

OLD ZIONSVILLE  
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

ANNUAL REPORT

October 2024 – September 2025



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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## **2025 CONSISTORY**

**Elders:** Diane Berger  
Kathy Latshaw  
Cheryl Martucci  
Chris Schell  
Brenda Shoemaker  
Mark Weaver

**Deacons:** Susan Hoch  
Amber Kriebel  
Roger Miller  
Robert Schmeltzle, Jr.  
Sharon Trexler  
Jack Yeakel

President: Cheryl Martucci  
Vice President: Kathy Latshaw  
Secretary: Mark Weaver  
Treasurer: Robin Yoder

## **2025 CHURCH STAFF**

Pastor: Rev. Lori Esslinger  
Organist: David Carlson  
Choir Director: Carolyn Rhoads  
Financial Administrator: Robin Yoder  
Secretary: Ellie Deere  
Sexton: Richard Shoemaker  
Computer and Media: Elizabeth Massa  
Angela Stahler  
Groundskeeper: Larry Stahler

## Pastor's Report

The challenge of this year, Oct. 2024 to Sept. 2025 has been the changing political landscape. The impact has been felt more so in the fall of 2025 but the future remains uncertain. As of now, it has only affected our church family slightly but bigger changes are coming that will challenge us all. On the positive side, our church family grew by several new members received in late spring. That was a blessing to all of us as we welcomed several of the families who have been worshipping with us for a while. It was heartwarming to witness their desire to be part of our church. In 2025, we also completed our 5-year project of the Windows to the Future campaign. This huge project really brought our congregation together to work toward a common cause to make the historical windows in our sanctuary sparkle! The other committees, whose reports appear in the following pages, will give you a sense of some of the new things we tried and some of the programs of the past that we continued. A shift in leadership is upon us as some of the long-time leaders are stepping down to allow younger members to step in. It is scary and exciting at the same time as we work together to continue our commitment to Jesus as well as welcome-in new ways of growing for HIM. May God continue to light our way.

Peace, The Rev. Lori Esslinger

### Statistics of Congregation

October 2024-September 2025

#### Average Sunday Worship Attendance: 54

##### Members Received: 11

April 13, 2025

Donna Mikolajczyk  
Mike Mikolajczyk  
Adam Mikolajczyk  
Brailynn Mikolajczyk  
Sherri Harrison  
Neil Harrison  
Melissa Yenser  
Rick Yenser

May 11, 2025

Barb Huebner  
Beth Oswald  
Tyler Miller

##### Baptisms: 4

Charlotte Olivia Gurgick -  
December 22, 2024

Brody John Shollenberger -  
February 9, 2025

Tessa Emilia Walbert -  
March 30, 2025

Hattie Jean Oldt -  
April 6, 2025

##### Marriages: 1

September 13, 2025

Tyler Miller & Beth Oswald

##### Deaths: 8

David Belles, died November 20, 2023 (was living in Florida)

Marcella Belles, died February 17, 2024 (was living in Florida)

John Fisher, Sr., died October 12, 2024

Diane Louise Zeravsky, died October 17, 2024

Joyce E. Nishnic, died November 15, 2024

Blanche R. Steiner, died March 9, 2025

Martin P. Bertie, died August 22, 2025

Lenard Hoch, died September 13, 2025

##### Congregation Membership

205 members as of October 1, 2024

208 members as of October 1, 2025

Additions: 11

Deaths: 8

## Giving Analysis from Oct. 2024-Sept. 30, 2025

General Use - \$153,489.00  
 Parking Lot - \$1,270.00  
 Cemetery Association - \$4,925.00  
 Memorial Fund - \$1,190.00  
 Mission - \$6,605.00  
 Flowers - \$1,980.00  
 Bulletins - \$410.00  
 Utilities - \$905.00  
 Sunday School - \$346.00  
 Pastor Discretionary Fund - \$2,195.00  
 Windows Fund - \$15,228.00  
 Building Repair - \$1,440.00

