



# WINDSOR PRESBYTERIAN

Year 2023 Review  
Annual Meeting  
January 28, 2024



# Pastor's Introduction by Shamaine Chambers King



**Dear WPC Flock,**

Wow! What a treasure you hold in your hands! I admit to having a love-hate relationship with the Annual Report. I revel in going through bulletins, calendars, graphics, minutes, lesson plans, newsletters and the like to remember the many ways we have been able to worship, serve, learn, pray, and be in fellowship over the past year. At the same time, it's a chore to encapsulate the story of a year in the life of our congregation. But this report does it! It tells our story, capturing us in beautiful words and in pictures!

## **A Story to Tell of God's Blessings**

In the enormous vacuum left by Ann McGowan's retirement, Natalie Steenson volunteered to create the Annual Report and asked if she could add more visuals to enhance the written pieces. Though I don't think she had any idea how difficult gathering and assembling the items would be, she was able to take our reports, and with her signature style, turn them into a beautiful offering. I'm so grateful and just love the result. It is truly a labor of love—of God and this congregation. As you read through these pages, the reports and reflections, you will see familiar faces smiling up from the pages. I hope you will remember with joy the blessings of this year. God has shown up again and again at WPC!

Happy Reading!  
Pastor Shamaine

THE SPIRIT IS AT WORK AT WPC AND WE ARE KEEPING THE SAILS AT THE READY TO CATCH THE WIND AND SEE WHERE GOD TAKES US! I GET GIDDY IMAGINING WHAT THE NEXT YEAR AND THE NEXT CENTURY WILL HOLD FOR THIS WONDERFUL AND FAITHFUL GROUP OF JESUS FOLLOWERS.





## 100 Years of Ministry Celebrated

We spent much of this last year remembering God's faithfulness through the congregations's first century of ministry. For the Centennial, we celebrated our past even as we embraced the many ways God is currently moving, and sometimes pushing, our congregation into the future. As I look back over 2023, I can't believe all we have done! We do not act like a small congregation. So many of you have pitched in to make worship, special events, fellowship, outreach, and service happen in miraculous ways. The big and small ways you show up for each other and for the community is what makes being your pastor such great fun!

## God's Faithfulness in our the Care of our Building

We kicked off the year needing to do roof repair and various other things to care for our church building, and needing to pay for those repairs. Facility maintenance and fundraising, now that's why I went to seminary! (I kid.) These are my least favorite parts of ministry, but it was such a gift to see how our little congregation showed up, everyone chipping in to raise the needed amount in a matter of a couple of weeks. In addition to completely new roofs, new doors, painting, plumbing, HVAC, electrical issues, and regular upkeep of this wonderful (old) building, we were also in the midst of selling the properties across University. What a year!

## Sharing the Love of Jesus to All

Budgets and buildings do not warm my heart, but they do allow ministry to happen, and that warms my heart. I'm looking forward to a new budget item called **Worship Lab**. See page 27 to learn more.

I really enjoy being your pastor. I love the meetings, the learning, the wonders of fellowship, the laughter in the hallways, the hugs in the sanctuary, the laying on of hands in the kitchen, the food going out the door, the holy moments, the generosity of spirit, and the many ways I see you all embodying the love of Jesus to each other and to the world.

Continued on p. 31





# Community Life in Photos



SHARE THE FLAVOR OF LIFE, OH PEOPLE.  
LIFE IN THE KINGDOM OF GOD.

BRING FORTH THE KINGDOM OF GOD

BY MARTY HAUGEN





OUR CHURCH  
WELCOMES ALL TO  
GOD'S COMMUNION

## WELCOME TO THE WORSHIP OF GOD AT WINDSOR PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH!

We often begin our sanctuary time with these words, and the open arms are genuinely intended for everyone everywhere. Our church welcomes all to God's Communion and to share church life with us. Over the years we have seen a difficult loss of some churches which needed to close. When their members have come to be with us we have been enriched by the experience and suggestions they have brought with them. We are grateful to God that these churches thrived for a time and provided sacred space and solace to their families of God. When we gather now, we are not a church alone. The richness and resonance of these other churches have a beautiful living home in us now. Thanks be to God!

