

SCIENCE HILL COMMUNITY CHURCH

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2026 Annual Congregational Meeting

Sunday, January 25, 2026
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 2025 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: 2025 Consistory President Craig Reay
- 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."
- Financial: Treasurer's Report ending previous year
- Auditor's Report
- Announce new Consistory President and Vice President
- Corporation Business: 2026 Consistory President
(The church's corporation status was last renewed May 2021 and due in 2026 – this year.)
- Unfinished Business
- New Business
- Pastor's Report
- Adjournment
- Benediction

THIS DOCUMENT CONTAINS REPORTS FOR 2025

They are in no particular order.

IN 2025

STAFF

Pastor: Jonathan Truax
 Secretary/Treasurer: Theresa Marks
 Pianist: Nancy Springer
 Family Ministry Director: Katie Stiver
 Custodian: J & D Cleaning / Elizabeth Courtwright

CONSISTORY

2nd Mondays at 7:00pm
 Elder ('25) Craig Reay (term 2) - President
 Elder ('25) Jim Hornyak (term 2) – V. President
 Elder ('26) Derek Swegheimer (term 1)
 Deacon ('26) Jan Raber (term 2)
 Deacon ('25) Richard Berube (term 2)
 Deacon ('25) Ray Courtwright (term 1)
 Deacon ('26) Ben Favazzo (term 1)
 Deacon ('26) Rose Wade (term 1)

BUILDING AND GROUNDS COMMITTEE

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

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION COMMITTEE

3rd Mondays at 7:30pm
 Chairperson: Lynn Penturf
 Katie Stiver
 Jenn Wilks
 Mike Wilks
 Blanche Moore

CHURCH HISTORIAN

Tami Theisler

CHURCH LIFE COMMITTEE

Meetings as needed (with Outreach)
 Chairperson: Holly Swegheimer
 Cindy Casto
 Laura Courtwright
 Lynn Penturf

FINANCE COMMITTEE

Meetings as needed
 Bob Poto
 Marsha Graham
 Debbie Haidet
 Theresa Marks

NURSES

Jan Raber, Lynn Penturf, Lynette Hornyak

OUTREACH COMMITTEE

4th Mondays at 6:30pm (Events, Missions)
 Chairperson: Laura Courtwright
 Cherise Kennel
 Ben Favazzo
 Tami Theisler
 Craig Reay
 Rose Wade

PASTOR/PARISH RELATIONS COMMITTEE

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

TECHNOLOGY

Cherise Kennel, Pastor Jon, Katie Stiver,
 Theresa Marks

TRUST FUND COMMITTEE

Quarterly meetings as needed
 ('25) Tami Theisler
 ('26) Debbie Haidet
 ('27) Lori Reay
 ('28) Debbie Truax

WORSHIP COMMITTEE

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

WOW (Women of Worth)

Lori Reay, leader

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

2025 REVIEW BY PASTOR JONATHAN TRUAX

As the pastor of Science Hill, I understand my calling as leading the congregation to live out its mission statement: **“Science Hill Community Church exists to joyfully share the good news of Jesus Christ and lovingly care for others.”** How did we do on moving into our mission in 2025?

Our church joyfully shared the good news of Jesus Christ in many creative ways this year. Among several other activities, the Outreach Committee held an Escape Room to interest the youth of our community in faith, hope, and love. Through worship services on Sunday mornings, Christmas Eve, and on the Sunday evenings of Lent in the community, God was glorified and Jesus Christ was praised. We maintained a presence on the internet through our livestreams, Facebook page, and website where we regularly witness to our faith. Our Sunday School and Community Connection opportunities were offered to increase spiritual growth and discipleship among our members. We held membership classes and saw several young people confirm their faith in Jesus Christ.

Our loving care for others was expressed in our diligent efforts to be the hands and feet of Jesus. Whether it was the start of a new era of helping to serve the Tuesday evening meals sponsored by the Alliance of Churches at Christ UMC or our own Church Life Committee sharing hospitality and the ministry of funeral meals for bereaved families, Science Hill sent a strong message that people are loved here. We continued a weekly ministry partnership with Grace Community Church of providing blessing bags of grocery items to Lexington Elementary schoolchildren. Our Family Ministry Director, Katie Stiver, ministered among the children, youth, and moms of our church and community with regular events and meetings. We raised funds to help our monthly missions, including those affected by SNAP delays in November and a homeless couple known to our church.

