lisa Talecki and Jan Strobel.

Our 18th year began on November 11 with our Craft Bazaar and Filled Basket Auction. Once again, we auctioned over 100 baskets at 114! The Crafters/Vendors were very pleased with their sales. The bake sale was also a huge success, thanks to the many items donated. The bake sale profit was \$367.06. Total profits for this fundraiser were \$2533.66. The following donations, totaling \$2065, were given out:

East Penn Angel Network-\$200
 Lehigh County Conference of Churches-\$300
 Macungie Ambulance Corps-\$165
 Phoebe Auxiliary/Ministries-\$200
 Upper Milford Fire Company-\$200
 Grace Lutheran Food Pantry-\$500
 OZUCC General Operating Expenses-\$500

Thank you to everyone who donated baskets, baked goods and time to make this event successful!

On February 4, 45 attendees enjoyed the Souper Bowl. Twelve soups were available for tasting, along with bread and desserts. Thank you to the SonShine Kitchen for providing soft pretzels.

Since the Lehigh County Conference of Churches requested Toiletries, we collected shampoo, conditioner, lotion, razors, dish soap, body wash, bar soap, toothpaste, toothbrushes and diapers in April.

In June, 13 jars of peanut butter and 20 jars of jelly were collected for the Zionsville Food Pantry.

And in August, various School Supplies, including backpacks, pencils, colored pencils, erasers, notebooks, folders, hand sanitizer, tissues and disinfecting wipes were collected for Jefferson School in Allentown.

Thank you to everyone for making this year successful!

Everyone is welcome to join us at our meetings on the second Tuesday of the month. New ideas are welcome.

Submitted in Christ's Service by Jan Strobel

Finance Committee

Committee Members: Cheryl Martucci, Chair; Robin Yoder, Treasurer; Kathy Latshaw, Sharon Trexler, Ruth Stansfield, Debbie Gurgick, Paula Lilly; Brenda Seitz, Secretary

October 2023

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

November 2023

- Reviewed the financial reports and paying church bills.
- Discussed rebuilding of the parsonage cabinets by Chris.
- Thank you to Peter Yeakel for the cleanup of the landscaping around the parsonage.
- Window raffle raised \$275 for 6 quilts.
- New Church committee discussed, reviewed mission statement and will go to Consistory.
- Combined the accounts – transferred funds from Short Term disability and Parking Lot into general, in order to issue checks for Money Market. Choir will close out their account and will be a line item in our budget.
- Discussed UGI and putting in new gas piping in ceiling/property will handle.
- Tabled the discussion on "on-line" gift giving.
- Discussed fees for Sound System operator fee for funerals, include copy of funeral on CD or Flash drive for family.
- We reviewed and approved the budget draft to go to Consistory.

December 2023

- Reviewed the Financial Reports and Paying Church Bills.
- Windows - Challenged money was raised and more. Challengers came forward for next year. Probably taking twin windows in January, come back in spring. Exterior protection and painting will be last on list, after twin windows done account will be close to \$0 and will work on rebuilding fund.
- Elders met and discussed fundraising opportunities. Thinking of doing a calendar in February.
- Will get preliminary quote from insurance company in Emmaus after new year.
- Lay Leadership planning service on December 31st while Pastor Lori is away. David was given the Sunday off.
- All went fine at Congregational meeting with the Budget for 2024.

January 2024

- Review of Financial Reports and Paying Church Bills.
- Windows -Will have a \$1,000 check to come in from challenge. \$13,500 to do twin windows.
- Boy Scouts – Church will own the scout trailer, Scouts will pay registration, will be parked on private property.

- Revenue improvement – Pastor Lori to contact Schantz Funeral home to donate the costs of the Lotto calendars. Will be sold in Spring.
- Committees will coordinate with Kathy for fundraising plans.
- Mileage for 2024 has been increased to \$.67 per mile.

February 2024

- Snow moved our regularly scheduled meeting to Sunday after church.
- Review of Financial Reports and Paying Church Bills.
- Discussed line items to clarify expenses.
- Discussed Credit cards for committees and voted that with our church policy for reimbursements and quick turn around the finance committee does not see an immediate need for a Credit Card.
- Discussed renewing CD for 6 months at 5.12% interest rate.

March 2024

- Review of Financial Reports and Paying Church Bills.
- Windows- need \$14,500 to finish. Dedication coming in Sept.
- Lotto ticket details finalized to be sold in May and Schantz will cover expenses of printing.
- Parking lot and Disability accounts to be closed out at Key Bank.
- Discussed moving the giving address slide to the beginning of slides on screen and placing on Facebook and You Tube.