### Our Worship Centers Us

2023 was a year of highs and lows. We jubilantly celebrated 100 years of congregational life, and cried with those in mourning. Through the ebb and flow of the tides life delivers, the church and worship are a constant mooring place.

Our music team, led by Natalie Steenson, brought us special music in addition to choir participation and new songs. We have gotten positive feedback on learning short songs that come to mind during the week. I sing "*O Lord Hear My Prayer*" to center myself when I'm anxious and to come into sacred space to ask for healing for others. I adore "*While We Are Waiting, Come*" also. Give us feedback on some of your favorites. Many people love "*May our Homes be filled with Dancing.*" Incorporating short, musical moments into your day is another way to offer praise. Special thanks to Cindy Ray and David Steenson for helping lead our hymns, and to Jim Behrens for his organ skills. We are so grateful for all of you.

### Teaching, Communion, Baptisms, and Worship with Others

Thank you, Pastor Shamaine Chambers King, for your inspired and clear teaching and preaching. For some years, we have been using a lectionary schedule to guide our content, and it seems to have been well received also. Over the course of four years we cover the whole, or most of, the Bible. New improvements for the sound system and zoom have been brewing and will come to fruition in the coming months. The schedule for Communion seemed to work well, and that will be carried through this year, with the addition of Easter Communion. We try to have the services come in at one hour and communion takes some time, so maybe expect a few minutes more on those days.

We joined with Windsor Methodist to observe Lent and Advent and want to do more of that.

It was a huge joy to host the Hirschberger baptism, and a tearful time to send JoAnn and Erich's little family to their next chapter. So much love was in that room!







### Centennial Celebration

This was our blessed Centennial Year, and we were delighted to entertain members from the past, and their families, as we sought to imagine those early days of our ancestral congregants. We got appreciative comments regarding the laminated cards placed on the back of the pews facing worshippers. Each said "Windsor Honors" and underneath was the name of a past member, now in the life everlasting.

### Ann McGowan Retirement

Our beloved Assistant, Ann McGowan, heard the siren song of retirement and set sail for a bright, deadline-free future. She worked more years than she had intended to, and we are grateful for every day. The service celebrating her was a marvelous farewell, and she even provided some of the music! We are ready for a new blessing to come into our lives now, so do get the word out that we are seeking a secretary.

### Cindy Ray Ordination

In October we changed one status from member to Parish Associate. Our resident rockstar, Cindy Ray, was ordained and is taking on new duties. Pastor Ray worked long and hard to become a minister and we are beyond jubilant and grateful to have her at Windsor.

### Beautiful Worship Events

With **All Saints Sunday** we remembered our loved ones and put away the name tags of those gone before. Truly, a sacred time.

Windsor Methodist hosted the afternoon **Thanksgiving Service** and this time the Heights triumvirate was involved. It's always a pleasure to share time with Windsor Lutheran and Windsor Methodist.

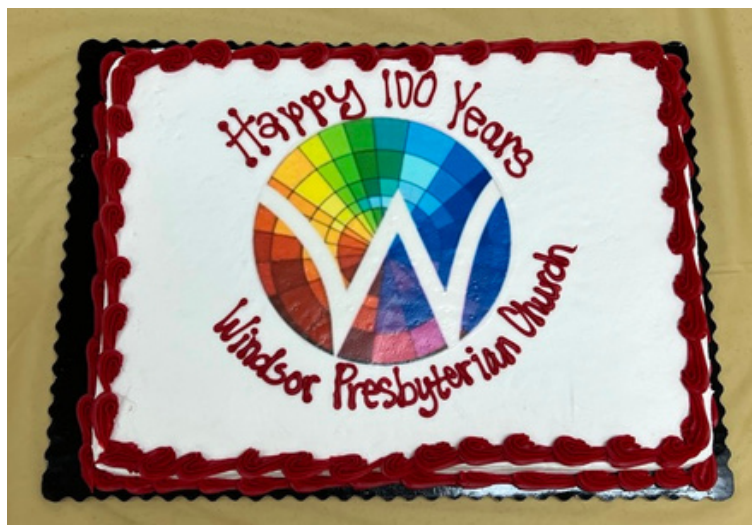
We are always interested to hear from you regarding what you'd like to see and what you enjoyed. Hymn suggestions are important to us! Do you have something you would like to contribute to a service? We are eager to have you involved!

