

WESTERN PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH & SOCIETY
PALMYRA, NY
2023 ANNUAL REPORT



western
presbyterian
church

“Living water for a thirsty world.” ~Isaiah 44:3

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*Western Presbyterian Church is Building Faith, Family & Fellowship.
We are Christ-centered, Nurturing, Caring, Welcoming, and Generous.
Western Presbyterian Church nurtures spiritual growth, joyful fellowship,
meaningful community and global involvement,
worshipping and serving God with energy, intelligence, imagination, and love.*

Christian Education Ministry Team Annual Report 2023

Building Faith, Family, and Fellowship. WPC nurtures spiritual growth, joyful fellowship, meaningful community, and global involvement: worshiping and serving God with energy, intelligence, imagination, and love.

The CE team of 2023 consisted of Ellen Avery, Emily Hunt (Chairperson), Cim McFarlane (Sunday School Director, as a non-elected member) and Jody Pruitt. We work as a team with the congregation “to tell the story of love and grace we have received from God, because it is a story we love to tell!”

We had in-person Sunday School with weekly attendance ranging from 3-10 children, with a rotating teacher (Kelly Babcock and Jody Pruitt rotated Sundays), and Cim McFarlane was always there as the Sunday School Director. We continued to hold a multi-age class with children ranging from ages 3-13. Teachers are using a curriculum for multi-age classes called Growing in Grace and Gratitude.

Cim continues to provide leadership for:

- Attending Sunday School each week, prepping the classroom before class and cleaning up the classroom after class.
- Keeping the Sunday School snack supply well stocked.
- Selecting and ordering curriculum for Sunday School.
- Selecting and organizing Sunday School teachers.
- Orchestrating two Children-Lead Worship services (Epiphany and Pentecost)- providing full scope of planning and executing.
- Sending regular mailings and emails to all Sunday School and VBS families.
- Participating in the Camp Whitman Advisory Committee.
- Planning the making of holiday cards for WPC shut-ins and WPC college students for Valentine’s Day, Easter, and Christmas (a minimum of 40 cards are made).
- Planning and executing Summer Vacation Bible School (combined sponsors with Palmyra Reformed Church)- 2023’s theme was Everest. Children made crafts, played games, listened to Bible stories, and sang lots of songs. 37 children attended and 25 adults and teens volunteered. About 60 lunches were served every day.
- Promoting Camp Whitman- 4 WPC youth, 1 WPC adult attended camp in the summer of 2023. Two WPC college students worked at Camp Whitman over the summer of 2023.
- Updating the bulletin boards in Fellowship Hall and outside of the Sunday School classroom.
- Orchestrating the Palm Sunday Parade.

- Orchestrating the youth group event- Winter Holiday Festival of Lights in December. 9 WPC youth attended and enjoyed the light display and wagon ride. Pizza and hot chocolate were enjoyed at church afterwards.
- Promoting All Roads Lead to Watson for local Presbyterian youth at Painted Post.
- Beginning and implementing Toddler Time at WPC for preschoolers and their caregivers.
- Actively posting on Facebook WPC youth events and Toddler Time happenings.

Under the leadership of the CE Team:

- Hosted the Back to Sunday School breakfast in September.
- Hosted the Easter Bunny breakfast in April.
- Held adult book study classes on Sunday mornings with Jody Pruitt, using the book 16 Bible Studies for Your Small Group by Ryan Lokkesmoe. Around 10-15 people participated in each session.
- Worked at the Canal Town Days selfie table in front of WPC.
- Passed out candy and a worship invitation to over 500 youth at the Trick or Treat on Main Street event.
- Helped supply Busy Bags for children during worship.
- Presented gifts to graduating seniors- presented to two seniors in 2023.
- Presented 2nd grade Bibles to two 2nd graders in 2023.
- With the help of Pastor Hodong, we commissioned 3 Sunday School teachers in 2023.
- Cleaned and organized the green room after shelves were constructed from a Boy Scout Eagle project.
- Provided two cover letters for the WPC newsletter, the Spire (when we were without a pastor.)
- Provided an intergenerational Fall Fun Fest activity after worship.

The team works to provide Christian Education, leadership, and mission opportunities for both adults and children in a loving and caring way- “Together let us tell the story of love and grace we have received from God, because it is a story we love to tell!”

Respectfully submitted by Emily Hunt- Christian Education Team Chair

“Living waters for a thirsty world.” Isaiah 44:3

Church Statistics- Report of the Clerk

Active Membership as of January 1, 2023 **86**

Additions

By Profession of Faith, Restoration, Reaffirmation	1
By Certificate of Transfer	1
Other - moved from inactive back to active	<u>1</u>
Total Additions	3

Losses

By Certificate of transfer	0
By Death	2
By Removal to Inactive Roll	0
By Removal from Rolls	<u>0</u>
Total Losses	1

Total Active Membership as of December 31, 2023 **87**

Session Members Serving in 2023

Irene Fadden	Emily Hunt
Randy Kennard	Sue Leonard
Alicia Lynch	James McFarlane
Norman Underwood	Philip Opdycke-Presbytery Delegate

Eric Chapman-Treasurer
Janet Manktelow- Clerk
Head of Corporation- Alicia Lynch

Changes to Session for 2024: Courtney Marr-head of Worship
Philip Opdycke-head of Property

The Deacons Ministry Team Annual Report for 2023

The Deacons Ministry Team of 2023 consisted of Sara Bush, Patricia Dlugosh, Randy Kennard- Chairperson, Sylvia Lyon, Sandy McMenamain- Treasurer, and Nancy Talma, with Linda Pulcini as a prayerful supporter who has rejoined our team as an active member. Sylvia Lyon has stepped down.

The Deacon's team has been a constant presence of prayerful compassion and support for our church. This is a year of encouraging transition. This is the case on a few different levels.

We have transitioned into parsing the prayer list responsibilities to a broader base of the team. This is to serve as a way to lighten the load of managing the prayer list by Sandy M. It is also to further engage each team member in the concerns and needs of those on the list. In some cases, more than one team member is connecting with each person. In other cases, it ensures that there is at least one person that is reaching out. It has radiated into a more engaged team effort.