## Proposed Church Budget 2026

Proposed CHURCH BUDGET FOR 2026	2025 Budget	Oct 2024 - Sept 2025 actual	2026 Budget
<b><u>INCOME</u></b>			
TOTAL REGULAR CHURCH INCOME	142,760	138,866	139,185
TOTAL BENEVOLENCE SUPPORT CONGREGATION	3,750	10,193	8,100
TRANSFER FROM PARKING LOT*	-	-	
TOTAL MISC. INCOME	15,940	20,419	20,000
<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>	<b>162,450</b>	<b>169,478</b>	<b>167,285</b>
<b><u>EXPENSES</u></b>			
TOTAL PASTOR'S EXPENSE <i>- Includes Personnel Committee recommended increase</i>	45,835	41,090	42,500
CHRISTIAN ED SUPPLIES (SUNDAY SCHOOL)	450	353	400
TOTAL STAFF EXPENSE  <i>- Includes Personnel Committee recommended increases</i>	56,134	57,603	57,319
TOTAL CHARITABLE CONTRIBUTIONS EXPENSE	3,900	8,057	7,200
TOTAL MUSIC & WORSHIP EXPENSE	4,825	4,394	5,311
TOTAL BUILDING & GROUNDS OPERATING EXPENSE	29,950	26,324	28,125
TOTAL OFFICE/COMMUNICATION OPERATING EXPENSES	7,425	5,822	8,920
TOTAL EXPENSE PROPERTY PROJECTS  <i>- \$5,000 TBD projects - as necessary</i>	5,000	-	5,000
TOTAL PARSONAGE EXPENSES	11,100	9,091	9,695
MISC EXPENSES	6,200	11,088	9,700
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>	<b>170,819</b>	<b>163,821</b>	<b>174,170</b>
<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>	<b>162,450</b>	<b>169,478</b>	<b>167,285</b>
<b>TOTAL EXPENSE</b>	<b>170,819</b>	<b>163,821</b>	<b>174,170</b>
<b>NET CASH FLOW</b>	<b>(8,369)</b>	<b>5,656</b>	<b>(6,885)</b>

# COMMITTEE AND GROUP REPORTS

## All Things Free Room (ATF)

Our All Things Free Room continues to provide clothing and other household amenities to the families of the Old Zionsville Area Food Pantry, the Food Cupboard of St. John's Lutheran Church in Macungie, and Groceries Plus of Bethel Bible Fellowship Church in Emmaus.

### Our Mission Statement.....

In following God's teachings to help our fellow man (II Corinthians 9:2) our committee is created and committed to providing clothing and other household amenities (with the exception of food) to families of our local and surrounding area food pantries.

We have completed the following this year:

- We averaged 97 individuals at each one of our six-monthly giveaways
- 70 shoppers shopped our extra Christmas shopping day in November
- We moved to and held our Christmas shopping days in the lower social hall
- We set up and accepted donations at a table at Fun Group's Basket Bazaar
- We established our own account for our finances with the business office
- Completed utilizing our additional storage space with shelves, rolling racks, tables, and hung a curtain to separate our space from the Sunday School room
- Pantry invitations are now color coded and required of clients to enter our room on giveaway days
- Continue to display leftover books in the upstairs social hall to take and share with our congregation and visitors
- Leftover and unacceptable donated items were passed on to Boy Scout drives and other charities. Occasionally, appropriate leftovers were sold at second hand stores
- Monetary donations were accepted to support operating expenses and help to purchase extras for Christmas shopping days

THANKS be to GOD..... and to all who have supported and continue to support our mission to help our families in need.

Our faithful volunteers sort and store incoming donations on Monday mornings beginning at 10:00 am. All are welcome to come and join us.

Volunteers: Beth Eck, Jane Bedell, Sherri Harrison, Sue Hartman, Ethel Hollenbach, Millie Kohler, Sue Kohler, Brailynn Mikolajczyk, Mike Mikolajczyk, Alyson Miller, Phyllis Ritter, Phil Rhode, Glenn Shingler, Gisela Thiel, and Pastor Lori

Respectfully Submitted by Millie Kohler

# **Boy Scout Troop 31**

Troop 31 2025 Annual Report

## **Members:**

We have 13 registered scouts and 11 registered leaders. We did not retain the 2 cross-over scouts from cubs this year.

## **Advancement:**

Scouts earned a total of 44 merit badges and 5 rank advancements. We also had numerous scouts work on Eagle Scout projects this year:

Evan Fegley: Memorial Garden at Zions Lutheran Church

Preston Kehs: Fire Circle Bench Replacement, Sign, and Woodshed at Camp Serranova

Ben Ruyak: Pump House/Well Shed Replacement at Camp Serranova

Chase Eiss: Baseball Field Dougout Construction on 4th Street in Emmaus

Ryan Feldmann's project was approved, he will be working on extending a trail for the Wildlands Conservancy.

## **Outings:**

This year for summer camp we attended Ockanickon Scout Reservation in Pipersville, PA. We also held our annual "Scoutsgiving" where we camped at Serranova and cooked a turkey under a trash can. We had a capture the flag weekend at Serranova and a fall camporee at Camp Minsi. The highlight of this year was a high adventure trip to Sea Base. Six scouts and 3 adults attended. We flew into St. Thomas VI and boarded a 30' sailboat where we sailed around the island of St. John for the week. We slept on the deck of the boat, went snorkeling and hiking.

## **Community Service:**

In addition to hours spent on service projects, the troop also participated in a flag retirement ceremony at Kospia Farms. We also collected food for Scouting for Food.

Respectfully Submitted by Abraham Ruth, Scoutmaster

## **Cemetery Association**

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

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

Cemetery Caretaker for 2024-2025 was Glenn Shingler. We had one burial in the Union Cemetery: June 27, 2025, Shirley E. Conner. There was one cremation burial in the Church Cemetery: September 19, 2025, Jeffery Faustner. Plots are available for purchase. Please contact the Church office for more information.

Peter Yeakel put new siding on the shed and made new Rules and Regulations signs for both cemeteries.

