



## **SCIENCE HILL COMMUNITY CHURCH**

Pastor Jonathan Truax  
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### **2025 Annual Congregational Meeting**

Sunday, January 26, 2025  
After Worship

We encourage all members of Science Hill Community Church to attend this Annual Meeting. Please bring this report of last year's activities and ministries of 2024 with you for reference. Questions about specific items should be directed in advance to the person or committee that has submitted the report.

#### **AGENDA**

- Call to Order: 2024 Consistory President Gary Casto
- Invocation: Pastor Jonathan Truax
- Science Hill Community Church Statement of Faith: Congregation  
*"Science Hill Community Church exists to joyfully share the good news of Jesus Christ and lovingly care for others."*
- Minutes of the previous Annual Meeting: Secretary/Treasurer Theresa Marks
- Financial: Treasurer's Report ending previous year
- Auditor's Report
- Announce new Consistory President and Vice President
- Corporation Business: 2025 Consistory President  
(The church's corporation status was last renewed May 2021 and due in 2026.)
- Unfinished Business
- New Business
- Pastor's Report
- Adjournment
- Benediction

***THIS DOCUMENT CONTAINS REPORTS FOR 2024***  
*They are in no particular order.*

# IN 2024

## **STAFF**

Pastor: Jonathan Truax  
Secretary/Treasurer: Theresa Marks  
Pianist: Nancy Springer  
Custodian: J & D Cleaning / Josh Hornyak  
January through August:  
Director of Children's Ministry: Nancy Harsh  
Director of Youth Ministry: Nicole Harsh  
Beginning November:  
Family Ministry Director: Katie Stiver

## **CONSISTORY**

2<sup>nd</sup> Mondays at 7:00pm  
Elder ('24) Gary Casto (term 2) - President  
Elder ('24) Mark Haidet (term 2) – V. President  
Elder ('25) Jim Hornyak (term 2)  
Elder ('25) Craig Reay (term 2)  
Deacon ('24) Jan Raber (term 1)  
Deacon ('24) Mike Wilks (term 2)  
Deacon ('25) Richard Berube (term 2)  
Deacon ('25) Ray Courtwright (term 1)  
Jr. Deacon ('23) Liz McDonald

## **BUILDING AND GROUNDS COMMITTEE**

Meet every-other month 6:30pm beginning Feb.  
Chairperson: Rose Wade  
Custodian and/or Building Supervisor  
Josh Hornyak, Jim Hornyak  
Housekeeping: Charlene Boyce  
Ray Boyce, Gary Casto, Ray Courtwright

## **CHRISTIAN EDUCATION COMMITTEE**

3<sup>rd</sup> Mondays at 7:30pm  
Chairperson: Lynn Penturf  
Nancy Harsh  
Nicole Harsh                      Peggy Hawkins  
Jenn Wilks                         Blanche Moore  
Mike Wilks                         Katie Stiver

## **CHURCH FAMILY COMMITTEE**

Meetings as needed  
Chairperson: Holly Swegheimer  
Cindy Casto  
Laura Courtwright  
Lynn Penturf

## **CHURCH HISTORIAN**

Tami Theisler

## **OUTREACH COMMITTEE**

4<sup>th</sup> Mondays at 6:30pm (Events, Missions)  
Chairperson: Laura Courtwright  
Secretary: Jan Berube                      Cherise Kennel  
Richard Berube                              Tami Theisler  
Ben Favazzo                                      Craig Reay

## **PASTOR/PARISH RELATIONS COMMITTEE**

Quarterly meetings as needed  
Chairperson: Marsha Graham  
Mark Haidet  
Tami Theisler

## **TRUST FUND COMMITTEE**

Quarterly meetings as needed  
( '24) Theresa Marks, chairperson  
( '25) Tami Theisler  
( '26) Debbie Haidet  
( '27) Lori Reay

## **WORSHIP COMMITTEE**

3<sup>rd</sup> Mondays at 6:30pm  
Chairperson: Marsha Graham  
Charlene Boyce                      Jan Raber  
Gary Casto                              Debbie Truax  
Connie Poto                              Nancy Springer

## **FINANCE COMMITTEE**

Meetings as needed  
Bob Poto                                      Debbie Haidet  
Marsha Graham                              Theresa Marks

## **NURSES**

Jan Raber, Lynn Penturf, Lynette Hornyak

## **WOW (Women of Worth)**

Lori Reay, chairperson

## **TECHNOLOGY**

Michael Berube, Cherise Kennel, Pastor Jon, Katie Stiver, Joe Harsh

**GLOO Crew:** Pastor Jon, Mike Wilks, Richard and Jan Berube, Jim Hornyak, Lori Reay, Tami Theisler, Derek Swegheimer

*The Pastor and Consistory President are automatically included in each committee.*

## **2024 REVIEW BY PASTOR JONATHAN TRUAX**

Three boys were bragging about their dads. The first boy said, "My dad writes a few lines on a piece of paper, calls it a poem, and gets \$100 for it." "Well, my dad," said the second boy, "makes some dots on a piece of paper, calls it a song, and gets \$200 for it." "That's nothing," declared the third boy. "My dad scribbles some words on a piece of paper, calls it a sermon, and it takes four men to carry the money he makes in an hour!"