### Giving Thanks for All Who Help

Thank you, Krysta Tomes, for sharing worship chair duties, and to the heartfelt Worship Committee - Sue Cooper and Linda Newsom.

Thank you again to the Worship Team - Shamaine King, Natalie Steenson, Cindy Ray, Jim Behrens.

A very special thank you to the unsung angels who work the plan every Sunday no matter what - Richard Ankeney, John Baker, Shelley Mitchell, and Beth Mogle. I know the equipment doesn't always behave and you come back, anyway.





# Worship and Liturgical Arts by Natalie Steenson

Windsor Presbyterian Church continues to offer new and exciting forms of worship music, from choir, to cello, piano and organ accompaniment, to occasional hand drums and percussion instruments.

## Choir Returns to Regular Rehearsals

Our choir has resumed in person rehearsals this year, and have had a wonderful time reconnecting with each other, and singing for worship monthly and on special occasions. In April 2023 we had the opportunity to sing with Westminster Presbyterian Church for a Lenten Worship Service, and look forward to having more opportunities to partner and collaborate musically with Westminster Presbyterian Church and with Windsor United Methodist Church.



## Visual Changes in the Sanctuary

We made a few changes to our chancel area by moving out choir pews and moving back in the original altar, cross and pulpit chairs that were in East Hall. We are exploring ways to utilize the altar seasonally with liturgical art displays to enhance our visual worship space. We also added 2 new banner poles and stands.

## New This Year During Advent

In Advent we experienced a prepared worship series called: *How Does a Weary World Rejoice?* provided by A Sanctified Art company. We were able to select from a bundle of theological art-infused resources including a devotional, visual artwork, music selections, liturgy, poetry and prepared social media posts. We were awed by these resources and hope to explore more in the future.

## Looking Forward to 2024

We are looking forward to the improved sound system that will help us to envision continued development of our worship and worship space. Some potential ideas are to have additional instruments including drums, guitars, and stringed instruments to help support our worship.





# Personnel by Laura Ward

We are so blessed to have a loyal staff of extremely talented people. With the departure of our dear **Ann McGowan** we are looking for a part-time church secretary. Shamaine Chambers-King and Natalie Steenson have been taking on additional duties in the absence of that support.

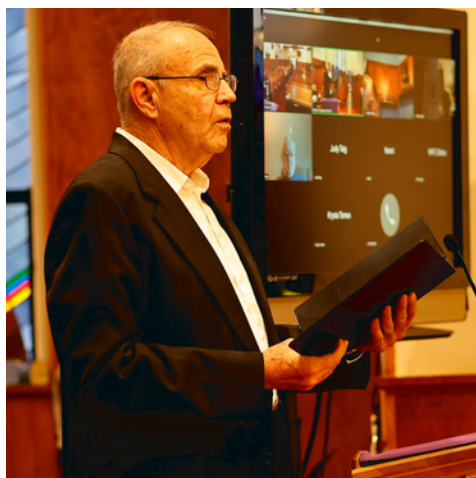
The Communications Shepherd position has been invigorating and amazing for outreach, and for creating a matrix reflective of our mission. I think when the position started, we didn't even know what we should be asking of it, but **Natalie Steenson** does most of her thinking outside the box, and the explosion of creativity has been thrilling to witness.

We have a Parish Associate in **Cindy Ray**, and the way she has shared her path and her faith leading to this time has been inspiring.

We have been lucky to have the same family continue with our custodial needs for many years now. Thank you, **Aldin Plavulj** for all that you do.

**Jim Behrens** has been extremely reliable and committed to our service. Jim, we thank you for the music and the faithful heart you bring to it.

We also send a big thank you and hugs to **Deb Hibbert**. You have been patient beyond measure and kind and accurate and super smart. It's been a joy to have you in worship. Thank you!



**LORD, WE ASK YOU BE MIGHTILY IN OUR PRESENCE, BLESSING OUR STAFF AND CONGREGATION. HEAR OUR PRAYER. AMEN**



# Parish Associate by Cindy Ray

As the year began, I was beginning to look toward the possibility of being ordained. There were a number of obstacles, but in May I came before the Presbytery and answered questions. It was a moment of real joy. They seemed to be so happy for me, too, and it was a long time in coming.