April 2024

- Review of Financial Reports and Paying Church Bills.
- Parsonage inspection done by Robin and given to Property Comm. Renewing lease for another year.
- Discussed long term/short term options for parsonage.
- Discussed maturity of a CD and recommended reinvesting for 11 month at 5%.
- Robin will investigate Brotherhood Insurance and policy renewal on May 15.

May 2024

- Review of Financial Reports and Paying Church Bills.
- Parsonage needed repairs for a burnt wire going to the dryer. Discussed the tenants painting the cabinets without proper approval. Made recommendation to put in writing possible eviction if tenants continue to do things without approval.
- Lottery tickets were a success and \$2160 was deposited into the general fund. There were 4 winners and 1 winner donated the winnings back to the church.
- Closed out cemetery savings and put money in cemetery checking account.
- Corrected Bill Ritter donation to the proper account being the Food Pantry.

June 2024

- Review of Financial Reports and Paying Church Bills.
- Cumberland has been paid for completion of the Twin windows. Matching gift campaign will be coming in the fall.
- Had UGI and PPL bills placed on auto-pay.
- Getting quotes for parking lot.
- Ordering 2025 envelopes and purchasing postage since rates will be increasing soon.
- Discussed any committee chairs that have records at home, should have originals in office.

July 2024

- Review of Financial Reports and Paying Church Bills.
- Parsonage Improvements Committee is meeting July 17.

- Memorial money received for windows. East Penn Press came to take pictures for a full story to follow for the dedication in Sept.
- Added Co-President Sharon to accounts at New Tripoli Bank.
- Discussed having Pastor Lori's expense account discontinued and replacing it with additional salary in 2025.

August 2024

- Review of Financial Reports and Paying Church Bills.
- Parsonage Improvement Committee met and discussed evaluating the bathrooms, basement and kitchen cabinets. Damage to front door was reported and we will have Cumberland take a look while they are here in Sept for the dedication of the windows.
- Finance supported to move forward with Hovan the Sealing Man for the parking lot.
- Discussed rolling over CD to 91 days at 4.65% at New Tripoli Bank.
- Property will fix window above Village School entrance from their \$5000 budget.
- Requesting bids for Pest Control.

September 2024

- Review of Financial Reports and Paying Church Bills.
- Parsonage improvement committee met and came to the conclusion that the washer/dryer cannot be moved. Looking to upgrade the toilets as soon as possible. Cheryl getting quotes.
- Windows matching gift challenge is underway with \$5000 match.
- Donation of \$25000 came in and Robin will discuss the donor's wishes for the money.
- Donation of \$1000 came in from the Gibiser Estate and finance will make recommendation to consistory to go towards the window fund.
- Discussed having a percentage of the lottery calendars go towards the PNEC mission fund (OCWM).

Respectfully submitted by Cheryl Martucci

Membership and Evangelism Committee

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 another year with many fine events and lots of new faces. Even though we continue having difficulty finding venues that make reservations for larger groups, allow us to dine from the menu, and to pay individually, the event list continued as in years past. We saw some great shows at the State Theatre, traveled to Sight and Sound, and our Picnic Pavilion event at the Iron Pigs had 50 attendees for the second year in a row. Once again, we managed 37 events and enjoyed the fellowship which continues to build our wonderful OZUCC family.

October 2023:

- October 13th - Supper Club – Washington Grill & Pub Bechtelsville – 18 attended.
- October 22nd – Sunday Brunchers – Mercantile Club Emmaus – 12 attended.
- October 27th – Lunch Bunch – New Pennsburg Diner – 11 attended.

November 2023:

- November 3rd – Supper Club – Spinnerstown Hotel - 16 attended.
- November 19th – Sunday Brunchers – Mercantile Club Emmaus – 19 attended.

December 2023:

- December 1st – Lunch Bunch – East Penn Diner Emmaus – 14 attended.
- December 9th – All Church Christmas Party – Superior Restaurant Emmaus – 49 attended.
- December 17th – Sunday Brunchers – Mercantile Club Emmaus – 20 attended.

January 2024:

- January 5th – Supper Club – Pizza Como Pennsburg – 17 attended.
- January 14th – Sunday Brunchers – Mercantile Club Emmaus – 16 attended.
- January 26th – Lunch Bunch – Macungie Diner – 19 attended.