My friends from high school enjoy ribbing me about my calling as a pastor. Jokes about working "one day a week" are frequent. In fact, at a recent holiday party, one of their kids came up to me and asked in a hushed tone, "Do you really only work on Sundays?" LOL.

What is the daily life of a pastor like? Well, it's different every day! (That's one of the things I love about it!) Depending on the circumstances, I might find myself planning a worship series, visiting a homebound or hospitalized member, praying with someone going through a crisis, meeting about an event, ministering in the community - or writing an annual report!

For another view, here are some of the highlights I will remember about 2024:

- Our church completed the Believe study, which was coordinated among all the age groups on Sundays and Wednesdays. We also went through a fall worship series on Ten Commandments of Christ and an Advent Series of The Sounds of Christmas
- We shared our appreciation for Nancy Harsh and Nicole Harsh for their work with our children and youth and welcomed Katie Stiver as our Family Ministry Director.
- In the fall, we strategically changed our worship and Sunday School times which led to attendance increases in both, especially Sunday School with some new classes.
- Several building issues were addressed, including the water in the church basement and a new roof and front steps for the parsonage.
- Exciting Outreach events were held, such as the Teen Escape Room, a summer Carnival, and the Christmas Tour of Homes.
- New community ministries were launched, including Sunday evening Lenten services, a monthly Men's Ministry called the Toolbox, and Two22, an after-school gathering of high school and middle school students at Marlinton.
- Although one victory was that we didn't lose any church members to death this year, 2024 was also the year that I bid farewell to my earthly father Ralph - until we meet again. I also battled some health issues which brought me to a fresh appreciation of my calling as a pastor. I am looking forward to a healthier and happier 2025!

I try to live in gratitude to the Lord and find something to be joyful about every day!

*-Submitted by Pastor Jon*

## **PASTOR-PARISH RELATIONS COMMITTEE**

This committee meets on a quarterly basis or when a need arises. It is a closed meeting that can sometimes deal with sensitive issues. We try to communicate with the Pastor about concerns amongst the congregation and Pastor Jon often gets our reaction to things he has planned. Our committee consists of Pastor Jon, Marsha Graham (chairperson), Mark Haidet and Tami Theisler.

*- Respectfully submitted, Marsha Graham, chairperson*

## **CHURCH SECRETARY'S REPORT FOR 2024**

Enrollment for January 1, 2024: 169

New Members: Jenny Digiantonio and Nancy Springer

Deaths: 0

Withdrawals / Removals: Brian and Ellen Bickel

Enrollment for December 31, 2024: 169

Baptisms: Madison Schroeder

Confirmed: 0

Attendance: Science Hill offered in-person Sunday worship at 10:10am as well as live-stream worship weekly. The average Sunday in-person attendance was 55 and live-stream was 20.

Beginning September 1<sup>st</sup>, Worship service began at 9:30am, followed by 10:45am prayer available with Elders and a refreshment time, Sunday School for all ages began around 11:00am. Refreshment time is provided by volunteers each week.

### Meetings – Consistory

\* 12 regular meetings were held on the second Monday of each month at 7:00pm

### Meetings – Congregational

\* The Annual Congregational Meeting was held on Sunday, January 28, 2024.

\* The Congregational meeting held on Sunday, December 1, 2024 was to vote on church officers for next year and the proposed 2025 church budget.

Mailings: There were 209 newsletters and 221 pastoral letters mailed throughout the year.

22 at 66 cents = \$ 14.52

101 at 68 cents = \$ 68.68

307 at 73 cents = \$224.11

*-Submitted by Theresa Marks, Secretary/Treasurer*

## **FINANCE COMMITTEE**

The Finance Committee included Bob Poto chairperson, Marsha Graham and Debbie Haidet as financial secretaries, Theresa Marks as secretary/treasurer, Gary Casto as president of Consistory with Pastor Jon Truax. They prepared recommendations to Consistory for CD's established with Stifel and with Citizens Bank. They also made recommendations for the church budget operating expenses that does not include employees.

*-Submitted by Theresa Marks*

## **TRUST FUND**

In 2024 members of the Trust Fund included Theresa Marks - chairperson, Tami Theisler, Debbie Haidet and Lori Reay. Pastor Jon Truax and Gary Casto as Consistory President, are also included in this committee.

