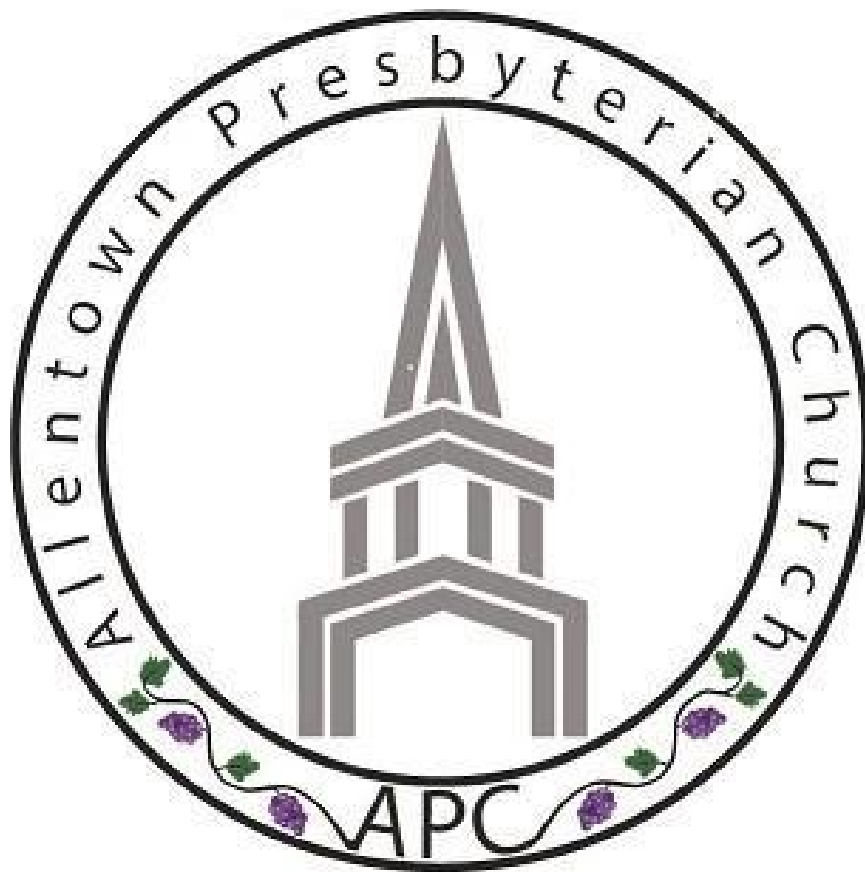


Annual Report

2022-2023



Growing in Christ

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Nominating Committee

Below are the recommendations from this year's Nominating Committee for Elder, Deacon and next year's Nominating Committee.

Elder:

Karen Collins
Rich Heddy
Denise Schaefer
Anne Marie Wiedemann

Deacon:

Vickie Elkins
George Pirocchi
Phil Rondinelli
Pam Wargo

Nominating Committee:

Melissa Mandeville
Cindy Corcodilos
Kevin Heide
Jackson Valentine

This year's Nominating Committee:

Brian Ricci - Chair
Anna Fe Rebadavia - Vice-Chair
Kathy Jaeger, Liz Heinzl-Nelson, Julie Yi, Dan Domenech & Josiah Berkley

Report of the Pastor

“...in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us.” Romans 8:37

The 2022-2023 Church Year was one of extraordinary transition. We started the church year with more questions than answers as to the impact of COVID on the life of the church. I can say with confidence that through the power of Jesus who loves us, we are more than conquerors and that APC is as healthy and vital as at any time in our history.

In the Fall we went from our two and a half year “interruption” due to the pandemic and returned to our regular schedule of in-person worship and Christian Education on Sundays. The church slowly returned to what resembled our “normal” rhythm before the great disruption. Some things have changed due to the pandemic. Sadly, we had a few regular attenders stop coming during the pandemic. Yet, many new people searching for community found us. We now have a solid group of in person worshippers and a regular on-line congregation of some 80-100 devices/people viewing worship each week. When combined it appears that worship attendance at APC has actually **grown** following the pandemic. Very few churches can say that.

Financially the church rebounded remarkably well. The generosity of the APC family is legendary. Many of those who stayed faithful through the tough years have stepped-up financially and when combined with those who are new investors into the life of APC, have allowed us to incorporate the salary of our Associate Pastor into our budget in two short years. Amazing!

Lindsay Anderson-Beck is a tremendous blessing to me and to our church family. Thanks in large part to her leadership, our small group ministry has exploded with many adults finding their way into weekly gatherings in addition to our Sunday morning offerings. After her family leave following the birth of Liza in July she asked to serve in a part-time role, which we agreed to. We look forward to her returning to her full-time role this summer.

This year we welcomed two new full-time members to our staff; Courtney Stover as our Office Manager and Bill Mandeville as our Director of Properties. Bill had particularly big shoes to fill following the retirement of Pat Gagnon, who served in that important role for 17 years. We owe a debt of gratitude to Pat for all he accomplished for APC and wish him the best as he begins this new season of life.

We also reluctantly received the resignation of Liz Dey who volunteered faithfully as our Treasurer for 26 years. Liz gave selflessly of her time and considerable talent for the building up of the church by watching over and nurturing the financial health of APC. We welcome Patty Stanley as she assumes that important role for APC.

The interruption of our 300th birthday celebration in 2020 was a big disappointment. While not quite as dramatic, we are celebrating our 303rd birthday this year with a variety of special events including an amazing gospel choir performance by the world-renowned Howard University Gospel Choir, a guided tour of our cemetery to meet some of the pillars of APC, the publishing of a new book of our history by Anne Diebel, and other special events to come in the Fall. One

event of note was the re-interment of the cremains of Rev Ed Schulte in our cemetery. Ed served as pastor for 32 years and is now back home.

Of note, one of the highlights for the year was the first “Serve Saturday” when the APC family mobilized as a united team of disciples to go out and serve throughout the community. It was a tremendous effort as over 150 people of all ages gathered to bake and deliver meals, do home projects, volunteer with some of our mission partners, and embody the light of Christ to our community.

This year marked my 25th anniversary as pastor of APC. This quarter century has brought with it many challenges including the pandemic. I am grateful for all the support I have personally received from the staff, leaders and members of APC. The times when I felt discouraged, I always received strength through this community and was reminded time and time again of the love of our Lord and the strength that comes from Him. As Paul says, we are more than conquerors through Him who loved us.

Growing In Christ,

Stephen

Report of the Clerk of Session

The Congregation and the Corporation of The Allentown Presbyterian Church met two times since the last time the Clerk reported to the Congregation in June 2022. The purposes of the meetings were to elect officers, to receive the annual financial review and ministry reports, and to approve the pastor's and associate pastor's terms of call.

The Session met for 11 Stated Meetings, and five Called Meeting; there were six *e-votes* taken. The purposes of the Called Meeting of Session were to examine and approve Inquirers and Confirmands seeking active membership in The Allentown Presbyterian Church, to gather with officers (Deacons and Elders) and staff, and to discern the state of our Congregation and the missional direction of our Church.

The Session welcomed the Class of 2025: Amanda Bliss, Michael Deleso, John Holtsclaw, and Ryan Thomas. At its annual reorganization, the Session elected Elder Nancy Tindall to serve as Clerk of Session; it elected Elder Michael Foy as President of the Board of Trustees and Clerk Nancy Tindall as Secretary; it appointed Elder Elizabeth Dey as Treasurer and Jane Crain as Financial Secretary; it appointed Elders Brian Ricci and Anna Fe Rebadavia to serve on the Nominating Committee, and appointed Elder Ricci to chair that committee. Rev. Lindsay Anderson-Beck returned from Family Leave at half-time, increased that to two-thirds time, and will return to full-time this July.

The Allentown Presbyterian Church was represented at four Stated Meetings of the Presbytery of the Coastlands, and one Called Meeting of the Presbytery. Elders Jeffrey McLaughlin and Elizabeth Rigby served the new Presbytery on the Commission on Ministry and on Administrative Commissions, respectively. Elder Nancy Tindall completed her responsibilities co-moderating the Synod of the Northeast's New Jersey Missional Communities Administrative Commission, and has continued to serve the Synod as its Gap Treasurer.

The docket of the Session has been full since the last Annual Meeting. Here are some highlights: Main Street Mission and Serve Saturday successfully reached out to the greater Allentown community; Pat Gagnon retired after years of taking care of our properties; Bill Mandeville is the new steward of our facilities; Courtney Stover is now managing the Church Office; Treasurer Liz Dey announced her intention to retire as Treasurer; a process to pay down the remaining borrowing for the purchase of 81 South Main Street was adopted; the 300th Anniversary of APC was re-started as the 303rd celebration; technology upgrades continued; the active membership roll was reviewed with much grace and care removing those who have moved or are no longer active; the Elders, Deacons and staff gathered to envision the Church's missional direction forming a strategic initiatives working group; a working group for discernment was formed, and one focused on mental health is being organized.

On the mission front, the Session supported our mission initiatives in Guatemala and Malawi, and the PCUSA's Rev. Leslie Vogel in Guatemala, and Rev. Cheryl Barnes in Malawi; we also supported Rev. and Mrs. Chuck Monts who are PCUSA Mission Volunteers in Malawi. At home, the Church provided support to the greater Allentown community through the Good Neighbor Fund, and the Allentown Community Food Pantry. The generosity of our neighbors for hunger and food security provided opportunities for APC to support programs in Trenton and Hightstown with needed resources. APC expanded its mission outreach beyond Allentown finding ways to assist in the many needs in our world. The Session adopted a 2023 spending plan of \$1,200,812, including \$105,285 for mission.

Annually, we are required to complete a statistical report for the calendar year which reports our official membership, and to submit it to the Office of the General Assembly of the PCUSA. We began 2021 with 599 active members; by the end of 2022, we reported 536 active members. We continue *Growing In Christ*!

The following table shows how we grew:

Active Members as of 12/31/21	599
New Members:	
Profession and reaffirmation	16
Transfers	1
Confirmands	9
Losses:	
Transfers	0
Deaths	0
Other	89
Active Members as of 12/31/22	536
Baptisms - Children	8

Here are the people that represent the numbers:

New Members

Robert Alvin Albright	Colleen Ann Aleo	Julia Ann Aleo
Daniel Matthias Berkley	Colin Thomas Brearley	Kathryn Ann Brearley
Thomas Fischer Burgess	Jacob Paul Decker	Trent Michael Dundale
Jillian Paige Gray	Joseph Colin Higham	Dakota Anne Knox
Dimitri Alan Knox	George Edward Pirocchi	Peter Bennett Pitman
Tina Lee Poplawski	Rachel Ann Lavery-Scaturo	Lisa Marie Popaca
Amelia Grace Rebadavia	Jessica Rizzo	Jessica Sudah
Osama Sudah	Tucker Franklin Thomas	Adam Thomas Ugi
Edward Velez	Danielle Kristin Vaneekhoven	

Deaths

None

Baptisms

Genevieve Marie Brearley	Liam Michael Gaitens	Sawyer Grace LeBrun
Nellie Heinzl-Nelson Alvarenga Lima		Charles Angelo Quinto
Aubrey Fay Valenza	Emma Lyon Walker	Logan Ryan Walker

In closing, the Session recognizes the contributions to the work of our Church by the Class of 2023, and expresses its grateful thanks for their time and witness: Cara Barlis, Michael Foy, Deborah O'Hare, and Brian Ricci.
Nancy L. Tindall, Clerk of Session

Deacon Report

“God, our parent, remind me of my calling to care for the needs of others. Remove my selfish desires and replace them with your sacrificial love. I am your child, created to care. Make me ever aware of those around me and use me as your hands and feet in this world”. Amen

As asked in the prayer above, the Deacons of APC continue to serve, pray, and care for our church family and the community.

Our monthly meetings are mostly in person with the option of attending via Zoom.

Each monthly meeting consisted of the Deacons sharing their personal reflections. This was a special way of starting the meetings and celebrating the joys and praying for the concerns of each other.

The Deacons took on specific leadership roles in the following areas:

Moderator: Dan Poll

Co-Moderator: nobody is assigned – we should assign for this year

Recording Secretary: Nikki Domenech with Melissa filling in if needed

Communion Coordinator: Nikki Domenech and Melissa Mikolon

Elder Parishioner Calls: Ralph Chrome leads this ministry – All Deacons participate

Funeral Luncheon Coordinator: Ken Ruch, Melissa Mikolon, Ralph Chrome and Jan Cristman with other Deacons assisting as needed

Holiday Basket Coordinator: Kelsey Harshman, Peter Gaitens and Dan Poll

Home Communion Coordinator: Sandra Oliveira

Loaves and Fishes: Peter Gaitens and Dan Poll

Meals Ministry (Take them a meal): Nikki Domenech and Kelsey Harshman

Monthly Home Food Delivery Coordinators: Sandra Oliveira and Dan Poll

New Member Brunch Coordinator: Katie Fortunato

Prayer Chain Leader: Julie Yi

Follow-up of Cares and Concerns: Julie Yi

Cards to be sent to families: Angela Setaro

Melissa Mikolon and Ralph Crome are filling in for Deacons that have stepped down.

Ralph will finish this term. Melissa will finish this term and

continue on for another 2 years.

-The Deacons have continued to make their monthly calls to their assigned elderly parishioners

-So many cards were sent from the card ministry

-We have had meals delivered from the meals ministry, with continuing meals going on at this time. Some of the families are Ralph Chrome, Ida Ruch, Ugi family.

Ralph had surgery a few months prior for cancer and is still healing. Ralph and Ian are currently the only ones receiving meals.

-Deacons were finally able to enjoy a brunch with about 6 new members in April and we met in Crossroads to greet them. Katie provided the brunch.

The Stanley's organized this new member class.

-The Deacons delivered 35 food baskets to families at Thanksgiving, 35 at Christmas and 35 at Easter. For Easter there was very little food donated and the Deacons spent over \$1000 on food. It is a blessing to coordinate with UFRSD to help out families in need during the holidays.

-Loaves and Fishes served about 150 people and had volunteers from community churches to help prepare this special meal in December. APC had many volunteers to assist. There was a lot of food left over from this meal and we will need to scale back a little on the hams. More than 7 trays of ham left over.