Come the end of the summer, a major transition was to welcome Rev. Hodong Hwang as an active member of our team. We had a special meeting where we explained our prayer list and how those on the list were associated members of our church, and who were associated through the love and care of congregation members. It was through this activity that we illustrated the extensive prayer ministry that we have. We pray for urgent needs, grieving folks, long term ailments, military folks far from home, and we also pray for folks that have confidential concerns. This was a huge scope to be introduced to, but Rev. Hodong has come up to speed amazingly.

We are actively visiting folks where previously there were covid barriers to jump through. No more need for covid tests prior to visiting folks in nursing homes. No more masks, etc. This has really offered us a willingness to visit and a willingness for others to receive visitors. We have highlighted folks that we feel need pastoral care and introduction to our new pastor. Hodong has reached out to the active and semi-active prayer concerns and has offered grace and support to them. He speaks of them by name and understands where to place his God sent prayers. I might add, Rev. Hodong has gone out into the community and introduced himself to folks in a very welcoming way. He has sparked enthusiasm from some of those that he has conversed with.

The congregation has been surprised by the transition to using pita bread as one of the elements in our communion service. One Deacon asked if in Jesus' time the yeast bread would have really been used. It was discussed that unleavened bread would be more typical of that time in Biblical history. Along with changing the body element, we have reverted back to serving it in platters, rather than using disposable cups. One further transition to come in 2024 is to only serve gluten free pita bread to represent the body of Christ. Rev. Hodong wants us all to be taking from the same loaf as we are together the body of Christ, no exclusions or exceptions.

Another transition that the Deacon's team has seen is financially. We entered 2023 with a balance in our account that would not see us through the year. Session and Finance graciously offered us a line item in the budget. The agreement that we had was to not use the \$500 if we can support ourselves. However, if we need to use it, we will apply the funds to communion cups, devotionals, and postage as needed. Since the line item, there has been a change in worship. We have resumed passing the offertory plate. With that, the pew envelopes are being used and funds are funneling into our account. In addition, there was a very generous donation made at the start of the year. It now looks like we will not have need of the budget funds... at this time.

One constant that has remained with the Deacon's intent is to certainly recognize birthdays, anniversaries, and special events. Whether folks have an entire family to celebrate with them, or are alone, we want to ensure everyone is thought of on these dates. Along with this kind of card mailing, we have a list of folks that have special needs. These are not just shut ins. These are folks that need to know someone is thinking of them and offering faith filled support. That is done because each card includes both a scripture and some personal message. This year, along with sending holiday cards to those with special needs, we have sent welcoming Christmas cards to folks that are new to us in worship.

Somehow, we Deacons want to embrace each and every one of those that come to worship with us, are members of W.P.C. and those that are cared for and brought into our fold in person or through the power of prayer. Thank you to all who lift concerns up to God along with us. The power of prayer is healing on so many levels.

Respectfully submitted by Randy Kennard and the entire Deacon's team

Treasurer's Report 2023	
Balance on hand January 1, 2023	\$ 370.94
Deposits for the year	\$ 1,210.10
Total	\$ 1,581.04
Expenses: Cards, Monthly Notes, Postage,	
Communion elements/ supplies	\$ 292.38
Flowers	\$ 16.09
These Days Devotionals	\$ 139.00
Christmas Gifts	\$ 45.00
Balance on Hand January 1, 2024 Total	\$ 492.47
Balance on Hand January 1, 2024	\$ 1,088.57

Date	Funerals of WPC	Officiating	Funeral Home	Formate
3/16/2023	Ellie Giles	Rev Nancy	Yost	gravesite service / memorial and reception
5/6/2023	Stuart Smith	Rev Nancy		gravesite service / memorial and reception
6/ /2023	James Kirchhoff	Rev Nancy		Funeral home/cemetary service
8/23/2023	Janet R. Chriswell	Rev Robin L	private service	gravesite service
10/5/2023	Dorothy Schlee	Rev Hodong Hwang	Murphys	gravesite service & memorial and reception
10/27/2023	Agnes Griffith	Rev Hodong Hwang	Murphys	Funeral, gravesite service & reception

2023 As of April, Counts taken from remaining elements during serving						
Month	Visits	Phone Calls	and Email outreach	Communion Served	Communion Date	
January	16	27	63	38	1/15/2023	
February	7	19	68	42	19-Feb-23	S.S. created cards
March	6	20	64	39	12-Mar-23	
April	6	11	56	57	9-Apr-23	deliver 21 lilies / S.S. created cards
May	13	10	41	48	15-May-23	
June	9	10	55	45	11-Jun-23	
July	7	14	69	35	9-Jul-23	
August	10	19	74	64	13-Aug-23	delivered 22 Cup Cakes
September	12	14	68	66	10-Sep-23	
October	12	10	57	60	1-Oct-23	2 floral bouquets delivered
November	5	6	52	60	11/12/2023	7 floral bouquets delivered
December	19	14	79	81	12/24/2023	23 pointsettia deliveries 32 S.S. created cards
Year to Date	122	174	746	635		

* commuions are now served with passing out the elements in a cup of juice and another for bread
 *As of August 13th, bread is served in platters
 * Served pita bread - more representative of the bread of Jesus' time

Fellowship Ministry Team

Year End Report for 2023

In January we initiated our "5th Sunday Potluck". We thought by having one in the months that have a 5th Sunday it would become something the congregation would enjoy and look forward to. This was a huge hit, and we look forward to continuing the potluck events next year. According to the 2024 calendar, our first one will be March 31st.

Of course, we held our world famous "Sweets and Treats" the Sunday before Ash Wednesday. This is always a crowd favorite as everyone brings their favorite dessert for a dessert potluck. Some even bring recipes to share.

Ray Marr organized a Newark Pilots baseball outing which several families took advantage of despite the hot weather.