The Trust Fund met on May 6<sup>th</sup> to consider expenditures for the year that might include camperships, Community Men's Retreat, and there is no Confirmation class this year. They also met on October 20<sup>th</sup> to discuss a small CD that was due and will be reinvested with Stifel.

*-Submitted by Theresa Marks*

## **THE SCIENCE HILL LIBRARY**

The Science Hill Library has been under construction this past year. The library software was updated on May 3<sup>rd</sup> called Handy Library Manager. A barcode scanner was donated to the library to use with the new software. Library cards are being made for the congregation, so they can utilize the Science Hill Library in the new year. There are also FREE bookmarks located in the library for anyone who needs one.

*-Submitted by Jenn Wilks*

# **ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING**

**SUNDAY, JANUARY 28, 2024**

**Following Worship**

Members Present: 37; Time Began: 11:34 am; End time: 12:01 pm

Gary Casto, Consistory President for 2023 asked Pastor Jon Truax to open the meeting with prayer.

**The minutes** of the previous Annual Meeting held January 29, 2023 were read. No comments or questions were given, therefore the minutes stand as written.

**The financial report** ending December 2023 were addressed as printed in the Annual Report. No comments or questions were given. Marsha Graham and Jenn Wilks moved to accept this Treasurer's Report. Motion carried.

**The first order of business** was to open the meeting in the name of the corporation with a motion by Bob Poto and Craig Reay. If needed, this is where the renewal of the corporation would take place. The next time for renewal will be in May of 2026. Asking for and hearing no other business, the meeting in the name of the corporation was closed with a motion by Derek Swegheimer and Susan Thomas. Motion carried.

**An internal audit** was done by Craig Reay of the church financial records and he signed a statement affirming that the 2023 books were in proper order.

At this time Gary Casto announced that he will continue as President of Consistory and Mark Haidet will continue as Vice President.

**Unfinished Business:** Derek Swegheimer updated the congregation about the ongoing frustration concerning the basement flooring. He said there IS a water issue under the flooring and we need to solve that problem first. Ray Boyce has been assisting with that project. They are actively working on a solution and direction to go. Elite Flooring will address the flooring after the water issue is resolved.

**New Business:** None addressed.

**Pastor's Comments:** Pastor Jon handed out a yellow sheet of his remarks: a.) The scripture II Timothy 4:1-5 has been on his mind; b.) He has been reading the book "The Great DeChurching" by Jim Davis and Michael Graham with a possibility of having a study group this spring about it; c.) Jon provided information about some community ministries he is involved in such as The Alliance of Churches and planning Lenten Services with 11 area churches; the GLOO Crew texting ministry that links internet people to local churches; Mission Marlinton with the Blessing Bags, Community Worship services and school support; and the Men's Retreat last Fall. d.) He continues to work with our church committees such as Consistory, Outreach, Worship, Christian Education, Building and Grounds, Social Media, PPR, Trust Fund and Finance. e.) His ministry plans include finishing the Believe Series in Worship and Community Connection; finish Christian History in Sunday School and begin a new series of Prophecy/End-Times; Children and Youth Ministries increasing family and congregational involvement. f.) He outlined many opportunities for the church calendar for 2024 which includes many of our committee's events. g.) Jon addressed the possibility of having another overnight trip to the Creation Museum and Ark. The cost is significant but if there are interested people, please let him know.

**There was no other business** or comments. Pastor Jon closed the meeting with prayer.

**Meeting adjourned** with a motion by Craig Reay and Marsha Graham.

Gary Castor, President

Theresa Marks, Secretary/Treasurer

## **CONGREGATIONAL MEETING**

**Sunday, December 1, 2024**

**Worship, then reception for Katie Stiver, then meeting.**

Present: 40 members of Science Hill Community Church

Meeting was called to order by Consistory President Gary Casto at 11:27am.

Pastor Jonathan Truax offered prayer.

Purpose of the meeting: To vote on the proposed 2025 church budget as presented; and to vote on candidates for office. Gary explained about voting the ballot.

Proposed ballot: For Elder – Jan Raber and Derek Swegheimer; For Deacon – Ben Favazzo and Rose Wade; NO Jr. Deacon; and for Trust Fund - Debbie Truax.

Asked for nominations from the floor: none.

Asked for comments or questions on the proposed budget: none.

He closed the nominations and ballots were passed out.

Counters are Marsha Graham, Sue Thomas and Lynn Penturf.

The Annual Congregational Meeting was announced as Sunday, January 26, 2025.

Meeting closed at 11:33pm.

Gary Casto, 2023 President

Theresa Marks, Secretary/Treasurer

### **RESULTS:**

*All candidates approved.*

*Budget passed.*

## **WORSHIP COMMITTEE**

The Worship Committee met 9 times in 2024 to plan and discuss all things pertaining to worship. Past services are reviewed, Pastor Jon gives a report and “Around the Room” gives each member a chance to speak.