February 2024:

- February 9th – State Theatre “Mania: The Abba Tribute” – 8 attended.
- February 10th – Supper Club – Alburtis Tavern – 24 attended.
- February 18th – Sunday Brunchers – Mercantile Club Emmaus – 17 attended.
- February 23rd – Lunch Bunch – Chino’s Place Hereford – 15 attended.

March 2024:

- March 8th – Supper Club – Hometown Breakfast and Grill Breinigsville – 14 attended.
- March 17th – Sunday Brunchers – Mercantile Club Emmaus – 18 attended.
- March 22nd – Lunch Bunch – Vince’s Pizza Macungie – 14 attended.

April 2024:

- April 2nd – Supper Club – Fairgrounds Hotel Allentown – 10 attended.
- April 6th – State Theatre “One Night of Queen” – 6 attended.
- April 17th – State Theatre “Chicago the Musical” – 6 attended.
- April 21st – Sunday Brunchers – Mercantile Club Emmaus – 14 attended.
- April 26th – Lunch Bunch – Ritz BBQ Allentown – 16 attended.

May 2024:

- May 3rd – Supper – Chestnut Ridge Emmaus – 22 attended.
- May 9th – Sight and Sound “Daniel” Thru Greenawald’s UCC – 8 attended.
- May 19th – Sunday Brunchers – Mercantile Club Emmaus – 15 attended.
- May 24th – Lunch Bunch – Powderbourne East Greenville – 15 attended.

June 2024:

- June 2nd – Supper Club – Carriage House East Greenville – 19 attended.
- June 22nd – Iron Pigs – Coca Cola Park Picnic Patio – 50 attended.
- June 23rd – Sunday Brunches – Topton Fish and Game Assoc. – 10 attended.
- June 28th – Lunch Bunch – Ham Fam Diner, Allentown – 8 attended.

July 2024:

- Supper Club and Lunch Bunch again took a summer break in July and August
- July 21st – Sunday Brunchers – Mercantile Club Emmaus – 13 attended,

August 2024:

- August 18th – Sunday Brunchers – Mercantile Club Emmaus – 11 attended.

September 2024:

- September 4th – Supper Club – Alburtis Tavern – 13 attended.
- September 15th – Sunday Brunchers – Mercantile Club Emmaus – 10 attended.
- September 27th – Lunch Bunch – Perkins Lehigh St. – 12 attended.

In addition to our fellowship events, GriefShare and GriefCare continued helping people walk through the grieving process. Due to Pastor Lori's vacation in April, we began our GriefShare program on May 1 this year. We had 8 people sign up for the evening sessions meeting 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. for 13 weeks. As the sessions went on, more folks added to the program. Leaders: Joanne Rath, Paula Lilly and Lori Esslinger led the sessions. At the final session, we had 10 individuals complete the program.

Since we did not renew our program by paying extra money to get the new material, we no longer have the ability to advertise on the National GriefShare website, neither do we have the ability to call the program GriefShare although we own the materials and can use them as we see fit. It was decided to run a 9-week program starting August 29 from 5:30 - 7:30 p.m. through the October 24 and call it GriefCare. Since only three people signed up, the team declined to participate, and Lori led the gals through a modified program and led it as a grief support group. Lori made them dinner each week since eating alone is a tough part after losing a loved one, gave them the recipes, and had them take leftovers home. It was a wonderful time of sharing and caring for each other. We altered the time, starting earlier to avoid the darkness and other conflicts, but all three finished with the group and were grateful.

Looking Forward to Fall 2024 and 2025:

- We continue our plans for our familiar activities, including Supper Club, Sunday Brunchers, and Lunch Bunch through the fall of 2024 and are beginning to work on the schedule for the New Year. Plans for some additional activities include:
 - a) Pines Dinner Theatre "White Christmas" on November 30th.
 - b) Cruise on the Royal Caribbean Odyssey of the Seas for 12 nights beginning January 27, 2025
 - c) American Music Theatre "Riverdance 30th Anniversary" on March 1, 2025.
 - d) A bus trip with Anna's Adventures to Sight and Sound for "Noah" on April 1, 2025.
 - e) Additional bus trips with Anna's Adventures in May and November 2025.
 - f) Returning to the Picnic Pavilion at Iron Pigs on June 21, 2025.
- Finally, the GriefCare Team plans to do another round in the late Spring of 2025 that will reach into the early summer. Stay tuned as we continue to offer GriefCare to those who wish to participate.

Respectfully submitted by Linda Weaver with Mark Weaver as contributor and by Pastor Lori on behalf of the GriefCare team.

