

WESTERN PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH & SOCIETY
PALMYRA, NY
2024 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 2024

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 2024 consisted of Emily Hunt (chairperson), Jody Pruitt, and Cim McFarlane (Sunday School Director, as a non-elected member). Ellen Avery joined us in spirit as she continued to recover at home. 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 3-14. 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 spring)- 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 for each holiday).
- Planning and executing Summer Vacation Bible School (combined sponsors with Palmyra Reformed Church)- 2024’s theme was Cave Quest. Children made crafts, played games, listened to Bible stories, and sang lots of songs. Around 40 children attended, and 25 adults and teens volunteered. About 90 lunches were served every day.

- Promoting Camp Whitman- 3 WPC youth, 1 WPC adult attended camp in the summer of 2024. Two WPC college students worked at Camp over the summer of 2024.
- Updating the bulletin boards in Fellowship Hall and outside of the Sunday School classroom.
- Orchestrating the Camp and Retreat Sunday with a special Camp Whitman themed children's sermon.
- Orchestrating the youth group event- Winter Holiday Festival of Lights in December. 12 WPC youth attended and enjoyed the light display and wagon ride. Hot chocolate, s'mores, and games were enjoyed at church afterwards.
- Continuing and leading the 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 mindfulness classes in the month of May. May 2nd was a First Aid class with Pat Dlugosh, May 5th was a Nutrition class with Cortney Underwood, and May 22nd was a Meditation class with Crofton Celentano. All three events were well attended.
- 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 a Bible to Drew Sloan in 2024.
- With the help of Pastor Hodong, we commissioned 2 Sunday School teachers, 1 Sunday School Director, and 2 teacher's assistants in 2024.
- We held Confirmation classes starting in January and we celebrated the confirmation of Avery Hunt, Nella McFarlane, and David Powers on April 28, 2024.
- We participated in the annual Palm Sunday Parade.

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, 2024 **87**

Additions

By Profession of Faith, Restoration, Reaffirmation	3
By Certificate of Transfer	0
Other - moved from inactive back to active	<u>0</u>
Total Additions	3

Losses

By Certificate of transfer	0
By Death	3
By Removal to Inactive Roll	4
By Removal from Rolls	<u>0</u>
Total Losses	7

Total Active Membership as of December 31, 2024 **83**

Session Members Serving in 2025

Roxanne Dobson	Irene Fadden
Emily Hunt	Randy Kennard
Alicia Lynch	Courtney Marr
Philip Opdycke-Presbytery Delegate	

Changes to Session for 2025: Roxanne Dobson-head of Fellowship Team

2 Infant Baptisms: Bentley David Matz	10/27/24
Jack Arthur Sweeney	12/01/24

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

The Deacons Ministry Team Annual Report for 2024

The Deacons Ministry Team of 2024 consisted of Randy Kennard- Chairperson, Sandy McMenamin- Treasurer, Nancy Talma, Patricia Dlugosh, Linda Pulcini, and Sara Bush. We welcome to the team Sandy Betts and Muffie Beato as new members this year. Pastor Hodong is an active member at our meetings learning where further care is needed. All are fondly referred to as both prayer warriors and deacon demons!

Deacon areas of care:

- **Prayer**~ WPC has a strong prayer presence between the deacons and the congregation. This most mystical force that transcends voice, thought, feelings, touch and soul can embrace person-to-person, Holy Spirit-to-person, person-to-Holy Spirit and community-to-heart. There's no simple way to explain the power of prayer. It just is. There is some liberating lift of weight when we raise our concerns to the Lord. More than any other role, the Deacons take the role of prayer very seriously. It is not just the few deacons that pray, but the sharing of concerns with others for us all to join forces to put strength to the prayers. We have an ever-active prayer list where our church community freely asks for prayers for themselves, as well as for others. The deacons lean on the congregation to actively own the requests they make. We lean on the congregation to actively pray with us for all concerns. Together the prayers have more power- Thanks be to God.
- **Outreach**~ The home bound, the ill, the convalescing, the grieving and the palliative care tend to be the major focus of the Deacon's energy. Sometimes phone calls and emails are the best way to initiate contact. However, face-to-face is the most powerful way to communicate care. When there are flowers to be delivered from funerals and holidays, this offers great ways to further connect with folks that may be unable to attend church. It's important to convey that they are important members of the church family. In some cases, where there are needs, we have brought meals or have organized meal delivery for the church to assist with. Basically, we want to do our best to not leave anyone behind. We look to the whole congregation to assist us in knowing where the needs are.
- **Referral of Pastoral Care**~ We are rich with our pastor. Pastor Hodong has actively visited many of our home bound members. Initially he followed our suggestions regarding who may need pastoral care and may have one of us accompany him on visits. After an initial outreach, he follows up to create more powerful bonds with those he visits. We are rich because of the compassion, humbleness and grace that he offers those he meets. Thank you so very much for your gracious care.
- **Special card mailings**~ Snail mail has a power that cannot be replaced. Though we do text and email those we are concerned about, there is no better way of treasuring the thought than a hand-held card. The deacons send out birthday cards, anniversary cards and general care cards. We have a rotating list of members that we like to mail to make sure they know we are still thinking of them, and that we pray for them. Our mailings include both members and non-members. Also, we send cards to those in armed services, especially if they are deployed. We are ever appreciative of the Sunday School for creating cards for various holidays throughout the year.
- **Communion preparation**~ Deacons support the monthly communion sacrament by preparing the elements for the worship services. Through various modifications, we have established a protocol of elements and their serving. The juice is now served in glass cups using metal trays for easy extraction. Being sensitive to the transmission of germs, after use, the glasses are cleaned using CDC guidelines for sanitation. The bread has settled out to be gluten pitas. We tried serving gluten-free, but the congregation expressed displeasure. The pita symbolizes the unleavened bread of Jesus' time.
- **Funding**~ The deacon's account has resumed self-funding through generous offertory donations. No longer is there a line item in the annual church budget to support the program.

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

**Deacons Ministry Team
Treasurer's Report 2024**

Balance on Hand January 1, 2024	\$1,088.57
Deposits for Year	<u>898.11</u>
Total	\$1,986.68

Disbursements

Cards, Postage, Address Labels	\$ 352.71
Communion Trays	388.77
Silver Repair	75.00
Communion Elements	23.28
These Days Devotionals	<u>139.00</u>
Total	\$ 978.76

Balance on Hand January 1, 2025	\$1,007.92
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Respectfully Submitted,
Sandra McMEnamin
Treasurer

Date	Funerals of WPC	Officiating	Funeral Home	Formate
5/31/2024	Tracey DArduini	not at our church	Halstead	Funeral in Shortsvill church 6-11-2024
6/28/2024	Jim Bush	Rev Nancy Farrell	Yost	memorial and reception
7/7/2024	Walter Lester		Yost	grave side family funeral
9/3/2024	Doris Chriswell	on faith representative		grave side family funeral
10/17/2024	Betsy & Eric Goodwin	Rev Hodong Hwang		grave side ceremony~ cremains
10/8/2024	Jocelyn Granger Kratzert		PA funeral Home	
11/2/2024	Gene Bassage		Yost	grave side family funeral
12/6/2024	Derrick Lich	Rev Hodong Hwang	Yost	Funeral and reception

2024

Month	Visits	Phone Calls	Cards sent and Email outreach	Communion Served	Communion Date	
January	7	13	63	41	1/14/24	
February	17	16	60	43	2/18/24	S.S. created cards
March	22	16	76	79	3/31/24	28 S.S. created cards
April	14	16	55	45	4/21/24	21 Easter Lily Deliveries
May	9	19	72	53	5/12/24	
June	12	10	86	51	6/16/24	3 bouquets from TD funeral
July	10	18	67	48	7/14/24	23 bouquets from JB funeral
August	13	14	63	45	8/11/24	
September	6	15	62	43	9/8/24	
October	16	20	49	47	10/6/24	World communion Sunday
November	11	18	63	46	11/10/24	
December	23	24	88	89	12/24/24	17 poinsettia delivered
Year to Date	160	199	804	630		

Fellowship Ministry Team

Year End Report for 2024

The Fellowship Team: Roxanne Dobson, Terry Gendron, Val Gendron, Ray Marr, Sue Pringle and a new member this year Jan Taylor. Norm Underwood is the chairperson.