Respectfully Submitted by Chris Schell

## Christian Education Committee and Music and Worship Committee Reports

(Since much of our work crosses over and supports the other, we have joined together in meeting quarterly to coordinate the schedule for best use of our time, talents and treasures to ensure our members and friends are enriched.)

Committee members: Kathy Latshaw, Cheryl Martucci, Susan Jacobs, Jan Strobel, Jane Bedell, David Carlson, Carolyn Rhoads, Lori Esslinger

- Since COVID, the **choir** no longer sits together during worship in the choir loft neither do the choir or clergy wear robes during worship. The Choir sits in the congregation and comes forward to the choir loft to sing at the appropriate time in the service and then returns to their seats.
- The committee members were asked to help with the **Dedication of the Windows** service. They provided food at the reception following the service. (See full report of that event in the Windows to the Future report)
- We are still **looking for helpers to prepare and clean up after communion** on the first Sunday of the month. Right now, Pastor Lori is providing the elements of bread and grape juice, and an anonymous donor is providing the wine. We started offering gluten free wafers. Since they are very expensive to purchase in the store, Pastor Lori found a recipe and will try making them at home for us to use in worship.
- It was discussed: how to keep the gluten free wafers from touching the bread. Cupcake paper liners will be used to separate them in the trays. (A sturdier solution was found - we cut the paper drinking cups in half to fit on the tray and this is working well)
- **Harvest Home** was again a 2-week event. We thank Carolyn Rhoads and Nancy Civitts for always making a beautiful display.
- **All Saints Sunday** was celebrated at the last Sunday of Oct. We invited families to come to church to light a candle for their departed loved ones from Sept. 2024 to Sept. 2025. The service was well attended.
- Since the windows collection has ended, we were told by Finance how the **silk altar flower money** would be handled. Pastor Lori opposed the ways they suggested and wrote an email to ask for more options rather than putting all of the money into the flower account to cover for the people who aren't paying for their flower orders. After much dialogue, it was decided to put the silk flower money into the Mission account of the church until another project would be identified to benefit from these funds.
- We were encouraged by some choir members to use the **alternative endings to hymns** when they are provided in the hymnal. We have started using those endings with mild success. It is a work in progress since many congregation members don't read music and David doesn't always make it clear when the transition ends and our singing should begin again.
- In 2024, **Thanksgiving Eve** service was eliminated by the Ministerium for lack of attendance. They came up with an alternative of a Sunday afternoon Concert service at 3 p.m. with food and fellowship to follow. (The Concert service was well attended and enjoyed by all so that tradition will probably take hold for next year).
- **Advent services of 2024** were well attended.
- We celebrated **White Gift Sunday** with gifts for Bethany Ministries. That same day also included a Congregational Meeting after worship plus a Cemetery Association meeting after worship.
- **Christmas Eve 2024** consisted of 2 services - a 3 p.m. service that was more geared toward families and those who couldn't sit for a long period of time and the 7:30 p.m. service with NO bell choir prelude. Since folks began arriving for the 7:30 p.m. service "early" as had been the tradition but there was no special music, we decided for 2025 Christmas Eve to begin the service at 7 p.m. instead and kept the 3 p.m. service time.

- It was also decided to ask the **fire company to help folks cross the street** - to stay longer to include the time of ending of the 3 p.m. service and the start time of the 7 p.m. service.
- **Ash Wednesday** was once again held at our church for the Ministerium. All Ministerium Clergy took part in the service.
- **Midweek Lent services** were not held this year since they had declining attendance in the past few years. Instead, this year, we offered a season of The Chosen during Lent at 1:00 p.m. on Wednesdays. It was appreciated by those in attendance since we held a discussion after each showing. The group has grown together and enjoys the company as we continued on in the fall with another season of The Chosen.
- **Holy Week and Easter services** were held per normal. Nothing special was presented.
- **Holy Humor Sunday** was held the Sunday after Easter. It was well received and enjoyed by all.
- A special celebration of **Pastor Lori's 10th Anniversary** of service to OZUCC was shared after worship. A big cake was enjoyed by all. Thanks from Pastor Lori for recognizing this milestone.
- **Second Sunday Treats** happened every 2nd Sunday through the Sunday School year. We appreciate Wendy and Jack Yeakel for hosting and serving those treats each 2nd Sunday. The children especially look forward to those times of refreshment.
- **The Rev. Dr. Bonnie Bates, Conference Minister of the PNEC**, preached and visited with us on May 16. She has announced her retirement and we enjoyed having her with us one last time before she left her office.
- **Memorial Day, Sunday, May 25th**, we celebrated our cemeteries with a video presentation created by **Drone and the skills of new Member Tyler Miller**. He videoed all three of our cemeteries and Jane Bedell provided historical information that Pastor Lori used to narrate the presentation. It was informative and lovely with his skillful editing and photography. Thank you, Tyler! We WILL be showing this again.
- The **last day of Sunday School** for the year was June 8. Our Sunday School this year had 3 children. We also celebrated **graduates** that day. We only had one graduate who was recognized this year. **Alyson Miller** completed her Bachelor of Education degree at Cedar Crest College.
- **Dillingersville School House Pilgrimage** was held on the last Sunday of the month, June 29. The Lutherans were in charge this year.
- At the **end of June, our 22-year on the job Administrative Assistant Retired. Brenda Seitz** was a joy and an historical memory of our church. We will miss her dearly. She left quietly with no formal party, just a small gathering in the office to wish her well and shared financial gifts from congregation members who wished to give.
- We were fortunate to have several **interim workers** to cover Brenda's job. Robin Yoder stepped up to take care of the financials. Alyson Miller worked in the office to keep the bulletins and newsletters flowing.
- Our **Personnel committee** went right to work to create a **job description and post our job on Indeed**. We held several interviews and in late July, Ellie Deere was offered the job of Part-Time Administrative Assistant. Robin Yoder said yes to doing the Financial Administrator component of the job and training began. These pieces are not necessarily Music and Worship and Christian Education parts of our year, however they deeply affected how those two parts of our church life continued.
- **David Carlson scheduled several vacation** Sundays this year and we were very fortunate to have church members substitute for him.
- Because the Window project completed collecting money, but was not totally completed yet, we did a **mini celebration with a 3-minute video** that Beth Massa put together of an overview of the 5-year project. That was shown in worship on Aug. 31 and again on Sept. 7 so more people could see it. Thanks Beth!