Outlook Committee

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

October

- Discussed ordering and pricing Fruit/Nut Rolls and Wawa Coupons, made forms to sell
- Money in the account was used to reimburse Richard Shoemaker who already paid for and installed most of the horseshoe lights in Sanctuary, railing on steps to choir loft, grab bars, light at front entrance

November

- Ordered 200 Wawa coupons, sold for \$5.00 each, profit to the Parking Lot Fund

December

- Sold 165 Fruit/Nut Rolls for \$18.00 each; profit of \$825.00 went to Parking Lot Fund

March

- Sold 200 Wawa coupons for \$5.00 each; profit went to gas line project
- Sold 186 Fruit/Nut Rolls for \$18.00 each; profit went to gas line project

Respectfully Submitted by Brenda Shoemaker

Personnel Committee

Committee members: Jan Strobel, Diane Berger, Pastor Lori, Kathy Latshaw

The Personnel Committee has been monitoring the workings of our staff. We have made ourselves available for any staff issues, but have not needed to work on anything this year. We have made sure the evaluations were conducted and turned in for our review. We had a meeting to consider salary increases and made our suggestions to the Finance Committee and to the Consistory. Salary increases are based on cost of living and the best guess we have for the future financial status of the church. Thank you to the committee for their faithfulness in this task.

Submitted by Kathy Latshaw.

Property Committee

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 2023, and February, April, and August 2024. No meeting in June 2024.
- Many, many thanks to the volunteers who, though not part of this committee, helped 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
- Awning installed over front entrance steps; thanks for Outlook for running and paying for that project
- Fire extinguisher list/locations updated
- Windows renovation work continued; see report else in this annual meeting packet
- Well/sewage system of the church and parsonage met state potability guidelines.
- Facilitated fire drills for Sunday school and Sunday worship services
- Worked with township to have permanent caution signs on the crosswalk to the main parking lot, signs paid for by an anonymous donor
- Replaced compressor on refrigerator; thanks to Bob and Annie Souder for paying for that project
- Carriage house and other outside painting completed, funded by a family of the church
- Gas line in kitchen inspected by UGI; they recommended work be done on the old gas line – still working on this

- Window frame outside over the Village School entrance repaired
- 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

Social and Aid Society

Committee Members: Annie and Bob Souder, BettyLou Hartman, Kathy Latshaw

November – Made and sold 67 quarts of Pepper Pot Soup; 137 Ham and Cheese Sandwiches, sold take out only at Bazaar. Profit: \$708.08

December – Made and sold 63 quarts of Hamburger Vegetable Soup; 153 Ham and Cheese Sandwiches. Profit: \$574.50

January – Made and sold 57 quarts of Chili; 120 Ham and Cheese Sandwiches. Profit: \$574.95

February – Made 57 quarts of Ham and String Bean Soup but lost it all because of problems with the kitchen refrigerator; sold 139 Ham and Cheese Sandwiches. Profit: \$466.56

March – Made and Sold 103 quarts of Chicken Corn Pot Pie Soup; 196 Ham and Cheese Sandwiches. Profit: \$672.69

April – Made and Sold 76 quarts of Ham and String Bean Soup; 173 Ham and Cheese Sandwiches. Profit: \$1,008.31

May – Made and Sold 104 Beef Pies; 164 Ham and Cheese Sandwiches. Profit: \$906.06

June – Made and Sold 192 Ham and Cheese Sandwiches only. Profit: \$540.63
Lunch was made for our Dillingersville Service Pilgrimage.

September – Made and Sold 114 Ham and Cheese Sandwiches only. Profit: 317.62

All profits from sales have been split 80/20 between the Church’s General Fund and the Cemetery Association.

Respectfully Submitted by Annie Souder

Social & Aid Fundraisers

Month	Income	Expenses	Profit	Cemetery	General
Nov. 2023	\$1,276.00	\$567.92	\$708.08	\$141.62	\$566.46
Dec. 2023	\$1,278.60	\$704.10	\$574.50	\$114.90	\$459.60
Jan. 2024	\$1,076.00	\$501.05	\$574.95	\$114.99	\$459.96
Feb.	\$918.00	\$451.44	\$466.56	\$93.31	\$373.25
March	\$1,562.00	\$889.31	\$672.69	\$134.54	\$538.15
April	\$1,543.00	\$534.69	\$1,008.31	\$201.66	\$806.65
May	\$1,634.70	\$728.64	\$906.06	\$181.21	\$724.85
June (sandwich only)	\$975.00	\$434.37	\$540.63	\$108.13	\$432.50
September (sandwich only)	\$575.00	\$326.65	\$248.35	\$49.67	\$198.68
TOTAL	\$10,838.30	\$5,138.17	\$5,700.13	\$1,140.03	\$4,560.10

SonShine Kitchen

Committee Members: Lisa Talecki, Richard Yeakel, Pastor Lori

The SonShine Kitchen had a very successful year. Thanks to Richard Yeakel, Lisa Talecki and others along the way who supported our efforts to sell different items in our church.