Marsha Graham is the chairperson, Charlene Boyce the secretary, and Connie Poto organizes the ushers, greeters, acolytes and bell ringers. Committee members help with other projects throughout the year.

Here are some topics discussed in 2024: The speaker in the prayer room was hooked up; Nancy Springer agreed to be our pianist and has joined the committee; the Alliance of Churches held evening Lenten services; Jon gave an update on the GLOO texting ministry; Debbie Truax shared a solution of a liquid candle lighter being attached to the acolyte wand; the Welcome table responsibilities are now being handled by the greeters; the purple altars cloths were repaired and a new plexiglass was put on the altar; the flower cross will be used again at Easter with some tweaking of the procedure; the pew cards will be altered to help prevent them from being brushed out of their holders; the Prayer Room was open for Maundy Thursday; new wreaths made by Richard Berube were used at Easter; our tech system will be evaluated; Pastor Jon explained the time changes for worship and Sunday School to begin in the fall; an all-church “Homecoming” was a success; a new microphone was purchased for the lectern; the Believe series ended in June: Marsha ordered Bells for the Christmas Memorial tree; Pastor Jon's fall series will be “The 10 Commandments of Jesus”; reminder letters to worship helpers will change to emails; Jon will work on the wireless mic; All Saints Day was held; the use of church members to assist Pastor Jon in worship: the baptism of Madison Schroeder; no 50 year member recognition; decorating the church for Christmas; “The Sounds of Christmas” will be the Advent sermon series;

*-Submitted by Charlene Boyce*

## OUTREACH COMMITTEE

**Members:** Laura Courtwright (Committee Chairperson), Cherise Kennell, Ben Favazzo, Gary Casto (Consistory President), Jon Truax (Pastor); Richard & Janice Berube (resigned in June)

**Missions for 2024 were:**

January: 4 Smiths on a Mission	\$778 (\$75/month)
February: Alliance Community Pantry	\$580
March: NAMI (Kay Raga)	\$607
April: Alliance Visiting Nurse/Aultman Foundation	\$413
May: Alliance Pregnancy Center	\$1886
June: Men's Challenge (changed name to Challenge Ministries)	\$797
July: Marlin and Minnie	\$690
August: Mission Marlinton	\$440
September: Mount Union Cru	\$456
October: <del>Feed my Sheep</del> /Clothed in Righteousness	\$556
November: Sam Center and Legacy of Honor	\$604.30
December: Assisted Living and Nursing Homes (gave memory books, SHCC cards)	\$365
(Alliance of Churches -extra \$122)	\$1229.39 (will carry over)

**Missions for 2025 are:**

January: The Toolbox Men's Ministry	July: Marlin and Minnie Snyder Foundation
February: Alliance Community Pantry	August: Mission Marlinton
March: NAMI	September: Mount Union Cru
April: Hammer & Nails Home Ministry	October: Clothed in Righteousness
May: Alliance Pregnancy Center	November: Sam Center and Legacy of Honor
June: Challenge Ministries	December: Alliance of Churches

**Events sponsored by Outreach in 2024:**

Jan – Laura volunteered for 'Night to Shine' in Canton	Oct – Barcus Acres & Trail of Treats (Salem)
April – Teen Escape Room	Nov- Marlboro on Square
June – Family Carnival & 5 <sup>th</sup> Saturday Breakfast	Dec- Christmas Tour of Homes Delivered Memory Books to Shut-Ins

We created and purchased Postcards for church.

Made and handed out Welcome Bags.

Ordered Pens for Welcome Bags/Church.

Our budget was spent on:

\$592.08 on Carnival
\$210.56 on Breakfast
\$133.82 on Halloween
\$116.43 on Welcome Bags
\$383.01 Pens/Postcards

We brought in funds from:

\$55 carnival (pie sales)
\$213.00 Breakfast Donations
\$955.00 Tour of Homes

Laura was nominated unanimously to be committee chairperson again. No secretary.

Our budget will begin with \$400 and our Outreach non-budget will begin with \$2318.71.

Suggestions: Most events were well attended. Barcus Acres and Marlboro needed more supplies. Escape Room and Tour of Homes brought non-congregation members. Tour of Homes do maybe again in 3-5 years.

Would not do Trail of Treats again and Night to Shine, only if held on our own with Mount Union or Alliance of Churches.

*(continues...)*

Our **agenda for 2025** includes partnerships with other committees and possibly includes:

**Feb-** Wild Game Tasting Event and Games (Men Outreach- Gen. 1:25-26)

**Spring-** Mother's Day Event (Women Outreach)

**Summer** – Animal Visitor (Children/Family Outreach), Baseball Game Outreach (Family Outreach),  
Carnation Parade

**Fall** – Barcus Acres Halloween (Children/Family Outreach), Escape Room (Teen Outreach)

**Winter** – Marlboro Christmas (Family Outreach), Cookie Walk (Women Outreach)

*-Submitted by Laura Courtwright, chairperson*

### **CHURCH FAMILY COMMITTEE / HOSPITALITY**

This committee meets quarterly or as needed. The chairperson is Holly Swegheimer with other committee members being Cindy Casto, Laura Courtwright and Lynn Penturf.