-The monthly food delivery consisted of one person receiving food from the Food pantry as well as supplementing with trips to Shop-Rite (Anna).

The Deacon duties are continuous and will be fulfilled by the dedicated 12 very humbly. We share the good news through this ministry, in troubled times and joyful celebrations.
Respectfully Submitted,

Deacons that are finishing their terms are Ralph Chome, Kelsey Harshman, Katie Fortunato and Ken Ruch. Replacement Deacons will be announced on June 11th, 2023

Dan Poll, Moderator of the Deacons

Music & Worship

Annual Report End of Church Year 2023

Galatians 6:14-16

14 May I never boast of anything except the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, by which[a] the world has been crucified to me and I to the world. 15 For[b] neither circumcision nor uncircumcision is anything, but a new creation is everything! 16 As for those who will follow this rule—peace be upon them, and mercy, and upon the Israel of God

END OF SUMMER 2022

Sabbatical

PAM Worship and Music Conference Montreat, NC

I spent the first part of my sabbatical attending the Worship and Music Conference hosted by the Presbyterian Association of Musicians. Workshops were facilitated by conference staff each morning and afternoon. Midday worship included many creative elements and inspiring expressions of faith. I participated in the Adult choir and performed a concert with them on the final night of the conference. There were choral music read-throughs during the conference for those looking to connect their church with new music.

I stayed with a wonderful host family and shared many moments connecting with them. It was a great way to start my journey.

Grappling Retreat Mendocino, CA

Next, I flew to Sonoma, California to attend a grappling retreat. Along with 20 others, we spent the week learning/studying Brazilian Jiu-Jitsu techniques, hiking, exploring Mendocino, eating chef-prepared healthy meals, and connecting with other martial artists from around the world. There were 2 training sessions per day with plenty of time to rest, recover, and explore.

Chick Corea Jazz Workshop- The Essentials

The following portion of my sabbatical was spent working on essential techniques for Jazz performance and being with my wife and kids back in Allentown.

I spent the mornings taking the Chick Corea Jazz Workshop and the afternoons connecting with my crew. Over 8 hours of music mentorship and 40+ individual lessons with Chick on piano and keyboard, Carlitos Del Puerto on bass, and Richie Barshay on drums followed by trips to the playground, shopping, going to the beach, and ice cream shop with my ladies!

Family Time - Rochester, NY

The last part of my time was spent catching up with my Rochester family and friends, camping, visiting with my mother, and helping with her affairs. It was an extremely refreshing time. One

powerful moment was visiting my father's grave for the first time with my family. Thank you for giving me this opportunity to develop professionally but also to be reflective and contemplative.

SEPTEMBER 2022

Worship

On September 11th we launched our Fall worship series, "Re-member" returning to two services.

Guest/supporting musicians included:

Brett Calder- guitar,
Tobias Richardson- drums,
Jem Lima-voice,
Jordan H-N-violin,
Dakota and Dimitri Knox -brass/reeds.

Along with our faithful crew of Brian Ricci, Mitch and Vera Sharoff, and Rachel Scaturo we were able to program a great variety of music for worship. The program included hymns, contemporary worship songs, and a spiritual.

OCTOBER 2022

Worship

Bill Bips and Liam Jaeger- guitar
Finley Thomas and Joe Cuffari- drums
Vicki Elkins, Jenn Thomas, Vera Sharoff, and Rachel Scaturo-voice,

Liturgy Liturgists were:

Jeff McLaughlin
Theresa Dupey & Greg Dupey
Nancy Tindall
Anna Fe Rebadavia
Karen Collins
Vicki Elkins
Liz H-N
Dan Domenech

Little Tree

Little Tree has begun fall music. They are learning songs about apples, leaves, pumpkins, and scarecrows as well as Bible-based songs.

ROCK

ROCK Choir Kids had their first session last week. We began learning songs in preparation to sing in worship on November 20th.

Stepping Stones

The Stepping Stones had their first session last week. We spent music time learning a beautiful song I acquired from the **Worship and Music conference in Montreat** during my sabbatical. We hope to have it prepared for November 20th worship.

DECEMBER 2022

Worship

Worship in November continued our **Treasure Hunt series** and brought us through Thanksgiving into Advent. Our advent theme is **“A Light in the Darkness”** This fall we used two elements I first saw during worship while on **sabbatical at Montreat**. The first was a prayer themed “Darkness and Light.” The second is a Tenebrae song found in the most current version of the denomination’s hymnal “Our Darkness.”

Guest/supporting musicians included:

John Girvin- organist
Elina Lang- cello
Jordan H-N and Yong En Huang - violin
Jeff Lang- Horn
Bill Bips and Liam Jaeger- guitar
Finley Thomas and Joe Cuffari- drums
Vicki Elkins, Jenn Thomas, Vera Sharoff, and Rachel Scaturo-voice,

Worship Liturgists were:

Manda Bliss
Julia Aleo
Cindy Corcodilos
Beth Rigby
Theresa Dupey
Katie Brearly
Anna Fe Rebadavia
Bob Rhoad
Jeff McLaughlin
JC Fowler
Lindsay Anderson-Beck

Candle Lighting families were:

Anaya/Knox family
Fortunato family
Collins family (Melissa)
Kurzeja family
Gaitens family
Heide family
Brearly family
Smith family (Elizabeth)
Mikolon family

Little Tree

Little Tree is wrapped up their fall with Christmas music and a concert for their families..

ROCK

ROCK Choir Kids had a great session that included singing in worship November 20th, performing at Advent Village, and leading worship on Christmas Eve.

Stepping Stones

The Stepping Stones finish the first session this week. We sang along with the ROCK choir in November and during Advent Village.

JANUARY 2023

Worship

Christmas eve worship went well. We successfully held 3 services. There were so many hands involved in making worship happen. The tech team was amazing in helping us get a stream out. There were guest musicians and our own faithful regulars at both evening services. **The Lang family** made a return to APC and even played on Christmas morning! The children sang beautifully at the 4 pm service. It was truly a blessed day although lightly attended. January worship was themed Set Free. We introduced a few new songs to the congregation as well as reflected on work for justice in our worship.

Worship Liturgists were:

Noelle Fowler
Jeff McLaughlin
Theresa D
Nancy Tindall
Bob Rhoad

FEBRUARY 2023

Worship

During February we are celebrating the music of African American composers. We opened the month with an Organist who accompanied a small ensemble of singers. This month's music included Jester Hairston's "Amen", "Lift Every Voice and Sing", "My Lord what a Morning", and "Down by the Riverside."

Worship Liturgists were:

Vicki Elkins
Cindy Corcodilos
Julia Aleo

ROCK

ROCK Choir Kids are started to rehearse for the spring musical.

Stepping Stones

The Stepping Stones are continued their “children of the bible” theme. Then shifted to the theme of “love” for valentines day. They also began learning to play the xylophone.

Jazz Vespers

The first edition of Jazz at APC went well. The theme was community/folk music/african diaspora. The attendees were challenged to listen thoughtfully and reflect on music from all over the world.

MARCH 2023

Worship

During March we are celebrating the season of Lent. We opened Lent with an Ash Wednesday service led by our youth and followed up on Sunday with a new sermon series ***“Loving the Least: The Call of Matthew 25”***.

This month’s music included “Prayers of the People” by the brilliance, “Thirst” by Phil Wickham, and many classic APC favorites.

Worship Liturgists were:

Jeff McLaughlin
Isaac Meerwarth
Manda Bliss
Katie Brearly
Beth Rigby
Greg Dupey
Nancy Tindall

Jazz Vespers

The second edition of Jazz at APC went well. The theme was the Gospel and featured the **Howard University Gospel Choir**. A band curated by the non-profit The Heart of Jazz Foundation also performed. The attendees packed the house near capacity and we raised over \$2500 from our free will offering. Many thanks are due to all of the teams who helped coordinate the evening. The food, Hospitality, Properties, and Tech team, all played major roles as well as our finance team.

APRIL 2023

Worship

During March we celebrated the season of Lent. We closed Lent with a Maundy Thursday service led by our youth and followed up on Easter Sunday with high-energy worship to celebrate the resurrection of our Lord.

Lent/Easter Musicians included:

Brian Ricci
Rachel Lavery
Vicki Elkins
Peter Meerwarth
Linda Bowen
Ally Jurgens
Bill Bipps
Kyle Walters
Dakota and Dimitri Knox
Jeff Lang

Worship Liturgists were:

Marla Golden
Peggy Sue Wright
Cindy Corcodilos
Anna Fe Rebedavia
JC Fowler
Lindsay A-B

ROCK

ROCK Choir Kids sang in worship on March 26th.

Stepping Stones

The Stepping Stones sang the story of Samuel and Eli to our congregation.

Jazz Vespers

The third edition of Jazz at APC went well. The theme was Justice and featured Myron Walden, Anthony Ware, Chris Berger, and Kenneth Salters. We lost power briefly during the evening due to a hail storm. All attendees remained for the duration of the event in spite of the poor weather.

MAY 2023

Worship

Post-Easter worship began our **“This Time Tomorrow: Everyday Faith”**

Music in worship included:

For the Beauty of the Earth
How Great thou Art
So Will I
Wonder
Good Good Father
Forever Reign
Your Love Never Fails

Worship Liturgists were:

Dan Domenech
Liz H-N
Nancy Tindall
Cindy Corcodilos
Karen Collins
Lindsay A-B

ROCK

ROCK Choir kids did a wonderful job previewing the musical on First Communion Sunday singing "I will Bless You."

Stepping Stones

Stepping stones have finished for the year. They were able to sing in worship on first communion Sunday which was amazing.

Live Stream Team

The team has been very busy preparing for the musical, the Meerleo Wedding, and the water walk. Everyone is coming in evenings and putting in extra time to make sure things are as successful as possible.

In Closing,

The year was fruitful beyond our imagination and God found ways to surprise us once again.
May I never boast of anything except the cross of our Lord.

Respectfully Submitted
Enoch Smith Jr.

Mission Committee

Members:

Cara Barlis, Chair	Liz Heinzl-Nelson
Lisa Boss	Rev. Dr. Stephen Heinzl-Nelson
Mike De Ieso	Jeff McLaughlin
Mary Beth Drew	Beth Rigby
Amanda Drew	Peggy Sue Wright

Mission committee continues to support and oversee local and international missions of our church. Working with the leaders of each individual mission, the committee is tasked with managing APC's mission budget, exploring and evaluating new mission ideas, and working to support and drive the vision for the future of mission work at APC.

Local missions support:

- Crossroads Youth Ministry – Encouraging youth and young adults to grow and serve as active members of God's family
- The Good Neighbor Fund – Providing short term emergency assistance to Allentown area families and individuals
- Homefront – Providing support to displaced families in Mercer County
- North Clinton Ave Church of Christ Meals – Providing quarterly meals to the needy in Trenton
- The Allentown Food Pantry – Providing food for area residents
- Intergenerational mission – Main St. Mission and Maine Mission trip
- Donations to Hope Fire Company, Allentown first Aid Squad, Boy Scout Troop 180
- Presbytery Mission Pledge – Supporting our local Presbytery of the Coastlands
- Working Group on Racial Justice – Promoting and supporting racial justice
- Mental Health Matters- Offer resources for help and end the stigma about mental health

National missions support:

- Beth El Farmworker Ministry – Supporting migrant farmworkers in Florida

International missions support:

- Promised Land Ministries – Providing education, hot meals, and medical care to children in Guatemala
- MCU Guatemala – Providing food and supplies to families in Guatemala
- Villages in Partnership Inc. – Promoting sustainable development in Malawi
- Sakata Church Central Africa Presbyterian – New mission partner in Malawi
- Seeds of Peace – Supporting dialogue and leadership development programs for youth and educators in communities in conflict

- Mission Co-workers – Support for the work of Presbytery Field Workers Rev. Cheryl Barnes in Malawi, and Leslie Vogel, regional liaison for Mexico and Guatemala

2022/2023 Highlights:

Food Pantry Update Submitted by Lisa Boss

APC Food Pantry

Under the leadership of Sandy Carduner and Lisa Boss all the administrative tasks are met each week. Art Rosengarten and Jackie Valesi ensured weekly that the pantry was fully stocked. This mission has been blessed to be able to serve our friends in the Allentown Community, as well as fight hunger throughout New Jersey. Our amazing volunteers received, stocked, and distributed over 120,000 pounds of food last year. We served approximately 3,000 families, a 20% increase from last year! We have 28 amazing regular serving volunteers that lift up our neighbors most in need. We just want to thank all the people who have supported this mission. We also stand up and salute the volunteers that work to make the mission such a Godsend to the community. Thank you!!



Trenton Rescue Mission

The harsh reality is that nearly one out of every two children under the age of 6 in Trenton is living below the poverty line. That means that most of these children are starting their days



without breakfast – which significantly impacts their focus and performance in school, as well as their chances of succeeding later in life. Since opening two years ago, nearly 5,000 individual family members have received nutritious food. And that number continues to grow. As Barrett Young, Chief Executive Officer of The Mission, said, “While the children all make me smile, still, it is hard, knowing that the need for food in our community is so strong. We have so many regulars who depend upon us. And there are a lot of new people coming. All we know is that, with your help, we will be here.”

North Clinton Ave Meals Submitted by Mike De Ieso

Mike De Ieso, Pete Meyers, Mary Kokesh, Nicola Abrams, Beth Rigby, Ted Smolinski, and Mitch and Vera Sharoff have continued the important work at the North Clinton Ave meal mission, which provides meals every second Saturday of the month to needy families and individuals in the Trenton area. After the North Clinton Church lost other church sponsors during the COVID-19 pandemic, APC doubled the number of meals we support from 4 to 8 so that those meals can continue. In 2020 a food “Blessing” box program was started to supplement basic food needs. This year APC will continue to provide funds and workers for this wonderful program, supporting 4 boxes of basic food items for distribution to needy community members per year. During our first annual Serve Saturday, APC volunteers cleaned and organized an entire building used to store food for this mission! We want to thank all our volunteers who come together to make this mission such a wonderful blessing, and for those who donate food and funds to help this mission.