Again, this past year we opted to move the church picnic from June until September and called it "Welcome Back to Church" picnic/potluck. This year we held it the same day as Christian Ed. held their back to Sunday School breakfast. Both teams worked together, and everyone enjoyed a good time all day.

We worked together with PNC and worship team to honor Pastor Ho Dong with a reception for "Meet Our New Pastor Night". We also worked with worship to hold a nice reception for Ho Dong after his installation.

We held a potluck on Western Horizons Sunday where we recognize and honor our church members who have served over 50 years in the Presbyterian Church.

We closed out 2023 with the annual "Hanging of the Greens" Sunday when we decorate the Fellowship Hall for the Christmas season.

We are always looking for new ideas or things we can do. If you would like to join the team, please let us know. Even if you have a project close to your heart and would like to help out with one or two events, please join us.

Thank you and Happy New Year from the Fellowship Team:

Roxanne Dobson, Terry Gendron, Val Gendron, Ray Marr, Sue Pringle, Norm Underwood, Chairperson.

Finance Team – Year End Report For 2023

My first year as Finance Chair was an education to say the least. As a former Village Clerk Treasurer, I thought I had a pretty good picture of the finance world: accounting, bonds, stocks, etc. etc. Well, I couldn't have been more wrong. I would not have even begun to keep up with it all if it hadn't been for Val Gendron, Financial Secretary and Eric Chapman, Treasurer, as well as long time Finance Team members the two Bills - Bill Hassler and Bill Bush. I appreciate their patience dealing with my numerous questions time and time again.

In recognition of our year end surplus in 2022, largely due to the lack of a full-time minister, Finance recommended to Session to increase the budget allocated to Mission by \$18,500. Sad to say this will return to 10 per cent of pledges in 2024 but having our new pastor more than makes up for it.

As Bill Hassler reported in 2022, there were 85 active members who pledged and donated \$83,911. This year with just 2 more pledges and donations we come in at \$80,125 plus \$3,677 in loose offering and per capita donations. Pair those amounts with income from investments and the receipts of 2023 were \$162,955 through the end of November.

If you are curious how the year concluded on the other side of the coin, let me know and I'll get that number to you as soon as the final numbers are tallied. I welcome all questions and would like to thank all of you for your continued support and patience as I learn the ins and outs of being a church Finance chair.

Respectfully submitted,

Alicia M. Lynch
Chairperson, Finance Team

WPC Finance Team consists of Bill Bush, Eric Chapman (Treasurer), Val Gendron (Financial Secretary), William C. Hassler, Alicia Lynch (Chairperson)

Mission and Social Concerns Team Annual Report for 2023

In John 21:15-17, the disciples encounter Jesus while fishing. Jesus asks Peter if Peter loves him. When Peter responds, “Of course I love you, You know that I do.” Jesus says, ‘Feed my lambs.’ ‘Take care for my sheep,’ ‘Feed my sheep.’ and WPC has taken this to heart. Most, if not all, of our mission work is focused on hunger, housing, and health.

WPC supported the **Emergency Food Cupboard** that is used by many people in Palmyra. The name on the cupboard says, “Take what you need, Leave what you can.” One week in December, the cupboard was filled Sunday, Monday, and Tuesday and each time the cupboard was empty and in need of refilling. Another day, the cupboard was being filled and 3 families were there to get food before we finished. One of the mothers had just lost her job and she expressed how thankful she was for the cupboard so she could feed her children. The stories go on and on, but the cupboard serves a **real need** in the community.

Because of the increased mission budget, we were able to use about \$250 each month to buy food for the cupboard. The Women’s Association supported the cupboard with a couple of significant purchases. Many individuals from WPC purchased food and put their donations on the shelves or right into the Food Cupboard. There were many in the community who put food into the cupboard to be used by those who are food insecure.

In 2022 we purchased a white cabinet to store food. This year we added a set of wire shelves that are also filled with food. If you are at church and the cupboard is bare, please take a variety of food from the shelves and fill the cupboard. Kathy can let you in at the back door when she is in the office on Tuesday-Thursday so you can get to the stored food.

The **Food Pantry** located in Zion Episcopal has volunteers from WPC 3 evenings a month. Families can take the groceries that are on the shelves at the pantry. The families are so thankful for the pantry. They all show up at 6:00 and wait patiently for their turn as we can only serve two families shopping at a time. The nights there are 24 families, it is a long wait. WPC has been using \$250 each month to fill the pantry shelves with cereal and personal health and household paper and cleaning products.

During Advent, the congregation supported the food pantry with a Reverse Advent Calendar. The congregation brought in personal hygiene items, laundry soap, toilet paper, cleaning supplies, and all those things that SNAP benefits don’t cover. It is such a blessing to be able to give to those who need them.

The Clint McCoy Feeding Center in Mzenga, Malawi was established in 2010 through memorial gifts to honor the legacy of Rev. Clinton A. McCoy. The center provides a warm meal, simple games, and songs to over 80 young children two days a week. The \$500 we sent helped feed the children.

Healthy Ninos Honduras was supported this year with a donation that allows 20 families being able to have clean, drinkable water in their home. These filters have a 60-year lifespan.

Good Neighbor Fund – John Cook and Wilma Redman have administered the Good Neighbor Fund again this year. \$5,000 was given by WPC to support the Good Neighbor Fund throughout the year. The Session applied for and received a grant for the Good Neighbor Fund of \$3,000 from Presbytery. In December, Pastor Val Fowler, Laurie Hunt, and Laurence Sugarman performed in a concert to benefit the GNF. \$2,039 was given to support the GNF. The GNF helps families with rent, car repair, heating, etc.

Meals on Wheels – We continue to support the cost of preparing meals being delivered to senior citizens. In 2023 we sent \$2,000 to the ARC that makes the meals.

Summer Lunches for kids is a community project we support with volunteers. The ARC makes lunches for the kids in Palmyra. Volunteers pick lunches up at the ARC in Newark and bring it to the library where kids can pick up their lunch.