\*We started the year on February 18 doing refreshments for the Alliance of Churches Lent services. There was a nice turnout for the first Sunday of Lent.

\*We had an Easter breakfast that was well attended.

\*We had a Church homecoming. There was a great meal at Mount Union (campus cafeteria) and we saw a lot of friends and family.

\*We did an appreciation for Nancy Harsh and Nicole Harsh for their years working with the children and youth of our church.

\*We did our annual church picnic on a beautiful August day.

\*The Schroeder family had their daughter Maddie baptized, and a reception provided by the family followed.

\* There was a Church Movie Night in November to see "The Best Christmas Pageant Ever" at Tinseltown at the Strip in North Canton. There was a good group who went and had a good time.

\*We had a welcome reception for our new Family Ministry Director, Katie Stiver, and her family December 1.

\*On December 29, we had a Christmas brunch for the church. We had a nice turnout.

*-Submitted by Holly Swegheimer*

### **HOUSEKEEPING COMMITTEE**

The task of keeping the church free from unnecessary items is an ongoing job. We are blessed to be a busy working church and that sometimes leaves little time to keep things in order. Housekeeping works at keeping the refrigerators cleaned and free from out-dated items and organizing the kitchen counters. New shelving was put up in the kitchen to aid in that effort.

Housekeeping attends the Building and Grounds meetings and works on the designated work days. New curtains were made for one of the Sunday school rooms and curtains in another room were washed and altered for a better look. A new door plaque was purchased and given to the church to officially name the old "overflow" area "The Upper Room" in memory of Ralph Truax and in honor of June Truax.

This committee also takes care of Christmas decorations, decorating and un-decorating for Christmas. A special thank you to Cindy Casto for her beautiful touch at decorating the Science Hill room all year, through all seasons.

*-Submitted by Charlene Boyce, chairperson*



## **BUILDING AND GROUNDS COMMITTEE**

The year 2024 has been an exceptionally busy year for our building and grounds committee. I cannot thank my committee members enough for all the efforts they put forth to complete all the projects that took place. In addition thanks to Derek Swegheimer for all his help.

January: Paper towel holders, hand sanitizer and soap dispensers provided to us by the Stark County health department made possible from covid monies provided by the federal government have been installed. We also received an abundance of supplies for these dispensers in addition to Lysol spray and wipes.

February: We experienced furnace issues with a thermo-coupler and heat exchanger being replaced on the unit in the freezer room off of fellowship hall. Temporary repairs were made to the fiberglass roof over the portico at the parsonage until such time that it can be replaced.

March: The sump pump was replaced in an effort to resolve the basement flooring issue. A new motor was installed on one of the furnace units in the basement. Floating shelves and a new microwave were added to the kitchenette in honor of Ralph Truax's memory. A cabinet was purchased and installed in the narthex for first aid supplies.

April: We purchased and planted a redbud tree in honor of our church's 190th anniversary. Shelving was added to the basement kitchen. The doorbell and exhaust cover at the parsonage were repaired. A new riding mower was purchased and donated.

May: A work day was held May 4 to focus on jobs that needed completed at both the church and the parsonage.

June: Roofing estimates were obtained and approved for replacement of the parsonage roof. A section of the floor in the tunnel off of the fellowship hall was jackhammered to check if drainage pipes were intact or broken.

July: The parsonage roof was replaced with a steel roof and the fiberglass roof over the parsonage portico was also replaced. The front stoop was rebricked along with block repairs to the bilco door. The bilco door was also repainted.

August: The parsonage garage roof was replaced with steel roofing to match the parsonage. Incoming Mount Union students came to the church the 24th to complete a service project. They mopped the tunnel, wiped down the pews, removed weeds, stained the wood swing frame, mowed and ran a weed eater.

September: Estimates were obtained for excavating along the west and south side of the church to alleviate the existing drainage issues.

October: A work day was held Oct. 12th with the focus on buttoning up the church for winter weather. Excavating along the west and south side of the church also took place to resolve the drainage problem affecting the basement flooring. The situation will be monitored for at least 6 months to be sure the flooring issue in the basement is resolved.

November: Siding on parsonage dormer which came loose was reattached.

December: Several flashlights were purchased and donated in case of a power failure. These are located in the church office, Jon's office, janitors room, kitchen and kitchenette. Indoor/Outdoor (area) carpet was put in place in the basement to prevent tripping due to the flooring issues during the period we monitor the floor to be sure we resolved the issue.