- Sept. 7 we also celebrated **Grandparents Day** by asking all grandparents to stand up. Pastor Lori asked by the number of grandchildren and let people with that number sit down. Two were left standing at the end... with over 7 grandchildren each!!!
- Through the summer Sundays, Pastor Lori offered information about **each of the disciples and what happened to them after Jesus died, resurrected, and walked on earth until Pentecost. That study went into September with the last Apostle being Paul.** She shared stories of where they went to minister and how they died. Christianity was illegal until the 4th Century. So, the leaders thought they were doing good by killing the Apostles. Lori also listed places where their remains were buried. Maps of the area and a list of the disciples were handed out for folks to take notes onto.
- **Sunday School** started in September. We have 3 students again now that Adam French has returned. We also started another Confirmation class with two students. They are meeting on a revised schedule since they are both busy with school and sports.
- On **September 28** we celebrated a **Dedication of new items and repaired/upgraded items for the church.** A long list was developed and included in the bulletin.

Respectfully Submitted by Lori Esslinger

## 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, Tyler Rhoads

**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:** We had a more laid-back year this year, with most of our focus on the continued support for Live Streaming of our Sunday Services and Sound production for services and various events throughout the year. We also continued our efforts to upgrade all our computers to Windows 11, as Windows 10 meets end of life in October of 2025. Although we have not completed this project this year, we did make some progress. We continue to pray that we can support our church with our focus on Information Technology (IT), Sound & Audio, and Security. We also ask for additional volunteers to join our team, especially if you have any Computer Hardware and Software capabilities to share.

### Fall 2024 (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 Diane Zeravsky, the FUN Bazaar & Basket Auction, two 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 2024 with spending under budget by about 15%.
  - The proposed budget for 2025 was submitted on September 24<sup>th</sup>.
    - IT Capital: (Two additional Windows 11 Computers, Peripherals, and Software)
    - IT Operating: (Typical Subscriptions for Computer Operation)
    - Sound Capital: (New Microphone to pick up the Congregation)
    - 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.
  - Angela Stahler continued directing the Video Streaming operations.
  - Our Streaming Viewership continues to grow.
- IT Systems:
  - The new Windows 11 PC for the Sound System was installed on October 3<sup>rd</sup>.
  - The existing Streaming PC was also upgraded to Windows 11.
- Sound Systems:
  - No new issues or maintenance required.
  - Improvements are still pending.
- Security Camera Systems:
  - No new issues or maintenance required.

### **Winter 2025 (January, February, March):**

- General:
  - Sunday Services Sound System and Video Streaming Operations continued.
  - Extra events included a Sunday afternoon presentation of the Short Film “The Fries Rebellion”.
  - There were no committee meetings during this time.
- Budgets:
  - Our proposed budget for 2025 was approved.
- Media Coordinators:
  - Beth Massa continues to prepare the slides for weekly worship, as well as posting to Facebook and updating the website.
  - Angela Stahler continues to direct the Video Streaming operations with Amber Kriebel helping as needed.
- IT Systems:
  - Continued work on preparing the additional two new Windows 11 PCs (Office PC and Pastor’s Laptop).
- Sound Systems:
  - No new issues or maintenance required.
  - Improvements are still pending.
- Security Camera Systems:
  - No new issues or maintenance required.