During Lent, the Congregation participated in a donation with a **Caring is Sharing Calendar**. Money was put into a loaf bank and then on Palm Sunday it was collected and given to the Presbytery Hunger Fund for Presbytery Grants to Food Ministries throughout the Presbytery. \$268.50 was raised for this project.

One Great Hour of Sharing donation was taken in October to support the PCUSA mission in the US and around the world. The offering received was \$586.

Weekend Wellness This year, Weekend Wellness bags are given to about 125 school aged children every week. We are no longer using Food Link to purchase bags of food. Instead, the Food Pantry has taken over the mission. The Food Pantry buys the food items for the bags and then twice a month. Volunteers come together to fill the bags. WPC has collected mac and cheese cups and granola bars to help defray some of the cost of purchasing the food. WPC has volunteers to fill the bags. This year WPC was able to donate \$3,000 for the cost of the Weekend Wellness project. The \$7,000 which remained in the Weekend Wellness account was given to the Food Pantry.

Family Promise continues to use the apartment model serving only 2 families. One family stays at the Day Center and one family stays in an apartment in Lyons. WPC donated \$1,000 to Family Promise in the spring.

Family Promise is looking for an apartment house to purchase which will allow 4 families to be part of the program again. This year because of the additional Mission money, the Mission and Social Concerns Team decided to give the \$4,487 remaining to Family Promise to purchase an apartment building.

Although we did not have the families staying at Western Presbyterian, we still provided dinners 5 Mondays in 2023. The volunteers that took dinner enjoyed being able to eat with the families. If you are interested in serving the meal or cooking the meal, please let Irene Fadden or Jody Pruitt know.

Evonne Pomerantz, the new Family Promise Director, shared that Family Promise has been in existence for 5 years. During that time “FPWC has seen 53 families from our community who have graduated from our shelter program (that is 68 adults and 128 children). Our preventative programs such as Roof Over Their Heads (ROTH) have helped about 140 families (at least 310 children) in maintaining or obtaining housing. I need to emphasize that this could not have been done without generous donations, our wonderful volunteers and community support!”

Qholaqhoe Mountain Connections in Lesotho is no longer in existence. We have supported the children of Qholaqhoe for many years and will keep them in our prayers.

The small envelopes in the pews can be used to donate money to the various missions of the church and to the Deacon’s Fund. Check the box, and the money will go to the mission you designated. You can even add a different mission on the line, and we’ll see the money gets to that program. Please remember you can use the envelopes to support the ministry of the Deacons Team as well as a mission.

Below, you will find how we spent the mission money this year.

There has been one consistent joy for the Mission Team in 2023. It is shopping for the Food Cupboard and the Food Pantry. It is joyful to know we have a way to meet the needs of those who are hungry. We will never have enough to feed everyone, but we are definitely able to feed some of the hungry in Palmyra.

This is how Mission Money was spent in 2023.

Presbytery Mission Support	\$2,535.00
Synod & PCUSA Mission Support	200.00
Food Cupboard	1,874.83
Food Pantry	1,889.43
Wayne ARC (Meals on Wheels)	2,250.00
Clint McCoy Feeding Center in Malawi	500.00
Healthy Ninos - Honduras	800.00
ARC Home	166.00
Family Promise	5,484.74
Good Neighbor Fund	5,000.00
Weekend Wellness	3,000.00
Victims Resource Center	1,000.00
Guitar	300.00
Total spent	\$25,000.00
10% of Pledge \$ 6,500	
Endowment 18,500	
Total received \$25,000	

The Mission and Social Concerns Team is looking for volunteers who would like to serve on the Mission Team. We have been meeting the first Wednesday at 10 AM in the Fellowship Hall. Jan Taylor is going onto the Fellowship Team, Thank you for your service for the past years. Jonnie Fontaine has been unable to attend many of our meetings this year. There is room for YOU on the team. Please prayerfully consider if you are being called to help our neighbors. Anyone is welcome to join us.

The Mission and Social Concerns Team,

Eddie Chapman, Sally Chase, Ruth Dantz, Irene Fadden,
Jonnie Fontaine, Rena Haigh, Cassie Hughes, and Jan Taylor

Good Neighbor Fund – 2023 Annual Report

If anyone has material possessions and sees his brother in need but has no pity on him, how can the love of God be in him? I John 3:17

The Mission/Social Concerns Team of the Western Presbyterian Church has been the overseers of the Good Neighbor Fund since its reorganization in October 2015. The following volunteers have each given many hours to this program in the past year:

Coordinator:	John Cook
Office Assistant:	Kathy Barr
Treasurer:	Wilma Redman

January – December 2023

Balance on Hand 1/1/23 \$ 2,960.14

Donations Received: \$ 16,186.75

Amount Disbursed: \$ 19,123.82

Balance on Hand 12/31/23 \$ 23.07

Families Assisted: 38 # Adults: 56 # Children: 54

Declined: 2

Since 2015 we have disbursed \$157, 697.88 to assist 486 adults and 478 children.

We are grateful for the services of our volunteers and the generosity of area churches, service organizations, and individuals. We are especially grateful for the caring support Kathy Barr provides in phone screening the applicants and helping them fill out their applications. We have also cooperated with the St. Katharine Drexel Social Ministry Fund in Macedon and The King's Daughters in Palmyra to augment what we are able to provide.

We ask for your prayers and ongoing support throughout the coming year as we determine how best to serve our neighbors.

Thank you for your support of the Good Neighbor Fund throughout 2023. Your generosity is appreciated!

WEEKEND WELLNESS

2023 ANNUAL REPORT

*“For I was hungry, and you gave me something to eat,
I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink” Matthew 25:35*

The Mission/Social Concerns Team continues to partner with the Palmyra-Macedon Central School District to ensure that our young children will not go hungry over the weekend.

Approximately 40% of the students in the Palmyra Macedon Central School District are eligible for free or reduced-price lunches. When these children are not in school on weekends, they may have less food than they need. This can result in a weaker immune system, increased hospitalization, lower IQ, shorter attention span, and lower academic achievement. The “Weekend Wellness” program helps to fill that need and ensure our children’s continued growth and development.