*-Respectfully submitted by Rose Wade, chairperson*

## **CHRISTIAN EDUCATION COMMITTEE**

Wednesday night Community Connection studied The Believe series and concluded in June. It involved a 6pm shared meal followed by class until 8pm. The study was led by Pastor Jon and assisted by Jim Hornyak. Plans are in the works to resume Community Connection in January of 2025. There were no school age children in attendance, but Youth Group under the direction of Nicole Harsh ran alongside on Wednesday evenings.

September 15<sup>th</sup> marked the kickoff “Rally Day” for the fall Sunday school classes and change of time for gathering in the Science Hill Room for snacks. Sunday school classes for all children 4 years of age through high school are available as well as two adult classes.

The nursery under the direction of Debbie Truax remains available for infants through age 3 years of age during church service and Sunday school hour. Holly Swegheimer, Cindy Casto and Lynn Penturf are teaching children’s Sunday school using the “Dig In Series” material. Nicole Harsh and Mike Wilks are co-leading the youth middle school through high school age. They are studying Revelation.

The two adult classes include a study of The Chosen video series led by Jim Hornyak and Katie Davis. Derek Swegheimer leads the Adult Bible Fellowship class.

Katie Stiver was hired as our new Family Ministry Director and began November 1<sup>st</sup>. We welcomed her and her husband Alan and their three children Brad, Luke and Isabelle at a church reception on December 1<sup>st</sup>. We look forward to the new plans she has for our church.

A first-aid area was designated in the Narthex with a cupboard donated and installed by Jim Hornyak. Jan Raber and Lynn Penturf organized the area with supplies which includes an AED and LifeVac anti-choking device.

*-Submitted by Lynn Penturf*

## **CHILDREN’S MINISTRIES 2024**

An “A to Z Bible Verse Memorization Challenge” was issued to children beginning in January 2024, which was completed in June. Each participant received a nice certificate and a Dairy Queen gift card. Also in 2024, we wrapped up the wonderful “Believe” series in June. The kids loved using their Scripture cards each week for that, which they were happy to get to keep forever!

Special events during 2024 included a fun “Celebrate Our Savior” Easter event, with close to 20 children in attendance. During the summer months we had 3 “Summer Activity Nights” with the following themes: JUNE was “Celebrate Summer”! --- JULY was “Celebrate Freedom!” --- AUGUST was “Celebrate Nature!”

We had some great “surprise guests” who joined us for our Tuesday night “Kindness Club” sessions on Zoom, and “Puppet Pal Jenny” had many humorous and inspirational lessons for Children’s Messages on Sunday mornings.

After 8 years as “Director of Children’s Ministry,” Nancy Harsh (AKA “Granny Nanny”) made the emotional decision to retire at the end of August. She wants to thank everyone who supported her efforts through those 8 years with monetary/material donations, prayers, and hands-on help! What a joy and privilege it was to help so many precious kids grow in their faith, realize how very much Jesus loves them, and watch them do so many loving acts of KINDNESS for others! They will all make an AMAZING difference in this old world!! God bless you all!!

*-Respectfully submitted, Nancy Harsh (AKA “Granny Nanny”)  
Director of Children’s Ministries (January-August)*

## **WITNESS YOUTH GROUP**

The youth group started out this year working on the “Believe” series on Wednesday nights. While my family was still out of town we had lots of help from Gary Casto, Mike Wilks, and Phoebe Swegheimer. We had on average about 5 to 8 youth attend each week depending on the time of year.

As our group is getting older we had a lot of schedule conflicts, but we take them when we can get them. We had our annual Super-Bowl Sub Fundraiser - many thanks to Gary and Cindy Casto for heading this up. My family got back into town just in time to help with the Children’s Easter event with some of our youth.

The Outreach Committee put together an Escape Room for our youth and the community. It was well received and everyone had a great time. Thanks to all those who put in so much hard work and time to make this happen. I heard lots of compliments about how well it turned out.

This spring and summer we did a lot of youth work days, earning money for the Alive Music Festival. The youth did a great job with this and as always we are so thankful for our congregation and their support. We had a few of our youth help out with the summer Family Event nights as well as the Church Festival. For the 2024 Alive Music Festival we had 3 adults and 10 youth attend. This year we tent-camped without any electricity or running water on our site. It went very well and everyone had a great time. This was technically my last event with this group since half of them are seniors this year. I can’t believe how fast that went by. It has been such a blessing being a part of their lives and watching them grow in so many ways.

This fall we started a new ministry having class after the Sunday church service. We are studying the book of Revelation and end-times. It has been a slow start but as our new Family Ministry Director Katie and her family get situated, I’m sure things will pick back up. I look forward to seeing what’s next for our little church with a big heart.