Personally, I also received the good news of Jesus Christ and loving care through the church this year. A focal point for our family was the birth of our grandson David on August 2. Born with a serious heart condition, our family was ministered to in faith, hope, and love throughout the year. Here at the end of 2025, David is doing well after two open-heart surgeries, and, as a seasoned pastor, I have experienced something anew about the grace of our Lord and the compassion of His Church.

Since 1833, our church has maintained a ministry of light and love to our community, and we are committed to continuing our faithful obedience to our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ into 2026. Each year may present its unique opportunities and challenges, but we are confident that the Lord will be with us to the end of the age. To God be the glory!

-Submitted by Pastor Jon

PASTOR-PARISH RELATIONS COMMITTEE

This committee met on a quarterly basis. It is a closed meeting that can sometimes deal with sensitive issues. We communicate with the Pastor about comments and/or concerns that we hear from the congregation.

The committee's task is to handle these comments/concerns before they become an issue. 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 2025

Enrollment for January 1, 2025: 169

New Members: Angela Cole by transfer, Bailey Courtwright as Confirmand

Deaths: Beverly Karlen, Gisela Fagan, Sandy Immel, Pat Summers, Wade Unkefer

Withdrawals / Removals: 18

Enrollment for December 31, 2025: 153

Baptisms: Bailey Courtwright

Confirmed: 3, Bailey Courtwright, Brad Stiver, Luke Stiver

Attendance: Science Hill offered in-person Sunday worship at 9:30am as well as live-stream worship weekly. The average Sunday in-person attendance was 52 and live-stream was 15.

Each Sunday Prayer Time begins at 9:00am, Worship 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 26, 2025.

* The Congregational meeting held on Sunday, November 23, 2025 was to vote on church officers for next year and the proposed 2026 church budget.

Mailings: There were 270 newsletters mailed throughout the year for a monthly average of 21.

-Submitted by Theresa Marks, Secretary/Treasurer

WORSHIP COMMITTEE

The Worship Committee met 6 times in 2025 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 projects throughout the year.

Here are some topics discussed in 2025:

Two-minute testimonials, technology and livestream concerns (people and equipment), needs for Easter services, using flowering cross again, Lenten services – Alliance of Churches, new Easter backdrop in altar area, introducing new hymns, using congregational members during service (worship leader and liturgist), Reformation Sunday with hymns and history, worship videos, stars for memorial tree, “Christmas in the Air” as Advent series.

Committee members are: Charlene Boyce-secretary, Gary Casto, Marsha Graham-chair, Connie Poto, Jan Raber, Nancy Springer, Debbie Truax, Pastor Jon Truax.

-Respectfully submitted by Marsha Graham

ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

Sunday, January 26, 2025

Begin: 11:28am after Worship and a new member reception. End: 11:45am

Members Present: 33

Invocation: Pastor Jon Truax

2024 Consistory President Gary Casto opened the meeting with a welcome and thank you to all who stayed for the meeting. The Science Hill Statement of Faith was read by everyone.

Previous Minutes: Annual Meeting held Sunday, January 28, 2024. There were no questions or comments and the minutes stand as written. Motions by Richard Berube and Derek Swegheimer were approved.

The Treasurer's Financial Report ending December 2024 had no questions or discussions. Motions by Rose Wade and Marsha Graham were approved.

Audit Report: Volunteer Craig Reay audited the church 2024 books and found them to be in proper order. He was not in attendance but provided a signed statement.

Gary announced the 2025 Consistory President as Craig Reay and Vice President as Jim Hornyak. Jim will take over the meeting in Craig's absence today. Gary thanked everyone for all of their help and cooperation over the last several years that he was President and said it was a pleasure to serve our church and congregation.

At this time the meeting was opened in the Name of the Corporation for any legal or professional business. The church's non-profit renewal of the corporation will take place in 2026. After hearing of no further discussions, this portion of the meeting was closed with motions by Gary Casto and Derek Swegheimer. Motions carried.