Homefront Motel Meals

Through our ongoing relationship with Homefront, Mary Beth Drew initiated support of their Motel Meal program. Started in August 2022, this monthly ministry continues to feed singles, families, and elders who are forced to live in motels with little or no transportation to Homefront's food pantry. These food bags supplement TASK'S hot meals which are delivered twice weekly; it is a beautiful way to connect and serve!

Other Food Programs Supported by APC Food Pantry Funds

Through the leadership of Beth Rigby and Lisa Boss, APC has been able to continue our support of other local food ministries:

- Trenton Rescue Mission Pantry – serving approximately 250 families / individuals each month, providing produce and personal needs grocery items
- Hightstown Presbyterian Church – serving approximately 250 families / individuals each month, providing personal needs grocery items
- St. Bart's Lutheran Church Pantry – serving approximately 300 families / individuals per month, providing milk, eggs, and produce
- Westminster Presbyterian Church – serving approximately 450 families / individuals per month, providing personal needs grocery items

Many thanks to all who have donated and volunteered in support of APC food missions!

HomeFront Committee Report Submitted by Mary Beth Drew

Together with other churches, companies, and organizations, we are supporting HomeFront, to break the cycle of poverty in the area. Without basic living needs of food, clothing, and shelter being met, other programs that teach and support these families would be challenging.

HomeFront families and staff are tremendously grateful for APC and its loving members and friends who help support this vision and ministry. Tutoring and other unique opportunities are available throughout the year to assist clients in getting back on their feet. Hosting birthday parties, BBQs, and fun activities for the kids during the year and summer camp are some ways our APC community can help in building deeper friendships in serving. The beautiful new Family Center, situated by the Trenton-Mercer Airport in Ewing, is always a great way to start or learn more – contact Mary Beth to have a tour!

2022-2023 activities:

Throughout the year, APC continues to support specific needs, financially, as well as in-kind. As Homefront's clients' needs grow, the adaptability and creativity of the staff and leadership meet the challenge of food, clothing, shelter, and social services. One example is during the season of Mother's Day, APC and Little Tree helped collect diapers/wipes for their diaper resource center. This service is critical to parents, as food assistance programs do not cover. Other APC groups

and numerous volunteers from our faith family have continued in their support of Homefront in their ongoing backpack drive in the summer (approx. 25 bags), as well as Christmas wishes (approx. 25 kids), and other requested opportunities. ROCK, Stepping Stones, and FFG continue in creative and generous support of the Homefront kids with service projects throughout the year. And as a wonderful highlight, our ROCK kids host Homefront kids every May in their Friday community performance. This time offers a relational opportunity to connect as kids following the performance; simply fellowship and fun! We are grateful to God for the grace and desire to partner with this organization.

For more information about HomeFront, check out www.homefrontnj.org

Urban Promise Submitted by Mike De Ieso

Urban Promise Trenton provides urban youth and teens a chance to believe in and build a positive future by providing the skills necessary for academic achievement, life management, spiritual growth, and Christian leadership. This is achieved through after-school and summer academic programs, tutoring, leadership training, college and secondary education tuition support, and community partnerships. In 2023, APC will again be sponsoring a deserving student with a modest tuition grant towards their education at Rowan University. This student has been an exemplary participant in Urban Promise youth and tutoring programs and has given back to the organization as a Street Leader. During this year's Service Saturday, APC volunteers helped to clean and organize two different UPT camps, earning an emotional thank-you from UPT leaders! We are also exploring ways to partner with our youth ministry to identify potential community service and leadership opportunities.



Serve Saturday Submitted by JC Fowler

On 3/25 the church left the building and about 150 people of all ages showed up to meet Christ at work in the world. Our mission partners included: Restoring Hearts Ministry, The Landing, Urban Promise, Princeton Alliance Church, NCCOC, Rose Hill, Luke Westfall, APC Kitchen, delivering food bags to people in motels, cooking and delivering meals to people in need, children serving in various ways, cemetery cleanup, local home improvement, campus cleanup, Guatemala mission organizing, and more.

Main Street Mission Submitted by JC Fowler

Last July about 100 missionaries participated in Main Street Mission (MSM) from Wednesday evening, July 27, to Sunday afternoon, July 31. These missionaries served over ten different households in Allentown and the surrounding area rebuilding decks, resolving leaks, constructing staircases, painting, and even putting in an entirely new kitchen. There was also space opened up to homeowners' children to enjoy a free VBS throughout the week. The local effort allowed APC to be a witness to the community and invite others into our community. The relationships among the missionaries themselves and with God were deeply strengthened by the work, the shared meals, the games, and the devotion times.

Mental Health Matters (MHM) Submitted by Marla Golden

APC has recognized the challenge to serve those who struggle with mental health. This newly formed group sees the need to address the stigma and misunderstanding that surrounds mental illness and prevents people from seeking help for themselves or a loved one. MHM has started a conversation and begun to collect helpful information and resources. In the coming year MHM would like to offer a series of educational activities that will help us all learn more about mental illness and begin to build a ministry to support those in our congregation and community who are affected by mental health issues and substance use.

Planning team members include: Marla Golden, Mary Beth Drew, Beth Rigby, Stephanie McMahon, Deb O'Hare.

MHM has begun the conversation about mental health with the congregation via an introductory letter sent out in early May. MHM received numerous responses and inquiries, and has a larger group of approximately twenty people who are eager to begin working together toward our goals, delineated below.

As the hands and feet of Jesus, we are called to offer hope and healing to anyone in our congregation and community who may be struggling with mental health and substance use.

We can do this by raising awareness, addressing stigma and developing an understanding of mental health issues. We can do this by supporting individuals and families who are affected by

mental illness, both spiritually and practically. We can do this by advocating for individuals and their families who seek care. We can do this by encouraging and providing opportunities for continued recovery and wellness for all.

Working Group on Racial Justice Submitted by Marla Golden

The Working Group on Racial Justice was born out of the events of 2020, with the death of George Floyd and so many other people of color. The Working Group is dedicated to prayerfully considering complex racial issues and issues of systemic injustice, and developing a response that supports our position as a Matthew 25 church. This includes education, discussion, and celebration of other cultures and ethnicities through various means throughout the year.

Committee members include Nikki Darling (co-chair), Marla Golden (co-chair), Will Anderson-Beck (co-chair), Brian Ricci (Elder, and liaison to Session), Mary Kokesh, Rachel Rondinelli, Ashleigh Young, Julie Yi, Anna Fe Rebadavia, Manda Bliss, Ralph Crome, and Becky Lustgarten.

The Working Group hosted its second annual Freedom Day celebration, on the APC campus, a community wide celebration honoring the history of emancipation and highlighting various Afrikana cultures, sharing art, food, music, and time together. Attendees enjoyed children's activities, painted a community mural together, enjoyed spoken word and musical performances, and encountered new information about our nation's history.

After the celebration, the group met to debrief and then began meeting on a less frequent basis, as we consider the future focus of the group. Specifically the group is considering what changes to make in order to become more in-line with the social justice aspects of the Matthew 25 church designation.

The Working Group was pleased to present to the APC adult education class earlier this year, to move forward with congregation-wide discussions on race, injustice, and equality, and our own role in reconciliation.

The Working Group is pleased to be able to prayerfully and financially support the Allentown United AME church with their 2023 Juneteenth celebration.

Good Neighbor Fund

Through the generosity of donations from our APC family and the surrounding community, this fund continues to provide assistance to local families with utilities, rent, medical bills, or other urgent needs.

Beth El Farmworker Ministry Submitted by Beth Rigby

APC entered into a relationship with Beth-El Farmworkers Ministry in Wimauma, FL in the fall of 2022 by providing them both emergency hurricane damage relief and ongoing program support funds to help the hundreds of seasonal workers who earn an average annual income of \$16,000. Beth El's hunger programs distribute weekly food boxes, serve warm lunches and give out non-perishable goods and hygiene kits to workers in the fields. For over 45 years, Beth-El Farmworker Ministries has served vulnerable farmworker communities through a free dental clinic, educational and language programs, scholarships, and health and social justice advocacy. Learn more about this vital organization at www.beth-el.org



Seeds of Peace Submitted by Beth Rigby

APC Mission dollars help support teenagers from Israel, Palestine, Cairo, Jordan, and Kabul to come together each summer at the Seeds of Peace Camp in Maine to share meals, living spaces, and engage with each other across lines of conflict and difference, as perceptions and attitudes shift in the face of a new reality they create at Camp. As participants find their own voices, form relationships, and gain insights into the root issues that divide them, their perceptions shift and they build greater levels of confidence, trust, respect, and empathy which inspire their commitment to work for change at home. Learn more about this organization at seedsofpeace.org and pray for these young leaders.



MCU Guatemala

Pat and Yesenia Opperman operate Misioneros Cristianos Unidos (United Christian Missionaries) in Guatemala City. They provide meals and groceries to hundreds of at-risk children and their families. Their women's ministry helps manage additional efforts in response to family crises. To enhance their goal of spreading and reinforcing God's Word, the couple recently took over the Ciudad de Refugio Church, doubling its membership from 30 to 60 adults and adding a popular children's Sunday breakfast ministry. They end each year by spreading the "Good News" Christmas message to over 1000 children. APC provides much-needed (and greatly appreciated) family support to continue this mission. (www.MCUGuatemala.org)

Promised Land Ministries

APC continues to financially support the important work of PLM in providing education, nutrition, and medical care to children in San Lucas Toliman and other nearby villages. There are also ongoing opportunities for individual APC members to provide school sponsorships through PLM. This summer Dan Domenich will lead 22 members on our first mission trip to Guatemala since the pandemic began. They are excited to be reconnecting with our PLM brothers and sisters.

Villages in Partnership

VIP – Villages in Partnership is a registered 501(c)3 organization working in the remote villages of Malawi, Africa to offer tools that enable people to lift themselves out of extreme poverty. Our impact area continues to grow and now includes 29 different villages with the potential to impact the lives of over 29,000 people. We continue to respond to the priorities set by the communities. Your longstanding commitment to this organization ensures we can continue to do that. Here are a few of the things you have made possible:

- Bringing access to clean water by drilling or repairing over 105 water points
- Providing 79 vulnerable households with goats in 2022. They in turn will pass on their off-spring to other vulnerable families in their village
- Supporting the building of the Samani Solar Irrigation project which allows farmers to grow a variety of crops during the dry season. These crops provide extra income and food security.
- Building the first secondary school. One Heart Secondary School, in the area, providing advanced education to hundreds of students. This past year, all 60 students in the



second year class passed their government exams which was much higher than national average!

- Construction began on the Khanda Health Clinic. The grand opening is planned for this August. This will provide access healthcare to thousands, where lack of access caused higher than average maternal-infant mortality rates.

We host Friendship, Medical and Beekeeping trips to Malawi where you can witness first-hand our similar humanities as well as the unique struggles of the villagers. Every year we welcome APC members to join us on these trips. To learn more about VIP please visit.

<https://villagesinpartnership.org> or access our latest [Annual Report](#).

Emerging Needs

Through your generosity, APC has been able to respond to urgent needs that arise both nationally and internationally. Over this past year we have provided financial support for:

- Hurricane relief in Florida, through Charitable Foundation of the Islands in Sanibel
- Earthquake disaster relief in Syria and Turkey, through PC-USA disaster relief fund
- Refugee support through Gateway of Grace Church in Texas

Presbytery and Mission Co-workers

We continue to allocate funds to our local Presbytery of the Coastlands. This year funds were designated to support Camp Johnsonburg.

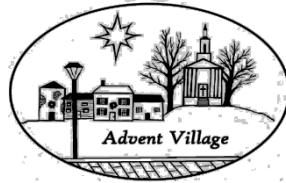
APC also supports PC-USA mission co-workers in Africa and Central America. We were able to connect virtually with Leslie Vogel, one of our mission co-workers who supervises other mission workers and works directly with various churches in Guatemala and Mexico.

This year we are also providing financial support to Pastor Chuck Monts and his wife Deb, who are serving as mission workers in Malawi.

Our committee works to support each of APC's missions and to help foster desire in the hearts of our members to participate or provide leadership in areas where they feel called. As the pandemic restrictions gradually lifted over the past year, opportunities for in person mission work have resumed. We have sustained our support of ongoing missions, but we have also added new ministries and partnerships. It is such a blessing to be able to continue lifting the burdens of those who are vulnerable or in need.

We look forward to another year of sharing the love of Jesus Christ through mission.

Respectfully Submitted,
Cara Barlis



Advent Village 2022

We welcomed the opportunity to bring Advent Village back as a LIVE, in-person event for 2022. While we still provided the options for shopping on-line or via an updated catalog, we were excited to be back as a community celebrating the beginning of Advent and supporting our missionaries.

DEC 2022

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Advent Village
• GIFT CATALOG •

Schulte Hall was alive, once again, with **entertainment** ranging from Holiday Favorites with Mr. E and Strolling Carolers, to adorable presentations by our ROCK and Stepping Stones Children's Choirs, and the humorous return of the Silent Monks. We also added a time of "Christmas Trivia with Rich Daesener." Our **Sunday School children** made beautiful ornaments and donated gently used children's books and their efforts produced recording donations. Our **Little Tree Preschool** offered cookies for the children (of all ages ;) to decorate...always a delicious hit!



New this year: we offered the **APC Café** food (all donated) for free. We wanted to create a welcoming atmosphere where everyone felt like "part of the family." We intentionally did not put out donation baskets as we truly wanted to treat our guests. Still, our guests "insisted" and we collected \$836 in donations. ** We did put a price on Advent Village mugs and any food purchases "to go."*

Last year (AV 2021), we received record donations of \$41,356. I am pleased to report that **AV 2022 set a new record! We received donations totaling \$45,400** (a 9.8% increase). After 2021, I was concerned about the reduced number of shoppers (62). This year, we rebounded up to 99 shoppers (68% members). While not a record, it is a 60% increase and movement in the right direction. *And, while unable to be proven, we had hoped that by not charging for food, visitors would be more inclined to visit our Mission Stores. Perhaps there was some impact.* Of the 99 purchases, 26 were made via Breeze (some of those purchases were made day of the event/on site.) This actually matches the number of credit card purchases in AV 2021.