It was a little hard for us to come up with just the right date, but on October 8 the ordination took place. It was a spirit-filled event, a moment of real joy for me. I don't quite know how to describe it.

David Ewing, who used to serve at Dallas Center and who was a mentor for me for several years, came from Wisconsin to preach. The event was an outpouring of love that was healing for me. I sometimes have a sense that I may not be lovable, but the love poured out was wonderful and affirming.



Rev. Nathan Williams loaned me a stole that his father, Lynn, had loaned him at his ordination when the one ordered for him had not arrived. It was an honor to wear it, and it gave me a sense of connection, as Lynn was the chair of the Committee on Preparation for Ministry when I first began my journey. Later Lynn became a mentor for me. He was present at the text study that I led as my Bible exam.

During the year I did a number of pastoral phone calls, and I intend to increase that number in 2024. It is, I think, rewarding for both the person I call and for me. I will visit people when possible, but calls can cheer them, too.

My friend, David Hammel and I began playing and singing at nursing homes last January. He also sings with a barbershop quartet, and when one of its members became a "snowbird", we filled some engagements they had booked and decided to continue with some of our own. We performed 39 shows last year. I had played a fair amount for nursing homes in the past while living in Lawrence and some in Leon, and I just love doing it. This is the first time I have performed music regularly with someone else.

This year I will plan to make more pastoral calls. I really enjoy making them, and I will be more conscientious about them. I love helping with worship, and I look forward to serving in worship in any way I can. My writing must become more disciplined, so it can serve the congregation in some ways. I expect to write more of the worship liturgy and to improve upon it as well as my preaching.

I plan to preach from time to time, and I have booked two preaching engagements with Dallas Center. I think it is important to participate in activities that can promote peace and justice. To this end, I would like to find a way to do more in prison ministry. I really long to serve God in any way I can, and I will be intentional about listening for what God is calling me to do.

I want to thank Windsor for the opportunity to serve God as an ordained pastor. Windsor's belief in me is deeply appreciated, and I will try every day to do more and to serve God wherever I am called.





# Belonging and Christian Education by Angie King

Our Windsor family had many opportunities in 2023 to gather for learning, camaraderie, growing in faith, and just plain FUN! Your Discipleship Team gives a big shout-out to all the folks who participated, shared, discussed, supported, argued, encouraged and laughed together.

## Presbyterian Women Growing in Faith and Service

Presbyterian Women rearranged the calendar and decided to meet March through November instead of September through May. We traded winter months for summer months since getting around in the winter causes problems for many of us. We still meet on the third Saturday of the month from 10:00-11:30 and have between 14-20 women who attend. Everyone is welcome!

Our study this year was called *"Love Carved in Stone."* It was an extraordinary exploration of the Ten Commandments, leading us to look at these sacred words in much deeper and more meaningful ways apart from the usual literal interpretation. For example, do not use the Lord's name in vain certainly doesn't just apply to cursing, which is what most of us would think. It also applies to using the Lord's name for personal or political reasons to pursue a particular agenda. The study's author called this "making mischief". Another example is the Commandment to not commit murder. This doesn't mean just the act of taking another person's life. It also refers to "murdering" someone's spirit, or self-esteem, or dignity. Each of the lessons opened our hearts and minds to a much deeper understanding of these Ten Words. All of the participants unanimously felt that this study was truly exceptional. Just ask them!

In March, we will begin our fourth year with a curriculum entitled *"Sacred Encounters: The Power and Presence of Jesus Christ in Luke and Acts."* Like all the PW lesson books, this one is written BY women, FOR women, which offers us a more personal look at our faith from a woman's perspective.

The generosity of our PW group was abundant last year as we collected \$88 for the Least Coin Offering and \$273 for the Thank Offering. These offerings are used for grants to fund projects nationally and internationally that seek to improve the social, economic, and educational opportunities for girls and women.