We continued to purchase pre-packaged food from Food Link on a monthly basis through the end of the 2022-23 school year. Beginning with the 2023-24 school we returned to the system of volunteers who purchase, donate, and pack the food bags since the pre-packaged bags were no longer available from Food Link.

Each week that school is in session, one team of our volunteers delivers the food to each of the four schools in the Pal-Mac school district. Teams are: (1) Edie Chapman, (2) Ruth & Don Dantz, (3) Randy & Steve Kennard, (4) Ray Marr & Terry Gendron, (5) Dave Nagle and (6) Rotary. Starting in September 2020, members of the Pal-Mac Rotary Club have volunteered their services to help with loading & deliveries. We greatly appreciate their assistance.

During the 2022-2023 school year, we delivered 1,988 bags of food. From September through December of the 2023-2024 school year, we have delivered 1,053 bags.

We are grateful for the financial support we received this year from AEY Enterprises, Inc, and individuals.

Western Presbyterian Church: Property Ministry Team Annual Report 2023

Your 2023 Property Team Members

Don Dantz

Steve Kennard

Gary LaBerge

James McFarlane

Phil Opdycke

Purview of the Property Team

“...I have consecrated this house which you have built by putting My name there forever, and My eyes and My heart will be there perpetually.” I Kings 9:3

The property team is responsible for ensuring the safety and well-being of all who use our facility. We maintain and sustain our tangible assets in a way that protects people and contents, keeps pace with changing needs, and furthers the longevity of our building and grounds in service to God.

Our oversight alternates between short-term and long-term needs. Tactically, we manage routine maintenance and repairs. Strategically, we consider the replacement and upgrading of systems as an investment for greater cost effectiveness, capacity, safety, performance, or lifespan.

Approved and Actual Budget

2023		2022		2021	
Approved	Actual	Approved	Actual	Approved	Actual
\$4.1k	\$3.6k*	\$5.6k	\$2.6k**	\$5.6k	\$3k***

*Thru October.

** Thru September 2022

***Thru December 21, 2021

Significant Activities and Notes

Safety

Frequent replacement of fluorescent lights throughout the facility.

Updating fluorescent bulbs to LED bulbs as needed throughout the church continued through the year. Areas to be completed are all upstairs, fellowship hall, and basement hallway and classroom.

Thank you to the people that volunteered and were able to change all the lights in the office, muscle room, and kitchen areas.

Maintenance and Repair

The church steeple was repainted. Some slats in steeple were replaced at same time.

The older brick of the church was coated with sealant to help prevent moisture infiltration that has affected interior paint in some areas of the sanctuary.

Mike Dube (local plaster specialist) supplied information regarding materials to help seal and hold paint on interior surfaces and portions of the sanctuary walls and ceiling were scraped, sealed, and painted by members of property team.

The damaged section of Main Street parking lot pavement was replaced with concrete surface. In spring of 2024, the pavement next to the new concrete section will be spruced up with cold patch per recommendation from pavement contractor.

Grounds

Yard clean-up: We maintained the grounds throughout the year by periodic trimming and tidying.

In 2024, hope to schedule “clean-up days” again for at least the spring and fall (possibly for sanctuary cleaning too)

Facility Investment

Internet Service: Have updated to new fiber internet that includes 2 phone lines (need 2 for the fire monitoring system) and the package saves close to \$100/month.

Main hot water boiler was replaced with new unit and new thermostats. The new boiler is an energy efficient model with exhaust and intake fed through an existing chimney. The boiler also heats water for domestic use. Project included new zone valves, bleeder valves, and manifold system in boiler room. There are still a few small cleanup items for Emcor to address in January of 2024.

Administration

Still searching for a cleaning service option to help maintain the church after Larry moves on to another phase of “retirement” in the near future.

Continue to collect and create documentation and labels in an attempt to ensure accurate and up to date documentation on facility assets is available in the future.

With changes in New York State, our gas usage plan is now covered by NYSEG again. The electricity usage contract is being transferred to Constellation until our contract is up for renewal.

Facility Usage

The table below captures usage requests from the form available in the office. Some forms request multiple assets. Many forms are generated by other teams to ensure facility usage is on the church calendar. These are for usage of the church that started in 2021. Some forms request multiple dates.

	2023: 22 requests	2022: 14 requests	2021: 32 requests
Sanctuary*	2 (VBS & Select Choir)	3 (VBS & CTNS)	1 (VBS)
Fellowship Hall	18	13	25
Kitchen	13	8	10
Other	6(classrooms upstairs, parking, muscle room)	3(classrooms upstairs, muscle room)	13 (classrooms upstairs, muscle room)
Tables & Chairs	3 (T=6, C=32)	0 (T=0, C=0)	4 (T=19, C=113)
Microphone/AV	1	0	1

* Sanctuary use approved by Session. Does not include weddings, approved outside the building use form.

Steve Kennard has stepped away from regular monthly meetings and full-time property activities starting in 2023, but he is still coordinating the lighting update and helping with other items as needed.

WORSHIP TEAM ANNUAL REPORT 2023

For the first seven months of 2023, our team and congregation were blessed by the presence and faithfulness of a core group of pulpit supply ministers who led our worship week after week. Our dear friend and former minister, the Reverend Dr. Nancy J. Farrell, led our worship for almost half of that time.

On July 30th, at the invitation of our PNC, Reverend Hodong Hwang delivered his first sermon to us, and was unanimously voted to become our new full-time minister. On August 13th, on the 40th anniversary of her ordination, Rev. Farrell led our worship and graciously asked Rev. Hwang to serve communion with her. It was a very special Sunday having our new pastor and our former pastor serving together. Rev. Hwang has been worshipping with us from that point forward. We feel blessed and grateful to God for bringing Hodong to us, and we look forward to the years ahead.