Unfinished Business: None

New Business: None

Pastor's Report: 1.) Pastor Jon had handed out a brief survey to everyone concerning hymns/praise songs for worship; Science Hill's strengths; Science Hill's weaknesses; any communication to Pastor and Consistory. 2.) He asked if our church did not exist, would we be missed and have we made a difference? He went on to give many supporting facts and missions of our church on a daily, weekly, monthly and yearly basis. We support 12 monthly missions; partner with area churches on projects, events and services; continue Community Connection nourishing all ages through fellowship and studies; provide outreach events for our congregation and community; share our worship in live-stream and website information for all; continue with our active prayer chains; enjoy women's and men's ministries; provide physical and spiritual support in times of praise and sorrow. Our mission "To joyfully share the good news of Jesus Christ and lovingly care for others" is truly God-ordained and empowered, but we need continued support of all of our members to truly be as effective in the world as we can be.

Marsha Graham, representing the Worship Committee and congregation presented Pastor Jon with a black stole embroidered with Good Friday symbols.

The meeting adjourned with motions by Marsha Graham and Jenn Wilks.

The Benediction was given by Pastor Jon.

Vice President: Jim Hornyak

Secretary/Treasurer: Theresa Marks

CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

Sunday, November 23, 2025

Present: Approximately 30 members of Science Hill Community Church

The meeting was called to order by Consistory Vice-President Jim Hornyak at 10:55am.

Pastor Jonathan Truax offered prayer.

Purpose of the meeting: To vote on the proposed 2026 church budget as presented; and to vote on candidates for office.

Those wanting an extra budget to review were passed out by Marsha Graham and Sue Thomas, and also ballots to each member present.

Jim asked if there were any questions or comments regarding the proposed budget. There were none.

He explained the ballot with candidates and opened the nominations from the floor. There were none.

Nominations were closed.

Voting to affirm these candidates, as presented by Consistory, on the proposed ballot:

For Elder – Gary Casto and Mark Haidet; For Deacon – Ray Courtwright and Jeff Hahn; NO Jr. Deacon;

and for Trust Fund - Jenny Digiantonio.

Ballots were collected. Counters were Marsha Graham, Sue Thomas and Bob Poto.

Pastor Jon's remarks:

-We are the hands and feet of Jesus in the community as we share the gospel and provide special events for all to come and enjoy.

-We are helping The Alliance of Churches serve a meal at Christ United Methodist Church on Tuesdays December 9th and January 13th to those in need.

-The new Children's Ministry Fund began with proceeds from the voting day bake sale of over \$800. This will be used for special children's events throughout the year. Our Youth Fund account is OK for now.

-The church's finances at this time reflects a deficit of about \$6,000, which is 4 1/2% below what we need.

Thank you to everyone who have been faithful in their stewardship. Our General Fund could use special gift donations at this time.

-We are beginning the Advent and Christmas season next week with "Christmas Is In the Air," focusing on the star.

-Read-Through-the-Bible-In-A-Year brochures are now available to read on your own.

-Christian Education Committee has a survey today regarding Community Connection.

-The Annual Congregational Meeting was announced as Sunday, January 25, 2026 following worship.

The ballots were counted and announced that all candidates were affirmed and the budget passed.

The meeting closed at 11:10am.

Jim Hornyak, 2025 Consistory Vice-President

Theresa Marks, Secretary/Treasurer

OUTREACH COMMITTEE

- Members for 2025: Laura Courtwright (Committee Chairperson), Cherise Kennell, Ben Favazzo, Ray Courtwright (Consistory rep), Jon Truax (Pastor)
- Outreach Committee combined with Church Life Committee (Holly Swegheimer, Cindy Casto, Lynn Penturf)
- Members for 2026: Laura Courtwright (Committee Chairperson), Cherise Kennell, Ben Favazzo Pastor Jon and Consistory Rep. (combined with Church Life- Holly Swegheimer and Cindy Casto).
- We are looking to add an additional member or two please.

Missions for 2025 were:

January: Men's Ministry "Toolbox" \$440 (\$50/month) + donation \$160, \$600
February: Alliance Community Pantry \$670
March: NAMI \$417
April: Hammer & Nails Home Ministry \$320
May: Alliance Pregnancy Center \$1968.55
June: Challenge Ministries \$549
July: Marlin and Minnie Foundation \$505
August: Mission Marlinton \$621 (\$221 remains)
September: Mount Union Cru \$491
October: Clothed in Righteousness \$646
November: Special Ministry-Congregational Needs (from Gov shutdown/Gov benefits \$578 (\$498 remains)
December: Sam Center and Legacy of Honor \$442
Total given for missions \$7807.55

NOTE: The church budget also gives \$100 monthly to these missions)

Missions for 2026 are:

January: Alliance Community Pantry/ Alliance of Churches (2025 make-up)	July: Marlin and Minnie Snyder Foundation
February: Men's Ministry "Toolbox"	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 (2026)

Events sponsored by Outreach in 2025:

- Feb – Wild Game "Deer Slayers" Night
- April – Pizza Palooza Game Night
- May- - Partnered with Grace Church -Matt Baird Concert
- June – Community Night with food & garage sale
- August: Carnation Parade (New Float)
- Oct – Barcus Acres Halloween & Road to Damascus in Sugarcreek
- Nov- Escape Room
- Dec: Cookie Walk and Delivered poinsettias and cookies to Shut-Ins, Alliance of Churches Dinner Serving
- Made and handed out Welcome Bags (gave approx. 24 away)
- Our budget and non-budget monies were spent on \$300 Concert with Grace Church; \$444 Community Night; \$210.56 Pancake Breakfast; \$405 Carnation Parade/Float; \$133.82 Halloween; \$116.43 on Welcome Bags
- We brought in: \$118 Wild Game Night; \$604 Rummage Sale; \$477 Cookie Walk
- Laura was nominated unanimously to be committee chairperson again, Holly secretary, Cindy Missions.
- Our budget will begin with \$300 and our Outreach non-budget will begin with \$2362.68.

Suggestions: Most events were well attended. Wild Game Night brought many people back again. Well received. Barcus Acres needs more supplies (or a change). Escape Room brought non-congregation teen members. Community Night -not well attended.

Our tentative agenda for 2026: *(includes partnerships with other committees)*

Jan- March: Game Night, Serve Dinner Outreach, Book Club Discussion, Lunch & Learn, Church Member and Pastor Jon Video Series

April – June: Book Club Discussion, Serve Dinner Outreach, Lunch & Learn, Homecoming, Prayer Walk, True Beauty Fashion Show and Silent Auction

July – Sept: Book Club Discussion, Serve Dinner Outreach, Lunch & Learn, Church Picnic, Carnation Parade

Oct – Dec: Christmas in the Park, Heart of Christmas Dinner & Ornament Exchange, Lunch & Learn, Elijah at Sugarcreek, Cookie Walk, Marlboro Christmas, Barcus Acres Halloween/Halloween Outreach

*Community Connection New Member Basket/Gift Card

-Submitted by Laura Courtwright

CHURCH LIFE COMMITTEE / HOSPITALITY

Committee chairperson: Holly Swegheimer, and members Lynn Penturf, Cindy Casto, Laura Courtwright.

This year, we began partnering with the Outreach committee to do some of the fun activities. We helped with the Wild Game Night and the Road to Damascus: Amish Country trip.

We had a Palm Sunday and a Christmas Brunch that were well attended. We had a graduation reception for Priscilla Swegheimer, Becky Hornyak, Liz McDonald, and Mya Harsh. We also provided refreshments for the National Day of Prayer event. Our church picnic this year took place on August 24th, and we enjoyed a wonderful meal and fellowship time. We had a reception for our confirmands Bailey Courtwright, Luke Stiver, and Brad Stiver on December 21st.

I also want to thank everyone for their support and assistance with the family life ministries events over the last year. Our committee appreciates the willingness of our church body to help with food, time, and fellowship. We are looking forward to 2026.

-Submitted by Holly Swegheimer

HOUSEKEEPING COMMITTEE

We are very active here at Science Hill, our building is used for a lot of different activities and keeping the church free from unnecessary items is a continuous job. Housekeeping works at keeping the refrigerator and cupboards free from outdated foods and keeping the counters clean so it will be ready for whatever group needs to use the kitchen. Rose Wade found a nice cart that slides under the opening by the sink for purses or personal items to keep them off the counter and out of the way while ladies are busy in the kitchen. A shelf was made and installed to keep the fan high and off the counter for better circulation. A set of new cutting boards was donated to aid in food prep.

Housekeeping attends the Building and Grounds meeting and helps on work days. Housekeeping helps make decisions on items being donated to the church to make sure they're a good fit. Through Housekeeping, Ray Boyce made a shelf for pianist Nancy's books which keeps her organized behind the grand piano. A small stand was placed between the altar chairs for hymnals and Bibles to assist the pastor and liturgist. Another shelf was made to set the small microwave on in the Science Hill Room kitchenette to help with counter congestion on busy Sunday mornings. This committee also takes care of the Christmas decorations, and with much help from many, decorates and un-decorates the church for Christmas. Again, a special thank you to Cindy Casto for her wonderful touch decorating the tables in the Science Hill room throughout the year. Always fun to see what she comes up with!!