The **missions supported** annually by Advent Village are The Food Pantry, The Good Neighbor Fund, Crossroads Youth Ministry, HomeFront, the Guatemala Mission, Villages in Partnership (VIP), and, for the second year, the Presbyterian Church USA (PCUSA) Disaster Assistance Fund. Presbyterian Disaster Assistance is the emergency and refugee program of the Presbyterian Church (USA). When natural or human-caused disasters impact communities, PDA is poised to respond and work closely with congregations and local mission partners to bring Christ's love and healing.

Each year we enjoy preparing for this event and for the opportunity to introduce more people to the ideas of an “alternative Christmas shopping experience”: to provide opportunities to help people in need all around the world with a gifts (such as food, rent, diapers, stoves, goats, immunizations, wells, and homes) that will truly change and bless the lives of those in severe need.

Over thirteen years, we have raised **\$349,527.01** through Advent Village. We pray that our Lord will continue to bless this ministry in years to come as we lend a hand to our neighbors in need.

*For there will never cease to be poor in the land. Therefore I command you,
“You shall open wide your hand to your brother, to the needy and to the poor, in your land.”
Deuteronomy 15:11*

In His service,

Maureen
Maureen Harshman Advent Village Coordinator



Associate Pastor for Adult Discipleship

Annual Report '22-'23

"I have heard of your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love toward all the saints, and for this reason I do not cease to give thanks for you as I remember you in my prayers"

(Ephesians 1:15-16)

As the church calendar year draws to a close, I am reflecting with gratitude on another year of life and ministry with APC. This year saw our return to increasingly full-fledged ministry post-pandemic, with fuller, more exuberant (clappy as ever!) worship services, retreats, events, and small groups. It also saw me learning to juggle motherhood and pastoring with the loving support of our congregation, who blessed me to return to work part time and gradually ramp up my hours throughout the year. This has been so important and meaningful for my family, and my time with Liza has simultaneously been shaping me into a more humble and loving follower of Jesus and thus a better pastor. I am thankful for you and for what God is doing in and through this church.

Small Groups

Small Groups are one of the primary means through which we expect and encourage people to grow in their discipleship to Jesus Christ at APC. This year we offered three sessions of small groups: fall, winter, and spring. We followed the sermon series for Scripture and topic, and we incorporated a spiritual practice (lectio divina, prayer of examen, and breath prayer) each week. The numbers below do not include Men's Breakfast or the Start Here classes. See attached sheet for a complete list of the small groups and guides from the past year.

- Fall (Mid-Sept-mid-Dec): JC Fowler and the Adult Discipleship team launched small groups while I was on leave. 7 small groups / about 100 people participating
- Winter (end of Jan-early April): 11 small groups / 130 people participating
- Spring (May-mid-June): 10 small groups / 100 people participating

Over the summer, I will be working on getting a small group of leaders trained to run the 13 week *Griefshare* program at APC, beginning in the fall. This will be one of our small group options offered. I am giving thanks and praise to God for these spaces of safety, growth, and connection.

Adult Education

This year, we tried to bring in more outside voices and experts to be teaching our Sunday morning Adult Education. These are the classes we offered over the past year:

- “Blest be the Tie that Binds: The Promise and Perils of a Big-Tent Faith in a Nation Divided” (Fall ‘22) - Dr. Heath Carter
- “It’s Not Yours and You Can’t Take it With You: Exploring Stewardship” (Fall ‘22) - Rev. Lindsay Anderson-Beck, Rev. Cliff Jones
- “Making Room” (Advent ‘22) - Rev. Lindsay Anderson-Beck, Enoch Smith Jr., Annalisse Hume
- “Created to Create” (New Year ‘23) - Mike Foy, Will Anderson-Beck, Enoch Smith Jr., Manda Bliss, Vickie McLaughlin, Marisa Keris, Courtney Stover, Anne Diebel
- “We’re a Matthew 25 Church... So What?” (Lent ‘23) - Rev. Lindsay Anderson-Beck, Rev. Dr. Stephen Heinzel-Nelson, Barrett Young (Rescue Mission of Trenton), the Working Group on Racial Justice, “Bending the Moral Arc” team, Rev. Alonzo Johnson
- “Creation Groans: Our Mandate to Care” (Spring ‘23) - Ron Stouffer, Dave Specca, Esther Chiang

So far we have a few guest teachers lined up for next year, including Dr. Richard Young, a recently retired Princeton Seminary history of religions professor (and new attendee of APC), PC(USA) Rev. Dr. Byron Shafer, and Matthew Green, our Princeton Seminary intern. Over the summer I will continue working on our adult education class calendar for the upcoming year.

Women’s Ministry: *See Women’s Ministry Report*

Other joys from this past year of ministry included collaborating with Stephen and JC to develop our preaching themes and calendar, baptizing several precious babies, including my own (!), into our church family, and co-officiating Julia Aleo and Isaac Meerwarth’s wedding in May.

I am looking forward with hopeful expectation to what God has in store for us next year as we continue attending to the leading and guiding of the Holy Spirit.

With joy and love,
Pastor Lindsay

Small Groups & Guides '22-'23

When: Mondays 7-8:30pm

What: Couples

Guide: Liz & Stephen Heinzl-Nelson

When: Mondays 7-8:30pm

What: Intergenerational

Guide: Mike Foy, Anna Fe Rebadavia, Don & Carolyn LaCrosse

When: Mondays 7-8pm

What: Men's (virtual)

Guide: Ryan Thomas (rotating)

When: Tuesdays 7-8:30pm

What: Intergenerational

Guides: Michelle Schulz, Bob Rhoad, Lauren Davis, Anne Diebel

When: Wednesdays, 6:30-8am

What: Men's Breakfast

When: Wednesdays 6:30-8pm

What: Women

Guide: Denise Schaefer

When: Thursdays, 9:30am

What: Coffeetalk

When: Thursdays 7-8:30pm

What: Intergen

Guide: Jen Bullock, Anita Monaghan, Joshua Williams

When: Thursdays 6:30-8pm

What: Young Adult

Guide: Pete Pitman & Courtney Stover

When: Thursday 7-8:30pm

What: Young Adult+

Guide: Lindsay Anderson-Beck & JC Fowler

When: Thursday 8-9pm

What: Moms (virtual)

Guide: Manda Bliss, Ashley Lebrun, Sarah Gaitens

When: Thursdays 7-8:30pm

What: People of a Certain Age (virtual)

Guide: Beth Rigby & Ron Stouffer

When: Fridays 2-3:30pm

What: Knitwits

Guide: Anne Diebel

When: Sundays, 7-8:30pm

What: Purposeful Parenting

Guide: Dan Domenech

Women's Ministry Annual Report '22-'23

APC's Women's Ministry is coming back to life after the COVID hiatus and following my family leave.

On Friday February 10 of this year, we hosted a puzzle themed "Galentine's" dinner event for around 45 women at PJ's Pancake House in Robbinsville. It was a beautifully intergenerational event, and we enjoyed games (thanks to Maureen!) and fellowship. I shared a message about how we are all made uniquely to show a piece of God to the world and simultaneously how we need one another to show the complete picture of God.

About 40 women of all different ages came on our women's retreat to Avalon, NJ at the end of April. We had a beautiful weekend together making new connections and rekindling old ones. Our theme was *Every Moment Holy* and I preached about God in the ordinary stuff of life, the things that prevent us from noticing God (pace, distraction, expectations), and practical ways to cultivate and fix our attention on him. We enjoyed sharing meals, time in small groups, crafting, free time, worshiping, yoga, a meditation on the beach, and a beautiful Sunday worship service with communion at the Drew House. I'm so thankful for our retreat planning team and for every woman who carved out the time to come away with us!



Next year we are planning for quarterly fellowship events plus a spring retreat. We hope that many of our women will plug in to one of our small group options. I have also begun researching options for retreat centers for our 2024 women's retreat.

Gratefully,
Pastor Lindsay

Men's Ministry Annual Report '22-'23

The Men's Ministry resumed our regular Wednesday morning breakfast meetings where we alternate between reading a Book of the Bible and a contemporary book for spiritual growth. We read through Genesis, II Corinthians, Galatians and several other OT books as well as books by Andy Stanley, Tim Keller, and Martin Thielin. We have a steady group of 10-15 who participate in this fellowship. In October we returned to Avalon, NJ for our men's retreat with 35 men of all ages reflecting on the parable of the Prodigal Son led by Stuart Spencer from First Presbyterian Moorestown. Recently a new small group of men meeting in the evening has begun. We are grateful for all of the men who make this fellowship a priority and look forward to further growth in the year ahead.

Stephen Heinzl-Nelson



Crossroads Youth and Young Adult Ministry

In conjunction with the mission of APC, Crossroads Youth & Young Adult Ministry exists to: ***Invite** all youth, young adults, and their families to encounter God's love; **connect** them with a community where they are seen, known, and celebrated; help them **embrace** God's story; guide them to **deepen** their personal relationship with Christ; and empower them to **serve** the world with passion.*

Being a teenager is a hypersocial experience. Questions like “Who am I?”, “Where do I fit in?”, and “What Difference Can I Make?” incessantly and loudly cycle in the minds of our teens in a number of different forms. Research suggests, as is true of our own experience, that the hypersocial nature of adolescence means that our adolescents are hyper-affected by social changes. Smart phones, social media, increased college cost and competition, and of course the pandemic, have hugely impacted our teenagers. The Surgeon General has recently warned of a nation-wide loneliness epidemic, naming loneliness as severely detrimental to all aspects of life. Gen Z, our teenagers and young adults, report to be the loneliest generation yet. The Surgeon General's suggestion as the first pillar of defense in combating loneliness is, “Strengthening social infrastructure in communities, (which) involves boosting programs like *volunteer organizations or religious groups*, policies like public transit or education, and physical elements like libraries and green spaces.” We could not agree more.

Our vision is for Crossroads to be a REAL place of REAL relationships where every student and their family encounters the REAL love of God so that they and the world might REALLY be transformed. At the beginning of each youth group night we invite our students into this call and response:

“Crossroads is a REAL place. A place of REAL love, of REAL relationships, it's a REAL safe space, a place where we discover who we REALLY are, that we can make a REAL difference in the world, and that we REALLY belong, no matter what. Do you have to wear a certain style of clothes? **NO!** Do you have to look a certain way? **NO!** Do you have to go to a certain school? **NO!** Do you have to have a certain amount of money? **NO!** Do you have to have the right amount of friends or followers? **NO!** So what could stop you from belonging at Crossroads? **Nothing!** Crossroads is a REAL place because it's a place all about God's REAL love.”

This year through prayer, Shepherd relationships, student empowerment, biblical teaching, service, and other spiritual practices we have watched those incessantly cycling questions be answered in redemptive ways, we have seen loneliness vanish, and we have witnessed lives of youth, young adults, parents, and volunteers transform for the kingdom of God.

Sunday School

Our Sunday School classes have continued to utilize the LIVE curriculum from Group Publishing. The curriculum emphasizes how students might live out their faith as teenagers. Our teachers seek to build lasting relationships with students, inviting them to serve in tangible ways.

Sunday School Kitchen Coordinator: Anne Haines

Middle School (6th, 7th-8th)

Average weekly attendance: 12 students *(+3 from 2022)*

Teachers: Rich Cigna, Rich Daesener, Isaac Meerwarth, Kathy Jaeger

High School (9th-12th)

Average weekly attendance: 6 students *(+1 from 2022)*

Teachers: Marla Golden; Substitutes: Dan Domenech, Kevin Heide



Confirmation (9th and up)

The Confirmation class at APC is designed to prepare students for membership into the life of the church. It is a chance for students to consider where they are in their faith journey and who they hope to be as followers of Christ in the world. The confirmands learn the tenets of the Presbyterian faith, dissect the Apostles Creed, and work to discern if they feel called to confirm their baptismal vows and join APC.

This year's Confirmands are: Megan Conroy, Paige Conroy, William Davis, Sean Gavin, Gabriel Heide, Sage Hill, Christian Macaluso, Makayla Rondinelli, Madison Tietjen, Caden Valentine, Jackson Valentine, Derek Voorhees

Confirmation Teachers: JC Fowler, Erik Voorhees

Mid-Week Youth Ministry

Our first full year back since COVID was a much needed return to the powerful mid-week gatherings at Crossroads. Faith was formed, Shepherds built relationships with students in ways that spilled out past weekly program nights, student leaders owned the ministry and discovered their gifts, and the kitchen team blessed us with home-cooked meals each week!



Planning Team (Mondays 6-8 pm)

This team met monthly to plan weekly youth group nights and other special events. This year's team consisted of: Abby Barber (Student), JC Fowler, Marla Golden, Kathy Jaeger, Peter Marcello, Isaac Meerwarth, Courtney Stover, Christin Thompson, Andrew Ulisse (Student)

Kitchen Team

YG Kitchen Coordinator: Jaime Sabbatini

Kitchen Shopper: Liz Figueroa

Middle School Cooks: Craig Mallet, Michelle Mallet, Chris Scaturo, Mark Setaro

High School Cooks: Greg Dupey, Theresa Dupey, Lisa Kilyk, Eugenia Solares

Middle School (Wednesdays, 6:30-8:30 pm) Middle School Leader: Isaac Meerwarth

Average weekly attendance: 36 students (+2 from 2022)

Kingdom moments:

- A student was feeling upset about his own behavior at one point in the evening. His friend came up to him with a name tag and asked him to write what he was feeling on the name tag. He wrote, "Sorry" and "Horrible." The friend took the name tag back, crossed out "Sorry" and "Horrible", wrote "Forgiven" and "Amazing", and handed the name tag back.
- A student noticed an envelope in front of him in church, pulled out a crumpled up wad of singles, and asked, "Mom, this is for the offering, right?" After straightening out the money he then stuffed it in the envelope and put it in the passing plate.

Middle School Shepherds: Julia Aleo, Kirk Bullock, Hayley Carlson, Dona Daesener, Rich Daesener, Stacy Foy, Kevin Heide, Kathy Jaeger, Paula Lotito, Pete Marcello, Phil Rondinelli, Heather Saracen, Mark Schaefer, Natalie Tripodi

MS Leadership Team

For the second year, the middle school ministry lifted up a team of student leaders. This team met quarterly for spiritual formation, leadership training, and team building. They also enjoyed an overnight lock-in and a weekend retreat.