### **Spring 2025 (April, May, June):**

- General:
  - Sound and Streaming Operations continue to run smoothly.
  - The Sound Team supported Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, the Early Easter Service, and the Monica Thiel Memorial Service.
  - There were no committee meetings during this time.
- Budgets:
  - 2025 continued within budget. It was decided NOT to purchase the two additional Windows 11 PCs until the ones already purchased are fully prepared and deployed.
- Media Coordinators:

- Beth Massa, Angela Stahler, and Amber Kriebel continue to handle the various media tasks.
- IT Systems:
  - The new Windows 11 Office PC was installed on June 28<sup>th</sup>.
  - Preparation of Pastor Lori's new Windows 11 Laptop continues.
- Sound System:
  - No new issues or maintenance required.
  - Improvements are still pending.
- Security Camera Systems:
  - The Video Monitor for the Security System Recorder failed and was replaced.

### **Summer 2025 (July, August, September):**

- General:
  - Sunday Services continue to run smoothly for both the Sound and Streaming Teams.
  - The Sound Team supported the Fritzingler Funeral, the Miller / Oswald Wedding, and the Funeral for Martin Bertie.
  - There were no committee meetings during this time.
- Budgets:
  - 2025 Budget – Continues well under budget without the purchase of the two Windows 11 PCs.
  - 2026 Budget Planning – The budget will be very similar to 2025, given we did not purchase the two additional Windows 11 PCs.
- Media Coordinators:
  - Status Quo.
- IT Systems:
  - Mark is still working on preparing Pastor Lori's new Windows 11 laptop.
- Sound System
  - No new issues or maintenance required.
  - Improvements are still pending.
- Security:
  - No new issues or maintenance required.

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

- Personnel Support:
  - We continue to rely heavily on Beth Massa as our primary Media Coordinator responsible for Weekly Slides, Website, and other Internet based support.
  - Angela Stahler continues as 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, McGwire Martucci, and Tyler Rhoads for various tasks, including Sound Board and Slide Operations.
- Budgets:
  - Implementation of our 2026 Budget Line Items, if approved.
- IT Systems:

- Mark is still planning to finalize the preparation of the Pastor Lori's Laptop, as well as the two additional Windows 11 PCs still needed to complete the upgrade project.
- Sound System:
  - We have budgeted the new Microphone for the Congregation Voices to be heard on Streaming, hopefully to be purchased and installed in 2026.
  - Sanctuary Sound System: We have some very minor issues to be worked on.
  - Lower Social Hall Sound System: Still some small open items 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 Telecky and Jan Strobel.

Our 19th 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 \$615.00. Profit from the 50/50 Raffle was \$168.00. Monetary donations equaled \$70.00. Total profits for this fundraiser were \$2666.60. Clean-up cost was \$75.00 and Advertising cost was \$146.40. Thank you to the SonShine Group for serving a light lunch.

The following donations, totaling \$2115.00, were distributed:

- Grace Lutheran Food Pantry-\$200
- Lehigh County Conference of Churches-\$300
- Lehigh Valley Hospice-\$150
- Macungie Ambulance Corps-\$165
- Meals on Wheels-\$200
- Phoebe Auxiliary/Ministries-\$200
- Sixth Street Shelter-\$200
- Upper Milford Fire Company-\$200
- St. John's UCC Fullerton (clean-up buckets)-\$150
- Our Church's Wider Mission (OCWM)-\$150
- OZUCC General Operating Expenses-\$200

Thank you to everyone who donated baskets, baked goods and time to make this event successful! We already have 6 tables reserved for next year.

The Warming Station at the Allentown YM/WCA benefited from our generous donation of two garbage bags full of new men's and women's socks.

In December/January we collected 3 grocery bags full of hot chocolate, tea, and soup to Share the Warmth from the inside out with the Zionsville Food Pantry.

On February 23, 39 attendees enjoyed the Souper Bowl. Ten soups were available for tasting, along with bread, drinks and desserts. Canned soup and \$72 in donations were collected for the Zionsville Food Pantry.

A toiletry collection in March /April yielded 2 full boxes of assorted items for the Zionsville Food Pantry.

On May 3, FUN Group ventured into something new by having a Penny Party. 45 people attended, food was available for purchase by SonShine Group, and a good time was had by all.

In June, peanut butter and jelly were collected for the Zionsville Food Pantry.

And in August, various School Supplies were collected for Jefferson Elementary 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.

Respectfully Submitted in Christ's Service by Jan Strobel

## **Finance Committee**

Committee Members: Kathy Latshaw, Robin Yoder, Cheryl Martucci, Debbie Gurgick, Paula Lilly, and Mike Mikolajczyk (newest member). Brenda Seitz and Sharon Trexler also shared time with us in 2024 and part of 2025.

The committee reviews the financial reports and approves the paying of the bills for the church every month.

Also, the budget draft is reviewed and approved to go to the consistory for approval and then to the Congregational meeting for approval and vote for the next year.

The parsonage rent is up to date for the months of this report and tenants are in good standing with their lease.

Renewed CDs when they came at various times to continue with the investments.

Discussed and sold lottery calendars twice during this time to help raise monies toward general funding for our congregation. It was somewhat successful. We did secure a small game license. Shantz Funeral Home was our sponsor for this endeavor.