Some other 2023 events and projects:

- Feb. 12—Super Bowl Sundaes coffee hour with folks bringing canned goods for the Food Pantry.
- April 7—Good Friday with the Farmington Friends Church and choir.
- Red geraniums to decorate the sanctuary for Pentecost and planted outside at a later date.
- July 23—Christmas in July coffee hour with free will offering for the Angel Tree.
- Creation of Busy Bags for kids to use during worship.
- Purchase of outside door wreaths for each season.
- Decoration of sanctuary for Christmas and Palmyra Historic Society Tour on Dec. 2.

There are so many people who assist with our worship services: our ushers, liturgists, and communion elders. And many of them serve in all of these categories and have been serving for years. Please thank them when you see them. They are selfless when volunteering week to week.

Thank you to our wonderful organists and choir. Your musical gifts make our worship services special.

And thank you to Kathy Barr, James McFarlane, Irene Fadden, and Courtney Marr for the pieces of our worship that you take care of.

Members of our team: Joan Durfey, Mary Beth LaBerge, Sue Leonard—2023 chair, Alicia Lynch, Courtney Marr—co-chair, Sharon Marr, Carol Sloan, and Linda Williamson.
Courtney Marr will chair our team in 2024.

Respectfully submitted by Sue Leonard.

Pastor's Postscript for Western Presbyterian Church and Society's Annual Report 2023

Happy New Year to all of you, my brothers and sisters in Christ!

It was truly the grace of God that called me to WPC last year (I am practicing this word) because I have loved every bit of my ministry here. Of course, sometimes I realize what I signed up for as I face overwhelming intensity and enormity of the tasks, but the comfort and trust I received from the sincere deacons and elders and so many good people of God in our church have convinced me that I want to do my work really well. In this first week of 2024 (again, I am practicing this number) I truly desire to be filled with this conviction and excitement once again.

As we begin a new year, I would like to share the image of my definition of church ministry. It is 'the heart,' not as a figurative meaning like a deepest feeling or a person's inner self, but as a literal meaning of a muscular organ that pumps blood throughout the body. As much as the heart is the body's most essential organ, the Bible points out that the Holy Spirit performs a heart transplant in ourselves: "Because you are His children, God sent the Spirit of His Son into our hearts" (Galatians 4:6), so that we no longer have hardened hearts that are selfish, rebellious, and sinful against God. Instead, we begin to desire to please God with our creativity because now we have Jesus' heart in ourselves.

This is off topic a bit, but as a former engineer, I am more inclined to believe that human thoughts have been developed around the scientific discoveries and that the cognitive limitations of people are defined/confined within their physical and circumstantial situations. It is interesting to know how much the Bible tries to use metaphors like heart, gut, arms, feet, bread, house, road, or rock that are related to flesh-and-blood human realities, rather than abstract, philosophical, or psychological concepts. We are reminded every month in our communion that Jesus gives us his body and blood with real elements so that we may use our body, time, money, and words to please him.

Anyways, the heart has two movements, one is called systole or contraction that pumps blood around the body and the other one is called diastole or relaxation to fill the heart with blood for the next pumping. This is an amazing and mysterious process happening in our bodies. If there is anyone who believes there is no God, he/she needs to explain how it is possible for the heart to pump blood 100,000 times a day to maintain our life. I guess the saying of a 16th century philosopher from Great Britain, Francis Bacon, is still valid: "A little knowledge of science makes a man an atheist, but an in-depth study of science makes him a believer in God."

When the Bible talks about the spiritual heart transplant that is made by God, it should mean to include both systole and diastole in spirituality for any Christian to function as a representative of Christ in the world. The dynamic relationship between two movements is the perfect image of individual and collective Christian life. Internal relaxation in our faith with love, comfort, and encouragement from God is important to live a purposeful life in the world. The works to fulfill the Great Commission of Jesus in the world always needs to find its center in the process of relaxation. Worship is to fill hope and energy in the faith community and mission is to manifest our faith in God in the world. One cannot exist without the other and, if there is only one that exists, it may be either emotional indulgence or emotional exhaustion.

To apply the movements of the heart in our spiritual life at both individual and communal levels, we need to be conscious of the balance between how we dive deep into God's grace and how we embark on a journey of discipleship and discipling others. Feeling thankful inside and exercising kindness outside are interdependent. Learning/owning biblical messages and acting/practicing them out are interrelated. We can't do only one thing and call ourselves the followers of Jesus.

How can we participate in worship in ways in which our minds and hearts are deeply engaged in every element of worship? Do we need to change our worship style to help people come to worship more comfortably? If that is too big a change to be made, can we include more contemporary elements to it such as songs, poems, personal testimonies, and/or visual presentations? How can we help others experience the joy of being themselves because of God who has created them and led their lives this far?

How about the programs for adult education and formation of faith? Do we understand the foundation of Christian faith and embrace it as our own faith? Are we convinced of its applicability to major aspects of human life and Jesus being the way and the truth in the realities? Even though we may not be able to answer all the questions about critical issues, shouldn't we have opportunities to discuss them and find a common ground for all Christians?

How about outreach and mission? I have been very impressed by our mission works and the enthusiasm of the people who participate in them. But at the same time, I hope we may always consider how to bring/invite more people to the mission of God. In my previous ministry in a UCC church as a temporary pastor, a church member told me about a sweet but bitter experience about mission. The mission team decided to renovate a youth facility in an impoverished area in Rochester and around 10 people spent a week together to finish the work. But that was it. Other members were not well informed about the project so were not interested in it, and the mission team were feeling isolated and not getting enough emotional/spiritual support from the church. After the conversation I thought, "what if the church sent prayer requests to the congregation about the project and the people serving it.?" "What if other church members visited the site with some snacks to encourage the workers?" "What if the mission team employed some advertisements to intrigue people who might not be coming to church but wanted to do some good works for others, so that mission could be an opportunity for evangelism?"