Leadership Students: Abby Capiello, Charlotte Heide, Rio Kiernan, Justin Marcello, Ava Saracen, Drew Smith, Noah Stover, Finley Thomas, and Nate Ugi

Leadership Shepherds: Julia Aleo, Dona Daesener, Rich Daesener, and Isaac Meerwarth

High School (Tuesdays, 6:30-8:30 pm) High School Leader: Marla Golden

Average weekly attendance: 40 students (+6 from 2022)

Kingdom moments:

- Students Abby Barber, Josiah Berkley, Hudson Galik, and Andrew Ulisse shared their testimonies.
- "I've never felt so close to God." -Student after a retreat.
- After seeing a brand new teenager in church, a student exclaimed, "I want to tell that kid about Crossroads!", and literally ran up to them.

High School Shepherds: Kristal Anaya, Tom Burgess, Will Anderson-Beck, Christine Beal, Sue Bernieri, Tim Diehl, Dan Domenech, Noelle Fowler, Sandra Oliveira, Peter Pitman, Dan Poll, Gary Stanley, Patti Stanley, Courtney Stover, Christin Thompson

HS Leadership Team

Each year, the high school ministry lifts up a team of student leaders seeking to grow spiritually and who are called to serve Christ. This team met monthly for spiritual formation, leadership training, and team building. They also enjoyed an overnight lock-in and a weekend retreat.

Leadership students: Abby Barber, Josiah Berkley, Alexa Cruz, Laylaa Darling, Megan Domenech, Ainsley Geddis, Jayme Hayes, Dimitri Knox, Sophie Shellenberger, Andrew Ulisse, Jackson Valentine, Caden Valentine

Leadership Shepherds: Christine Beal, Marla Golden, and Courtney Stover



Young Adults

The young adult ministry continued to embrace small group faith formation over the last year with over 25 young adults regularly participating. Throughout the year several one off fellowship events also occurred, including a monthly breakfast at Woody's. Many young adults also serve as Shepherds, small group guides, and in other areas of the church.



Kingdom Moments:

- “Studying the Bible in a group like this is just what I needed for my faith.”-YA in a small group.
- “I haven't felt this spirituality fulfilled and hopeful in God's plan in a very long time.” -YA after helping lead music on the youth retreat.

Young Adult Leader: JC Fowler

Beyond Weekly Crossroads...

- **Main Street Mission-** About 100 people came together last July and worked on 10 different homes including replacing kitchens, bathrooms, doors, porches, decks, sheds, and more. Homeowners' children were invited into VBS during the day and we received a few letters of encouragement from Allentown neighbors witnessing our efforts.
- **Crossroads Guest Connect-**Over the summer we remodeled several small groups rooms to create a new student and parent orientation walking tour that expresses different aspects of life in Christ via the five senses.
- **Parent Seminar-** Nearly 100 parents, many of whom were new to the community, attended the Purposeful Parent Seminar led by youth and family expert Dr. Steven Argue. A monthly parent small group and resource email was born out of the seminar.
- **Video-**We produced two professional promotional videos with WoodWalk Production.
- **Consulting-** We hosted a ministry consultant for a two day on-site experience that included staff and Shepherd training. The two day on-site was followed up by seven virtual meetings.
- **Shepherd Gatherings-** Several gatherings were held to connect with, equip, and inspire the Shepherd team.



- **Crossroads Lately Email-** A weekly email was sent to all parents and friends of Crossroads. The email shares highlights and testimonies, announces upcoming opportunities, and equips parents to engage in meaningful faith conversations.
- **Parent Calls-** Ministry leaders made weekly calls to various parents.

- **Home Visits-** Staff and Shepherds visited the homes of several students.
- **Showing Up For Students-** Staff and shepherds connected with and showed up for students in a multitude of ways including regular hangouts, attending games and events, taking walks, lunch dates, and even volunteer coaching at the school.
- **Mentor Nights-** Once a month our middle school students visited the homes of seniors in the community to build relationships and dig deeper in their faith.
- **Mission Nights-** Once a month our high school students left the building to serve in a variety of ways including visiting homes for the developmentally disabled, visiting assisted living facilities, praying for random people at the mall, cooking and delivering meals to people experiencing hardship, and more.
- **Worship Leadership-** Youth, young adults, and youth staff led Sunday worship in a variety of ways, including preaching.
- **MS Parent Night-** In December, we hosted a faith-filled conversation with ~35 parents to talk about parenting wins, struggles, and helping teenagers thrive.
- **MS Dance-** About 70 students, nearly half of whom were new, attended a dance at Crossroads. The dance raised ~\$700. Upon reflecting on the night, one middle school student said, "It was so good to see my friends just be themselves."



- **Pancake Dinner-** Our teams served about 1000 pancakes and raised ~\$1300.



- **Ash Wednesday-** The youth and young adults led an experiential service to kick off Lent. The sanctuary was transformed into a dying garden and a team of students performed a powerful skit about Christ conquering sin.

- **Serve Saturday-** About 150 people of all ages including ~70 youth and young adults showed up on 3/25 to meet Christ at work in the world in tangible ways. Students and Shepherds also raised over \$2,000 and slept outside in cardboard boxes to help alleviate and stand in solidarity with youth experiencing homelessness.



- **Maundy Thursday-** About 65 people enjoyed a soup potluck dinner and an experiential worship service that followed the last days of Jesus' life before the resurrection.



- **Retreats-** In the fall and spring, ~70 students and ~25 Shepherds spent an unplugged weekend in God's creation growing closer to him and one another through various activities and worship.



- **Crossroads Volleyball-** Over 75 youth, young adults, and adults are signed up for the four week volleyball league, many of whom are brand new to our community.

- **Maine Mission-** This summer, ~90 missionaries are set to head to Maine to assist in home improvement for those living in poverty.
- **Fundraising-**Through the generosity of our friends of Crossroads, ~25,000 was raised.
- **New Hire-**After a three year vacancy, we finally hired a new Crossroads Music Leader, Caitlin Casey!

This post-COVID year has more deeply taught us that God is faithful and that so are his beloved saints at APC. We are so grateful to serve a church that believes, “Our children and youth are not only the future of the church but that they are vital to the church today.” We especially want to recognize the incredible commitment of the many Shepherds and other volunteers who week in and week out shared God’s love with our students. We are looking to the future with a holy and hopeful anticipation of what God will do next.

With Joy and Love,

The Youth & Young Adult Staff

JC Fowler, Marla Golden, Isaac Meerwarth, Courtney Stover, and Caitlin Casey

Children and Family Ministry

2022-2023

“Train up a child in the way he should go; even when he is old he will not depart from it.” Proverbs 22:6

It is a great privilege to “partner with parents” in raising children with a faith that lasts...that encourages them to be in tune to God’s blessings all around them and to sustain them through difficult times.

Here is a glimpse of Children and Family Ministry at APC in 2022-2023:

CHILDREN’S MINISTRY:

VBS (Vacation Bible School) June 20-24, 2022 “Food Truck Party: On a roll with God!”

VBS 2022 was great! While we are not at pre-pandemic numbers, we made huge progress in our return! In 2019, we had 289 children enrolled. In 2021 we limited enrollment to 125. This past year (2022) our enrollment reached 180 with average nightly attendance of 140! Add another 85 volunteers per night and it felt full and vibrant again!! I am grateful for all of the 112 volunteers who gave their time and energy to this mission before, during, and after! Special thanks go out to: Kelsey Harshman, Katie Fortunato, Carolyn German, Colleen Wright, Jean Buscaglia-Yurkiewicz, Mike Fortunato, Kait Kramer, Jenna Fox, Nancy Winouski, Julie Yi, Hailey Figueroa, Ed Velez, and Vera Sharoff for going above and beyond!

While the theme may have seemed unusual, it was actually phenomenal! The stories of God’s provision through food were easily grasped by the kids and the songs were both upbeat and faithful, reinforcing the messages of the stories. Crafts and Snacks were, once again, amazing, and kudos to Kelsey for making Game time fun and inclusive (especially for a 5th/6th grade group of 45 kids per night!!)

Mission: The VBS families donated 366 pounds of food and, through the Free Will Offering, donated \$4,583 to the Food Pantry. (And, because of their efforts, made me into a “stuffed taco.”)



Sunday School 2022-2023

Kickoff Sunday was 9/11/22 and, since many were returning to in-person worship and gatherings, our theme was “Reunion!” It was a great start to another memorable year of learning!



Curriculum:

Each year our Sunday School curriculum includes a Core Value component. These are lessons that we prepared in-house that focus on core Christian and Presbyterian beliefs. We then provided imaginative and meaningful lessons to our children in 2nd – 5th grade using the Spark curriculum. Our PreK used the *Read and Share* curriculum and Kindergarten/First used the *Jesus Storybook Bible* curriculum.

Thank you Sunday School Teachers 2022-2023:

We were blessed with a staff of volunteer teachers who, along with their passion for teaching children, were faithful, resilient, and creative. Thank you for your service.

PreK: Manda Bliss and Brittany Kaplan

Kindergarten/First Grade: Laura Pellichero and Mitch Sharoff

Second Grade: Pam Khoury and Lindsay Smolinski

Third-Fifth Grade: Melissa and Bill Mandeville, Melissa Mikolon, Carrie Sharoff, and Kelsey Harshman

Communion Class: Jennifer Bullock and Michele Mallet, assisted by Craig Mallet

Registration:

In what we would call a “rebuilding year,” the Sunday School registration was 63. What is encouraging is that of those 63, 18 are brand new to Sunday School. Please join us in praying that more parents will understand the value of Christian education in the lives of our children.

Communion Class:

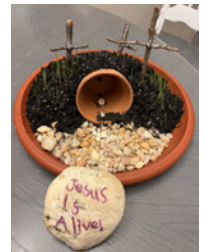
This year our Communion class was the smallest on record with nine children. Along with their parents, the children participate in six specialized Communion classes and attended a special “Seder/Communion” lesson. These nine children were stellar students who seemed to very deeply grasp the meaning of the sacrament. On April 30, 2023, the children were invited to The Lord’s Table for the first time. In keeping with tradition, the children served communion to the congregation while wearing their own hand-made stoles.



* Congrats to our new Communion Class teachers completing their first year of teaching!

Resurrection Gardens:

One highlight of Sunday School this year was our Palm Sunday project. Each family made their own Resurrection Garden and watched the grass grow by Easter around the opened and empty tomb!

**Mission:**

Our Sunday School children participated in several service opportunities: donating their books to the Advent Village book shoppe to raise money to buy Spanish Bibles for the children in Guatemala, making ornaments for Advent Village to raise funds for the preschools in Guatemala and Africa, and participating in Sunday School Service Day in March making “uncrustable” PB&J sandwiches for those in need, bagging dog and cat food for the Food Pantry, and making encouragement cards to share with those who serve in our church.





Inclusive Ministries: It has been a few years since we have had requests for assistance with children with special needs. After just the first day we had request to assist three children (autism, down syndrome, and English as a second language (Spanish speaking only). We are extremely lucky and blessed to have a committee (comprised largely of full time teachers) who recognize the need and are willing to give of their precious free time to serve these children and their parents. Many thanks to Allynn McLaughlin, Dona Daesener, Melissa Mandeville, Diana Pabon, and Kelsey Harshman for sharing their expertise, welcoming spirit, and “can do” attitude.

Sunday Morning Refreshments Team: Many thanks to Melissa Mandeville for coordinating our Sunday morning team (Melissa, Sue Rich, Anna Fe Rebadavia, Julie Yi, Melissa Collins, and Mary Beth Drew) that dutifully sets out and cleans up our bagels and juice! (And to Bill Mandeville for unfailingly providing the hot coffee!) If you’d like to serve on this much-appreciated team in the Fall, please reach out to Melissa or me.

Little Tree: What a blessing it has been to be asked to teach Bible stories to our youngest disciples in our preschool. I love watching their understanding of the stories and love of Jesus grow. In particular, they love to learn about Jesus’ miracles! We also provide each new LT student with a Read and Learn Bible encouraging parents to revisit the stories at home.



Mid-week Ministry:

We were grateful to return to a full calendar year of **ROCK and Stepping Stones** on Thursday nights.

* We gathered weekly with 22 kids in 3rd-5th Grade who bonded over games, meals, lessons, crafts...and fun! Our ROCK themes for the year were “The Jesse Tree” and “Building Blocks of Faith.”

* The 1st and 2nd graders in Stepping Stones kids spent a year learning about “Children of the Bible,” playing xylophones, and were given opportunities to serve others.

Some highlights from our year:

- * The Lock In and Halloween costume night!
- * Challenges to memorize The Lord’s Prayer, Psalm 23, and the Apostles’ Creed!
- * The Caring Kids wrapping utensils, bagging dog food...learning to care for others.

- * The Choir Kids singing in worship.
- * The ROCK Choir presenting our 23rd musical: "Spend Awhile on the Nile." It is always a privilege to work with these children who are filled with energy, enthusiasm, and true love for and faith in our Lord.
- * Community building games after the Friday Community Performance with our special guests from Home Front!



Thank you to our faithful ROCK leaders...

Kelsey Harshman, Amoreena Berkley, Jean Buscaglia-Yurkiewicz, Katie Fortunato, Carolyn German, Kait Kramer, Jennifer Matwiow, Lois Meyers, Enoch Smith, Jr, Colleen Wright, and Dara Servis; and to our Youth Helpers: Josiah Berkley, Daniel Berkley, Ava Saracen, and Tim Berkley.

and our Stepping Stones team! Julie Yi, Mr. E, and Josiah Berkley.

Worship

Children's Messages

Still finding extra joy in having the children come up front for their messages and seeing the numbers grow. This year we delivered a few memorable series of messages to the kids such as "Re-Member," going on a weekly "Treasure Hunt" with our pirates, the Advent Wreath series, the "Letters of Paul" (voiced by Dave Lotito), and following Jesus' example through the Matthew 25 series.

Nursery: Due to various reasons, each member of our beloved Nursery staff (Terri Bowers, Pamela Barcia-Castro, and Linda Carr) have been unable to continue to serve in the Nursery since we re-opened in March 2022. I am grateful for the many volunteers who have helped up keep the Nursery open during the 11:00 services and Sunday School hour. Please pray for our search for permanent, loving coverage.