OUR PW LESSON WAS A FANTASTIC STUDY OF THE 10 COMMANDMENTS. ANGIE BROUGHT OUT OUR PERSONAL FEELINGS, LAUGHTER AND TEARS. I CAN'T WAIT FOR MARCH FOR OUR MEETINGS START UP AGAIN!

--NANCY SNYDER



## Narrative Lectionary Text Study

Every Tuesday morning various pastors and interested lay people continue to gather together to study the upcoming narrative lectionary text held at Windsor Presbyterian Church's Conference Room or by Zoom. Anyone is welcome to attend these indepth studies.

## Men on a Mission Grow in Faith and Service

Thanks to Bob Culbertson's leadership, the Men on a Mission group took field trips to the DMARC Food Pantry and the Freestore, enjoyed meals together, had some great speakers, went Christmas caroling and studied the story of Joseph, along with other fun and interesting activities. MOM picks up again in April and all Windsor men, and any guests you'd like to bring, are welcome and encouraged to participate.







### Adult Sunday School Explores Wired Word

Adult Sunday School met each Sunday at 9:15 in Ward Hall, using *The Wired Word* for our discussions. Each week, we explored a different topic with appropriate, accompanying Scripture, such as child labor, the death of Rosalyn Carter, archeology, burnout and stress, morality, extreme weather, the Israel/Gaza war, art, music, finding Paradise, and a variety of other fascinating subjects. We look forward to another year of great conversations about current events and how to approach them in a faith-based manner.

### Windsor on Wednesdays Filled with Fellowship and Learning

- WOW started in the Spring with *Soup Supper Lenten study* with our neighbors at Windsor Methodist.
- This was followed by an examination of the *Sermon on the Mount*, using video lessons from Amy-Jill Levine, a Jewish scholar who specializes in the New Testament.
- We finished the spring season with another great production of the *World-Famous Windsor Presbyterian Talent Show*, featuring singing, instrumental renditions, and even a magic show! This is always such a fun evening.
- In the Fall, our theme was *Bumper Sticker Theology*, those trite, often meaningless phrases that people love to toss around.
- During Advent, we teamed up with our Methodist brothers and sisters for *Soup, Songs, and Sermon*.
- Now, in January, we're beginning a five-week study of the *Praying the Psalms in Community*.
- Pastor Shamaine is working with the Windsor Methodist pastor to collaborate on more joint activities.



### A Special Thanks to Our Discipleship Team!

There's a lot going on at Windsor, that's for sure! Huge thanks to **Laura W.** and **Beth M.** for everything they bring to your Discipleship Team. In 2024, make an effort to explore any and all opportunities for belonging to Windsor. We'd LOVE to see you!



# Special Events by Kaitlin Mogle

2023 was such an amazing year for Windsor Presbyterian Church. We concluded our **100-year Celebration** of this beautiful church. Our congregation came together to celebrate our past as well as our future and all of the amazing things that go on in our community. We do so much as a congregation to help build this amazing church and community around us. This year we also got to celebrate our second annual **Trunk-or-Treat**. It was such a cold night, but it was so successful, and I am incredibly proud of how well it turned out. Once again, our congregation and community came together in such a positive way. Being able to welcome 50 families into our church and hosting those families on such a cold night was a huge blessing.

Thank you to our wonderful members who donated and to those who helped make sure that the night went by even better than anticipated.

In 2024 I look forward to hosting our third annual Trunk-or-Treat. With the hopes of our new parking lot, I plan to add more cars with the additional space. I hope for some warmer weather and welcoming even more families into our church!





## A Digital Transformation

Our website, [www.windsorpc.org](http://www.windsorpc.org), has gone through a noticeable transformation in the past year and a half. In collaboration with our communication shepherd, Natalie Steenson, I drafted a Design Style Guide and Windsor Playbook Checklist to add more definition and consistency to Windsor Presbyterian's "brand" –how we communicate and what people feel when they visit in-person or online.

Natalie took these building blocks and ran with them to make Windsor's voice and digital presence come to life. Reorganization of site topics, relevant key words, beautiful imagery with vivid descriptions behind the scenes to make our content easier to find and understand, along with consistent colors and use of our logo are just a few ways our digital platforms work to give voice to the warm presence of being the church together.