For all these ideas, whether they are about systole or diastole of the heart in church ministries, the most important part is "people" who embrace church ministries as their own and understand the importance of connecting everything we do with evangelism. A recent survey indicates that 80~85 percent of the unchurched people who joined the church made their decision because they were invited by a relative or friend. Other reasons like 'intrigued by a program offered', 'like the pastor,' 'needed a church for personal reasons,' 'attracted by Sunday school' cover only 5~8 percent each. Accordingly, the first question we have to ask ourselves is whether I want to invite the people I care about to our church. If not, how can we change ourselves (including me, of course) to make us more approachable to my family and friends? This is the key question for the vitality and growth of church. My point is this: "You are important for God." I guess it is a good catchphrase for 2024.

Peace of Christ,
Rev. Hodong Hwang

Annual Report Projects and Financials for 2023

Women's Association Financial Report January 1 - December 31, 2023

Receipts

Balance on hand January 1, 2023		\$ 2,694.89
Rummage Sales	\$ 2,795.28	
RADA Cutlery Sales	\$ 630.00	
Donations- 3 funerals plus 1 other	\$ 1,544.22	
Least Coin	\$ 36.66	
Bottle Returns	<u>\$ 9.55</u>	
Total Receipts	\$ 5,015.71	
		\$ 7,710.60

Disbursements

Least Coin sent to Presbytery	\$ 36.66	
Kitchen and coffee hour supplies	\$ 116.26	
RADA Cutlery & supplies, deposit for space at craft sales	\$ 130.90	
New coffee pot and stool for kitchen	\$ 256.52	
Supplies for funeral receptions	\$ 420.76	
Donation to Good Neighbor Fund	\$ 1,100.00	
Camperships for Camp Whitman	\$ 325.00	
Purchase of food for Food Cupboard	\$ 520.14	
Study books for women's circle	<u>\$ 269.37</u>	
Total Disbursements	\$ 3,175.61	
Balance on Hand December 31, 2023		\$ 4,534.99

Respectfully Submitted,

Susan Pringle

Treasurer

ANGEL TREE PROJECT

The Angel Tree program continues to evolve with the times as the school district altered their procedure for notifying families. All correspondence was done through email this year and was only sent out to qualifying families with their permission which saved countless hours, paper, postage, and time having to organize and type a database. It was a huge success as far as the new procedure; it just needed to be started about a month sooner! Angel trees are placed at Garlock, Palmyra Community Bank, Palmyra Community Library, Macedon Town Hall, and at Western Presbyterian Church. This year we welcomed St. Annes as a new partner and a tree was placed there as well. James R. Hickey American Legion Post once again hosted a toy drive along with their fund-raising efforts, donating almost a hundred brand new toys and donating over \$1300.00. Angel Tree is still very much needed and continues to grow - with donations, partners, and an ever-increasing show of community support.

Once a child is placed on the list, they are provided by either a donor or by WPC and the Angel Tree funds. The scheduling of pickups is working just fine and this year all gifts were picked up, with the need to deliver to only 4 families, and with only three days to spare, whew! Thank you so much for Western Presbyterian's support, financial and otherwise, and to all the partners we have. For those of you that might be curious about the numbers being served this year - we had 61 families representing 160 children. Please let me know if you're interested and would like more information.

Respectfully submitted,

Alicia Lynch, Angel Tree Project

SUMMARY OF WPC FINANCIAL ACCOUNTS 11th month of 2023
Endowments/Operations November 30, 2023

Howe & Rusling-Schwab-6217		12/31/2022	11/30/2023	YTD Variance	November Income	YTD Income
Church Endowment #		\$ 277,553	\$ 274,960	\$ (2,593)	\$ 752	\$ 8,739
Davidson-Pastor Salary		\$ 183,974	\$ 182,255	\$ (1,719)	\$ 498	\$ 5,793
Milligan Family Fund		\$ 124,445	\$ 123,282	\$ (1,163)	\$ 337	\$ 3,981
Helen T. Smith Endowment		\$ 574,372	\$ 569,005	\$ (5,367)	\$ 1,556	\$ 18,084
Mertz Family Fund		\$ 19,187	\$ 19,632	\$ 445	\$ 54	\$ 623
Housing Loan Fund		\$ 63,933	\$ 63,335	\$ (598)	\$ 173	\$ 2,012
Lois/Francis Daniels Endowment		\$ 1,500,492	\$ 1,486,472	\$ (14,020)	\$ 4,065	\$ 47,241
Operations Total		\$ 2,744,586	\$ 2,718,941	\$ (25,645)	\$ 7,435	\$ 86,410

ENDOWMENTS - EDIFICE

Henry W. Griffith Endowment*	Unrst Edif	\$ 906,500	\$ 898,030	\$ (8,470)	\$ 2,456	\$ 23,698
Davidson - Edifice	Extr Edif	\$ 33,185	\$ 32,875	\$ (310)	\$ 90	\$ 1,045
Helen T. Cloyd	Extr Edif	\$ 41,364	\$ 40,977	\$ (387)	\$ 112	\$ 1,303
Walter P. Smith	Extr Edif	\$ 206,268	\$ 204,340	\$ (1,928)	\$ 559	\$ 6,493
Edifice Total		\$ 1,187,317	\$ 1,176,222	\$ (11,095)	\$ 3,217	\$ 37,381
Endowment Total		\$ 3,931,903	\$ 3,895,163	\$ (36,740)	\$ 10,652	\$ 123,791

Miscellaneous Funds- Schwab 7897

Cash Reserve (TRP Spectrum)	Ops	\$ 217,737	\$ 226,465	\$ 8,728	\$ 929	\$ 8,762
Mary Co Fund (TRP-Spectrum)		\$ 16,339	\$ 16,994	\$ 655	\$ 70	\$ 656
Organ Fund (TRP-Spectrum)		\$ 9,250	\$ 9,621	\$ 371	\$ 39	\$ 372
Women's Assoc (TRP-Spectrum)		\$ 8,044	\$ 8,366	\$ 322	\$ 34	\$ 299
EDIFICE-INC-AM Century **		\$ 51,024	\$ 60,553	\$ 9,529	\$ -	\$ 531
EDIFICE-INC-VIRTUSSEIX**		\$ 38,062	\$ 41,646	\$ 3,584	\$ 231	\$ 2,493
Miscellaneous Funds Total		\$ 340,456	\$ 363,645	\$ 23,189	\$ 1,303	\$ 13,113
Total Investment Accounts		\$ 4,272,359	\$ 4,258,808	\$ (39,196)	\$ 11,955	\$ 136,904

