



2023 ANNUAL REPORT



ANNUAL MEETING: SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 18, 2024

LUNCH AND MEETING FOLLOWING WORSHIP

IN THE FELLOWSHIP HALL

ZOOM AT [WESTPARKUCC.ORG/EVENTS](https://westparkucc.org/events)



**WEST PARK UNITED
CHURCH OF CHRIST**

An Open and Affirming Congregation

2024 Annual Meeting – 2023 Annual Report

February 18, 2023

| | | | |
|-----|--|--|-------------------------------------|
| 1. | Invocation | | Associate Pastor Jim Furry |
| 2. | Call to Order | | Moderator Amanda Salvino |
| 3. | Consent Items | | |
| | a. | Accept minutes 2023 Annual Meeting | 3 |
| | b. | Accept minutes 2023 Fall Congregational Meeting, | 4 |
| | c. | Accept minutes Special Congregational Meeting 12/10/2023 | 7 |
| | d. | Accept Reports | |
| | i. | Staff | |
| | | 1. Senior Pastor – Rev. Jason Thompson | 8 |
| | | 2. Associate Pastor – Jim Furry | 9 |
| | | 3. Minister of Music – Susan Keserich | 9 |
| | | 4. Food Pantry Coordinator – Sara Jovanovic | 9 |
| | | 5. Director of Digital Ministries – Jennifer White | 10 |
| | | 6. Church Administrator – Linda Ferro | 11 |
| | ii. | Officers | |
| | | 1. 2023 Moderator – Clarence Chavers | 12 |
| | | 2. 2023 Vice Moderator – Amanda Salvino | 12 |
| | | 3. Clerk – Robin Jessen | 13 |
| | | 4. Financial Officers | |
| | | a. Treasurer – Eric Jessen | 14 |
| | | b. Recording Treasurer – Renee Thayer | 19 |
| | | c. Funds Treasurer – Lisa Gibson | 21 |
| | iii. | Boards | |
| | | 1. Deacons – Bill Armstrong | 24 |
| | | 2. Growth and Outreach – Dan Moreland | 24 |
| | | 3. Stewardship and Finance – Lester Armstrong | 25 |
| | | 4. Trustees – Jeff Dobransky | 25 |
| | iv. | Standing Committees | |
| | | 1. Personnel – Felix Miranda | 27 |
| | | 2. Pastoral Advisory – Dan Moreland | 27 |
| | v. | Outside Organizations | |
| | | MOPS – Robin Jessen | 27 |
| | vi. | Conference and Association Delegates | |
| | | 1. Heartland Conference – Margaret Owens | 28 |
| 4. | Action Items | | |
| | a. | Old Business | |
| | b. | New Business | |
| 5. | Moments of Memory for those we lost in 2023 | | |
| | a. | Graham Michael Carter, Elmer Jim Zmina | |
| 6. | Moment of Gladness for those we welcomed in 2023 | | |
| | a. | Benjamin Rhea, Isabelle Armstrong, Jaden Zmina | |
| 7. | Honors and Recognitions | | 30 |
| 8. | Additional Business | | |
| 9. | Group Picture | | |
| 10. | Closing Prayer | | Vice Moderator Clarence Chavers III |
| 11. | Adjourn | | |

**WEST PARK UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
ANNUAL MEETING
FEBRUARY 19, 2023**

Invocation by Pastor Jim Furry

Call to Order 12:23 p.m.

A quorum was established

A group photo was taken

The minutes of the Annual Meeting of 2022 and Fall Congregational Meeting were reviewed. A motion to accept the minutes was made by Margaret Owens. A second by Marlene Arcuri. Motion carries.

Reports of the staff were reviewed. A motion to accept by Dennis Mc Cormack with a second by Doug Henderson. Motion carries

Reports of Officers were reviewed. A question was asked about the budget. Budget has been increased due to the Sabbatical and utility increases. A motion to accept by Sandy Zmina with a second by Margaret Owens. Motion carries

Reports of the Boards were reviewed and a motion to accept was made by Lynne Rice with a second by Marlene Arcuri. Motion carries.

Reports of Committees were reviewed and a motion to accept was made by Lynne Rice with a second by Margaret Owens. Motion carries.

Report of Outside Organization was reviewed and a motion to accept was made by Margaret Owens with a second by Bill Armstrong. Motion carries.

Reports of Conference and Association Delegates were reviewed and a motion to accept was made by Marlene Arcuri with a second by Louise Gamary. Motion carries

Pastor Jason Thompson spoke about what a great year it has been. We have had an increase in our Digital Ministry. We have also had an increase in the number of volunteers in the Community Cupboard that are not members of our church. Sue has added vibrancy to and has helped to rebuild our Choir.

Old Business

New Business

Moments of Memory for those we lost in 2022

Legacy Gifts

Jean Clark's Estate made a gift and a new Endowment Fund has been created with the monies. These monies are to be used make and keep the church ADA compliant.

Gifts were also received from Delores Holliday, Grace Green and Jean Clark.

Honors and Recognition

Lynne Rice was honored for her 15 years as Recording Treasurer. A gift will be given in her honor to the charity of her choice.

Margaret Owens was honored as the outgoing Moderator. A gift will be given in her honor to a charity of her choice.

Additional Business

Closing Prayer by Mandi Salvino

Meeting Adjourned at 1:08 PM

Respectfully submitted,
Robin Jessen, Clerk West Park United Church of Christ

**WEST PARK UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
FALL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING
NOVEMBER 12, 2023**

The meeting was called to order at 11:04AM by Moderator, Clarence Chavers. A quorum was established.

The roster of elected positions was reviewed with the addition of Clarence Chavers as the Vice Moderator. A motion was made to accept the slate of officers with the additions. Motion carried.

Gail Kenney, Chair of Stewardship and Finance explained the budget for 2024. A motion to accept the written budget was made by Margaret Borrelli with a second by Eric Jessen. Motion was approved.

Meeting was adjourned at 11:09 AM

Respectfully submitted,
Robin Jessen, Clerk
West Park UCC

2024 LEADERSHIP - WEST PARK UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

Elected Positions -- Officers, Boards & Delegates

Officers: Elected Yearly

Moderator: **Amanda Salvino**
Vice Moderator: **Clarence Chavers**
Clerk: **Robin Jessen**
Treasurer: **Eric Jessen**
Recording Treasurer: **Renee Thayer**
Funds Treasurer: **Lisa Gibson**

Boards

Through 12/31/2024

Through 12/31/2025

Through 12/31/2026

Board of Christian Education (6)

Erin Armstrong

Margaret Owens - 1

Margaret Borrelli - 1

Board of Deacons (9)

Jim Hutchings - 1

Bill Armstrong - 2

Holly Sinnema - 2

Board of Growth & Outreach (6)

Julie Turnley

Deb Miller - 2

Debbie Lamb - 1

Dan Moreland

Evelyn Faulkner

Deb Solyan

Sharon Thomas - 1

Tim Thomas - 1

Kathleen Moreland - 1

Board of Stewardship & Finance (9)

Doug Henderson

Nancy Monaghan - 1

Dennis McCormack - 1

Catherine Chavers - 2

Gail Kenney - 1

John Gibson - 1

Board of Trustees (6)

Jeff Dobransky - 2

Dan Karkoff - 2

Laurie Dobransky

Cassie Hanson - 1

Pat Rust

Lester Armstrong - 1

Kathy Rennette - 1

Wayne Borrelli - 1

Delegates

Heartland Conference of the United Church of Christ (1)

Margaret Owens

Living Water Association (2)

Helen Reed

Scott O'Con

KEY

1 -- Serving first elected three-year term; eligible for second three-year term by election

2 -- Serving second elected three-year term; must retire from Board or Committee for one year