Fellowship had an exciting year in 2024. We started with our "world famous" Sweets and Treats in February with a Mardi Gras theme.

In March we held our first ever Soup and Chili potluck with lots of different soups and bread and cupcakes.

Our first make your own pizza bar was held for Family Game night in April. There were lots of laughs and interesting pizza toppings.

Fellowship hosted coffee hour in June with "Trifles". We also sponsored the "5th Sunday" potluck with a light faire of salads, fruit, etc.

We held our "Welcome Back to Church" picnic in September.

50+ year members were honored with cake at Western Horizons Sunday in October.

We revived a long-ago tradition of a progressive dinner in November thanks mainly to Jan Taylor for spearheading it and getting hosts and generous contributions of desserts and appetizers.

At the end of November, we hosted the "Hanging of the Greens" coffee hour when everyone helped decorate fellowship hall and light the Christmas tree.

A special thank you to everyone who enjoyed and supported our activities. We were able to do all this and remain under budget by the generosity and hard work of the entire congregation membership.

Thank you all so much.

Norm Underwood, Chairperson

Finance Team – Year End Report For 2024

The Finance Team worked on several projects this year. They included the set-up of a dedicated bank account to handle any online donations through our webpage. Thanks to Bill Bush as he was key in setting this up. If you go to <https://www.wpreschurch.org> you will be able to see the donate tab on the top of our website home page located on the right-hand side.

We have also met with Alan Rich, CPA, about what is required for us to provide him with to have an audit review done this spring. We decided the audit review should be scheduled after Mr. Rich's busiest time, which is tax time, has quieted down. In the meantime, we have started the compiling of the necessary documents and policies. In 2025, we will probably have to put some new policies in place that we do not already have.

One of **our** busiest times of year would have to be the budget! We have spent time since the end of October going over the numbers and adjusting them as needed. This year, all chairs submitted their budget, and I don't know about them but it sure was a learning experience for me.

Ryan Tomko from Howe and Rusling met with us in early January. He shared his comprehensive analysis of our investment portfolio, reviewing our stocks and bonds. 2024 proved to be a year of growth and the financial outlook for 2025 looks favorable and much the same. He feels we have leveraged our investments for optimal gain this year and recommends no changes at this time. Our pledges are down due to our shrinking congregational size, but our investments have made up for that shortage. We are so blessed and thankful to the many former church members that remembered the church after they were gone.

Happy Blessed New Year,

Alicia M. Lynch, Chair

WPC Finance Team - Bill Bush, Eric Chapman (Treasurer), Val Gendron (Financial Secretary), Bill Hassler, Alicia Lynch (Chair)

Mission and Social Concerns Team

Annual Report for 2024

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 of 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 numerous people in Palmyra. There is a different volunteer each day who replenishes the cupboard.

Thank you to Peter Fadden, Sandy McMenamin, Jan Taylor, Muffie & James Beato, Sue Leonard, Courtney Marr, and Don & Ruth Dantz who tend the cupboard each week.

If you spend any time around the church, you will notice that people are coming to use the cupboard to feed their families, and people are also coming to fill the cupboard. The Lions had two food drives to benefit the cupboard. The Women’s Association filled the shelves after rummage sales. Members faithfully contribute to the food cupboard. The Mission Team also uses some of its funding to buy cereal, mac and cheese, pasta and sauce, etc. to have food on the shelves for those who suffer from food insecurity.