KinderWorship: KinderWorship also returned this past year (at the 11:00 service only) thanks to the help of a small team of High School and adult volunteers and combining the coverage with the Nursery.

As the demand grows, we hope to return to providing KW at both services in the Fall with a more robust team of volunteers!

If your or your HS teen is interested, please contact Maureen.

Christmas 2022

We returned to one Children and Family Christmas Eve service at 4:00. The Sunday School children did a wonderful job presenting the Nativity Tableau as we welcomed our first female and British narrator, Pastor Lindsay!

The ROCK Choir Kids did a beautiful job presenting the heartfelt story of Punchinella in “You Are Special,” concluding with the emotional song, “He Knows My Name.”

Palm Sunday 2023

Thank you to Jean and Barry Buscaglia-Yurkiewicz for providing and guiding the donkey for our Palm Sunday parades. Our “Jesus” riders were Riley Gaitens and Reza Kiernen.



FAMILY MINISTRY:

APC BEACH DAYS at Belmar, 7/14/22 and 8/16/22

We love our time at the beach! Time to relax in the sun with family and friends. No agenda. Just fun in the surf and sun and ice cream on the boardwalk! Always a memorable day! Be sure to join us this summer!

Main Street Mission VBS July 27-31, 2022

My contribution to MSM is to watch over and lead the “younger missionaries” (those under age 12) from 9-5.

Our motto for the week: *We may be too young to work on an official work site, but we are NOT too young to serve!* And serve we did! We made dessert for the entire MSM Team nightly. We worked in the Seeds of Faith Garden weeding and harvesting and making new signs for the vegetable beds. We decorated pots and planted them with flowers and herbs for the homeowners. Grateful for “Miss Ingrid” for leading us daily and for Tim and Lynn Diehl for encouraging us and helping us with prep work. Besides the nine children of MSMissionaries, our “team” was also blessed with three children of the homeowners we served. We enjoyed getting to know them and sharing with them fun, fellowship, and the gospel.

I'm grateful for my teen helpers (Grace Leard and Ava Saracen), adult helpers who helped me here and there: (Peggy Sue Wright, Carrie Sharoff, and Linda Carr), and Kitchen Crew who helped us with the desserts! (Kait Kramer, Carrie Sharoff, Nicola Ryder)

Inspired by our garden work, our Bible time was built around the gardens in the Bible: Garden of Eden, Garden of Gethsemane, and the Garden of the Empty Tomb. We took a powerful "walk through the gardens" from perfection, to sin, to redemption and created a "scratch art" craft to coincide.

DAVID at Sight & Sound Theatre, Ronks, PA, 12/17/22:

In December a crew of 53 APC family and friends enjoyed the magnificent "David" show at Sight and Sound. Afterwards, we enjoyed further community over dinner at Miller's Smorgasbord!



Serve Saturday, 3/25/23:

Nine families participated (including 11 children and 7 parents) participated in our inaugural Serve Saturday event.. We served in many ways: moving rocks from the ROCK garden, making rice warming socks, tying blankets for HomeFront, bagging dog and cat food, making dessert for all who served, replacing rubber stoppers on the green chairs, and serving our desserts after dinner. Besides serving, the kids (and parents) bonded over some game time and remembering VBS songs to sing in worship.

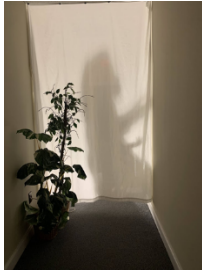


Lent 2023:

We created and presented our first Holy Week family event: **Journey to the Cross**. A group of volunteers (actors and guides) led the children on an experiential journey from Palm Sunday, to the Last Supper, through the Garden of Eden and the introduction of sin, to Jesus praying in the garden, to the cross, and, finally and triumphantly, to the empty tomb!

I am very pleased with the way the event came together and extremely grateful for the team of volunteers (15) that embraced the vision and joined me in bringing this experience to life for the kids. Despite the horrible weather, 12 families (plus other adults sans kids) journeyed with us. (40 people total journeyed) (Five families did not attend due to the weather forecast.) During the event, what was eventually determined to be a tornado in Cream Ridge, passed through Allentown with hail the size of large marbles. We "re-routed" our journey to the basement and took shelter in the Nursery. The kids played together and were completely distracted from the major storm event outside.





FFG (Family Fellowship Gatherings): FFG made a triumphant return in 2022-2023! Here's a brief list of the community building evenings we experienced together:

- * October Game night: spaghetti structures, tic-tac-toe, Bible Pictionary, pie face, and hula hoop races!

- * November "Santa vs. Jesus" discussion

- * December "Caroling and LIVE Nativity" Over 100 people attended!!

- * January "Winter Scene Nailed It Night!" with 15 families competing! (over 60 people attended)

- * At our February gathering the kids made Valentines for God and the couples did some "speed dating" ...making the point that we need more time together to build strong, Christian community.

- * March: 14 families came together to share a meal of corned beef and cabbage and talk about the Trinity.

- * April: We shared pizza, ice cream, and ideas for family Sabbath.

- * May: 12 families worked together on our Service Night to prepare over 550 snack bags for HomeFront.



FFG is a unique ministry designed for parents and their young children to build a community to provide support, encouragement, and even accountability for one another. Please consider joining this ministry in 2023-2024 as a participating family or in a child-care giver capacity.

Even after 17 years in ministry, I still find immense joy in working with volunteers and staff who love our Lord and our children; who demonstrate for me tireless energy, commitment, and faithfulness.

We value the privilege and opportunity that we have to share the word of God in new and creative ways with our children and, maybe more importantly, to pour over our kids the love, patience, and forgiveness of Jesus.

Please consider how God may be calling you to serve our children and families through ministry at APC.

God bless.

Maureen Harshman
Director of Children and Family Ministry





Little Tree Preschool

The joyful noise you hear when you visit the education building during the week is the Little Tree Preschool children learning, playing, and laughing together! For the past 21 years, the Little Tree Preschool staff has introduced children from Allentown and the surrounding communities to the love of the Lord and invited families into the life of the Allentown Presbyterian Church family. The 2022-23 school year brought 119 children ages 2 ½ - 5 into our church community; 15 dedicated and loving staff members build relationships with the students and their families that will last a lifetime.

Our 2022-23 school year was filled with many fun activities and new experiences. Highlights of our year included joyfully welcoming our families in September at our annual Meet the Teacher Day. Students and parents spent time in classrooms meeting new friends and their teachers, doing crafts, and listening to stories. In October we headed to Bullocks Farm to pick pumpkins and take a hayride around the farm; it was a fun filled fall day with our Little Tree families.



November was a time of giving thanks as we celebrated Thanksgiving together. The children made dessert to share with their families as everyone participated in a traditional Thanksgiving meal. December found the staff and students excited to hold our first Christmas show back in the Sanctuary since the pandemic. The children told the story of Christmas through song and movement for their parents and guests; everyone gathered after the show to share some Christmas joy and cookies. In January we beat the winter blues by “Going on a Bear Hunt” together! The children used their imaginations to travel through the woods and then sang campfire songs with Mr. E. Spirit week was held in February; the children came to school wearing their favorite sports team, crazy socks and hats, their best beach outfits, dressed as

princesses or superheroes and in pink/purple or red clothes for Valentine's Day. In March we were visited by some very naughty Leprechauns who made a mess in our classrooms; the Leprechauns knocked over chairs, dropped glitter on the floor and scattered toys everywhere. The children had fun using their imaginations to look for the Leprechauns all over the building. We celebrated Easter at Little Tree by learning how much Jesus loves us. The children donated fruit to be made into a fruit salad that we shared in our classrooms.



Our Mother's Day Tea was a great success in May; the teachers enjoyed spending time with our wonderful Little Tree Moms. Our 4-year-old classes learned about Community Helpers; we were visited by the fire department, a police officer, a candy maker, a dancer, an EMT, a dental hygienist, a jeweler and a train conductor who told the children all about their jobs! Our second school trip of the year was held in May; we went to Fernbrook Farm where the children and their parents learned about the farm and growing crops. In June we will say goodbye to our 4-year-old classes as they graduate and head off to kindergarten; a bitter-sweet day for the staff!

Each year Little Tree helps bring the Bible alive for our students by creating and presenting a variety of big Bible stories. This year our big Bible stories included Creation, Jonah and the Whale, Zacchaeus, and a special Easter show. The stories are written and presented by Lisa Hendricksen; they are a developmentally appropriate way for young children to learn and understand Jesus' love for them and the Bible. Each day, Little Tree students learn about God and know they are loved for who they are. In addition to the big Bible productions, our students learn Bible stories & songs and pray together in their classrooms as they learn about God. Miss Maureen's visits to our classrooms are a favorite part of our week! This year Little Tree students also participated in a reverse Advent Calendar experience. Families were emailed an electronic Advent Calendar to open each day; the calendar featured a Bible verse, a movie or song clip and a suggestion for a food item to bring to school. We collected a mountain of food

which was donated to both the deacon's baskets and the food pantry; we received wonderful feedback from the parents.



Our students continue to enjoy their weekly music time with Mr. E. Enoch teaches the children basic music concepts as well as songs and finger plays and accompanies our students in their annual Christmas show and in the 4-year-old graduation ceremony.

Little Tree Preschool families continued to generously support the Allentown Presbyterian Church missions by donating to the food pantry, HomeFront and Advent Village. Little Tree continues to support the work of the Allentown Presbyterian Church; in 2022, Little Tree was blessed to be able to transfer \$50,000.00 to the general church account.



The Little Tree staff continued to grow together by participating in continuing education seminars and praying together. Little Tree's ability to continually offer high quality preschool experiences to our students is a direct result of the incredible group of teachers who pour out their love and support to the children and families in their care. The Little Tree teachers are a team in all ways, they support the Little Tree program, APC and each other with love and grace that truly reflects the love of Christ. Our amazing 2022-23 Little Tree staff included:

Teachers	
Amy Piacentino – 4's	Jen Slimowicz – 3's
Kim Sibert – 4's	Anna Siracusa – 3's
Jill Kurzeja – 4's	Elizabeth Bloomfield – 2's
Kristin Low – 4's & 3's	
Assistant Teachers	
Lisa Hendricksen -4's	Kristy Haemmerle – 3's
Caitlynne Meola –3's & 4's	Janeane Curran– 2's
Mary O'Toole – 4's	Pam Ponticello -2's
Michelle Reynolds – 3's	Rachael Frascella 4's

As our 2022-23 school year comes to an end, the staff is already planning for the next school year. The Little Tree staff remains excited and committed about the work we do for the Allentown Presbyterian Church, the community, and the Lord. We are looking forward to teaching a new group of children and their families about Jesus next year.

Respectfully Submitted,

Jill Kurzeja
Director

Property Report

I have been in my position now for 9 months and really feel like I have settled in well. I started working with Pat in August to get the lay of the land and officially started on my own at the end of August. Pat and I spent his last weeks here sprucing up the campus and doing a lot of painting. Below are highlights from each month from when I became the Director of Properties.

September: All fire inspections completed, Porch repairs completed at the Manse

October: The roof was replaced on the porch of the Manse, Hot water heater replaced at 81 S Main, Fire extinguishers were all serviced, Geothermal units serviced

November: All roof HVAC units serviced, replaced trees that died in the cemetery and at the Manse.

December: This month was very busy decorating and preparing for the Advent season. Gutters were cleaned and inspected on all buildings. MAK Roofing replaced the rook on the back of the church. Hammer Electric installed 8 smoke/CO detectors at 81 S Main. Eck's air replaced a heat exchanger on the heating units that supplied heat to the offices. The up stairs heater at 73 S Main was replaced as well the one in the basement was serviced. Annual sprinkler inspections were completed.

January: Verdin, the clock company, helped me address a problem with the clock in the tower. All smoke and carbon monoxide detectors were replaced at the Manse. Cemetery clean up was done.

February: I started working on the tech team's additional bay, planning began for Serve Saturday.

March: Hammer electric came out to run electric to the new tech bay in the sanctuary, Verdin replaced the motor for the steeple clock, A lot of behind the scenes work for the Howard University Choir. Serve Saturday we assembled new tables and replaced all the mulch around the campus.

April: Made a new cross for the easter flowers, I built and installed new Bilco doors at the Manse. Extermination was completed around the church.

May: Rooftop units were all serviced including the geothermal units. Supreme doors is working on an estimate for the damaged doors in Little Tree. Replaced the water line that fed the hose bib outside of the Cornell House. This was discovered after water was leaking into the food pantry for hours. The water also leaked into a Little Tree Classroom. We shop vac'd the water the best that we could and used drying fans. We are hoping to replace carpet this summer. We also have a big concern with the foundation under Schulte Hall in the left corner. I am beginning to research companies to come out and assess the problem and prepare quotes.

In addition to the above, there are many weekly items that are completed and small repairs are done as needed. We have also been planning and working on the Maine Mission trip behind the scenes. I look forward to continuing working with everyone.

Bill Mandeville

Human Resources

The Human Resources Committee of the Allentown Presbyterian Church is a committee that addresses the HR needs of church employees and provides guidance to Session on HR related issues. The committee meets monthly and includes members Rev. Stephen Heinzl-Nelson, Elder Robert Rhoad, Elder Brian Ricci, Elder Mark Setaro and Elder Nancy Tindall.

Hiring: We are blessed to have the following talented individuals joining the staff / taking on new responsibilities here at APC!

- Courtney Stover - We created a combined position for her to work as the APC Office Manager and continue her role as the Crossroads Administrator
- Bill Mandeville - After shadowing Pat Gagnon for a few weeks, Bill was hired as the new Director of Properties in August of 2022.
- Caitlin Casey - After years of searching to fill this vitally important part-time role for the Youth Ministry, Caitlin Casey started in May 2023 as our Music Leader for the High School program at Crossroads.

Other topics the committee addressed included:

- Staff Sabbatical: JC Fowler will take his well deserved Sabbatical this summer.
- Time Off: The committee added bereavement leave to the Employee Policy and updated the paid holiday schedule.