Bold type-New to position/term

2024 Proposed Budget / Five-Year History

| | 2020 | 2021 | 2022 | 2023 | 2024 |
|----------------------------------|------------------------|-----------------------|------------------------|------------------------|------------------------------|
| EXPENDITURES | | | | | |
| Minister's Salary | \$ 24,090 ¹ | \$ 31,590 | \$ 18,590 ² | \$ 35,090 | \$36,142 |
| Minister's Housing/Utilities | \$ 24,000 ¹ | \$ 18,000 | \$ 32,500 ² | \$ 19,000 | \$19,000 |
| Administrative Assistant Salary | \$ 19,500 | \$ 19,500 | \$ 20,500 | \$ 21,500 | \$21,823 |
| Director of Music Salary | \$ 26,265 | \$ 26,265 | — | — | — |
| Minister of Music | | | \$ 18,000 | \$ 19,000 | \$19,285 |
| Food Pantry Coordinator | | \$ 7,200 ³ | \$ 11,400 ³ | \$ 12,400 ³ | \$12,586 ³ |
| Director of Digital Ministry | | | \$ 15,000 ⁴ | \$ 15,000 | \$15,750 |
| Extra Help | \$ 1,350 | \$ 1,350 | \$ 1,500 | \$ 1,350 | \$ 1,500 |
| Minister's Annuity, Insurance | \$ 20,500 | \$ 20,500 | \$ 22,550 | \$ 23,750 | \$27,000 ⁵ |
| Staff FICA | \$ 8,532 | \$ 8,190 | \$ 8,000 | \$ 9,000 | \$ 9,500 |
| Workers' Compensation | \$ 984 | \$ 1,000 | \$ 750 | \$ 750 | \$ 750 |
| Minister's Car Allowance | \$ 4,500 | \$ 4,500 | \$ 4,500 | \$ 4,500 | \$ 4,500 |
| Minister's Continuing Education | \$ 1,000 | \$ 1,500 | \$ 1,900 | \$ 1,900 | \$ 1,900 |
| Minister's Professional Expenses | \$ 500 | \$ 500 | \$ 500 | \$ 500 | \$ 500 |
| Director of Music Education CE | \$ 250 | \$ 250 | — | — | — |
| Sabbatical Expenses (2023) | — | — | — | \$ 22,000 ⁶ | — |
| Future Sabbatical Expenses | — | — | — | — | \$ 1,800 |
| Total Account 300 | \$133,471 | \$133,145 | \$129,290 | \$185,740 | \$159,450⁶ |
| Cleaning Service | \$ 21,500 | \$ 24,000 | \$ 24,000 | \$ 21,000 | \$21,000 |
| Utilities | \$ 27,000 | \$ 27,000 | \$ 27,000 | \$ 40,000 | \$22,000 |
| Trash Removal | \$ 840 | \$ 856 | \$ 875 | \$ 1,200 | \$ 1,000 |
| Grounds Care | ----- | \$ 2,000 | \$ 1,000 | \$ 1,000 | \$ 1,000 |
| Snowplowing | \$ 3,300 | \$ 3,300 | \$ 3,300 | \$ 4,000 | \$ 4,000 |
| Insurance | \$ 12,500 | \$ 12,500 | \$ 13,200 | \$ 13,200 | \$13,000 |
| Computer/Internet | \$ 2,700 | \$ 3,100 | \$ 2,800 | \$ 3,800 | \$ 3,800 |
| Total Account 400 | \$ 67,840 | \$ 72,756 | \$ 72,175 | \$ 84,200 | \$65,800 |
| Equipment Maintenance | \$ 2,000 | \$ 2,500 | \$ 2,500 | \$ 3,000 | \$ 3,000 |
| Building Maintenance | \$ 8,000 | \$ 8,500 | \$10,000 | \$12,000 | \$15,000 ⁷ |
| Total Account 500 | \$ 10,000 | \$ 11,000 | \$ 12,500 | \$ 15,000 | \$18,000 |
| Christian Education | \$ 5,500 | \$ 5,500 | \$ 5,500 | \$ 5,500 | \$ 5,500 |
| Music Department | \$ 1,785 | \$ 1,785 | \$ 1,785 | \$ 1,785 | \$ 1,700 |
| Church Operating Supplies | \$ 13,000 | \$ 16,000 | \$16,000 | \$ 17,000 | \$17,500 |
| Deacons | \$ 1,000 | \$ 1,000 | \$ 1,000 | \$ 1,000 | \$ 1,000 |
| Stewardship & Finance | \$ 250 | \$ 250 | \$ 250 | \$ 250 | \$ 200 |
| Growth & Outreach | \$ 2,000 | \$ 2,000 | \$ 2,000 | \$ 2,000 | \$ 2,500 |
| Called to Care Committee | \$ 200 | \$ 200 | \$ 200 | — | — |
| Open Doors | 0 | \$ 0 | \$ 300 | — | — |
| Total Account 600 | \$ 23,735 | \$ 26,735 | \$ 27,035 | \$ 27,735 | \$28,400 |
| Total Operating Expense | \$ 235,046 | \$ 243,636 | \$ 241,000 | \$ 300,275 | \$271,650⁶ |

¹ amount adjusted at 2020 Fall Meeting

² amount adjusted at 2022 Fall Meeting

³ The Food Pantry Coordinator is compensated directly from money received from outside grants. The position is not funded through the Church's operating budget, and the position has no impact on the Church's operating budget.

⁴ The Director of Digital Ministry position was added during the 2022 calendar year and was not part of the 2022 budget as approved by the Congregation. The position was funded during 2022 through a legacy gift by Jean Clark.

⁵\$20,000 of the Sabbatical Expenses were funded through a legacy gift by Jean Clark.

⁶ Food Pantry Coordinator Salary not included in total

⁷ Trustees is planning repairs to the ceiling in the Education Building

WEST PARK UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

SPECIAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

12/10/2023

The meeting was called to order at 10:59 AM

A quorum was established. The purpose of the meeting was to approve the use of an additional \$25,000.00 from the Endowment Fund to pay current expenses. A motion was made by Gail Kenney with a second by Mandi Salvino. Eric Jessen explained the need for the additional funds and questions were answered. A verbal vote was taken, and the motion carried.

Meeting adjourned at 11:03 AM

Respectfully submitted,

Robin Jessen

Clerk, West Park United Church of Christ

STAFF

THE REV. JASON THOMPSON, SENIOR PASTOR

In reflecting on this last year, I know I return to you from sabbatical well rested and rejuvenated. I am so grateful to this church and each of you for offering me these months to rest and learn. I spent a great deal of time reflecting on my role as your pastor and what our shared future will hold. I truly believe that God has great things in store for us in the years ahead!

I think 2023 was a great year for our church. One of my great joys this last year was teaching our confirmands and watching them explore their faith. They were so dedicated to each other and to the process of exploration. Of course, I did motivate them with a few gift cards as well! Congratulations again to Isabelle Armstrong, Ben Rhea and Jaden Zmina!

I also want to acknowledge our Sabbatical Planning Team: Erin Armstrong, Clarence Chavers, Robin Jessen, Peter Makari, Dan Moreland, Margaret Owens and Mandi Salvino. They worked in earnest throughout 2023 in planning and execution of our sabbatical time. Thanks much in part to their efforts, our sabbatical season was a great success.

We expanded our growing partnership with our friends from Christ United Methodist Church this year as well. In addition to our Lenten and Advent studies, they began joining us regularly in the Spring for our weekly bible study. The additional voices were a joyful addition to an already rich discussion. I look forward to watching our fellowship with their church continue to bloom. In our community relations, we also celebrated the 100th anniversary of Second Calvary Baptist Church with their community and honored Rabbi Enid Lader's (Beth Israel – The West Temple) retirement. We received over \$15,000 in grant funding for our food pantry and community meal; and we even had a pony (Palm Sunday) and bunny (Egg Hunt) join us this year!

I want to also acknowledge the good and guiding work of our sabbatical pastors: Charlotte Noble and Paul Barbins. Their presence with us was impactful. We will most certainly see them both again! And how could any acknowledgements I offer be complete with giving my heartfelt and sincere thanks to our very own Pastor Jim Furry! Jim has been such a dear friend to me over these last years and such a stable presence in our church.

In May 2024, we will begin our eighth year together. Our guiding theme for this year will be **RELATIONSHIP WITH EACH OTHER**. How do we relate to each other in these walls? How can we strengthen the ties that bind that we might serve the world?

Here's to making 2024 our best year yet!
Pastor Jason

JAMES R. FURRY, ASSOCIATE PASTOR

I take this opportunity once again to thank the congregation for the privilege of serving West Park United Church of Christ as Associate Pastor. I also want to thank Pastor Jason for his support of my ministry.

In my role as Associate Pastor I continue to share in the leadership of Sunday worship services and other services, such as Easter, Christmas, and funeral.

In my role as Associate Pastor I am always available to support Pastor Jason in his ministry.

During this past year I met with the Credential Working Group of the Living Water Association and my License to serve at West Park UCC was approved for 3 years.

I continue to serve the Living Water Association as Chairperson of the Investment Advisory Committee. I have been a member of the committee since July, 1988 and Chairperson since 1990.

May God continue to bless the ministries we at West Park UCC perform in His name.

Respectfully Submitted

Jim Furry
Associate Pastor

SUSAN KESERICH, MINISTER OF MUSIC

2023 completed my second year as Minister of Music for West Park UCC! The choir continues to grow. Choir performed weekly from September-May (mostly) for service, and did not provide an Advent Cantata this past year because we will be preparing a Lenten Cantata for Lent 2024. I have been providing rehearsal recordings for the members of the choir to help them learn the songs, and that has been met with great appreciation.

We had more people sign up for summer 2023 music than we did in 2022! Hopefully we will get more in 2024.