We secured another Pest Control Company to treat the insects. We now use Enviro-Tech for a lower price and more protection.

A donation was given to Fire Companies for their help with Christmas Eve traffic control.

When silk flowers are in the altar vases the sponsor money went towards the window project. Since the window project is complete the money now is directed to our mission.

Speaking of the window project in 2024, a successful matching gift challenge was raised and will have sufficient funds in the account to complete the window project in the spring of 2025. In April, fundraising for the window project was completed. Then in September it was announced that the windows project was completed. In September it was announced that the windows project was totally finalized. Thanks to all who contributed to the project so many can enjoy the windows in years to come.

Respectfully Submitted by Kathy Latshaw

## 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 good year, but we lost a couple events in January and February due to inclement weather. We managed 34 events again this year, albeit attendance being down a bit, but we did add a few new faces. We began working with Anna Fell (Anna's Adventures) for trips out of the area requiring bus transportation, which included Sight and Sound "Noah" and a Fall Day on the Chesapeake. We continued our Picnic Pavilion event at the Iron Pigs which again had 50 attendees for the third year in a row. Once again, we enjoyed the fellowship which continues to build our wonderful OZUCC family.

### October 2024:

- October 2<sup>nd</sup> - Supper Club - Limeport Inn - 14 attended.
- October 20<sup>th</sup> - Sunday Brunchers - Mercantile Club Emmaus - 13 attended.
- October 26<sup>th</sup> - Lunch Bunch - Chestnut Ridge Emmaus - 10 attended.

### November 2024:

- November 6<sup>th</sup> - Supper Club - Main Street Pub Bally - 13 attended.
- November 17<sup>th</sup> - Sunday Brunchers - Mercantile Club Emmaus - 9 attended.
- November 22<sup>nd</sup> - Lunch Bunch - Pied Piper Bally - 13 Attended.
- November 30<sup>th</sup> - Pines Dinner Theater "White Christmas" - 32 attended.

### December 2024:

- December 15<sup>th</sup> - Sunday Brunchers - Mercantile Club Emmaus - 16 attended.

### January 2025:

- January 10<sup>th</sup> - Supper Club - Fairgrounds Hotel Allentown - 13 attended.
- Sunday Brunchers Cancelled due to Snow
- January 24<sup>th</sup> - Lunch Bunch - Trivet Macungie - 15 attended.
- January 27<sup>th</sup> - Winter Cruise - RCCL Odyssey of the Seas - 12 Night Southern Caribbean - 8 sailed.

### February 2025:

- February 12<sup>th</sup> - Supper Club - Delizioso Italian Grille Macungie - 10 attended.
- Sunday Brunchers Cancelled due to Snow
- February 28<sup>th</sup> - Lunch Bunch - Chino's Place Hereford - 11 attended.

### March 2025:

- March 1<sup>st</sup> - American Music Theatre - Riverdance 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary - 30 attended.
- March 12<sup>th</sup> - Supper Club - Hunan Springs Wescosville - 11 attended.
- March 16<sup>th</sup> - Sunday Brunchers - Mercantile Club Emmaus - 11 attended.
- March 28<sup>th</sup> - Lunch Bunch - Perkin's Lehigh St. Allentown - 14 attended.

### April 2025:

- April 1<sup>st</sup> - Sight & Sound with Anna's Adventures - "Noah" - 8 attended.
- April 2<sup>nd</sup> - Supper Club - Casa Catrina Macungie - 12 attended.
- Sunday Brunchers took an Easter Break
- April 25<sup>th</sup> - Lunch Bunch - East Penn Diner Emmaus - 7 attended.

### May 2025:

- May 7<sup>th</sup> - Supper Club - Main Street Pub Bally - 11 attended.
- May 18<sup>th</sup> - Sunday Brunchers - Mercantile Club Emmaus - 12 attended.

- May 30<sup>th</sup> – Lunch Bunch – Macungie Diner – 16 attended.

### **June 2025:**

- June 4<sup>th</sup> – Supper Club – Peppe’s Italian Gilbertsville – 7 attended.
- June 15<sup>th</sup> – Sunday Brunchers – Mercantile Club Emmaus – 14 attended.
- June 21<sup>st</sup> – Iron Pigs – Coca Cola Park Picnic Patio – 50 attended.
- June 27<sup>th</sup> – Lunch Bunch – Bally Diner – 10 attended.

### **July 2024:**

- Supper Club and Lunch Bunch again took a summer break in July and August
- July 20<sup>th</sup> – Sunday Brunchers – Mercantile Club Emmaus – 16 attended,

### **August 2025:**

- August 17<sup>th</sup> – Sunday Brunchers – Mercantile Club Emmaus – 13 attended.

### **September 2025:**

- September 10<sup>th</sup> – Supper Club – Capo & Co. Emmaus – 7 attended.
- September 21<sup>st</sup> – Sunday Brunchers – Mercantile Club Emmaus – 10 attended.
- September 25<sup>th</sup> – Chesapeake City Canal House & Cruise with Anna’s Adventures – 5 attended.
- September 26<sup>th</sup> – Lunch Bunch – Chino’s Place Hereford – 11 attended.
- September 28<sup>th</sup> – Fall Cruise – NCL Getaway – 7 Night New England & Canada – 9 sailed.