-Submitted by Charlene Boyce, chairperson

BUILDING AND GROUNDS COMMITTEE

THIS PAST YEAR HAS BEEN A PRODUCTIVE AND ALSO EXPENSIVE YEAR FOR THE BUILDING AND GROUNDS COMMITTEE.

JANUARY: CARPET WAS PUT DOWN IN FELLOWSHIP HALL AS A TEMPORARY FIX FOR THE CONTINUING FLOORING ISSUE.

FEBRUARY: THE FURNACE FOR THE NORTH SANCTUARY WAS REPLACED ON FEB. 17 DUE TO AN ISSUE WITH THE HEAT EXCHANGER WHICH CAUSED A GAS CARBON MONOXIDE LEAK. HERB OYSTER GRACIOUSLY PAID FOR THIS EXPENSE TO HONOR THE MEMORY OF HIS WIFE JOAN AND SISTER BEV KARLEN.

MARCH: THE LARGE POPCORN MACHINE & PUPPETS WERE SOLD AS THEY WERE NO LONGER BEING USED. THAT CABINET FOR THE POPCORN MACHINE WAS RETURNED TO THE HOOVER FAMILY. A SHELF UNIT WAS PLACED IN KITCHEN FOR LADIES PURSES WHILE WORKING IN KITCHEN.

APRIL: A ROOF LEAK IN THE SANCTUARY AND PRAYER ROOM WERE DETECTED. PROCON CAME OUT AND SPENT OVER AN HOUR ON THE ROOF AND CHECKING BELL TOWER. SEVERAL AREAS INCLUDING VENTS WERE RECAULKED AT NO CHARGE. IT WAS DETERMINED THAT THE ROOF WILL NEED TO BE REPLACED IN APPROX. 5-6 YEARS. WE SECURED A PROJECTED ESTIMATE SO WE CAN PLAN ACCORDINGLY.

MAY: WE HELD A WORK DAY AND PUT 10 TON OF ROCK IN FLOWER BEDS ON THE WEST SIDE OF THE CHURCH AND SOUTH SIDE OF THE SCIENCE HILL ROOM. MULTIPLE SHELVING UNITS AND CLEAR STORAGE BINS WERE PURCHASED FOR REORGANIZATION OF THE CRAFT ROOM, TUNNEL AND JANITORS ROOM.

JUNE: A NEW BASKETBALL HOOP AND BACKBOARD WERE DONATED AND INSTALLED. ADDITIONAL CO-2 DETECTORS WERE PURCHASED AND INSTALLED IN THE CHURCH FURNACE AREAS. THE KITCHEN CEILING FIXTURE, WASHER AND DEHUMIDIFIER AT THE PARSONAGE WERE REPLACED.

JULY: DUE TO THE EXTREME TEMPERATURES THE CAPACITOR IN THE AIR CONDITIONER THAT SERVES THE NORTHERN SANCTUARY FAILED AND HAD TO BE REPLACED. THE PARSONAGE AIR CONDITIONER ALSO REQUIRED REPAIR.

AUGUST: 6 ADDITIONAL SMOKE DETECTORS WERE PURCHASED AND INSTALLED IN AREAS RECOMMENDED BY JIM HORNYAK. THANKS TO JIM FOR INSTALLING THESE.

SEPTEMBER: JANITORS ROOM WAS CLEARED OF TOOLS AND DESIGNATED STRICTLY FOR JANITORIAL SUPPLIES WITH ADDITIONAL SHELF SPACE ADDED TO STORE PAPER PRODUCTS. TOOLS WERE MOVED TO THE TUNNEL TO A SHELVING UNIT SET UP FOR THAT PURPOSE.

OCTOBER: A FALL WORKDAY WAS HELD. S & K ASPHALT RESEALED AND RESTRIPE THE PARKING LOT. D & S SOUND AND SECURITY INSTALLED OUR CAMERA AND SECURITY SYSTEM.

NOVEMBER: RAILING ON THE FRONT PORCH AT THE PARSONAGE WAS REPLACED WITH ALUMINUM RAILING.