The only money that was spent in 2023 was for service musicians in my absence and extra musicians for Easter service. As we continue to sing anthems, I anticipate researching new music and music composed by minorities.

I am looking forward to another great year here at WPUCC!

Respectfully Submitted
Sue Keserich

SARA JOVANOVIC, FOOD PANTRY COORDINATOR

This year the need grew exponentially . With the nationwide cut in Food Stamps, we saw a huge influx of guests with 263 new families. I so pleased that we were able to serve so many. The general volunteer numbers have stayed about the same, with a few temporary fresh faces. Over the year the volunteers have accumulated 911 hours. They definitely put in the extra work this year. They helped bring in and sort about 34,092 pounds of food from the Greater Cleveland Food Bank as well as the \$7,197 worth of donated goods (not counting Thanksgiving). And then brought it back down to the 2,811 guests that we served throughout the year. Because we like to give in abundance, those 2,811 people took home 118,058 meals.

Because so many of the Covid Relief Grants were discontinued this year, our income was drastically smaller. We received monetary help from the Deaconess Foundation, Community West, Neighbor Up, Greater Cleveland Food Bank, , people of our community and of course our congregation. All of these lovely donations totaled \$19,044.45, that's \$7,000 more than last year!

As always, running the Food Pantry fills my heart, and feeds my soul. I look forward to another great year. A fund-raising dinner may be in the works as well as a few tweaks to how our distribution days run. I have put my schooling on hold for the time being, but have attended a handful of seminars and trainings for people who build community. These have proven to be so much more than expected, and I am able to look at our work with fresh eyes as we embark on our 5th year as the Community Cupboard.

JENNIFER WHITE, DIRECTOR OF DIGITAL MINISTRIES

INSIGHTS/ANALYTICS

YouTube - 2.5k total views

Facebook Page Reach is the number of people who saw any content from your Page or about your Page, including posts, stories, ads, social information from people who interact with your Page and more. This metric is estimated.

West Park -

Facebook Page Reach - 5,988

Instagram Reach - 290

Community Cupboard -

Facebook Page Reach - 3,019

Instagram Reach - 214

What a great year! I had the opportunity to learn to operate the new equipment and train Sara! We had a lot of guests and Pastor Jason went on sabbatical.

Jason going on sabbatical went well. He prepared everyone far in advance. Therefore things went smoothly in digital ministry. The biggest 'mishap' during Pastor's absence was a missed livestream. There was an issue with the internet connection. It was corrected the next day with some assistance from Dave from Precision media.

(Continued)

Accomplishments and Tested Waters:

- Sara is trained to run the livestream! This is a big accomplishment! I am so thankful for her flexibility and skillset.
- The format of the Book of Exodus and the Black Church went exceptionally well in the format we used. I think having a table and a back and forth just changed the entire event. People were so moved when leaving.
- We have a digital bulletin board now! How fun! It is on every Sunday. It has updates and information relevant to the congregation and community. I have had a lot of fun creating slides and videos for this so far.
- Built out a beautiful new newsletter in Canva!
- Built out graphics and flyers for our guests speakers/presenters far in advance that allowed for some continuity in style.
- Added photos to our website gallery!

Respectfully Submitted,
Jennifer White

LINDA FERRO, CHURCH ADMINISTRATOR

2023 was a good year. It was an exciting time to work with Pastor Jason this year as we planned and worked toward his upcoming sabbatical. I believe that as a staff, we pulled together and worked well in Pastor Jason's absence. It was also nice to plan and prepare for our usual activities in 2023, having brought many of them back the year before, and this year we had the pleasure of knowing what was coming up and how it would look – our normal.

It was a joy and a pleasure to work with Pastors Charlotte and Paul during Pastor Jason's sabbatical. Their graciousness and leadership lent an air of calm, as the sabbatical committee worked hard to coordinate all the special activities. I appreciated Clarence Chavers' leadership as Moderator, as he had a "bright side" response and attitude that inspired us throughout the year.

We keep increasing our community presence, with the addition of a new support group. We hosted the Cleveland Clinic Mobile Mammogram twice; thanks to Margaret Owens who helped organized these health events. We have community and support groups that meet here several nights a week.

In reference to last year's report, I want to thank Jeff Dobransky, Mark Rust, and Bob Arcuri for taking apart the old non-functioning duplicator, and recycling the parts. As far as printing needs go, our photocopier is working well since we hardwired the copier to our network, and it is sufficient for our printing needs. Jennifer had introduced Canva a couple of years ago as a way to give us better graphics for social media that also translates well into printed materials. It was evident in our fall sabbatical and winter editions of The Good News, and we continue to use it for many projects.

I want to thank Marlene Arcuri for all her hard work this year. She filled in most of the time while I was on vacation this year, and was an essential part of the team, covering for me and assisting, along with husband Bob, in getting out mailings, working on bulletins, and a host of other essential office tasks.

Thanks to all of you, the members and friends of West Park UCC who make it a joy to be here and work among you, carrying Christ's message in word and deed throughout the community and the world.

Respectfully Submitted,
Linda Ferro

OFFICERS

CLARENCE CHAVERS, MODERATOR

My term as Moderator for 2023 was a great experience in my life. It was an opportunity to work a little bit at a task that was important but not stressful. The Moderator has an administrative, but not an executive office, meaning that person has duties to carry out, but few actual decisions to make. It is not a situation in which many people might say, "Everything would have been fine, except for that idiot Moderator!"

I went to most committee meetings, led the Annual Meeting (and made baked ziti for said meeting). At the Annual Meeting, the Jessens schooled me on a crucial concept that would improve, possibly lengthen my life; never miss an opportunity to thank my wife for her loving and invaluable support!

I learned so much about the church at the committee meetings, but as I frequently state, I am so impressed by the love our members have for this church. They will do anything to promote its wellbeing, and they are an inspiration to me always.

I want to thank Linda Ferro, our intrepid Church Administrator. I knew that if I had any questions that she could ease my worried mind. I will miss our Wednesday conferences where she told me the best and easiest ways to do my job. She is a National Treasure!

Thank you to the people who for the most part said yes when I asked them to join a committee. I dreaded that task but was so pleasantly surprised by their graciousness and devotion to their church home.

I want to say that Mandi Salvino will be a terrific Moderator. I will be proud to be her Vice Moderator in 2024, and then take this thrill ride once again in 2025.

And finally thank you to Pastor Jason and Pastor Jim for their wonderful support in 2023. In them we have a bold, forward thinking leader, as well as a seasoned leader who has seen everything twice, both revered by all in this church family.

It has been a pleasure and an honor to serve you, and if God grants me health and strength, I will continue to do so.

Agape,

Clarence Chavers

Moderator 2023

AMANDA SALVINO, VICE – MODERATOR

It's hard to believe that an entire year has come and gone as vice moderator. I have learned so much this year, attended many meetings and watched Clarence set a high standard for me to follow. Annie, Dan and I kicked off the year keeping the hat and mitten line stocked. We helped Clarence make a wonderful meal for our annual meeting in February. In March we bid farewell to the hat and mitten line, and prepared for warmer weather. In July we participated in the 4th of July parade where Clarence dazzled the crowds with his guitar. I met with Nora about the mulch and other concerns on the playground and flooding issues in August. We celebrated Jason's sabbatical in late August. It was a honor to be a small part of planning and executing the programming that occurred over the 4 months he was away. After thanksgiving Bob set our line back up, and we were back at it, keeping our neighbors warm with hats, mittens, socks & scarves. All the while quietly stashing away goodies for our MOPS Christmas Shop. Which brings me to December and the Christmas shop. Our first year, 2022 we served roughly 25 families. Our second year we served 75 families in our little shop.

I'm looking forward to serving you all in the year to come. I've already made a connection with a plumber friend and the board of trustees, who can hopefully help them out with a project on their punch list. I know that there will be many more opportunities to partner on projects, and I'm looking forward to them.