Respectfully Submitted,

Brian Ricci

HR Committee Chair

Administration and Financial Committee Report

The A&F committee (Peter Barlis, Jane Crain, Lauren Davis, Liz Dey, Mike Foy, Joe Monaghan, Vera Sharoff, Patti Stanley, Nancy Tindall, Anne Marie Wiedemann) meets on a monthly basis and deals primarily with church issues related to budget, policy and insurance.

Some key highlights of the past year include:

- **LMA Debt Retirement:** Requested and obtained the approval of Session to implement a strategy to reduce the LMA balance by using a percentage of any monthly appreciation in the Memorial Account's investment portfolio, provided the adjusted balance would not thereby fall below the value of the investments at year-end 2022 – approximately \$3.9 million.
 - Using this strategy and augmenting 50% of January's portfolio appreciation with account reserves that have accrued in the last couple of years as a result of the Payroll Protection Program the LMA was reduced by \$156,500 for an annual savings in interest of \$9,390.
- **Centralized Contract Management:** Developed and maintained a robust database of existing APC contracts that summarizes key information including term, APC owner, vendor contact information, pricing, etc. to mitigate risk of unintended auto-renewals or institutional knowledge loss related to personnel changes.
- **POS System Trial:** Coordinated pilot of Square POS payment system for use at Pancake Tuesday event. The primary intention is to use this for Advent Village to allow guests to use credit cards to make purchases onsite, but there may be other opportunities to use this system to enable APC Ministries to capture giving from the increasing number of individuals who prefer to use cards vs. cash or checks.
- **2023 Budget:** Submitted a budget approved by Session. Budget deficit of ~\$61K was significantly smaller than prior year. Revised budget report formatting to make it more intuitive.
- **Renewed and expanded insurance coverage:** Worked with insurance broker Brown and Brown to switch carriers to Philadelphia Insurance Companies for the best deal for our master policy. Coverage was expanded to include church properties (e.g. garages) previously not explicitly included and adjusted to better reflect current property values.

Respectfully submitted,
Mike Foy

Financial Secretary's Report

General Fund giving for 2022 was \$715,410, an increase of 2.3% from 2021 giving of \$699,211.

Summary of General Fund giving vs pledging for 2022:

				Paid vs Pledged	
Pledged	\$521,302			> 100%	38
# of Pledges	121			100%	39
Pledges Paid	\$546,650			90%-99%	19
% Paid	104.86%			80%-89%	5
				50%-79%	8
Non-pledged Giving	\$168,760			<50%	7
				0%	5
Actual Giving	\$715,410				121

General Fund pledging for 2023 is \$644,674, an increase of 23.7% from 2022 pledging.

Respectively submitted,

Jane Crain, Financial Secretary

Treasurer's Report

The budget was reformatted in 2022 to hopefully make it more understandable. Non- budgeted income and expenses are now on page 4.

Total operating Income was \$1,156,467 and expenses were \$1,162,163, leaving a deficit of \$5,696. (page 3) Capital Improvement was over budget by \$30,173 (page 1). It was decided to have the operating budget absorb that amount and not take it out of the Capital Improvement Fund.

At the end of 2021, \$114,000 was not taken out of the Memorial Account because we used the PPP money received for Covid relief to balance the 2021 Budget. In early 2023, the above deficit was taken out of this amount and \$100,000 was used to pay down the Line of Credit.

At the end of 2022, the Line of Credit used to purchase 81 S. Main St. was \$490,588. We pay the interest on this from the operating budget (#1420). The interest paid in 2022 was \$14,656. The interest rate has increased from, 2.38% in May of 2022 to 6.4% in May of 2023. Our Merrill Lynch advisor suggested that in any month we have appreciation in the Memorial account; we take ½ of that to pay down the debt. The Session approved that, as long as, we keep a balance of \$3,995,746 to support the budget. We were able to do that one month during 2023, so that amount plus the \$100,000 previously cited, has reduced the Line of Credit to \$339,343 as of April 30, 2023.

We received \$21,488 in Memorial gifts in 2022. A gift of \$20,000 was used to establish the Brian Lotito Memorial Fund.

We gave \$102,743 to budgeted missions (page 2) and an additional \$145,829 to missions of the Church from fund raising and individual contributions.(page 4)

Praise God for a successful 2022.

Elizabeth Dey, Treasurer

Allentown Presbyterian Church

2022 Budget

January through December 2022

	Jan - Dec 22	Budget	\$ Over Budget	% of Budget
Ordinary Income/Expense				
Income				
OPERATING INCOME				
4001 Envelope Receipts	683,627.41	660,000.00	23,627.41	103.6%
4002 Cash Plate Receipts	31,983.00	36,000.00	-4,017.00	88.8%
4003 Per Capita	3,633.28	4,000.00	-366.72	90.8%
4010 Waln Fund	109,973.58	95,000.00	14,973.58	115.8%
4014 Rent	15,400.00	13,920.00	1,480.00	110.6%
4015 Building Use	0.00	100.00	-100.00	0.0%
4016 Other	52.94	100.00	-47.06	52.9%
4017 PreSchool	50,000.00	40,000.00	10,000.00	125.0%
4020 Endowment Fund	240,744.00	240,744.00	0.00	100.0%
4027 Youth Fund Income	21,052.68	19,500.00	1,552.68	108.0%
Total OPERATING INCOME	1,156,466.89	1,109,364.00	47,102.89	104.2%
Total Income	1,156,466.89	1,109,364.00	47,102.89	104.2%
Gross Profit	1,156,466.89	1,109,364.00	47,102.89	104.2%
Expense				
OPERATING EXPENSE				
ADMINISTRATION				
1400 Administration Fund	1,864.82	1,500.00	364.82	124.3%
1401 Per Capita	23,040.00	23,400.00	-360.00	98.5%
1402 Insurance	35,130.98	42,000.00	-6,869.02	83.6%
1404 Office Supplies	14,230.47	8,000.00	6,230.47	177.9%
1405 Postage	3,788.48	3,000.00	788.48	126.3%
1406 Telecommunications	9,845.33	10,000.00	-154.67	98.5%
1407 Fingerprinting	148.09	500.00	-351.91	29.6%
1408 · Technology Support	21,483.65	25,000.00	-3,516.35	85.9%
1409 · Payroll Service Charges	3,120.64	4,000.00	-879.36	78.0%
1410 Crossing Guard	3,552.50	3,600.00	-47.50	98.7%
1411 · Online Processing Fees	5,161.45	3,500.00	1,661.45	147.5%
1420 · Interest Payment	14,656.06	9,000.00	5,656.06	162.8%
Total ADMINISTRATION	136,022.47	133,500.00	2,522.47	101.9%
CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT				
1300 Capital Improvement	88,577.03	52,149.00	36,428.03	169.9%
1310 Equipment	8,745.40	15,000.00	-6,254.60	58.3%
Total CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT	97,322.43	67,149.00	30,173.43	144.9%
CHRISTIAN NURTURE				
1600 Children Ministry	9,681.00	15,000.00	-5,319.00	64.5%
1601 · Hospitality	2,922.51	1,200.00	1,722.51	243.5%
1602 Rock				
ROCK Expense	3,262.56			
ROCK Income	-3,135.00			
1602 Rock - Other	0.00	3,095.40	-3,095.40	0.0%
Total 1602 Rock	127.56	3,095.40	-2,967.84	4.1%
1603 Family Ministry	1,277.77	1,500.00	-222.23	85.2%
1604 · Adult Education	3,403.78	5,000.00	-1,596.22	68.1%
1605 · Men's Ministry	465.16			
1606 · Womens Ministry	78.43			
1607 Leadership Training	339.73	1,000.00	-660.27	34.0%
Total CHRISTIAN NURTURE	18,295.94	26,795.40	-8,499.46	68.3%
DEACONS				
1500 · Congregational Ministries	1,446.77	2,000.00	-553.23	72.3%
1501 · Loaves & Fishes	1,528.27	2,000.00	-471.73	76.4%
1502 · Food Baskets	-67.84	2,000.00	-2,067.84	-3.4%
Total DEACONS	2,907.20	6,000.00	-3,092.80	48.5%
EVANGELISM				
1700 Out Reach	3,790.28	4,000.00	-209.72	94.8%

Allentown Presbyterian Church

2022 Budget

January through December 2022

	Jan - Dec 22	Budget	\$ Over Budget	% of Budget
Total EVANGELISM	3,790.28	4,000.00	-209.72	94.8%
MISSION				
Global Mission				
1009 Seeds of Peace	250.00	250.00	0.00	100.0%
1030 MCU Guatemala	6,000.00	6,000.00	0.00	100.0%
1032 Promised Land Ministries	15,000.00	15,000.00	0.00	100.0%
1034 Sakata Church Central Afri	1,000.00	1,000.00	0.00	100.0%
1035 - Malawi Mission	20,000.00	20,000.00	0.00	100.0%
1037 Staff Mission Support	2,492.78	2,500.00	-7.22	99.7%
Total Global Mission	44,742.78	44,750.00	-7.22	100.0%
Local Mission				
1001 Hope Fire Company	400.00	400.00	0.00	100.0%
1002 Allentown First Aid Squad	400.00	400.00	0.00	100.0%
1004 Boy Scout Troop 180	200.00	200.00	0.00	100.0%
1007 Good Neighbor	1,000.00	1,000.00	0.00	100.0%
1010 Homefront	8,000.00	8,000.00	0.00	100.0%
1011 Racial Justice	4,000.00	4,000.00	0.00	100.0%
1012 Urban Promise	3,000.00	3,000.00	0.00	100.0%
1015 Individual Needs	7,000.00	7,000.00	0.00	100.0%
1018 Refugee Assistance	1,000.00	1,000.00	0.00	100.0%
1055 - Maine Intergenerational Mission	5,000.00	5,000.00	0.00	100.0%
Total Local Mission	30,000.00	30,000.00	0.00	100.0%
Other Mission				
1042 Emerging Needs	10,000.00	10,424.00	-424.00	95.9%
Total Other Mission	10,000.00	10,424.00	-424.00	95.9%
Presbyterian Mission				
1050 - Pres. Mission Pledge	8,000.00	8,000.00	0.00	100.0%
1054 - Mission Co-Workers	10,000.00	10,000.00	0.00	100.0%
Total Presbyterian Mission	18,000.00	18,000.00	0.00	100.0%
Total MISSION	102,742.78	103,174.00	-431.22	99.6%
PERSONNEL				
ASSOC. PASTOR				
2003 Supplemental Medical	1,053.58	1,000.00	53.58	105.4%
2004 SECA Set Aside	5,077.92	5,542.00	-464.08	91.6%
2005 Reimbursable Expenses	1,999.71	5,000.00	-3,000.29	40.0%
2009 403B	1,833.04	2,000.00	-166.96	91.7%
2010 Salary	30,171.14	41,150.00	-10,978.86	73.3%
2011 Pension and Insurance	15,466.93	16,215.00	-748.07	95.4%
2012 Equity Allowance	1,500.00	1,500.00	0.00	100.0%
2013 Housing	4,766.72	5,200.00	-433.28	91.7%
2015 Utilities	3,436.72	4,000.00	-563.28	85.9%
Total ASSOC. PASTOR	65,305.76	81,607.00	-16,301.24	80.0%
SENIOR PASTOR				
1105 Pastor's Cash Salary	44,105.04	44,105.00	0.04	100.0%
1106 403b Pension	9,000.00	9,000.00	0.00	100.0%
1107 - Housing	9,999.84	10,000.00	-0.16	100.0%
1110 Pension & Ins.	38,449.08	38,329.00	120.08	100.3%
1115 SECA Set Aside	7,586.88	7,587.00	-0.12	100.0%
1120 Utilities	4,653.49	5,000.00	-346.51	93.1%
1125 Supp. Medical	3,000.00	3,000.00	0.00	100.0%
1126 Equity Allowance	1,500.00	1,500.00	0.00	100.0%
1130 Reimbursable Expenses	3,617.99	6,000.00	-2,382.01	60.3%
Total SENIOR PASTOR	121,912.32	124,521.00	-2,608.68	97.9%
STAFF PAYROLL				
1100 Church Payroll	147,266.16	435,833.00	-288,566.84	33.8%
1176 Prof. Dev.	710.90	5,000.00	-4,289.10	14.2%
1197 Medical Benefits	16,186.86	18,630.00	-2,443.14	86.9%
STAFF PAYROLL - Other	250,029.34			

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Accrual Basis

Allentown Presbyterian Church

2022 Budget

January through December 2022

	Jan - Dec 22	Budget	\$ Over Budget	% of Budget
Total STAFF PAYROLL	414,193.26	459,463.00	-45,269.74	90.1%
Total PERSONNEL	601,411.34	665,591.00	-64,179.66	90.4%
PROPERTY				
1305 General Repair & Upkeep	27,107.76	20,000.00	7,107.76	135.5%
1306 Cleaning Service	24,790.00	26,000.00	-1,210.00	95.3%
1308 Contracts & Licenses	18,358.27	12,500.00	5,858.27	146.9%
1309 · Supplies	8,348.24	5,000.00	3,348.24	167.0%
1313 · Grounds Maintenance	10,544.00	7,320.00	3,224.00	144.0%
1316 Taxes	26,785.45	28,000.00	-1,214.55	95.7%
1325 Utilities (Church Bldgs.)				
Electric	39,971.23			
Sewer	8,242.36			
Water	5,981.97			
1325 Utilities (Church Bldgs.) - Other	0.00	46,000.00	-46,000.00	0.0%
Total 1325 Utilities (Church Bldgs.)	54,195.56	46,000.00	8,195.56	117.8%
Total PROPERTY	170,129.28	144,820.00	25,309.28	117.5%
WORSHIP				
1220 Music Supplies	5,340.02	6,235.00	-894.98	85.6%
1221 Guest Musicians	4,100.00	6,000.00	-1,900.00	68.3%
1222 · Event Marketing	0.00	2,100.00	-2,100.00	0.0%
1226 Video Services	1,500.00	20,000.00	-18,500.00	7.5%
1250 Worship Materials	620.76	1,100.00	-479.24	56.4%
1270 Pulpit Supply	0.00	500.00	-500.00	0.0%
Total WORSHIP	11,560.78	35,935.00	-24,374.22	32.2%
YOUTH				
1902 Sunday School- Confirmatio	377.52	500.00	-122.48	75.5%
1903 Food Youth	6,940.20	8,000.00	-1,059.80	86.8%
1904 Retreats	-370.76	2,500.00	-2,870.76	-14.8%
1905 Youth Group Supplies	3,518.71	2,000.00	1,518.71	175.9%
1906 Mission	1,264.74	500.00	764.74	252.9%
1907 Special Events	2,471.92	1,500.00	971.92	164.8%
1908 · Professional Development Youth	261.76	500.00	-238.24	52.4%
1909 Volunteer/Parent Training	315.61	1,000.00	-684.39	31.6%
1911 Miscellaneous	2,605.27	1,000.00	1,605.27	260.5%
1912 Young Adult Ministry	595.68	2,000.00	-1,404.32	29.8%
Total YOUTH	17,980.65	19,500.00	-1,519.35	92.2%
Total OPERATING EXPENSE	1,162,163.15	1,206,464.40	-44,301.25	96.3%
Total Expense	1,162,163.15	1,206,464.40	-44,301.25	96.3%
Net Ordinary Income	-5,696.26	-97,100.40	91,404.14	5.9%
Other Income/Expense				
Other Income				
INVESTMENT GROWTH	-1,128,768.39			
DESIGNATED FUNDS - INCOME				
Crossroads Creation	32,408.00			
Cemetery	15,848.00			
Memorial Gifts	21,488.09	1,000.00	20,488.09	2,148.8%
Crossroad Expansion				
2060 · Campaign Donations Income	1,550.00			
Total Crossroad Expansion	1,550.00			
Session Fund	5,444.00			
Total DESIGNATED FUNDS - INCOME	76,738.09	1,000.00	75,738.09	7,673.8%
DESIGNATED MISSION INCOME				
a Food Pantry	32,344.13			
b Guatemala Mission	40.00			
d Maine Mission	25,547.00			