The **Food Pantry** located in Zion Episcopal has volunteers from WPC 3 evenings a month. Volunteers from WPC include Ruth & Don Dantz, Carol Sloan, Fred Coffman, Avery Hunt, Pat Dlugosh, Sally Chase, Ray Marr, Elaine Hassler, Pat and Dave Pinkney, and Terry Gendron.

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. Some of the Mission Team funding went to buy these items so the pantry has them available for families throughout the year. It is such a blessing to be able to give to those who need them.

Good Neighbor Fund – John Cook and Wilma Redman have administered the Good Neighbor Fund again this year. \$4,000 was given by WPC to support the Good Neighbor Fund throughout the year. The Session applied for and received a Presbytery grant for the Good Neighbor Fund of \$2,500. There is a report attached on how the money was used to serve the families in Palmyra.

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 of \$800. The funding was to be used where the need is greatest. \$40 buys a water filter for a family to have “safe” water in their home. These filters have a 60-year lifespan. Healthy Ninos shared via newsletter that they are serving more families at their site, and they need to buy more food on average, \$50 per family.

Meals on Wheels – We continue to support the cost of preparing meals being delivered to senior citizens. In 2024, we gave \$2,000 to the ARC where meals are made.

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 them to the library where kids can pick up their lunch. Volunteers from our congregation include Edie Chapman, John Cook & Wilma Redman, Carol Sloan, Sue Leonard, and Rena Haigh.

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. \$378 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. \$789 was sent to One Great Hour of Sharing.

Weekend Wellness

Weekend Wellness is a mission to send food home for the weekend for school age children who are food insecure – in danger of not having food at some time during the weekend. Bags are sent home that include 2 breakfasts, 2 lunches, and 2 dinners. Also included are 2 snacks, milk, juice, and fruit cups.

The Food Pantry buys food and fills the bags for Weekend Wellness. The Mission Team has donated over \$3,000 this year to the Food Pantry to help cover the cost of Weekend Wellness. Individuals and AEY Enterprises have donated another \$2,950. The bags are delivered to the schools each week. About 122 bags are delivered each week during the school year. The volunteers were Dan Dantz, Ray Marr, Terry Gendron, Dave Nagle, Randy and Steve Kennard, Edie Chapman, and Rotary members. Elaine Hassler, Nancy Talma, Carol Sloan, Irene and Peter Fadden volunteered to fill the bags several times. Since the Food Pantry has taken charge of this mission, bags have been filled also during the summer. 75 children have continued to receive Weekend Wellness bags in the summer.

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 \$2,000 to Family Promise.

Although we did not have the families staying at Western Presbyterian, we still provided dinners 8 Mondays in 2024. The volunteers that provided dinner enjoyed being able to eat with the families. If you are interested in serving the meal, or providing any part of the meal, please let Irene Fadden or Jody Pruitt. We have 8 Mondays selected for 2025. Volunteering are Jody Pruitt, Edie Chapman, Carol Sloan, Ruth and Don Dantz, Sally Chase, and Irene and Peter Fadden.

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.

The Mission Team knows without the support of the congregation we would not be able to do what we do, for as many as we do. Thank you to all the volunteers, even if your name isn't listed. **By volunteering your time, talent, and treasure, you are doing what Jesus told Peter to do, "Feed my sheep." "Take care of my sheep." "Feed my sheep." Thank you for making and keeping WPC a mission-oriented congregation.**

The Mission and Social Concerns Team is looking for volunteers who would like to serve on the Mission Team or participate in one of the mission projects. We have meetings on the first Thursday at 9:30 AM in the Fellowship Hall. 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:

Edie Chapman, Sally Chase, Ruth Dantz,

Irene Fadden, Rena Haigh, and Cassie Hughes

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

Presbytery Mission Support	\$ 2,540.00	Mission Money Source	
Synod & PCUSA Mission Support	\$ 200.00		
Food Cupboard	\$ 2,000.00	From the Budget	
Food Pantry	\$ 2,000.00	10% of Pledges	\$ 6,680
Wayne ARC (Meals on Wheels)	\$ 2,000.00		
Clint McCoy Feeding Center in Malawi	\$ 500.00	From Investments	<u>+\$13,360</u>
Healthy Ninos	\$ 800.00	Total	\$20,040
Family Promise	\$ 2,000.00		
Good Neighbor Fund	\$ 4,000.00		
Weekend Wellness - Food Pantry	\$ 3,000.00		
Victim Resource Center	\$ 1,000.00		
Total	\$ 20,040.00		

Good Neighbor Fund – 2024 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 2024

Balance on Hand 1/1/24 \$ 23.07

Donations Received: \$ 16,556.75

Amount Disbursed: \$ 15,323.66

Balance on Hand 12/31/24 \$ 1,255.66

Families Assisted: 27 # Adults: 45 # Children: 41

Declined: 4

Since 2015 we have disbursed \$173, 021.54 to assist 831 adults and 519 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 by 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 2024.

Your generosity is appreciated!

WEEKEND WELLNESS

2024 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, the Pal-Mac Food Pantry, and the Pal-Mac Rotary Club 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 live with food insecurity. 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 aid in our children’s continued growth and development.

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. The teams are: (1) Edie Chapman, (2) Ruth & Don Dantz, (3) Randy & Steve Kennard, (4) Ray Marr & Terry Gendron, (5) Dave Nagle and (6) Rotary members. 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 2023-2024 school year, we delivered 3,278 bags of food. From September through December of the 2024-2025 school year, we delivered 1,396 bags.

We are grateful for the financial support we received this year from AEY Enterprises, Inc., Finger Lakes Dental Care, PC, Palmyra-Macedon Rotary Foundation, Inc., and generous individuals.

Western Presbyterian Church: Property Ministry Team Annual Report 2024

Significant Activities and Notes for the year

A. Safety

1. Continue to replace fluorescent lights with LED's.
2. There is a total of 364 tubes of which about half have been replaced.
3. The chair lift has had the battery and charger replaced.
4. Prior to the fire inspection, most of the wall and bulletin boards were cleared of paper.

B. Maintenance and Repair

1. The furnaces were replaced: two on each side by Emcore.
2. New vents for the furnaces were built on the east side.
3. At the end of the year, the furnace filters were replaced.
4. Painting of peeling paint on the sanctuary walls was done.
5. The main street driveway between the new concrete and the existing pavement was repaired and retarred.
6. The kitchen heating blower fan was replaced, and a new one was installed.
7. Work on the boiler was finally completed, including new zone valves and all the outlet pipes were labelled.
8. Part of the Muscle Room floor was repainted.
9. The Muscle Room was made ready for use by the Mommy and Tot program.
10. Renewed the snow plowing and salting contracts for the winter of 2024-2025.
11. The incoming gas and water lines were inspected and okayed.
12. After a preliminary inspection, several exit lights and signs were replaced or moved to a better location.
13. The air conditioning units were put up in the summer and taken down in the fall.
14. The gutters were completely cleaned resulting in three pails of leaves and gravel.
15. Work to the AV system is a continuing work in progress.
16. The Narthex toilet was finally cleaned of roots and baby wipes all the way to the road and visually inspected by camera.

C. Grounds

1. Mowing was done by Larry Sprague until September when he retired.
2. Hedges were trimmed and geraniums were planted in front of the church by the Women's Association.
3. Fallen limbs and leaves were cleared and removed by the village.

D. Facility Usage

1. Pal Mac Select Choir in May.
2. Finger Lakes Camerata performed in June and December.
3. Several large funerals and a couple of weddings were performed.
4. The old chairs in Fellowship Hall were replaced with new cushioned chairs by the Women's Association. The church retained one cart of chairs and donated two carts of chairs to the Palmyra Fairgrounds.
5. The computers were updated.
6. The Mommy and Tot program rotates with the Palmyra Community Center every other week with attendance between 15-20 parents and children. They use the Muscle Room.
7. A considerable amount of time has been spent preparing the day care center to move in next September.
8. Building codes for a daycare center are very different than for a nursery school. New plumbing, changing stations, and two new sinks are planned for 2025.
9. A new cleaning service (Emily's Cleaning Service) has been hired to replace the Sexton. A contract, list, and timing of cleaning activities was agreed to. They are local and seem to be doing a good job.