Respectfully & prayerfully submitted,
Mandi Salvino

ROBIN JESSEN, CLERK

| | | |
|---|--------|------------|
| Membership as of January 1, 2023 | | 161 |
| Reasons | Number | Totals |
| Deaths | -2 | 159 |
| By Request | -4 | 155 |
| Transfer to another church | -1 | 154 |
| Confirmation | +3 | 157 |

Membership as of December 31, 2023 **161**

| | | |
|-----------------------|-------------------|---------------------------------------|
| <i>Child Baptisms</i> | <i>04-09-2023</i> | <i>Benjamin Charles Rhea</i> |
| | <i>04-30-2023</i> | <i>Jaden Michelle Mahone Zmina</i> |
| | <i>05-07-2023</i> | <i>Devlin Maureen Rodhe</i> |
| | | <i>Makayla Rae Harris</i> |
| <i>Member wedding</i> | <i>08-19-2023</i> | <i>Dennis McCormack and Jane Vogt</i> |

Respectfully Submitted, Robin Jessen, Clerk

FINANCIAL OFFICERS

ERIC JESSEN, TREASURER

West Park United Church of Christ
Treasurer's Report For 1/1/2023 Through 12/31/2023
Fifth Third Bank Account

Account Balance From Last Report: \$68,651.90

| Income | | Amount | Group Total |
|----------------------|---------------------------|-------------------|---------------------|
| 200 | 200 INCOME | | |
| 201 | Contributions INC | \$133,143.80 | |
| 202 | Special Contributions INC | \$5,076.00 | |
| 203 | Misc. Contributions INC | \$28,183.26 | |
| 204 | Rent INC | \$56,450.00 | |
| 206 | Endowment Fund INC | \$39,377.00 | |
| 207 | Foundation Fund INC | \$80.00 | |
| 208 | Christian Ed INC | \$3,785.50 | |
| 209 | Fund Raising INC | <u>\$4,071.50</u> | |
| | | | \$270,167.06 |
| 800 | 800 BENEVOLENCES | | |
| 801 | Pink Envelope INC | \$1,979.00 | |
| 803 | Albers WPUCC Scl Shp INC | \$2,314.35 | |
| 804 | O.C.W.M. INC | <u>\$5,323.38</u> | |
| | | | \$9,616.73 |
| Total Income: | | | \$279,783.79 |

| Expenses | | Amount | Group Total |
|----------|-------------------------------------|----------------------|----------------|
| 300 | 300 SALARIES | | |
| 301 | Minister Salary EXP | (\$45,889.92) | |
| 302 | Minister Housing EXP | (\$19,000.08) | |
| 304 | Admin Asst Salary EXP | (\$21,307.67) | |
| 305 | Music Director Salary EXP | (\$19,000.08) | |
| 306 | Extra Help EXP | (\$750.00) | |
| 307 | Minister Ann & Ins EXP | (\$26,631.79) | |
| 308 | Staff FICA EXP | (\$10,008.17) | |
| 309 | Workers-Comp EXP | (\$662.28) | |
| 310 | Minister Car Allow EXP | (\$4,500.00) | |
| 311 | Minister Cont Educ EXP | (\$1,900.00) | |
| 312 | Minister FICA Offset EXP | \$0.00 | |
| 316 | Minister Professional EXP | (\$499.61) | |
| 317 | Food Pantry Salary EXP | (\$12,400.08) | |
| 318 | Dir Dig Minist Salary EXP | <u>(\$15,000.00)</u> | |
| | | | (\$177,549.68) |
| 400 | 400 MAINTENANCE | | |
| 401 | Cleaning Service EXP | (\$20,596.00) | |
| 402 | Gas EXP | (\$9,282.42) | |
| 403 | Electric EXP | (\$10,847.98) | |
| 404 | Water & Sewer EXP | (\$3,284.54) | |
| 405 | Telephone EXP | (\$2,017.38) | |
| 406 | Trash Removal EXP | (\$857.34) | |
| 407 | Grounds Care & Snow EXP | (\$3,734.95) | |
| 408 | Other Maintenance EXP | (\$1,117.81) | |
| 409 | Insurance EXP | (\$11,003.00) | |
| 410 | Computer & Internet EXP | (\$1,726.44) | |
| 411 | Paper Supplies | <u>(\$1,665.04)</u> | |
| | | | (\$66,132.90) |
| 500 | 500 BUILDING & EQUIPMENT | | |
| 503 | Equipment Maintenance EXP | (\$3,721.77) | |
| 504 | Building Maintenance EXP | (\$15,609.53) | |

| Expenses | | Amount | Group Total |
|------------------------|---------------------------|---------------|----------------|
| 500 | 500 BUILDING & EQUIPMENT | | (\$19,331.30) |
| 600 | 600 BOARDS | | |
| 601 | Christian Education EXP | (\$5,176.15) | |
| 602 | Music Department EXP | (\$370.00) | |
| 603 | Church Oper Supplies EXP | (\$33,736.13) | |
| 604 | Deacons EXP | (\$637.88) | |
| 605 | Stewardship & Finance EXP | (\$41.03) | |
| 606 | Evangelism & Growth EXP | (\$1,348.43) | (\$41,309.62) |
| 800 | 800 BENEVOLENCES | | |
| 851 | Pink Envelope EXP | (\$1,313.00) | |
| 853 | O.C.W.M. EXP | (\$4,363.38) | |
| 856 | Albers WPUCC Scl Shp EXP | (\$2,103.03) | (\$7,779.41) |
| Total Expenses: | | | (\$312,102.91) |

Liabilities *** (See Note Below)

| | | | |
|-----------------------------|----------------------------|-------------|---------------|
| 155 | City Income Tax Deducted | \$175.32 | |
| 163 | Community Meal | (\$18.37) | |
| 158 | Endowment Collections | \$177.00 | |
| 151 | F.I.C.A. Deducted | \$761.55 | |
| 153 | Federal Withholding Tax | \$1,305.82 | |
| 171 | Food Pantry | \$38,191.98 | |
| 169 | M.O.P.S. | \$427.52 | |
| 152 | Medicare Tax Deducted | \$554.57 | |
| 157 | Memorial Collections | \$633.97 | |
| 170 | Minister TSA | \$60.00 | |
| 172 | Mitten Line | \$324.10 | |
| 162 | Music Fund | \$2,461.89 | |
| 168 | Pastors Discretionary Fund | \$189.24 | |
| 164 | Prayer Shawl Ministry | \$75.92 | |
| 173 | Sabbatical Expenses | \$1,068.23 | |
| 156 | Section 125 Deducted | \$22.00 | |
| 154 | State Income Tax Deducted | \$250.56 | |
| 160 | Suspense | \$346.78 | |
| 161 | Youth Group Fund | \$424.84 | |
| Liabilities Balance: | | | \$47,432.92 |
| Net Transfer Adjustment | | | \$0.00 |
| Balance In Account: | | | \$83,765.70 |
| Net For Period: | | | (\$32,319.12) |

**** The liabilities in this report are necessary for the accuracy of this report and are NOT actual liabilities. They MUST NOT be used to determine actual liabilities. Therefore, these figures will NOT match the liability amounts on the balance sheet. Use the balance sheet to determine actual liability amounts.

West Park United Church of Christ
Treasurer's Report

| INCOME: | Acct # | Budget | Year | | |
|---------------------------------|--------|--------|----------------------|----------------------|----------------------|
| | | | 2023 | 2022 | 2021 |
| Contributions - Regular | 201 | N/A | \$ 133,143.80 | \$ 125,732.56 | \$ 130,270.80 |
| Contributions - Special | 202 | N/A | \$ 5,076.00 | \$ 73,526.00 | \$ 4,910.24 |
| Contributions - Miscellaneous | 203 | N/A | \$ 28,183.26 | \$ 70,808.00 | \$ 15,490.44 |
| Rental Income | 204 | N/A | \$ 56,450.00 | \$ 54,015.00 | \$ 52,535.00 |
| Memorial Fund Income | 205 | N/A | \$ - | \$ - | \$ - |
| Endowment Fund - Funds Received | 206 | N/A | \$ 39,377.00 | \$ - | \$ 10,000.00 |
| Foundation Fund Income | 207 | N/A | \$ 80.00 | \$ - | \$ - |
| Christian Ed Income | 208 | N/A | \$ 3,785.50 | \$ 2,283.24 | \$ 660.00 |
| Fund Raising Events | 209 | N/A | \$ 4,071.50 | \$ 2,614.42 | \$ 2,308.84 |
| Total Operating Income | | | \$ 270,167.06 | \$ 328,979.22 | \$ 216,175.32 |
| O.C.W.M. Contributions | | N/A | \$ 5,323.38 | \$ 5,590.00 | \$ 5,291.39 |
| Total Income | | | \$ 275,490.44 | \$ 334,569.22 | \$ 221,466.71 |

EXPENDITURES:

Salaries & Staff Expenses

| | | | | | |
|--------------------------------------|-----|----------------------|----------------------|----------------------|----------------------|
| Minister's Salary | 301 | \$ 35,090.00 | \$ 45,889.92 | \$ 32,089.92 | \$ 31,590.00 |
| Minister's Housing & Utilities Allow | 302 | \$ 19,000.00 | \$ 19,000.08 | \$ 19,000.08 | \$ 18,000.00 |
| Director of Education Salary | 303 | \$ - | \$ - | \$ - | \$ - |
| Admin Asst Salary | 304 | \$ 21,500.00 | \$ 21,307.67 | \$ 20,031.87 | \$ 19,327.50 |
| Music Director Salary | 305 | \$ 19,000.00 | \$ 19,000.08 | \$ 18,000.00 | \$ 22,010.08 |
| Extra Help | 306 | \$ 1,350.00 | \$ 750.00 | \$ 1,430.00 | \$ 1,800.00 |
| Minister's Annuity, Ins & FICA | 307 | \$ 23,750.00 | \$ 26,631.79 | \$ 23,005.14 | \$ 22,509.66 |
| Staff FICA | 308 | \$ 9,000.00 | \$ 10,008.17 | \$ 8,821.48 | \$ 7,966.69 |
| Workers Comp | 309 | \$ 750.00 | \$ 662.38 | \$ 548.36 | \$ 404.00 |
| Minister's Car Allow | 310 | \$ 4,500.00 | \$ 4,500.00 | \$ 4,500.00 | \$ 4,500.00 |
| Minister's Continuing Education | 311 | \$ 1,900.00 | \$ 1,900.00 | \$ 1,900.00 | \$ 1,000.00 |
| Minister FICA Offset EXP | 312 | \$ - | \$ - | \$ - | \$ - |
| Music Dir Cont Education | 313 | \$ - | \$ - | \$ - | \$ 100.00 |
| Minister's Professional EXP | 316 | \$ 500.00 | \$ 499.61 | \$ 485.53 | \$ 423.29 |
| Food Pantry Salary EXP | 317 | \$ 12,400.00 | \$ 12,400.08 | \$ 11,400.00 | \$ 9,600.00 |
| Dir Dig Ministry Salary EXP | 318 | \$ 15,000.00 | \$ 15,000.00 | \$ 12,500.00 | \$ - |
| Sabbatical Expenses | 318 | \$ 22,000.00 | \$ - | \$ 12,500.00 | \$ - |
| Total Account 300 | | \$ 185,740.00 | \$ 177,549.78 | \$ 166,212.38 | \$ 139,231.22 |

Maintenance

| | | | | | |
|--------------------------|-------|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------|
| Cleaning Service | 401 | \$ 21,000.00 | \$ 20,596.00 | \$ 19,998.34 | \$ 23,525.08 |
| Utilities | 402-5 | \$ 40,000.00 | \$ 25,432.32 | \$ 22,455.15 | \$ 22,881.79 |
| Trash Removal | 406 | \$ 1,200.00 | \$ 857.34 | \$ 1,117.51 | \$ 800.47 |
| Grounds Care & Snow | 407 | \$ 5,000.00 | \$ 3,734.95 | \$ 3,018.28 | \$ 2,983.74 |
| Insurance | 409 | \$ 13,200.00 | \$ 11,003.00 | \$ 12,223.25 | \$ 10,422.00 |
| Computer & Internet | 410 | \$ 3,800.00 | \$ 1,726.44 | \$ 1,394.78 | \$ 2,221.80 |
| Paper Supplies | 411 | \$ - | \$ 1,665.04 | \$ 411.44 | \$ 1,578.24 |
| Total Account 400 | | \$ 84,200.00 | \$ 65,015.09 | \$ 60,618.75 | \$ 64,413.12 |

Building & Equipment

| | | | | | |
|--------------------------|----------|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------|
| New Equipment | 502 | \$ - | \$ - | \$ 14,954.00 | \$ 478.79 |
| Equipment Maintenance | 503 | \$ 3,000.00 | \$ 3,721.77 | \$ 2,029.12 | \$ 1,932.83 |
| Building Maintenance | 504, 408 | \$ 12,000.00 | \$ 16,727.34 | \$ 12,739.28 | \$ 12,622.27 |
| Total Account 500 | | \$ 15,000.00 | \$ 20,449.11 | \$ 29,722.40 | \$ 15,033.89 |

Boards

| | | | | | | |
|------------------------------|------------|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------|---|
| Christian Education | 601 | \$ 5,500.00 | \$ 5,176.15 | \$ 5,363.92 | \$ 2,872.08 | Note: Acct 601 must be netted with acct 208 for actual results. |
| Music Department | 602 | \$ 1,785.00 | \$ 370.00 | \$ 1,396.25 | \$ 640.00 | |
| Church Operating Supplies | 603 | \$ 17,000.00 | \$ 33,736.13 | \$ 17,944.54 | \$ 12,471.71 | |
| Deacons | 604 | \$ 1,000.00 | \$ 637.88 | \$ 925.35 | \$ 528.76 | |
| Stewardship & Finance | 605 | \$ 250.00 | \$ 41.03 | \$ 43.19 | \$ 39.95 | |
| Growth & Outreach | 606 | \$ 2,000.00 | \$ 1,348.43 | \$ 1,930.61 | \$ 685.25 | |
| Total Account 600 | | \$ 27,535.00 | \$ 41,309.62 | \$ 27,603.86 | \$ 17,237.75 | |

| | | | | | |
|---------------------------|--|----------------------|----------------------|----------------------|----------------------|
| Total Operating Expense | | \$ 300,075.00 | \$ 304,323.60 | \$ 284,157.39 | \$ 235,915.98 |
| O.C.W.M. Payments | | \$ - | \$ 4,363.38 | \$ 4,604.00 | \$ 4,351.39 |
| Total Expenditures | | \$ 300,075.00 | \$ 308,686.98 | \$ 288,761.39 | \$ 240,267.37 |

| | | | | | |
|-----------------|--|--|----------------|--------------|----------------|
| Surplus/Deficit | | | \$ (33,196.54) | \$ 45,807.83 | \$ (18,800.66) |
|-----------------|--|--|----------------|--------------|----------------|

2023 Treasurers Report Comments

Income Accounts

There are no budget figures entered in the income accounts due to the fact that the 2023 budget as published in the 2022 Annual Report did not contain budget amounts for income.

Total operating income was \$270,167.06. This represents a decrease of \$58,812.06 compared to 2022. Although regular contributions were up for 2023, there were no estate gifts received as we had in 2022. The normal 5% amount authorized for support of the operating fund was \$25,752. No additional amount was requested at the 2023 Annual Meeting. Unlike 2022, in 2023 we did have to transfer funds from endowment to supplement operating funds in 2023. The amount transferred was \$39,377.

Rental income increased by \$2,435, primarily due to increased rentals for the use of Bartter Hall. Additionally, \$4,071.50 net income from our fund raising events were generated in 2023. A huge thank you to Dan Moreland and his team for their fund raising efforts.

Overall income for the year was \$275,490.44. This includes benevolences, which are an accounting pass-thru.

Staff Expenditures

Aggregate staff expenditures in 2022 were over budget by about \$13,809.76. This was primarily caused by an unplanned increase in the minister's health insurance premium, and expenses for Staff FICA (account 308). Budgeting for Staff FICA, which is the employer match for Social Security and Medicare payroll taxes were estimated low for 2023. This was mainly due to the employment of interim ministers during the Pastor's sabbatical this year. A significant portion of that increase can be attributed to how the additional salary expenses had to be accounted for during the sabbatical. Although there was money in the liability accounts to cover sabbatical expenses, the actual salary expenses had to be allocated to the Minister Salary account. After each payroll during the sabbatical, funds were transferred from the sabbatical liability account to the main operating account. Those transfers are included in the total for miscellaneous contributions income.

It is important to note that the salary for the food pantry coordinator is not funded from the church operating budget, but from grant monies obtained by the food pantry.

Utilities

Taken together, our utility expense were under budget by \$14,567.68. This is because the expected rise in utility rates for 2023 did not occur as fully as expected when the 2023 budget was prepared.

Building/Equipment/Maintenance Accounts

In the aggregate, the Building and Equipment Maintenance accounts were significantly over budget. This was mainly due to the building repairs that had to be performed in 2023. One of the causes of this was the squirrel invasion of Bartter Hall.

Board Accounts

In the aggregate, total board expenses were \$13,774.62 over budget. The main cause of this is higher than expected costs allocated to the Church Operating Supplies account.

The year ended with an operating deficit of \$33,196.54

The end of year checking account balance was \$83,765.70. Liability accounts, which are funds in the main operating account that are earmarked for specific purposes, account for \$47,432.92 of that balance. 80% of the total balance in the liability accounts is money dedicated to the operation of the Food Pantry. It is important to note that at this time, due to past grant procurement efforts of the Pastor, the Food Pantry remains financially self-sustaining. The amount actually available for paying current expenses as of 12/31/2023 is \$36,332.78.