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06/01/23

Accrual Basis

Allentown Presbyterian Church

2022 Budget

January through December 2022

	Jan - Dec 22	Budget	\$ Over Budget	% of Budget
e ROCK	5,000.00			
f. Special Offerings	11,561.47			
h. Good Neighbor Fund	3,882.34			
j. Advent Village	45,650.00			
p. Racial Justice	6,410.24			
Total DESIGNATED MISSION INCOME	130,435.18			
Total Other Income	-921,595.12	1,000.00	-922,595.12	-92,159.5%
Other Expense				
DESIGNATED FUNDS - EXPENSES				
Memorial Gifts	19,405.00			
Cemetery	15,848.10	20,000.00	-4,151.90	79.2%
Crossroads Creation	32,408.35			
300th Anniversary	0.00	4,251.80	-4,251.80	0.0%
Session Fund	11,354.20	18,374.28	-7,020.08	61.8%
Total DESIGNATED FUNDS - EXPENSES	79,015.65	42,626.08	36,389.57	185.4%
DESIGNATED MISSION EXPENSES				
a Food Pantry	66,147.31	101,465.65	-35,318.34	65.2%
b. Guatemala Trips	0.00	28,175.98	-28,175.98	0.0%
d Maine Mission	17,069.24	6,663.88	10,405.36	256.1%
f. Special Offerings	13,261.47	4,395.00	8,866.47	301.7%
h. Good Neighbor Fund	6,690.00	35,350.52	-28,660.52	18.9%
i. Home Front	5,320.00	5,320.00	0.00	100.0%
j Advent Village	1,286.44	2,661.54	-1,375.10	48.3%
k Crossroads	23,550.23	23,550.23	0.00	100.0%
I.VIP	10,002.00	10,002.00	0.00	100.0%
n. Women's Ministry	0.00	9,246.00	-9,246.00	0.0%
p. Racial Justice	2,502.35			
Total DESIGNATED MISSION EXPENSES	145,829.04	226,830.80	-81,001.76	64.3%
Total Other Expense	224,844.69	269,456.88	-44,612.19	83.4%
Net Other Income	-1,146,439.81	-268,456.88	-877,982.93	427.0%
Net Income	-1,152,136.07	-365,557.28	-786,578.79	315.2%

Report of Financial Review of The Allentown Presbyterian Church

To the Members of The Allentown Presbyterian Church

Section G-10.0401 of the Book of Order contains various financial responsibilities and procedures which apply to The Allentown Presbyterian Church (the "Church"). Items 4a, 4b, and 4c of the Book of Order discuss minimum standards for daily finance operations, record keeping and financial reporting of the Church. Item 4d of the Book of Order requires the Church to carry out the following:

*"A full financial review of all books and records relating to finances once each year by a public accountant or public accounting firm or **a committee of members** versed in accounting procedures. Such auditors should not be related to the treasurer(s). Terminology in this section is meant to provide general guidance and is not intended to require specific audit procedures or practices as understood within the professional accounting community".*

To satisfy the above requirement, a financial review was conducted by a member of the Church. versed in accounting matters and was directed under the supervision and review of the Administration Committee of the Church, excluding any members who are not independent with respect to the finance operations of the Church such as the Treasurer and Financial Secretary.

The financial review included the accounts of the Church for the 2022 calendar year, which are prepared on the cash basis of accounting. These accounts are collectively referred as the financial books and records of the Church and are included in the Church Annual Report. The scope of financial review consisted principally of inquiry of management personnel, analytical procedures applied to financial data, and select vouching of transactions to underlying source documents and did not represent an audit of the financial records as that term may be understood by the professional accounting community.

Based upon the results of our financial review, no matters have come to our attention, which would require a material modification to the financial books and records of the Church for the 2022 calendar year as prepared on the cash basis. We would like to recognize the extraordinary efforts by those involved in the financial affairs of the Church. Their dedication and commitment to the financial affairs of the Church cannot be overlooked and they were extremely helpful during the conduct of our financial review.

Respectively submitted,
Lee D. Boss, CPA

On behalf of the members of the Administration Committee of
The Allentown Presbyterian Church - May 19, 2023

10:49 AM
05/25/23
Accrual Basis

Allentown Presbyterian Church **Balance Sheet Prev Year Comparison** **As of December 31, 2022**

	Dec 31, 22	Dec 31, 21	\$ Change	% Change
ASSETS				
Current Assets				
Checking/Savings				
Bank of America	238,197.82	271,504.74	-33,306.92	-12.3%
Food Pantry	6,064.77	5,310.29	754.48	14.2%
Payroll Account	5,142.88	4,678.01	464.87	9.9%
Total Checking/Savings	249,405.47	281,493.04	-32,087.57	-11.4%
Other Current Assets				
Little Tree Preschool	137,021.14	100,793.66	36,227.48	35.9%
Total Other Current Assets	137,021.14	100,793.66	36,227.48	35.9%
Total Current Assets	386,426.61	382,286.70	4,139.91	1.1%
Fixed Assets				
Investment Real Estate	1,212,704.10	1,212,704.10	0.00	0.0%
Total Fixed Assets	1,212,704.10	1,212,704.10	0.00	0.0%
Other Assets				
Brian Lotito Memorial Fund	19,405.00	0.00	19,405.00	100.0%
Cemetery Fund	353,932.53	430,454.80	-76,522.27	-17.8%
Charles Bird	14,116.41	23,164.01	-9,047.60	-39.1%
Dawes Fund	12,303.66	14,570.39	-2,266.73	-15.6%
Equity Allowance Account	0.00	3,700.71	-3,700.71	-100.0%
Memorial	4,017,235.36	5,017,195.63	-999,960.27	-19.9%
Presb. Cap. Imp	211,266.01	255,037.64	-43,771.63	-17.2%
Crossroads Creation Fund	51,321.63	61,292.72	-9,971.09	-16.3%
Total Other Assets	4,679,580.60	5,805,415.90	-1,125,835.30	-19.4%
TOTAL ASSETS	6,278,711.31	7,400,406.70	-1,121,695.39	-15.2%
LIABILITIES & EQUITY				
Liabilities				
Long Term Liabilities				
Merrill Lynch Line of Credit	490,587.61	496,502.71	-5,915.10	-1.2%
Total Long Term Liabilities	490,587.61	496,502.71	-5,915.10	-1.2%
Total Liabilities	490,587.61	496,502.71	-5,915.10	-1.2%
Equity				
Fund Balances				
Racial Justice	3,907.89	0.00	3,907.89	100.0%
Brian Lotito memorial Fund	19,405.00	0.00	19,405.00	100.0%
Women's Ministry	9,246.00	9,246.00	0.00	0.0%
Advent Village	2,946.10	2,661.54	284.56	10.7%
Bird Scholarship Fund	14,116.41	23,164.01	-9,047.60	-39.1%
Cemetery Fund	353,932.53	430,454.80	-76,522.27	-17.8%
Crossroads	8,260.00	23,550.23	-15,290.23	-64.9%
Dawes Fund	12,303.66	14,570.39	-2,266.73	-15.6%
Equity Allowance Acct	0.00	3,700.71	-3,700.71	-100.0%
Food Pantry Fund	72,107.47	101,465.65	-29,358.18	-28.9%
Real Estate	1,212,704.10	1,212,704.10	0.00	0.0%
Good Neighbor Fund	38,447.86	35,350.52	3,097.34	8.8%
Guatemala Mission Fund	38,475.98	28,175.98	10,300.00	36.6%
Home Front	4,590.00	5,320.00	-730.00	-13.7%
Little Tree Fund	137,021.14	100,793.66	36,227.48	35.9%
Malne Mission Fund	15,141.64	6,663.88	8,477.76	127.2%
Memorial Fund Balance	4,017,235.36	5,017,195.63	-999,960.27	-19.9%
PF Capital Improvement Fund	211,266.01	255,037.64	-43,771.63	-17.2%
ROCK Fund	7,967.84	3,095.40	4,872.44	157.4%
Session Designated Fund	12,464.08	18,374.28	-5,910.20	-32.2%
Special Offerings	4,884.00	4,395.00	489.00	11.1%
VIP Fund	8,180.00	10,002.00	-1,822.00	-18.2%
Crossroads Creation Fund	51,321.63	61,292.72	-9,971.09	-16.3%
Total Fund Balances	6,255,924.70	7,367,214.14	-1,111,289.44	-15.1%
1110 - Retained Earnings	684,335.07	-1,094,326.17	1,778,661.24	162.5%
Net Income	-1,152,136.07	631,016.02	-1,783,152.09	-282.6%
Total Equity	5,788,123.70	6,903,903.99	-1,115,780.29	-16.2%
TOTAL LIABILITIES & EQUITY	6,278,711.31	7,400,406.70	-1,121,695.39	-15.2%

Investment Committee

On December 31, 2022 the Allentown Presbyterian Church owned assets with a value of \$6,278,711. This compares to a value at the close of 2021 of \$7,400,407 or a decrease of 15.2%.

The balance sheet shows each of the accounts (Other Assets) managed by the Investment Committee. The accounts are divided into two categories.

The first category is comprised of undesignated funds, i.e., a general endowed fund (Memorial Fund) that has not been designated for any particular purpose, which totals \$4,017,235. These funds are invested at Merrill Lynch and managed by Merrill Lynch advisers whom are required to invest only in socially responsible investments.

The other category is comprised of designated funds, that is, funds that have been designated for a particular purpose, which total \$662,346.

A. The Capital Improvement Fund represents monies that have been set aside for capital improvements that need to be made to the Church's buildings and grounds. The Investment Policy, which governs the Committee's management of the endowed funds, provides that 20% of the money taken from the Memorial Fund each year and 20% of monies anticipated from the Waln Fund be used for capital improvement. The Capital Improvement Fund is invested in a New Covenant mutual fund managed by the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) Foundation. There was \$67,149 budgeted for 2022. Expenditures for Capital Improvement were \$97,332 for the year. The excess was absorbed by the 2022 income and nothing was taken from the Fund.

B. The Cemetery Fund represents funds that are designated for maintenance of the Church's cemetery. Its funds are invested in a separate account managed by Merrill Lynch as described above. \$15,848 was used from this fund in 2022 for cemetery upkeep.

C. The Youth Fund name was changed to the Crossroads Creation Fund. This fund is invested in a New Covenant mutual fund. The \$23,550 in the Crossroads fund under Designated Missions plus a \$10,000 donation was added to the Crossroads Creation Fund in 2022 and \$32,408 was taken out to support new visions for Crossroads.

D. The Charles Bird Fund was established in memory of Charles Bird for the designed purpose of supporting a member of the Church who is pursuing a Christian education in order

to become a minister or missionary. The Bird Fund is invested in a New Covenant mutual fund. \$5444 was taken out of this account to support JC Fowler.

E. The *Dawes* Fund was established by Kinsley Dawes for the purpose of supporting the Church's Sunday school. The Dawes Fund is invested in a New Covenant mutual fund.

F. The Equity Allowance is a part of the pastor's Terms of Call. This is to help compensate pastors who live in a manse, rather than their own home where they would be building up equity for retirement. We learned in 2021 that the money could be invested in the pastor's 403B and be used for the same purpose, therefore in 2022, the remainder of the money was transferred out of this account and the account was closed.

G. The Brian Lotito Memorial Fund was established in 2022 by a donation of \$20,000. It is invested in a New Covenant mutual fund. This fund will be used for youth retreats. \$695 was used in 2022.

The Church also owns fixed assets in the form of investment real estate, specifically the Crossroads Youth Center, and the second manse at 73 s. Main St. and 81 s. Main St. The value on the balance sheet reflects the purchase price of that real estate rather than the current market value or any improvements or additions to any of the properties.

During the past year, the overall value of the Church's assets decreased by 15.2%. The Memorial Fund was down \$999,960. The income from the Waln Fund was \$109,974. This fund was left to the Church with the Bank of America as trustee. We receive the interest monthly..

The Investment Committee decides by a special formula what can be withdrawn from the Memorial Fund each year. That amount was 5.5% or \$240,744 for 2022. This amount plus the income from the Waln Fund is used as follows: 20% for Capital Improvement and 80% for the mission and operations of the Church.

Respectfully submitted,

Joseph Monahan, Chairman
Lee Boss
Greg Decker
Michael Foy
Elizabeth Dey, Treasurer
Rev. Stephen Heinzl-Nelson