Anyone creating projects on behalf of Windsor can make use of the guidelines and best practices found in the new *Design Style Guide and Windsor Playbook Checklist*. We even have easy writing tips if you've got an idea for a church blog! Contact me at [krystanwhite@gmail.com](mailto:krystanwhite@gmail.com) for more information.

## Do you Hear What I Hear?

Sometimes the answer to that is no. Our dated sound system has caused speakers to short out, mics to misfire and Zoom worship to be inconsistent right when we are trying to come together to worship, remember and celebrate. We have a dedicated team of volunteers that work every Sunday to make our worship experience interactive and accessible, however it involves many manual steps and takes several people to run.

That's when new members **Tracy Miksell-Branch** and **Craig Branch** stepped in and introduced us to Brian Dobson, a sound engineer with a fantastic range of audio experience across the metro and with many well know venues. He agreed to consult with Windsor on the audio presentation needs unique to our space and vision, as well as help us with the installation. What a blessing!

A few of us met with Brian earlier this year to walk through our Sanctuary and current set up. Afterwards we pulled a Technology Committee together to discuss initial scope and his recommended equipment list.

- "Phase 1" sound system needs will include expanded options for wireless mics, in ear monitoring systems and Pan, Tilt and Zoom (PTZ) cameras. It would also replace our antiquated analog sound system with easier to use, control and learn digital interface and software.
- The committee presented a budget ask for Phase 1 technology enhancements for the sanctuary. We proposed funding this upgrade using the Memorial Funds earmarked for such a purpose, and Session gave us the go ahead.

We met again with Brian at Windsor after the new year to do one more walk through of the space before preparing our final priced equipment list, then I'll help coordinate the order and installation plan.



## NEXT UP IN 2024

I'LL BE BRINGING THE TECH COMMITTEE BACK TOGETHER FOR HELP SCHEDULING THE WORK NEEDED, WITH RESPECT TO BRIAN'S AVAILABILITY AND TO MINIMIZE DISRUPTIONS TO OUR WORSHIP SPACE AND EVENTS. I LOOK FORWARD TO WITNESSING HOW THIS UPGRADE CAN CONTINUE TO ENHANCE OUR WORSHIP EXPERIENCE, SO ALL WE NOTICE IS THE BEAUTIFUL MUSIC, UPLIFTING WORDS AND SEAMLESS FELLOWSHIP.

LIKewise WE HOPE TO CONTINUE TO BUILD ON THE MOMENTUM WE'VE MADE ONLINE AND ON SOCIAL MEDIA IN 2024, AND TO UPGRADE TO AN EASIER TO USE AND MAINTAIN WEB PLATFORM.



# Communication Shepherd by Natalie Steenson

With the expert oversight and assistance of Krysta Tomes, we have taken the task to carefully identify our style, brand, look and presence in print and online communications. Our goal is to continue to create faith-based effective communications for our congregation and visitors. Each of these platforms can be used to access current information, but also offer moments of spiritual reflections and unique opportunities to share with others the many gifts that our congregation has to offer.



## Website Updates and Revisions

We have updated and revised our website to make it easier to navigate and find useful information and help visitors get to know the heart of Windsor Presbyterian Church.

Website improvements include new pages:

- Who We Are
- Worship
- Outreach
- Events and Classes
- Home Page

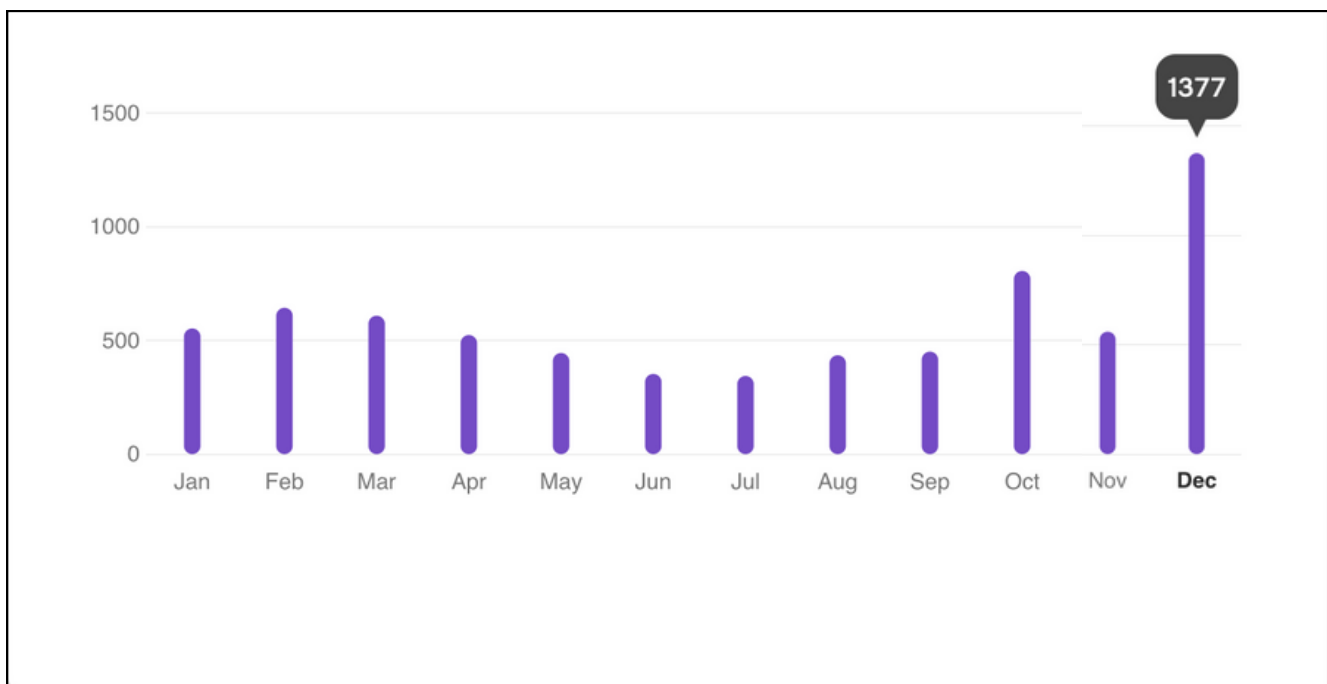
We have seen exponential usage of our website in the last quarter of 2023. We average around 500 visits to our website a month, but in December we had nearly 1400 visits! Congratulations!

## Website Improvements for 2024

- Transferring our website to a new website building service called WIX
- Website Accessibility
  - We have improved our website accessibility for our sight-impaired visitors/members. This is an ongoing project that our Parish Associate Cindy Ray will continue to help us develop and improve.



Website Traffic Statistics Monthly from 2023



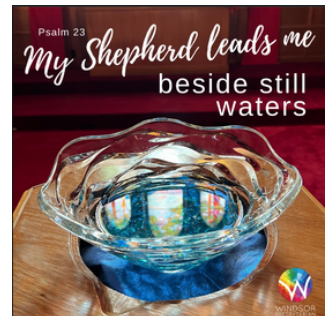


## Social Media: Facebook, Instagram, Vimeo and Spotify

Our Social media presence continues to grow and engage with viewers. I post photographs and graphic designs of church events, scriptures, prayers, quotes, and our weekly bulletin cover. Several church members have been instrumental in commenting, sharing, liking these posts which has increased our visibility and allows us to reach a wider audience. I would like to encourage as many of us to engage with these posts, by writing comments, offering feedback and creating a community conversation that helps others get to know us even better.