DECEMBER: SANTA VISITS TO RAISE FUNDS FOR FUTURE PROJECTS TOOK PLACE. THE FURNACE THAT SERVES THE SOUTH SANCTUARY REQUIRED REPLACEMENT OF THE BLOWER CAGE AND MOTOR.

-RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED ROSE WADE, BUILDING & GROUNDS CHAIRPERSON

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION COMMITTEE

The Christian Ed Committee consisting of Pastor Jon Truax, Cindy Casto, Katie Stiver, Holly Swegheimer, Mike & Jenn Wilks, and Lynn Penturf met nine times in 2025.

The nursery for infants through age 3 years of age was available during church services, but rarely utilized.

Junior Church during the church services was available every Sunday year round for all preschool through elementary school age children under the direction of Holly Swegheimer and Katie Stiver.

In an effort to increase Sunday School attendance it was decided by the committee to change the time of the church service and classes. Beginning in September 2024 church services were moved up from 10:10am to 9:30am with a short break of snacks and fellowship in the Science Hill Room before Sunday School classes for all ages began from 11:00 am - 12 noon. Sunday School classes for elementary age children continued using the "Dig In" series material lessons with co-teachers Cindy Casto and Lynn Penturf. The Youth classes for grades 7-12 studied Revelation and the Gospel of James with teachers Alan & Katie Stiver, and Mike Wilks from January-May. All classes took a summer break from June 1st and resumed September 7th. Pastor Jon held confirmation classes with the help of Debbie Truax and Alan Stiver from September until confirmation on December 21st for 3 youth. There were two adult Sunday School classes offered that ran simultaneously. "The Chosen" series was led by Jim Hornyak, and Derek Swegheimer was the leader for the Adult Bible Fellowship Class. All classes saw an increase in number of participants.

Our Family Ministry Director, Katie Stiver, announced her resignation in October but agreed to finish out the year. In November Holly Swegheimer was hired as the Director of Children's Education Ministries to begin in 2026. The year 2025 ended devoid of a Youth Ministry Leader and continues to be an ongoing goal.

Community Connection saw some changes in 2025. Instead of meeting every Wednesday during the school year for a meal and Bible Study Classes, we decided to trial meeting beginning in the fall the 1st and 3rd Tuesday of the month. Pastor Jon led the adult bible study in the Gospel of John; Katie did a mom's bible study the first half of the year, and led the youth the remainder of the year; Holly led children up through the end of elementary school age with the assistance of volunteers.

The committee decided that the children and youth classrooms needed security cameras installed for safety and liability reasons. The motion went to the Consistory for approval, and cameras were installed in October both inside and outside of the church.

THE SCIENCE HILL LIBRARY:

The barcode method of organizing the Science Hill Library became an overwhelming task. The committee decided to largely downsize its books and shelve them in categories for easy browsing ie. bible references, devotionals, nonfiction, self-help, teaching resources, etc. Marsha Graham and Lynn Penturf are setting out books for the taking and donating the rest to the Rodman Public Library. Books can be signed out per the honor system.

-Submitted by Lynn Penturf, chairperson of Christian Education

FINANCE COMMITTEE

The Finance Committee included Bob Poto chairperson, Marsha Graham and Debbie Haidet as financial secretaries, Theresa Marks as secretary/treasurer, Craig Reay 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

FAMILY MINISTRY DIRECTOR

Youth Ministry

January: We started up Community Connection on Tuesday evenings. Derek Swegheimer agreed to teach the youth class. They had 4 participants.

February: 4 youth and 2 siblings went Glow Tubing at FunTimes Fun Park.

March: Extreme game night was held on Saturday, March 22. We had eight boys show up, ranging from grades 6 to 8. They divided themselves into two teams to compete against each other. They played games like candy heart charades, Head-to-Head Pictionary, Brain Freeze, and team hide and seek. Two of the haters were so good that it took over 45 minutes to find them. All participants tell me they had an awesome time.

April: n/a

May: There was an election-day bake sale on May 6 to benefit the Youth Ministry.

June: A Nerf War took place on June 19. The event hosted 11 boys ages 8 through 14 and was moved inside due to an approaching storm.

July: Another Nerf War took place in July, which brought 24 kids to Science Hill. Only about 18 of them participated in the Nerf games, but everyone there had a great time, whether they fired Nerf guns or played with other things.

August: On August 6, 4 youth attended Fun Times Fun Park to drive go-karts, ride the coaster, and play in the arcade.

September: Sunday School resumed with the youth participating in a Confirmation class.