In addition to our fellowship events, GriefCare (formerly GriefShare) met for one "session" this year for 9 weeks. We had 8 people who completed the course. It is so meaningful to participate and guide those who are grieving. We give thanks for their vulnerability to share their pain and journey with those who have been there and want to help.

### **Looking Forward to Fall 2025 and 2026:**

- We are continuing our familiar activities, including Supper Club, Sunday Brunchers, and Lunch Bunch through the fall of 2025 and are beginning to work on the schedule for the new year.
- Finally, the GriefCare Team anticipates meeting in late spring/summer again in 2026 for another round. It seems to be a good time to catch up with folks who are busy and willing to take the time to gather.

Respectfully submitted by Linda Weaver with Mark Weaver as contributor and by Pastor Lori on behalf of the GriefCare Leadership Team: Terry Eck, Paula Lilly, Joanne Rath

## **Outlook Committee**

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

### **February 2025**

- Pizza Kits Sold
  - Sold 65 & 10 extra=75 Kits total
  - \$300.00 Profit

### **April 2025**

- Fruit & Nut Rolls Sold
  - Sold 193 & 7 extra=200 Rolls total
  - \$800.00 Profit

Respectfully Submitted by Brenda Shoemaker

## Personnel Committee

Committee members: Pastor Lori Esslinger, Diane Berger, Jack Yeakel and Kathy Latshaw

This past year was a little busier for the personnel committee. We said goodbye to Brenda Seitz after 20+ years of service to our church as our Administrative Secretary. We conducted interviews to search for another person to take her place but decided it would take two to replace her.

So, we said hello to Ellie Deere as new Administrative Secretary and to Robin Yoder as Financial Administrator. Also, Larry Stahler came on the staff as the church grounds keeper. A job description was constructed for him and anyone after him.

We have been monitoring the workings of our staff and seeing that evaluations were conducted and turned in for our review. We met to consider raises in these hard economic times and made our suggestions to Consistory and Finance Committees. Raises are based on cost of living and the best guess we have for the future financial picture of the church.

Thanks to the committee for their faithfulness.

Respectfully Submitted by Kathy Latshaw

## Property Committee

**Committee members:** Diane Berger, Consistory Representative; Bobby Schmeltzle; Brenda Shoemaker; Rich Shoemaker; Randy Trexler; Sharon Trexler; Dana Walbert; Jack Yeakel; 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 second Monday of the month at 7 PM, usually at the church. 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 2024, and January, March, April, June, and August 2025. No meetings in November 2024 or February, May, July, and September 2025.
- 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.
- Larry Stahler has been hired to do general groundskeeping.
- Dana Walbert and Jack Yeakel joined the committee; we welcome them and thank them for their work!
- Beth Massa submitted her resignation as committee chair in June; she volunteered to serve through the end of calendar year 2025. Please contact Beth or Pastor Lori if you are interested in serving in this capacity.

### Work completed in past year

- Continued interactions with tenant liaison to ensure situations with parsonage are handled in a timely manner
- Windows renovation work completed; see report elsewhere in this annual meeting packet

- Damage to parsonage front door removed; the beveled glass was removed, repaired and framed by Cumberland Glass and will be hung in an appropriate place in the church.
- New toilets installed in parsonage
- Facilitated fire drills for Sunday school and Sunday worship services
- Replacement part was ordered and installed for boiler, ready to go for heating season
- State boiler inspection arranged; next date to do is November 2026
- Big parking lot and horseshoe areas resealed and relined for parking spaces
- Plumbing work and retiling done in lower social hall ladies' room
- Updated Property Contacts List
- Automated external defibrillator (AED) software upgraded
- Performed ongoing maintenance work around the church and parsonage (fire extinguishers inspected and approved, exterior door painting, 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, Carol and Curtis Sell, Ethel Hollenbach

- **October:** made and sold Pepper Pot Soup and Ham and Cheese Sandwiches. Profit: \$693.97
- **November:** made and sold 109 quarts Chicken Corn Pot Pie Soup and 180 Ham and Cheese Sandwiches. Profit \$965.75
- **December:** made and sold 49 quarts Chicken Noodle Soup, 40 quarts Chili, and 212 Ham and Cheese Sandwiches. Profit: \$1,050.60. Window Cookie Sale Profit: \$72.00
- **January:** made and sold 93 quarts Beef Vegetable Soup and 195 Ham and Cheese Sandwiches. Profit: \$1,174.00
- **February:** made and sold 78 quarts Ham and String Bean Soup and 174 Ham and Cheese Sandwiches. Profit: \$958.68
- **March:** made and sold 135 Corn Pies and 197 Ham and Cheese Sandwiches. Profit: \$1,308.08
- **April:** made and sold 69 quarts Chili and 174 Ham and Cheese Sandwiches. Profit: \$952.86
- **May:** made and sold 88 quarts Beef Vegetable Soup and 144 Ham and Cheese Sandwiches. Profit: \$720.79
- **June:** made and sold 168 Ham and Cheese Sandwiches. Profit: \$480.43
- **July:** made and sold 156 Ham and Cheese Sandwiches. Profit: \$443.11
- **August:** made and sold 161 Ham and Cheese Sandwiches. Profit: \$454.61
- **September:** made and sold 105 Ham and Cheese Sandwiches. Profit: \$275.93