Our committee of Don Dantz, Gary LaBerge, James McFarlane, and Phil Opdycke (Chairperson) are highly skilled members and truly take the maintenance of the church to heart.

Respectfully submitted,

Phil Opdycke

Western Presbyterian Church Worship Team Annual Report

As we reflect on the past year, we are filled with gratitude for the ways God has been at work in and through our congregation. 2024 has been a year of community, fellowship, and service as we have come together in worship. Below is a summary of the events and initiatives that have shaped our church's worship life this year.

Mr. Rogers Day Celebration

This year, we celebrated the life and legacy of Fred Rogers with a special Mr. Rogers Day event, held in collaboration with our Fellowship and Mission Team. The event was an opportunity for families to come together and reflect on Mr. Rogers' values of kindness, love, and community. We enjoyed learning about his life and faith, fellowship, and a reminder of the ways we can all contribute to making our world a better place—just as Mr. Rogers taught us.

Good Friday Service with Farmington Friends Church and the Zion Episcopal Church

In a spirit of ecumenical unity, Western Presbyterian Church partnered with Farmington Friends and the Zion Episcopal Church to hold a joint Good Friday Service. This sacred service offered our congregations a meaningful time of reflection on the passion of Christ, strengthening the bonds of fellowship between our communities.

Seasonal and Holiday Decorations and Flowers

Throughout the year, our sanctuary was beautifully decorated, enhancing our worship experience during various seasonal observances. We are grateful to those who volunteered their time, talents, and donations to adorn our church with seasonal flowers and decorations, making each service and celebration feel special.

National Day of Prayer Event

On the National Day of Prayer, our church hosted a special prayer gathering. This event provided an opportunity for our congregation to come together in united prayer for our nation, its leaders, and the many needs of the world. We also introduced a special **Prayer Tree** during this event, where individuals were invited to write their personal prayer requests and hang them on the tree. This symbolic act allowed our congregation to lift up both personal and collective prayers, creating a visual representation of our shared hopes and concerns.

Christmas in July Fundraiser for the Good Neighbor Fund

In the heat of summer, we embraced the Christmas spirit through our "Christmas in July" service and fundraiser. This event was a creative way to raise funds for the Good Neighbor Fund.

Glory to God Hymnal & Nameplate Fundraiser

We have successfully purchased new *Glory to God* hymnals for our sanctuary through use of Memorial Funds and a generous individual donation. This endeavor was supplemented by a nameplate fundraiser, allowing individuals and families to dedicate hymnals in honor or memory of loved ones. Monies raised from the fundraiser replenished the Memorial Fund. These new hymnals will enrich our worship experience for many years to come.

Pie Sunday Celebration

This year, we celebrated **Pie Sunday**, a heartwarming event where our congregation came together to share pies and give thanks for the many blessings in our lives. Members brought homemade pies, and we enjoyed a time of fellowship, laughter, and gratitude for all that God has provided.

Special Christmas Music for Advent

In preparation for the Advent season, we organized a series of special Christmas music performances. These musical offerings, by Sue Moak, Heather Trapiss, Elijah Malach, and Jacob McFarlane leading the choir helped prepare our hearts for the coming of Christ, enhancing the worship services with the joy and hope of the season.

Ongoing Support for Pastor HoDong

Throughout the year, Western Presbyterian Church has continued to offer our support to Pastor HoDong in various ways. Whether assisting with special services or responding to specific needs, we remain committed to walking alongside Pastor HoDong and supporting his ministry, reflecting our church's dedication to helping others in both practical and spiritual ways.