RENEÉ THAYER, RECORDING TREASURER

Recording Treasurer's 2023 Yearly Report

| | <u>2021</u> | <u>2022</u> | <u>2023</u> |
|--|-------------|-------------|-------------|
| Operating | 130,986.80 | 125,727.91 | 133,268.80 |
| Matching Gift | | 180.00 | |
| Special Donation to Operating | | 119,794.68 | |
| Plate | 1,796.00 | 5,247.50 | 1663.65 |
| OCWM | 5,291.39 | 5,582.00 | 5383.38 |
| Children's Plate | 223.01 | 565.00 | 741.40 |
| Initial Offering | 360.00 | 110.00 | 275.00 |
| Birthday | 365.00 | 322.00 | 326.00 |
| Ash Wed., Maunday Thursday, Good Friday & Easter | 2,130.00 | 1,690.00 | 1,959.00 |
| Easter Memorial Fund | | 100.00 | 440.00 |
| Easter Endowment Fund | | 195.00 | 197.00 |
| Easter & Christmas plants | 140.00 | 452.5 | 775.00 |
| Thanksgiving Offering | | | 58.00 |
| Christmas eve & Christmas | 970.00 | 1,400.00 | 1,915.00 |
| Christmas Memorial Fund | 535.00 | 1,000.00 | 695.00 |
| Memorial Fund | 3,826.72 | 2,575.00 | 8,802.61 |
| Endowment Fund | 8,605.24 | 383.00 | |
| Foundation Fund | 160.00 | | |
| Pink - CUE | 250.00 | 75.00 | 95.00 |
| Pink - Camperships | | 195.00 | 430.00 |
| Pink - One Great Hour of Sharing | 165.00 | 195.00 | 180.00 |
| Pink - Strengthen the Church | 170.00 | 131.00 | 70.00 |
| Pink - Providence House | 438.00 | 278.97 | 255.00 |
| Pink - Alber Scholarship | 655.00 | 195.00 | 170.00 |
| Pink - Neighbors in Need | 117.00 | 250.00 | 88.00 |
| Pink - Our Members in Need | 405.00 | 515.00 | 130.00 |
| Pink - Veterans of the Cross (The Christmas Fund) | 81.00 | 275.00 | 93.00 |
| Pink - Strengthen OUR church | 295.00 | 185.00 | |
| Pink - Laura's House | 215.00 | 580.00 | 210.00 |
| Pink - Rise Against Hunger | 250.00 | 80.00 | 108.00 |
| Special Collection -Chris Vensille retirement gift | 990.00 | | |
| Special Project - Xmas in July | 1,500.00 | | |
| Summer Pilgrimage | 5,000.00 | | |
| Women,All Church, Retreat Payments | 660.00 | 2,125.40 | 3,655.00 |
| Light the Steeple | 175.00 | 125.00 | 25.00 |
| Alternative Christmas | 815.00 | 900.00 | |
| Music Fund | | | 525.00 |

| | | | |
|--|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|
| Food Pantry | 25,812.74 | 12,475.12 | 20,469.45 |
| Rent - Discovery World | 45,600.00 | 46,690.00 | 49,200.00 |
| Rent - Bartter Hall & Church, Parlor | 435.00 | 1,215.00 | 600.00 |
| Rent - Future Church | 6,600.00 | 6,600.00 | 6,600.00 |
| Weddings, Funerals, Baptism | | 1,650.00 | 800.00 |
| Reimbursements to church | 2,171.92 | 405.20 | 292.93 |
| Alber Scholarship from Wittenberg | 1,268.04 | 2,103.03 | 2,103.00 |
| Christian Ed. 2019, craft show, school supplies college care pkgs. | 30.00 | | |
| Pastor Descretionary Fund | 250.00 | 870.00 | 200.00 |
| Yearly Fund Raiser | 1,893.84 | 2,036.92 | 2,316.00 |
| Donation from Recovery Group | 50.00 | | 50.00 |
| Youth Group Fund Raising Activities | | | 2,289.55 |
| Memorial Service, Food, Music | | 1,929.44 | |
| Donations-Stamps, Air Conditioner, etc. | 468.00 | 75.00 | 50.00 |
| Pennies | 14.35 | | |
| Strawberry Social | | | 430.50 |
| Community Meal | 800.00 | | 620.00 |
| CH. Ed - Lenten books & Advent Book Study | | | 130.50 |
| Hawaii Relief | | | 20.00 |
| Donation for Youth Activities | | | 30.00 |
| Coffee Hour donation | | 30.00 | 19.00 |
| Jean Clark Memorial | | | 23.97 |
| Total Receipts | 253,564.05 | 348,824.51 | 248,778.74 |

LISA GIBSON, FUNDS TREASURER

2023 Endowment Funds (#1 & #2) Summary

The West Park United Church of Christ Endowment Funds are to be invested with the primary objective being the protection of its value while generating additional funds.

The Endowment funds shall be used for:

- 1) Church operating expenses
- 2) New ventures in ministry and program of the Church
- 3) Helping Church members in need
- 4) Funds management expenses
- 5) Emergency needs approved by both the Board of Stewardship & Finance and subsequently by the Congregation

| | |
|--------------------------------|-----------|
| Funds Balance as of 1/1/2023 | \$622,510 |
| Funds Balance as of 12/31/2023 | \$667,189 |

| | |
|--------------------------------------|-----------------|
| Total Member Contributions for 2023 | \$8,280 |
| Total Expenditures for 2023 | \$17,240 |
| • Endowment Fund Management Expenses | \$4,237 |
| • Supplement Church Operating | \$10,000 |
| • Building Upgrades | <u>\$3,003</u> |
| • TOTAL: | \$17,240 |

HISTORICAL INFORMATION

| Year | Year End Value | Operating Expenses |
|------|----------------|--------------------|
| 2008 | \$358,827 | \$47,000 |
| 2009 | \$449,284 | \$75,000 |
| 2010 | \$756,315 | \$15,000 |
| 2011 | \$669,655 | \$15,000 |
| 2012 | \$867,818 | \$50,100 |
| 2013 | \$902,387 | \$84,403 |
| 2014 | \$804,958 | \$45,816 |
| 2015 | \$610,487 | \$40,866 |
| 2016 | \$582,262 | \$60,000 |
| 2017 | \$615,697 | \$42,700 |
| 2018 | \$521,522 | \$56,079** |
| 2019 | \$585,871 | \$23,840 ** |
| 2020 | \$546,811 | \$13,544** |
| 2021 | \$734,318 | \$12,400** |
| 2022 | \$622,510 | \$4,954** |
| 2023 | \$667,189 | \$13,003** |

**Note: This figure includes the 5% Endowment Fund allocation as allowed by the fund bylaws

The following are examples of Endowment Funds monies used in recent years.

- | | |
|--|---|
| - Steeple Replacement (2011) | - Office Security System (2013) |
| -Prayer Shawl Ministry (2013) | - Lift Repairs (2013) |
| - Bridge to the Future Campaign (2015, 2016, 2017) | |
| - New Stage Drapes (2018) | - Support for Church Operating Needs (2019) |
| - Sanctuary Window Repairs (2020) | - New Windows (office, pastor office, balcony) (2020) |
| - Repave Parking Lot (2020) | - New Roof for Church Building (2020) |
| - Media Equipment for the Parlor (2021) | - New Truax Door/New Sound System (2023) |
| - Support for Church Operating Needs (2023) | - New Roofing Turtle Vents (2023) |

Yearly Endowment monies available are governed by the fund bylaws. The bylaws state a spending rate of up to 5% of the fund's average value (based on the preceding five calendar years) can be used without additional Congregational approval.

Endowment Fund monies available for 2024: \$27,330

*Endowment #1 – Estate Gift over \$100,000 received 2021

*Endowment #1 – Estate Gift over \$8,000 received 2022/2023

2023 Foundation Fund Summary

The West Park United Church of Christ Foundation Fund is to be invested with the primary objective being the protection of its principal while generating additional funds.

The Foundation fund shall be used for:

- 1) Furthering the Work of Christ outside our own Church, especially, but not exclusively within the West Park area
- 2) Funds Management Expenses
- 3) Emergency needs approved by both the Board of Stewardship & Finance and subsequently by the Congregation

Fund Balance as of 01/01/2023 ----- \$367,238

Fund Balance as of 12/31/2023 ----- \$413,820

Total Member Contributions for 2023 ----- 0

Total Expenditures for 2023 ----- \$8,976

- Foundation Fund Management Fee Expenses ----- \$2,506
 - Pink Envelope Additions + Outreach Giving ----- \$6,470
- TOTAL: \$8,976**

HISTORICAL INFORMATION

| <u>Year</u> | <u>Year End Value</u> | <u>Outreach Given</u> |
|-------------|-----------------------|--|
| 2008 | \$316,200 | \$9,433 |
| 2009 | \$379,590 | \$11,922 |
| 2010 | \$419,495 | \$11,585 |
| 2011 | \$401,828 | \$13,135 |
| 2012 | \$464,715 | \$12,300 |
| 2013 | \$540,313 | \$5,401 |
| 2014 | \$559,608 | \$8,291 |
| 2015 | \$385,577 | \$18,894 (Funding Bridge to the Future campaign) |
| 2016 | \$381,347 | \$18,541 (Funding Bridge to the Future campaign) |
| 2017 | \$314,215 | \$20,647 (Funding Bridge to the Future campaign) |
| 2018 | \$329,668 | \$8,321 |
| 2019 | \$380,775 | \$7,760 |
| 2020 | \$410,513 | \$6,006 |
| 2021 | \$445,487 | \$13,352 |
| 2022 | \$367,238 | \$5,399 |
| 2023 | \$413,820 | \$6,470 |

NOTE – Examples of how Foundation Fund monies were used in recent years:

- Rise Against Hunger / St. Jude's Hospital / Hawaii Wildfires / Ukraine Appeal
Kentucky Flood Relief / Homeless Stand Down / Rise Against Hunger
Laura's Home / Providence House / Camperships / Alber Scholarship
Rainey Institute / Kids' Book Club /
- In 2018, Bridge to the Future campaign funds returned to the Foundation Fund: \$49,000

Yearly Foundation monies available are governed by the fund bylaws. The bylaws state a spending rate of up to 5% of the fund's average value (based on the preceding five calendar years) can be used without additional Congregational approval.