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

Respectfully Submitted by Annie Souder

## SonShine Kitchen

Committee Members: Richard Yeakel, Lisa Talecki and Lori Esslinger, Daniel Latshaw (others who can help along the way are invited too)

In November 2024, this group helped at the Bazaar and Filled Basket Raffle by selling food in the kitchen. Throughout the winter months, Richard Yeakel stained the crosses that Daniel Latshaw hand crafted. He then crafted bows to be placed on the crosses. He made bows for

several seasons so that they could be interchanged with just the use of a zip tie. We sold bows for autumn and Christmas during these months as well as some crosses too. On Feb. 1, 2025, The Lower Macungie Township used our sanctuary to show the movie, The Fries Rebellion. It was very well attended by community members from far and wide! We sold some refreshments, including soft pretzels, drinks and snacks, in the upper social hall with the help of Cheryl and McGwire Martucci.

Cross and Bow sales continued on into the spring as Richard continued working on orders for crosses that he had been given. Our big event of 2025, was serving food in the kitchen during the FUN Group's Penny Party. We served all kinds of sandwiches, pizza, macaroni and cheese, snacks, baked goods, and drinks to the delight of our guests at this First Time Event in our building. The food was enjoyed and brought in a fair price.

After that event, Richard Yeakel became ill and we have been praying for him ever since. God is with him and our prayers continue. His sister Lisa has been always by his side helping him to get the care he needs plus advocating for him at every turn. We continue to invite your prayers for him as we move forward through the end of 2025 into a new year in 2026.

Peace to all. Respectfully Submitted by Lori Esslinger

## **Tenant Liaison Report**

Over the past year, rent has been paid on time and the relationship with the tenants is good. A switch was made in payment timing as we now receive 2 checks at the beginning of the month, each for half the rent and payable on the 1st and 3rd Wednesdays. This supports better cash flow for us as well as the tenants.

Cost this year included an increase in property taxes, which was budgeted. Additional budgeted expenses included pumping the septic system and new toilet seats. We were able to upgrade the toilets to modern ADA standard with fixtures donated to the church.

The property plumbing was reviewed to see if water would be available to the refrigerator, which the tenants were considering replacing at their own expense. We can support that plumbing need, but as of the writing of this report, no further action has been taken by the tenants to purchase a refrigerator.

The damaged beveled glass window in the front door was removed and replaced with tempered glass. The damaged window was repaired and rebuilt by Cumberland Glass and returned to the church in late fall. Cost was covered by a combination of tenant contribution, surplus window funds, and general church operating expenses. Plan is to display the restored piece somewhere in the church, rather than return it to the door at the parsonage since it is a rental property.

Special thanks to those who have assisted and consulted in the ongoing upkeep and improvements of the parsonage.

Respectfully Submitted by Robin Yoder

## **Windows to the Future**

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

### **RESTORATION**

- A contract was signed in January for the installation of protective coverings on the nativity and twin windows, as well as exterior trim painting at a cost of \$23,750.
- Cumberland was on site six days during July and August. A fork lift was used for better access to the windows over the shrubbery. This completed Phase 3 of the project.
- A "Five Years in Five Minutes" slide presentation overviewing the project was presented during worship on August 31 and September 7.

## **FUND RAISING**

- The \$5,000 2024 Matching Gift Challenge kicked off in September. By the end of October, \$4,367 was received. Another \$1,000 was then donated to the challenge and by the end of November \$6,150 was raised. Five successful annual challenges were held during the campaign, raising a total of \$41,505.
- The Change for the Windows Jar continued to appear in the narthex and raised \$66. The total change donated during the campaign was \$1,473.
- A “wedding ring” quilt was donated and a sealed bid auction for the quilt was held in February. The required minimum bid was \$375. Three bids were received, with the winning bid submitted by Dan and Kathy Latshaw. The total raised from the seven donated quilts was \$3,283.

## **CONGRATULATIONS AND AMEN!**

At long last – five long years to be exact – the restoration of the sanctuary windows is complete. All stained glass has been restored, all new protective coverings are in place, and all exterior trim has been repaired and painted. The total cost of the project was \$198,000, with no debt incurred. We won't know if the windows will survive another 100 years, but their beauty reminds us each week of our past, the present, and our hopes for the future. Your prayers, generosity, and support, as well as gifts in memory of those before us, made this possible. Thank you for trusting and supporting the committee along the way!

Respectfully Submitted by Ruth Stansfield