Looking Ahead

As we move into the new year, we are excited to continue our mission of serving Christ, loving one another, and reaching out to our community. We encourage every member of our congregation to continue being an active part of our church life, whether through service, prayer, or participation in the various events and programs we will offer in the year ahead. Together, we can make a meaningful impact in our community and beyond, sharing the love of Christ in all that we do.

There are so many people who make our worship service happen-Thank to you our ushers, liturgists, and communion elders. A VERY big THANK YOU to our talented organists, Jack Moak, Elijah Malach, Sandy Campbell, and Lois Fiegl who provide beautiful music for us, our wonderful secretary, Kathy Barr, James McFarlane on the A/V system, Irene Fadden who makes the announcement and worship slides every week, and Gary & Mary Beth LaBerge, who help with candles and Christmas decorating of the sanctuary.

I personally would like to acknowledge Sue Leonard. I stepped into big shoes to fill this year as the head of the Worship Team after her term was over. Sue still does so many things behind the scenes with organizing the organists, ushers, liturgists, communion elders, and anything else that is needed. She has been a wonderful mentor to me.

A big thank you to the Worship Team! Our team works well together, is always willing to do anything that needs to be done, and we have FUN. Our Worship Team is Joan Durfey, Mary Beth LaBerge, Sue Leonard, Alicia Lynch, Sharon Marr, Carol Sloan, and Linda Williamson.

Respectfully Submitted by Courtney Marr

December 2024

Pastor's Postscript for Western Presbyterian Church and Society's Annual Report 2024

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

I can't thank God enough for all the blessings I have enjoyed at WPC in 2024, which makes me more hopeful and excited for the things God prepares for all of us in 2025. More than anything, my heart is full of thankfulness that I am surrounded by such wonderful people who are doing their ministries with passionate enthusiasm and compassion, and I wholeheartedly look forward to working with them in the coming year.

If you've ever attended the deacons' meeting, for example, you may understand what I am talking about. They check each and every individual on the prayer list with their most updated information from the time the prayer was requested. No one on the prayer list is left unchecked or not addressed in prayers. There are unquestionable joys and happiness over the answered prayers and there are moments of tears as they pray for those coping with grief. I can assure you that the deacons' ministry is nothing less than embodying the ministry of Jesus who said, "This is my body for you," because their compassion for the struggling people is shared with people's emotional and spiritual space, as well.

The Worship Committee, Mission Committee, Fellowship Committee, Finance Committee, Christian Education Committee, Property Committee and the Session as the governing body: all these ministries cannot be done successfully without having the same passionate enthusiasm and compassion. My first entire year of 2024 at WPC was the time to confirm their faithfulness. That's why I am hopeful for 2025 because I am sure about God's continued work through us, as Paul said in Philippians 1:6, "the one who began a good work in you (this is plural in Greek) will continue to complete it until the day of Jesus Christ."

My focus in 2025 is to help us to stand on what we firmly believe so that we may have hope, peace, and love for real, not as a religious cliché. With a deep inner sense of optimism and conviction, we need to spread them to those who feel so dark and gloomy in the world. I already see differences that have been made from people's faces, since we started two new meetings: one was the Men's Group Meeting, and the other one was TMI (Thursday Morning Bible Institute) in 2024. The interactive conversations with one another during the classes helped them create a deeper understanding of and connection to the bible. As we continue to allow ourselves for active listening and meaningful dialogue, I believe that God will make us better disciples of Jesus, who are prepared "to give an answer to anyone who asks about the hope we possess (1 Peter 3:15)."

What I really hope to see happening at WPC in 2025 is to invite new families, especially the ones with little kids and youths, to our church. I know the best way to invite them is to create space for them to come comfortably. Egg hunting is an easy example (I insist we have to do it this year) and kids' choir might also be a possibility. A separate youth group meeting can be a creative idea and opening our property to the local meetings and gatherings might be another possibility. Most importantly, you can invite your friends and neighbors to our church. If you don't feel comfortable inviting them, that should be our weak point for which we need to work harder to change. In conclusion, I want to encourage everyone to bring your ideas and suggestions to help WPC grow, because God calls us to bear the fruits of our ministries and our lives.