Foundation Fund monies available for 2024: \$17,672

2023 Memorial Fund Summary

The West Park United Church of Christ Memorial Fund was established to honor church members and others who have completed their earthly lives and to foster the ongoing life of this Church and the welfare of its members. Generally monies are used for items of a lasting nature that are needed by West Park Church or will enhance its life and ministry.

Fund Balance as of 01/01/2023 ----- \$6,642

Fund Balance as of 12/31/2023 ----- \$1,831

Contributions for 2023 ----- \$8,803

Expenditures for 2022 ----- \$13,614

The following expenditures were completed using Memorial Fund monies in 2023:

- New Sound System/New Altar Cloths/New Digital Bulletin Board
- New Altar Cloths/New Entrance Floor Mats
- Organ Blower Motor Repair

2023 Jean Clark Memorial Endowment Fund – Estate Gift

The Jean Clark Memorial Endowment Fund was established in honor of her memory and bequest that the funds be used to help West Park United Church of Christ be ADA compliant.

Fund Balance as of 1/1/2023 \$ 96,904

Fund Balance as of 12/31/2023 \$108,810

Expenditures for 2023 \$703.00 – Endowment Fund Management Expense

BOARDS

BILL ARMSTRONG, JR., DEACONS

In 2023, the Board of Deacons assisted in all of the weekly Sunday services as well as several special services, including the Thanksgiving ecumenical service and Christmas Eve.

The Board of Deacons prepared and assisted in the sacrament of communion once monthly and at special services.

The Board of Deacons assisted in two funeral services.

The Board of Deacons organized and assisted in the hanging of the greens before Christmas and the unhangings of the greens after Christmas.

Respectfully submitted,
Bill Armstrong, Jr.

DAN MORELAND, GROWTH AND OUTREACH

It was another busy year for the Board of Growth & Outreach as it performed its regular monthly duties, as well as hosted several special events in this sabbatical year, each of which provided a valuable opportunity for fellowship, continuing education, and spiritual growth.

Our monthly community meal program remains one of the church's most important and visible outreach activities with meals served on the final Sunday of every month on an "in-person" and "to-go" basis. Our thanks to Kathleen Moreland for leading this effort with the assistance of G&O board members and non-board members alike who have been called to this important ministry. In all, the board served **791 meals** in 2023 at a cost of **\$1.96 per meal**, providing food for both the spirit and the soul. Our monthly community meal program, in concert with West Park UCC's longstanding Community Cupboard initiative, is addressing the issue of food insecurity in the West Park area and beyond.

The "Night of Movie Magic" fundraising dinner and basket raffle, hosted by the Board of Growth & Outreach, raised **\$1,656** for the church's operating budget in 2023. Thanks to the various boards and individuals who donated baskets to this year's fundraising effort, as well as all those who donated their time and talent to make the event possible.

The board also hosted a monthly coffee hour, as well as secured volunteers for Punch on the Porch. In addition, the board hosted the Strawberry Social, as well as oversaw planning for West Park UCC's participation in the Kamm's Corners Fourth of July Parade. Thanks to Dan Karkoff and Mandi Salvino for providing the flat bed trailer which allowed Clarence Chavers to steal the show with his expert guitar playing during the parade, enhancing West Park UCC's visibility in the community.

Other outreach activities led or supported by the Board of Growth & Outreach in 2023 included the College Student Care Package initiative; Interfaith Thanksgiving Service; and special receptions for various guest preachers/speakers during Pastor Jason's sabbatical.

I would like to acknowledge the tireless efforts of our board members – Sharon Thomas, Tim Thomas, Debbie Miller, Kathleen Moreland, Deb Solyan, Julie Turnley, Evelyn Faulkner, and de facto member Doug Miller – as well as those members of the congregation who donated their time and talent to the board’s outreach activities in 2023. We also received wonderful support from Pastor Jason, Pastor Jim, Pastor Charlotte, and Pastor Paul, as well as Moderator Clarence Chavers and Vice Moderator Mandi Salvino, for which we are grateful.

With God’s grace, here’s to another successful year in 2024!

Respectfully Submitted,
Dan Moreland

Mark 10:45:

“For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give His life as a ransom for many.”

Community Meal Final Report

| Month | # Served | # To-Go Meals | # In-Person Meals | Total Cost/Per Meal |
|---------------|-----------------|----------------------|--------------------------|----------------------------|
| January | 60 | 30 | 30 | \$ 167.68/\$2.79 |
| February* | 59 | 32 | 27 | \$ 162.21/\$2.75 |
| March | 62 | 22 | 40 | \$ 193.11/\$3.11 |
| April** | 81 | 48 | 33 | \$ 86.21/\$1.06 |
| May | 64 | 14 | 50 | \$ 161.03/\$2.52 |
| June*** | 73 | 36 | 37 | \$ 144.37/\$1.98 |
| July | 67 | 18 | 49 | \$ 179.21/\$2.67 |
| August | 71 | 37 | 34 | \$ 203.54/\$2.87 |
| Sept.**** | 51 | 24 | 27 | \$ 40.55/\$0.80 |
| Oct.***** | 80 | 35 | 45 | \$ 00.00/\$0.0 |
| November# | 68 | 38 | 30 | \$ 106.61/\$1.57 |
| December | 55 | 20 | 35 | \$ 108.56/\$1.97 |
| Totals | 791 | 354 | 437 | \$1553.08/\$1.96 |

*Spent \$60.82 on non-Styrofoam ‘to-go’ packaging in February; the \$162.21 total only represents food and drink, not the additional packaging costs.

**In April, used leftover meat supplied by the restaurant that worked with the Northern Ohio Intercultural Association, thereby reducing the cost of that month’s meal. Spent \$37.00 on non-Styrofoam ‘to-go’ packaging in April; that cost isn’t included in the cost of the meal.

***In June, used leftover sloppy joes from the strawberry social to reduce both food waste and the expenses associated with the community meal.

****In September, we used the leftovers from West Park UCC's annual fundraising dinner to reduce our food expenses for the October community meal.

*****In October, the community meal costs were absorbed by the sabbatical budget since the meal was held in conjunction with Rev. Dr. Mark Kelly Tyler's visit to West Park UCC as part of the church's multi-event educational program.

#The cost of November's meal was reduced thanks to the donation of a frozen ham from Mandi Salvino that we used in the main course.

GAIL KENNEY, STEWARDSHIP AND FINANCE

We've had a busy year and here is some of what we've done.

We announced 12 pink envelopes and contributed to each of them. (We take whatever is collected and add whatever is necessary to reach \$250.00)

Here are some of the projects around the buildings we spent funds on:

- The soundboard
- The Rainey Institute
- The digital bulletin board installed in the narthex
- The blower motor in the organ (paid by an anonymous member)
- Backflow valves required by the city
- Roof vents to keep wildlife out of the building
- Glass block windows

We also made contributions to the earthquake victims (\$500.00).

Paid the legal fees for a Palestinian Christian who was seeking asylum.

Contributed \$500.00 to Bethany UCC for Ukraine.

Also gave \$500.00 to the Kids Book Bank so they could purchase books with more diversity.

Made announcements for the Stewardship and Finance Campaign.

Hosted the first Punch on the Porch with root beer floats in June.

Presented the Alber Scholarship to Callie Thayer.

Supplied a movie basket for the fund raiser.

Decided to let the Community Cupboard pay for the entire cost to upgrade the electrical system.

Made the decision to eliminate the Alternative Christmas Catalog as the last few years had little participation.

In December moved \$25,000 from the Endowment Fund to the operating fund (after the congregation vote) from Fifth Third so that we were able to pay bills.

Respectfully submitted,
Gail Kenney.