October, November: n/a

December: Three youth were Confirmed on Sunday, December 21 – Brad Stiver, Luke Stiver, and Bailey Courtwright. Bailey was also baptized.

Children's Ministry

January: Community Connection began on Tuesday evenings with 4 child participants. A Bible Study for moms was offered on Tuesday evenings and on the 1st and 3rd Friday mornings with childcare provided. Three moms participated in the first month.

February: Friday morning Mom's Bible studies are building momentum with 6 moms and 16 children participating.

March: n/a

April: Our Easter Parent's Night Out had 38 amazing kiddos join us for an evening of dinner, an egg hunt, a lesson on what Easter is about, crafts, and games. Some children cannot participate in other area egg hunts because they can't have dairy, gluten, or artificial dyes. We were able to provide those kids with candy that they can actually eat, which parents have told me was a blessing. We even had one boy ask us for a Bible. All participants were given information about Science Hill's service times and programs. Many of the kids were repeat attenders from other recent programs, which means we are doing something right.

May: n/a

June: June 1 was the last day of Sunday School before a break for the summer. There was an ice cream social during the Sunday School hour on June 8th.

July, August: n/a

September: Sunday, September 21 was "Back to Church Sunday," when Sunday School resumed from its summer hiatus. Tuesday evening Community Connection resumed on Tuesday, September 23, meeting on just the 1st and 3rd Tuesdays. The Mom's Bible studies resumed on the 1st and 3rd Fridays, with 3 participants.

October, November, December: n/a

-Submitted by Katie Stiver, Family Ministry Director

HISTORIAN'S REPORT FOR 2025

Births | David Everett Campbell born to Bethany (Truax) and Jimmy Campbell

Deaths | Beverly Karlen, Gisela Fagan, Sandy Immel, Pat Summers, Wade Unkefer

New Members | Angela (Willett) Cole, Bailey Courtwright (Confirmand)

Baptism | Bailey Courtwright

Confirmation Class | Brad Stiver, Luke Stiver, Bailey Courtwright

January – Pastor Jon started a new feature during Sunday Service: 2-minute testimonies. The Caregiver's Support Group continued to meet and a New Member's Class began. Blessing Bags continued to be prepared for Lexington Elementary students. The new Deacons & Elders were commissioned for 2025, and the Youth enjoyed an event at the Lake YMCA. Community Connection started back up on a new night and included a Study of the Gospel of John and a Mom's Bible Study. Science Hill also welcomed new member, Angela (Willett) Cole, to the congregation.

February - February started out with the WOW "Mysterious Bingo" and Brunch event. Due to a furnace/gas issue, Community Connection was cancelled one evening and there was an impromptu Hymn-Sing one Sunday to replace the normal service. The youth attended a "Youth Glo-Tubing" outing and the church held a "Wild Game Dinner". Several of the original Deerslayers attended and reminisced. Their hunts and dinners took place from 1975-1995. The congregation was also overjoyed to hear that Bethany (Truax) and Jimmy Campbell were expecting a baby and saddened at the passing of longtime member, Bev Karlen. Bev had many roles at the church including Chorister, Elder and she was honored for her 35 years of card ministry within the church.

March – Pastor Jon's Lenten series was titled "CROSS-EXAMINATION: The Seven Last Words from the Cross". The church was saddened by the passing of member, Gisela Fagan. Kay Liston Raga spoke about the work of NAMI, one of our monthly missions and the First Community Lenten service was held at Grace Community Church. The youth held an "Extreme" Game Night at Science Hill where they played high energy games and challenges.

April – Pastor Jon started one of the services with a message from the multiverse. Comical and fun for the congregation... with a great point and a cameo from Pastor Josh Smith & his son, Lincoln. His message was "Jesus in Disguise". Member of the church and mother to Debbie, Pastor Jon's wife, Sandy Immel passed on to eternal life and the congregation mourned the loss.

May – A National Day of Prayer gathering was held at Science Hill Community Church followed by refreshments and fellowship. The youth held an election day bake sale and the annual Spring Clean Up Day took place to get the church ready for the new season. On Mother's Day the Alliance Pregnancy Center started with Baby Bottles available for change donations and this year's challenge is men vs. woman. The 2025 graduates were recognized: Priscilla Swegheimer, Becky Hornyak, Mia Harsh & Liz McDonald. Science Hill in conjunction with Grace Community Church and the Alliance Christian Center, sponsored "An Evening with Matt Baird" acoustic concert set. Matt is the lead singer of the band Spoken.