*-Submitted by Nicole Harsh, Director of Youth Ministries (January-August)*

## **FAMILY MINISTRY DIRECTOR**

### **Children’s Ministries**

November was spent attending meetings, getting to know people, and learning how things are done. Many thanks to Holly Swegheimer, Cindy Casto, and Lynn Penturf for keeping things going without an official leader. In December, we hosted our first Parent’s Night Out event, where parents from the community were able drop off their children, age 3 and potty-trained through 6<sup>th</sup> grade, so the parents could have a night out. The kids ate pizza for dinner, watched a short, animated movie with the Christmas message titled “The Very First Noel,” played some minute-to-win-it games, and created a gift to give to a loved one. They were given a paper with the prompt “I love my \_\_\_\_ because \_\_\_\_.” They were to fill in the blanks, draw/color a picture to match, and place it in a wooden frame that they then decorated with markers and gem stickers. They helped wrap the gift so they could take it home to give for Christmas. The older group also participated in a Christmas-themed escape room. We hosted 20 children, and only 5 were Science Hill kids. We were able to bless 15 kids from 6 area families. We plan on doing more in the coming year.

### **Youth Ministries**

Many thanks to Nicole Harsh and Mike Wilks for continuing to teach the youth class on Sunday mornings. Alan Stiver joined the fray to help them out. In December they enjoyed their first annual Christmas party, where they ate pizza, decorated Christmas cookies, participated in a white elephant gift exchange, and played hide-and-seek. Brad Stiver won the Christmas cookie decorating contest with his Christmas tree, and Gavan Harsh won the non-Christmas cookie contest with his rendition of Patrick the starfish from Sponge Bob. Caleb Hornyak’s Santa hat and Luke Stiver’s Taco Bell logo were close runners-up.

*-Submitted by Katie Stiver, Family Ministry Director (beginning November 2024)*

## HISTORIAN'S REPORT FOR 2024

**Births:** Lucas Allen Carper born to Austin & Lindsey Carper.

Madison Elaine Schroeder was born to Chris and Abby Schroeder.

**Membership Deaths:** none

**New Members:** Jenny Digiantonio and Nancy Springer

**Baptism:** Madison Elaine Schroeder

**January** – Epiphany was celebrated on the first Sunday of the year, January 7th. Requests were made for the congregation to get more involved with the youth of the church and it was noted that the Blessing Bbag ministry would continue in 2024. Church leaders were commissioned by Mark Haidet and prayers were given for two of our newest ministries, involving outreach to non-members, the Gloo Texting ministry and sending prayer cards to those on the prayer list each week. Pastor Jon continued through the BELIEVE series and Community Connection started back up for the winter months. Sabrina Thomas also began using our new oil-style wick, as acolyte. The annual congregational meeting was on the 28<sup>th</sup>, and we joyfully welcomed Nancy Springer as our official pianist.

**February** – The youth sold soup to the congregation on Super Bowl Sunday and that tied into Pastor Jon's sermon which was "How to be Super". We had a visit from Deb Skubiak to speak on this month's mission, The Alliance Food Pantry. Ash Wednesday was observed at the church on the 14<sup>th</sup> and Science Hill hosted the first Lenten Service for our 11 neighboring churches on February 18<sup>th</sup>. Marsha Graham provided special music and Pastor Rich Hall of the WellSpring Bible Church brought the message. The congregation was saddened by the loss of our dear friend, Ralph Truax, Pastor Jon's father.

**March** – Lenten services continued throughout the month at several different churches in the area. The tradition of the youth carrying palms to the altar on Palm Sunday continued and Easter flowers, including lilies, hyacinths, tulips and daffodils were ordered by the congregation to adorn the altar on Easter Sunday. We also joyfully received Jenny (Truax) Digiantonio into membership of the church.

**April** – A children's Easter event was held called "Celebrate Our Savior". Activities included story time with a timeline of Jesus' life, craft time, games and "He is Risen" tombs as snacks. During a Sunday service, Pastor Jon gave a Children's Sermon showing the similarities between the Sun, Moon and Earth during an eclipse... to God, Sin and Us. Actors in the sermon were Bailey Courtright (Sun & God) and Mark Haidet (Moon & Sin). Craig Reay, Bob Poto and Ray Boyce talked about their Homecoming dates as a promotion for our Homecoming celebration that brought numerous friends back to the church two weeks later. The delightful homecoming was celebrated with renewed memories and professional photo taken of all those that attended. Lunch was provided by the church to 75 people at the Mount Union Campus Center. Also during April, several Escape Room events were planned for the community and congregation.