JEFF DOBRANSKY, TRUSTEES

Members:

Jeff Dobransky (Chair), Pat Rust (Secretary), Laurie Dobransky, Dan Kirkoff and Kathy Rennette

The Board of Trustees were very busy in 2023. We completed \$10K of planned projects including the following:

- The old wooden Truax entrance door was replaced by Cleveland Vicon with a new 6-panel steel security door. New panic bar lock release was installed on the inside of the door to bring it up to current standards. Thanks to Bob Arcuri for re-working the interior trim around the door, Pat Rust for painting the door trim and special thanks to Ted Litchney for painting the door.
- Nine new floor mats were purchased for installation in the kitchen, the Narthex, Truax entryway and Education Building entrance. Old mats were cleaned and re-used if in decent shape.
- The Church parking lot was sealed and striped.
- Perfectos wrapped deteriorating pipe insulation on pipes in the boiler room.

Trustees also spent approximately \$11K on unplanned projects that popped up during the year.

Projects included the following:

- In March West Side Roofing replaced some shingles on the Education Building roof that had blown off or were loosened.
- City of Cleveland Water Department required the Church to install backflow preventers on water service connections in the Church Building and Education Building. The backflow preventers will have to be inspected/tested annually.
- Squirrels in the Education Building alerted the Trustees that there were holes in the Education Building attic turtle vents. West Side Roofing replaced the nine turtle vents after the squirrels were removed.
- Replaced failed circulating pump on one of the boilers that heats the Church.

In November Darrell Hurns advised that he would not be able to fulfill the snow blowing contract he had signed as he was moving to the East Side. Trustees were lucky to find Paul Zickes who lives on Truax and was willing to assume Darrell's contract.

Thank you to all the volunteers that helped throughout the year we were able to accomplish the following:

- Cleaned the Sanctuary including the pews and seat cushions.
- Straightened and cleaned the boiler room.
- Monthly cleaning of window wells, Parlor, kitchenette and Pastor's office.
- Defrosted the freezer multiple times throughout the year.
- It was determined that the Rizzo duplicator reached the end of its life, Jeff Dobransky along with Bob Arcuri and Mark Rust disassembled it and took it to be recycled.
- Laurie Dobransky scrubbed the Sanctuary and office carpeting in April.
- Five yards of mulch was spread by eleven volunteers at the June work morning.
- Applied silicone spray to the window tracks several times during the year.
- Stair railings were washed down by Kathy Rennette.
- Storm windows/screens were switched out in Spring and Fall.
- CLR was applied to dishwasher several times during the year.
- The front doors/façade were hosed down and cleaned.
- Several floor mats were shampooed/cleaned.
- The Maple Tree by the Truax door was trimmed and the flower beds were weeded/shrubs trimmed multiple times during the year.

Special thanks to Mark and Pat Rust for completing the following projects during the year:

- Honey-dipped the catch basins in the Church parking lot.
- Responded to/cleaned up after flooding in the Education Building in July and August.
- Steeple Jacks Mark and Pat Rust scraped and painted the steeple balcony railings.
- Mark Rust scraped and painted the balcony window sills.

Respectfully submitted,
Jeff Dobransky (Chair)

STANDING COMMITTEES

FÉLIX MIRANDA, PERSONNEL COMMITTEE

Members of the Personnel Committee:

- Les Armstrong
- Margaret Owens
- Félix A. Miranda

In 2023 the Personnel Committee performed the following functions:

- In coordination with the Pastoral Advisory Board performed the annual evaluation of the Senior Pastor Rev. Jason Thompson and made recommendations for salary adjustments. The aforementioned recommendations were forwarded to the Board of Stewardship and Finance by the Personnel Committee.
- Met with staff (i.e., Ms. Linda Ferro, Ms. Susan Keserich, Ms. Jennifer White, and Ms. Sara Jovanovic) for their respective Annual Reviews.
- As an outcome of the annual reviews, and in coordination with the Senior Pastor, made recommendations for salary adjustments for the following WPUCC staff: Ms. Linda Ferro, Ms. Susan Keserich, Ms. Jennifer White, and Ms. Sara Jovanovic. These recommendations were forwarded to the Board of Stewardship and Finance by the Personnel Committee on July 23, 2023.
- In addition, recommended that the status of Ms. Jennifer White, WPUCC Director of Digital Ministries, be offered on-going employment with WPUCC, rather than a year-to-year contract as she has had for the past two years. This recommendation was first approved by the Senior Pastor and by the WPUCC Council at the council meeting of September 28, 2023. The Letter of Agreement was subsequently put in place in November 2023.

Respectfully submitted, Félix A. Miranda

DAN MORELAND, PASTORAL ADVISORY

The Pastoral Advisory Committee met two times in 2023 to provide support and a confidential channel of communication for cultivating an open and affirmative relationship with Pastor Jason and the congregation. Ministry is a stressful profession with a high-level of personal and congregational expectations that contribute to the need for support, which is a key function of the Pastoral Advisory Committee. It also is an effective resource for addressing opportunities that may arise in the life of the church in a positive, pro-active manner. We are grateful for the contributions of our two sabbatical pastors – Pastor Charlotte Noble and Pastor Paul Barbins – who shared their unique gifts so generously with the congregation during this past sabbatical year. We did not hold a Pastoral Advisory Committee meeting during Pastor Jason's sabbatical, which is why the committee met one less time in 2023 than the previous year. Serving on the Pastoral Advisory Committee are Jen Krejsa, Robin Jessen, and Dan Moreland.

Respectfully submitted, Dan Moreland

OTHER ORGANIZATIONS

ROBIN JESSEN, MOPS

MOPS at West Park has maintained its membership for 2023 but did not experience any growth. The members continue to be enriched by the program. MOPS Int. Has changed their branding for next year. The new name is MOMCO. This stands for Mom Community, so we will be able to open our group up to moms of children of all ages. Our group put together and staffed a Christmas Shop for our Food Pantry guests. We served 70 individuals during the 2 Saturdays in December. Our group appreciates all of the support from the church.

Respectfully Submitted,

Robin Jessen, Co-Leader MOPS at West Park

CONFERENCE AND ASSOCIATION DELEGATES

MARGARET OWENS, HEARTLAND CONFERENCE DELEGATE

I attended the Heartland Conference gathering in September. The meeting was very interesting and I learned a lot about the functioning of our greater church and about our partnerships. During the meeting Jill Fey went over what is happening at Temples Hills and about the outdoor ministry. Also about WISE and the church's partnership. I also learned about different departments at the national level and what they do to help the individual church families.

The conference Minister gave a wonderful talk, as did the president of the national office.

There was a presentation of a substitute constitution and discussion. This was voted on day 2 and was passed. Also the other main discussion was about the budget and about outdoor ministry and Temples Hills. The decision was to form a committee to review and report back in one year about this. The budget was voted on and was passed and the committee was approved and will report back in one year. The services were wonderful and the music provided was also inspirational. Friday evening was a wonderful celebration of the conference's 60th anniversary.

I enjoyed attending.

Respectively submitted, Margaret Owens

*West Park United Church of Christ wishes to express appreciation to these Officers,
Board Members, Delegates and Committee Members who completed terms of service in
2023:*

Moderator: Clarence Chavers
Vice Moderator: Amanda Salvino
Clerk: Robin Jessen
Treasurer: Eric Jessen
Funds Treasurer: Lisa Gibson
Recording Treasurer: René Thayer

Christian Education: Erin Armstrong
Board of Deacons:
Bd. of Growth & Outreach: Dan Moreland, Deb Solyan, Julie Turnley
**Bd. of Stewardship
And Finance:** Doug Henderson
Board of Trustees: Laurie Dobransky, Pat Rust, Dan Karkoff
**Heartland Conference
Delegate:** Kathy Rennette
Living Water ONE
Association Delegates: Helen Reed, Scott O'Con
Pastoral Advisory: Robin Jessen, Dan Moreland, Jen Krejsa
Personnel Committee: Félix Miranda, Lester Armstrong, Margaret Owens
Nominating Committee: Mary Zimmerman, Margaret Owens
Historian: Holly Sinnema
Statutory Agent: Lester Armstrong
Auditors: Doug Henderson, Jim Hutchings, Jeff Dobransky

WEST PARK UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST STAFF 2023

| | |
|--|---------------------|
| <u>Senior Pastor:</u> | Rev. Jason Thompson |
| <u>Associate Pastor:</u> | James R. Furry |
| <u>Minister of Music:</u> | Susan Keserich |
| <u>Community Cupboard Food Pantry Coordinator:</u> | Sara Jovanovic |
| <u>Church Administrator:</u> | Linda Ferro |
| <u>Director of Digital Ministries:</u> | Jennifer White |
| <u>Director of Maintenance:</u> | Bob Arcuri |