June – Pentecost Sunday service was planned for outdoors and everyone was encouraged to wear RED to symbolize the presence of the Holy Spirit. Due to the weather, services were moved indoors. After worship there was ice cream and cake to celebrate the birthday of the Christian Church and the end of the Sunday School year. A Men's Fellowship Picnic was held at Aldersgate Church for all men and boys, free of charge. The featured speaker was Freddie Rodriguez. Baby bottles for Alliance Pregnancy Center were returned on Father's Day and the children and youth held a nerf war event. A card baby shower was held by the congregation for Bethany & Jimmy Campbell. "Slide into Summer" festivities were held at the church and featured kids' inflatables, bingo, hot dogs and a movie under the stars. The church also had a rummage sale.

July – Science Hill was saddened by the loss of long-time member, Pat Summers. Outdoor worship was enjoyed as Pastor Jon continued to preach his series on “The Lord’s Prayer” and another nerf war event was held for children and youth. Sabrina Thomas’ article was announced, and it was noted that she was available for autographs after the service).

August - The church was elated at the birth of David Everett Campbell to parents Bethany (Truax) and Jimmy Campbell. David is the grandson of Pastor Jon & Debbie Truax. The youth in grades 6-12 held an event at FunTimes Park and Science Hill had a float in the Carnation Day Parade. Forty Bibles were purchased and donated to Lexington through last year’s Sunday School group and there was wonderful weather for a church picnic planned after worship. Holly Swegheimer and her crew did a good job organizing and grilling. Outdoor service was a bit chilly, but it was a beautiful, sun-shining morning. Pastor Jon’s grandson, David, raised praises as he was able to come home with Bethany and Jimmy. Katie Stiver did a Children’s Sermon on Shepherding Sheep with visuals of the sheep and predators. The Mom’s Bible Study continued to meet on the 1st and 3rd Fridays of the month.

September – Music at the Caboose was held in Alliance by the Alliance of Churches with free food & free fun! In Worship, guest speaker Lisa Wyss from Mount CRU spoke about their group at Mount Union for our September Special Mission. Rally Day for Sunday School included an “Open Forum” during worship and Community Connection started back up.

October - Fall Work Day was held to get the church building and grounds ready for winter. There was a Music Sunday where the congregation looked at the great songs of the Reformation and held a Hymn Sing. Marsha Graham was liturgist and blessed those attending by singing a solo. Candy was collected for the Halloween Outreach at Barcus Acres and on October 31st Science Hill members passed out 240 hot dogs, water and candy at Barcus Acres Park.

November - A caravan of members and friends went to Sugarcreek to eat at the Dutch Valley Buffet and see “The Road to Damascus” Musical. The congregation remembered many lives we have been touched by, including the members we lost this year during our All Saints’ Sunday worship. An Election Day Bake Sale was held and the church also put on an “Escape Church” function for youth and adults that was well attended. Donations for Harvest of Blessings were accepted and voting for the proposed 2026 church budget and officers took place. At the end of the month, “Hanging of the Greens” was held, and the church was decorated and pizza was provided. Jenny and Autumn Digiantonio lit the first candle of Advent.

December – Throughout the month, Santa and Mrs. Claus, (Craig & Lori Reay) had a fundraiser that offered visits from Jolly Old Saint Nicholas, spreading cheer to young and old. Many donated cookies for the Cookie Walk that benefited the church’s Outreach Committee. Science Hill served the Community Meal at Christ United Methodist Church and the church brought Christmas cheer to our church shut-ins with a Christmas visit. Alan Stiver shared special music on the bagpipes, and our offering was placed in the manger during the worship service as past Holy Family pictures were shown on the big screen... including the Campbell family, with precious baby David. A joyous moment for 3 young men was observed as the following were confirmed: Bailey Courtwright, Brad Stiver and Luke Stiver. Bailey was also baptized and became a member of Science Hill Community Church. The congregation was saddened by the sudden passing of Wade Unkefer, lifelong member of Science Hill. The traditional Candlelight Service and Christmas Brunch closed out 2025.

-Submitted by Tami Theisler, 2025 Historian

SCIENCE HILL COMMUNITY CHURCH

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(Address Correction Requested)

ANNUAL COMMITTEE
REPORTS FOR 2025
ENCLOSED



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