Respectfully submitted, Eric Chapman 12/20/2023

**Dividends reinvested in shares of fund

\$60,000 added to TRP Spectrum Cash Reserve

*\$10,000 added to Griffith account of 1/15/2015

\$25,00 added to Church Endowment (Shirley Bassage 5/15/2019)

\$38,446 Cloyd Fund Transferred to Howe&Rusling

\$65,954 added as Lois/Francis Daniels Endowment 9/21/21

\$20,000 added to AM Century & VirtusSeix 4/24/15

\$100,000 added to TRP Spectrum 8/11/22 (cash reserve)

addl \$90,000 added to Lois/Francis Daniels acct 11/1/2021

Lois/Francis Daniels Endowment 11/1/22 \$90,000 2/1/22 \$500,000 3/1/22 \$500,000 (Total amt \$1,155,954)

WESTERN PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH - FINANCIAL ACCOUNTS

11/30/23

ENDOWMENT FUNDS

<u>Value of Investments</u>	<u>31-Dec-22</u>	<u>11/30/2023</u>	<u>Variance</u>	<u>%</u>
Operations	2,744,586	2,718,941	-25,645	END 69.8
Edifice	<u>1,187,317</u>	<u>1,176,222</u>	<u>-11,095</u>	Ed-UnR 23.00
TOTAL	3,931,903	3,895,163	-36,740	Ed-R 7.2

MISCELLANEOUS FUNDS

	<u>Account Description</u>	<u>7-Jan-23</u>	<u>12/20/2023</u>	<u>Variance</u>
Value of Checking Accounts		\$ 225,353	\$ 255,133	\$ 29,780
Community Bank Acct. #2862	Checking	\$ 93,147	\$ 127,870	\$ 34,723
Community Bank Acct. #2897	Women's Association	\$ 2,838	\$ 4,233	\$ 1,395
Community Bank Acct. #2942	Memorial/Edifice (Designated Funds)	\$ 116,917	\$ 118,683	\$ 1,766
Community Bank Acct. #9285	Good Neighbor Fund	\$ 3,508	\$ 3,347	\$ (161)
Community Bank Acct. #5919	Weekend Wellness Fund	\$ 8,943	\$ 1,000	\$ (7,943)

DESIGNATED FUNDS

(Specific List printed Quarterly)

E.Chapman

12/20/2023

- Edifice Exterior Fund
- Edifice Unrestricted Fund
- Memorial Fund
- Other Miscellaneous Funds

**Western Presbyterian Church
2024 Budget**

<u>RECEIPTS</u>	<u>2024</u>	<u>2023</u>
Operating Income		
Pledges	\$66,860.00	\$65,000.00
Loose Offerings	2,000.00	1,500.00
Per Capita Donations	3,400.00	3,700.00
Other Donations		
Building Usage	0.00	0.00
Women's Association	500.00	500.00
Miscellaneous	0.00	0.00
Investment Income	<u>100,525.00</u>	<u>76,377.00</u>
Total Receipts	\$173,285.00	\$147,077.00
<u>EXPENDITURES</u>		
Administrative	\$5,200.00	\$5,200.00
Deacons	\$0.00	\$500.00
Christian Ed	1,200.00	1,200.00
Finance		
Other	1,500.00	1,500.00
Insurance	2,000.00	2,000.00
Fellowship	500.00	500.00
*Personnel - Staff & Taxes	63,575.00	63,446.00
Pastor		
Salary	34,468.00	45,000.00
Housing	18,376.00	
Board of Pensions	25,000.00	
50% SETA	4,043.00	
Auto	4,500.00	
Continuing Ed & Business	4,000.00	
Property		
Other	3,000.00	3,000.00
Sewer & Water	1,100.00	1,100.00
Social Concerns & Mission	6,686.00	6,500.00
Worship	700.00	700.00
Per Capita 87@ \$50 ea.	4,350.00	4,400.00
PNC 2023/Audit 2024	<u>5,000.00</u>	<u>5,000.00</u>
Total Expenditures	\$185,198.00	\$140,046.00
NET RECEIPTS/EXPENSES	(\$11,913.00)	\$7,031.00

Salaries
2024

2023

	2024	2023
Sexton	7,516.00	7,516.00
Bookkeeper	8,142.00	8,142.00
Secretary	13,064.00	11,440.00
Sunday School Coordinator	9,712.00	9,712.00
Organist	10,000.00	10,000.00
AV Coordinator	7,800.00	7,800.00
Pulpit Supply	870.00	3,770.00
Total	59,128.00	58,380.00

**Western Presbyterian Church
Summary of Receipts and Expenditures
Operating and Mission Funds 2023**

<u>Category</u>	<u>2023 YTD</u>	<u>2023 Budget</u>	<u>YTD % of Budget</u>
RECEIPTS			
Operating Pledges/Offerings	85,625	65,000	131.73%
Loose Offering	2,736	1,500	182.40%
Per Capita	1,150	3,700	31.08%
Other Donations	400	500	80.00%
Income from Investments	78,753	76,377	103.11%
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TOTAL RECEIPTS	168,664	147,077	114.68%
 EXPENDITURES			
Session Committees			
Administrative	5,924	5,200	113.92%
Christian Education	1,250	1,200	104.17%
Deacons	0	500	0.00%
Finance	1,548	3,500	44.23%
Fellowship	280	500	56.00%
Personnel	90,667	108,446	83.61%
Property	4,264	4,100	104.00%
Social Concerns	25,000	6,500	384.62%
Worship	713	700	101.86%
Per Capita	4,400	4,400	100.00%
PNC	258	5,000	5.16%
<hr/>			
TOTAL EXPENSES	134,304	140,046	95.90%
NET RECEIPTS/EXPENDITURES	34,360	7,031	