**May** – The church clean-up day took care of more than 30 spring cleaning tasks. Communion was served on the 5<sup>th</sup> and the WOW ladies had a "Spring Forth with a Fresh Start" brunch on the 18<sup>th</sup>. The brunch was catered to just over 40 ladies from the church and community. Raffle baskets and door prizes were awarded, mixers were done to gather new friends together to chat and songs were sung. Rose Wade and Debbie Truax gave testimonies for the day and there was a "Make & Take" craft where the ladies could make cards for the Science Hill Prayer Card Ministry and also to take and distribute themselves. On the 19<sup>th</sup>, Pentecost was celebrated, and it was our first outdoor service of the year.

**June**- The youth offered "Rent a Youth" for weeding, mulching, yard work, mowing, power washing, car washing and outside labor as a fundraiser for camps and summer activities. A Family Carnival was provided for the community on the 8<sup>th</sup>. Bounce houses, games, raffle baskets, entertainment and food were provided. Also, Family fun nights and outdoor movies started at the end of the month and continued throughout the summer and the Outreach Committee sponsored a free community breakfast on the 5<sup>th</sup> Saturday of the month. Alaina Courtwright graduated from the University of Mount Union and Cayden Monk graduated from Alliance High School. We also happily received our pianist, Nancy Springer, into membership of the church.

*(continues...)*

**July** – The Truax family finished off a trip to Alaska and came back to “Open Forum” where Pastor Jon and the Elders answered questions from the congregation, and Nancy Springer took music requests. The youth attended the Alive Music Festival and Pastor Jon’s sermon led a sermon on “When Miracles Do - And Don’t - Happen” based on Luke 13:1-9. Guest speaker David, spoke about this month’s mission, The Marlin & Minnie Snyder Foundation, helping those less fortunate furnish their homes. Also, this month a new roof was added to the parsonage.

**August** – An all-church picnic was held after worship to honor Nancy Harsh and Nicole Harsh in their years of service as the leaders of our Children and Youth Ministries. Pastor Jon and Jim Hornyak attended at the University of Mount Union to speak with students and give them The Chosen t-shirts. The event was well attended and they were able to speak with lots of incoming freshman. Cookies were taken to the Community Caboose Concert in Alliance and a team of Mount Union freshman did community service at Science Hill, working on several projects both inside and outside the church. Our last outdoor service of the summer occurred, and it was a beautiful morning.

**September** – Morning service was moved from the 10:10am time to 9:30am with the plan for refreshments to be served and Sunday School to follow. The first Men’s Breakfast Retreat was held at Robertson’s Heating and Supply. Rally Day was well attended on Sept 15th for the new Sunday School Classes. Church started at 9:30am, refreshments at 10:45am and then Sunday School classes started at 11am. The church also collected toilet paper, kleenex, and 30 gallon trash bags to help defray ongoing costs for the year.

**October** - A card shower was planned for Audrey Wood-Clayton for her 97th birthday on October 4th. The Outreach Committee gave out 225 hot dogs in an hour and a half at the Barcus Acres Halloween Trick or Treat. They also gave out water and candy. The Adult Bible Fellowship Sunday School held a reverse “trick-or-treat from the church down the street” and also gave out full size candy bars to the adults along with a gospel message.

**November** – This month we introduced the new Director of Family Ministry, Katie Stiver and her family, husband, Alan and children Brad, Luke & Isabelle to the congregation. We celebrated All Saints’ Day... and remembered the Science Hill Saints and others from the community that we are missing. Pastor Jon’s fall sermon series is the “Ten Commandments of Christ”. November’s mission was the S.A.M. Center (Service Area Military, Veterans and Widows) and we collected items for Thanksgiving. Work is also being done around the church to waterproof the basement. A bake sale spanned from 7am-7pm on Voting day and raised over \$600 for the youth group. Hanging of the Greens was done at the end of the month.

**December** – On the First of December, the previously named overflow room was renamed as “The Upper Room” in honor of Ralph & June Truax. The annual congregational meeting was held and the 2025 Elders and Deacons were voted on. One of Pastor Jon’s messages was “I Heard the Bells on Christmas Day” and attendees were encouraged to bring bells to church. The Tour of Homes was held with numerous members (and one friend of the congregation) opening their homes for an afternoon of delicious treats and holiday spirit. The Youth Group enjoyed lunch, fun activities and a white elephant gift exchange. Science Hill also offered babysitting for last minute shopping or a date night for parents in the community. Children older than 3 through 6th grade were given dinner, played games, watched a movie and made picture frame gifts. And the grand finale of the year, Christmas Eve was celebrated with a candlelight service to praise the birth of Jesus Christ. A church family brunch was served on December 29<sup>th</sup> following worship.

*-Submitted by Tami Theisler, 2024 Historian*

**SCIENCE HILL COMMUNITY CHURCH**

12316 Beeson Street NE

Alliance, OH 44601

*(Address Correction Requested)*

ANNUAL COMMITTEE  
REPORTS FOR 2024  
ENCLOSED



*“Science Hill Community Church exists  
to joyfully share the good news of Jesus Christ  
and lovingly care for others.”*