We served and sold food at the 2023 Bazaar and Basket Raffle and we made and sold cranberry relish for Thanksgiving. In 2024, we sold Philadelphia soft pretzels four times throughout the year to the delight of our members. Lisa would pick them up fresh on a Sunday morning and get them to church just after worship for a warm treat on the way home.

In Spring 2024, Daniel Latshaw created a wooden cross with a stake attached at the bottom to put in the ground. Then Richard Yeakel stained and decorated the cross with a bow and silk flowers. These were sold for \$30 each with interchangeable bows/silk flowers sold separately for \$15 each for different seasons.

In August, we were planning to spend the day at the Vera Cruz Homecoming selling fruit, but the weather proved difficult with rain and cooler temperatures. The congregation helped us out by buying out our cut up fruit cups after worship that day and saved the day from a loss. I think it was a win/win. Thank you all for your support throughout the year.

The total profit from these sales amounted to \$1,776.48 for the church.

Respectfully submitted by Lori Esslinger

Tenant Liaison Report:

The recap for the year is that all rent payments were made and continue to be current.

A special thank you to Peter Yeakel and Glenn Shingler for assistance with landscape maintenance during the growing season.

Maintenance and repair costs were higher than typical this year, with the following items contributing:

Boiler maintenance and repair	\$900
New Faucet and Dishwasher	\$456
Installation	\$400
Electrical repair	\$222
Misc.	\$ 16
TOTAL	\$1994

While these costs were above budget this year, they were below budget in 2022-23.

A subcommittee was formed to investigate property upgrades and maintenance / painting. The committee had a kickoff meeting. A property visit was conducted by a subgroup (Peter Yeakel, Chris Schell, Randy Trexler, and me) to specifically evaluate the condition of the kitchen cabinets, floor and ceiling, as well as review the bathrooms. Kitchen cabinets and countertops should be replaced upon change of tenants, and availability of funding. Bathrooms need some updating but not remodeling. First task with the bathrooms is new toilets, which we are currently investigating. Only the toilet project is moving forward at this time.

Please feel free to contact me with any questions or if you are interested in joining as we move forward with projects.

Respectfully submitted,
Robin Yoder

Windows to the Future

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

RESTORATION

- The restored nativity window was installed on November 14 at a cost of \$44,975.
- The two twin nativity windows were removed for restoration on April 1.
- The restored nativity twin windows were installed May 22 at a cost of \$17,990.
- Phase 3 (final) will be completed when sufficient funds are raised to add protective coverings on the nativity window and two twins, as well as external trim painting. The cost will be \$23,750.

FUND RAISING

- The \$5,000 2023 Matching Gift Challenge continued during October and November. The challenge was met and surpassed with contributions of \$6,146.
- The \$5,000 2024 Matching Gift Challenge kicked off in September, raising \$2,037 in the first five weeks.
- The Change for the Windows jar continued to appear in the narthex and raised \$290.

WINDOWS DEDICATION SERVICE

- A service of dedication was held in the sanctuary on Sunday, September 29 at 3 pm.
- Photos and an article updating the project and highlighting the dedication appeared in the *East Penn Press* on September 18.
- Invitations were sent to the Penn Northeast Conference, churches in the ministerium, and members, families and friends of the congregation.
- About 100 people attended the service, including area pastors and members of neighboring churches and the community.
- Guest speaker, Bryan Lerew, owner of Cumberland Stained Glass, explained the stained glass restoration process and provided interesting facts about our project.
- A slide presentation containing many photos provided an overview of the project.
- Booklets about the project and memorial dedications were given to all guests.
- Jessica Yothers, vocalist, and Jen Goudsward, pianist, provided special musical selections and organist, David Carlson accompanied the hymns.
- Technical support was provided by the Sound and Media Committee. The service was live streamed and available on Facebook and YouTube.
- A reception was held following the service in the lower social hall. Appetizers and desserts were provided by our members and the Worship & Music Committee assisted with the arrangements.
- Plaques indicating memorial donations have been installed below all the windows.

Thank you members and friends for your faithful support of the restoration of our beautiful stained glass windows. It is projected that the restoration will be completed in the spring of 2025.

Respectfully submitted by Ruth Stansfield