Peace of Christ,

Rev. Hodong Hwang

Annual Report Projects and Financials for 2024

Women's Association Financial Report January 1 - December 31, 2024

Receipts

Balance on hand January 1, 2024		\$ 4,534.99
Rummage Sales	\$ 3,974.75	
From Memorial Fund to be used for new chairs for Fellowship Hall	\$ 6,000.00	
From W.A. CD to be used for new chairs for Fellowship Hall	\$ 8,000.00	
Donations- 2 funerals	\$ 250.00	
Reimbursement for study books for circle	\$ 160.00	
Christmas luncheon collection for Good Neighbor Fund	\$ 276.00	
Least Coin	\$ 26.55	
Bottle Returns	\$ <u>12.20</u>	
Total Receipts	\$ 18,699.50	
		\$ 23,234.49

Disbursements

Least Coin sent to Presbytery	\$ 26.55	
Kitchen and coffee hour supplies	\$ 182.38	
Purchase of checks	\$ 14.45	
Towards church budget	\$ 500.00	
New coffee pot and stool for kitchen	\$ 191.64	
Supplies for funeral receptions	\$ 45.99	
Purchase new chairs for Fellowship Hall (Henrietta Restaurant Inc.)	\$ 13,004.60	
Donation to Good Neighbor Fund	\$ 800.00	
Donation to Gunkler Campership Fund	\$ 250.00	
Supplies for Toddler Time	\$ 224.06	
Purchases for Food Cupboard and Food Pantry	\$ 701.38	
Study books for women's circle	\$ <u>215.80</u>	
Total Disbursements	\$ 16,156.85	
Balance on Hand December 31, 2024		\$ 7,077.64

Respectfully Submitted, Susan Pringle, Treasurer

ANGEL TREE PROJECT

This year, I ran into Jack Milliken, our favorite florist, at the bank. He told me he had tried to get an angel but was too late by the time he wandered into the bank. He normally looks for a child that is requesting a bicycle. Not that we get that many requests for bikes. I try to discourage families from asking for the pricier items as the suggested price for angel “takers” is \$40-\$50, well under the price of a bicycle. I did happen to find a 7-year-old girl that wanted a pink bike, so I passed that along. There were 6 other children in the family, and they happened to be one of the last families I shopped for. So, she happened to be one of the last families to pick up their gifts, actually just one week before Christmas. I met the mom at the church and offered to help carry her packages to the car and there it was - the pink bicycle that Mr. Milliken contributed!

Well Mom teared up and cried, “Oh, I am so happy for my daughter. She is going to be so excited, and tomorrow is her birthday!” I helped get all the bags and the bike to the car. As I walked away, Mom started to drive away but before she was able to shut her car door, I heard her cry out “Yippee!” So, is Angel Tree still an important act of mission? Well, it is for me, and it certainly was for that mom. I hope it is for you and yours as well.

The system for notifying qualifying families continues to be handled by the school district, specifically Kimberly Stewart, Community and Family Outreach Coordinator, and this year it couldn't have possibly gone any smoother. The Angel Trees are placed at Garlock, Palmyra Community Bank, Palmyra Community Library, Macedon Town Hall, St. Annes church and at Western Presbyterian Church. 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 \$700.00. Angel Tree is still very much needed and continues to grow - with donations, partners and an ever-increasing show of community support.

Thank you so much for Western Presbyterian's support, financial and otherwise, and to all the partners we have which includes a huge participation at Garlock. For those of you that might be curious about the numbers being served this year- we had 71 families representing 178 children. Please let me know if you're interested and would like more information, or perhaps you would like to train to chair this fun project!

Respectfully submitted,

Alicia Lynch, Angel Tree Project
ANGEL TREE 2024