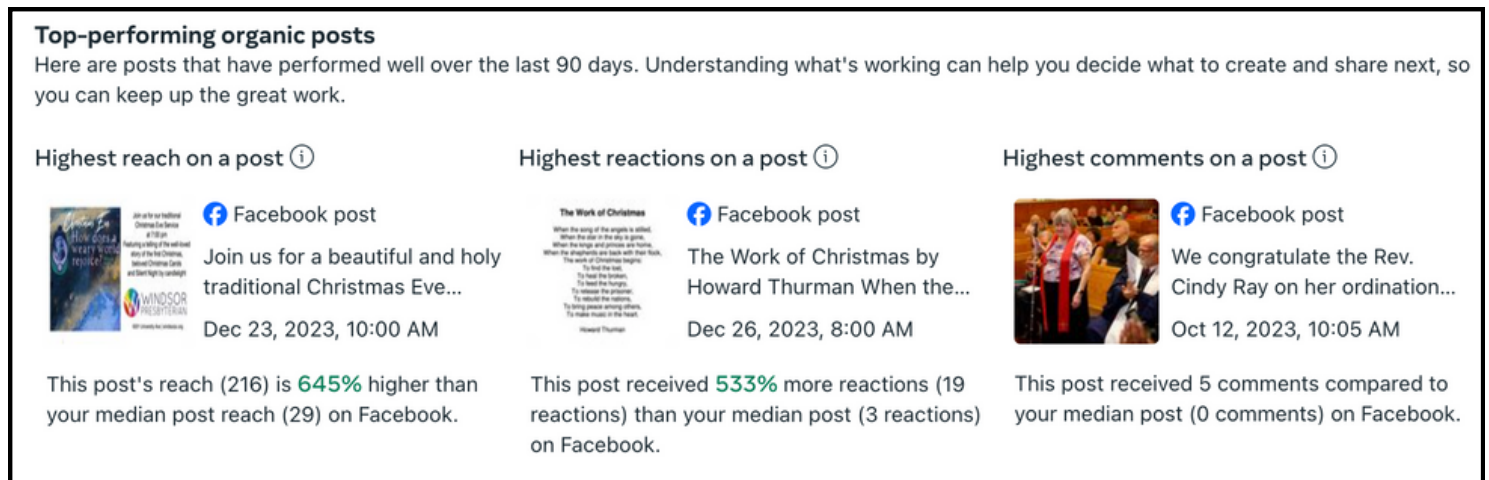
- **Vimeo** - new this year is a free video managing service to host our video content, such as our Weekly Announcements Video that is posted to our website, social media and is seen on Sunday mornings. Our Vimeo hosts our videos "In the Beginning," "Word Art Logo," and "Joyful Joyful WPC."
- **Spotify for Podcasters** – *Sunday Mornings with Windsor Presbyterian Church*. Follow our channel to listen in (or again) to each Sunday's morning message as an audio podcast..
- **Spotify Playlists** – specially curated worship music for church seasons such as Advent, Christmas, Epiphany, Lent, Easter, and Sacred Moments. Follow us on Spotify: WPC/MCH/NS

You can easily find the social media link icons shown here for Facebook, Instagram, Vimeo and Spotify at the bottom of our newsletters.



## Facebook Posts Statistics

Our statistics show growing visibility and interest. Here are a few interesting post highlights:



## Other Social Media Platforms to Consider in 2024

I would like to increase our presence on several other social media platforms such as:

- NextDoor (local community)
- LinkedIn (professional community)
- TikTok (younger viewers)

## Texting Communications

Text Reminder System – We set up a new system of texting reminders for important updates and timely information through Gloop, a free church texting app. Currently all of our members are opting in to these occasional and timely text reminders.

SIMPLY STATED, SOCIAL MEDIA IS A VERY EFFECTIVE WAY TO REACH OUT BEYOND OUR WALLS ON SUNDAY MORNINGS. JOIN US ON SOCIAL MEDIA TO SHOWING OTHERS THE VIBRANCY OF OUR COMMUNITY AND HOW WE CARE FOR AND MINISTER TO ONE ANOTHER AND OTHERS IN NEED.







## Newsletters: Weekly, Monthly and Quarterly

- **Windsor Weekly** is issued every Tuesday with current weekly church events, and featured events/mission outreach with graphics and details. Dwight's photographs from weekly events/worship are posted as well.
  - Printed Weekly Church Events: each week we print the detailed church events from the Windsor Weekly and post them inside all of our building entrances and the hallway bulletin board for members and building visitors.
- **Mini Churchmouse Monthly Newsletter** is issued each month with a look back and a look forward at all that's happening at WPC. It features a "to the flock" letter from Shamaine, financial information presented in graphs, monthly calendar, and any Committee or Session report that needs to be highlighted.
- **Quarterly Sacred Moments Newsletter** is issued quarterly and has a growing following and interest in contemplative writings, poetry, scripture, music, photography and art. You can find our Sacred Moments Online Library on our website at the bottom of our Worship page. These are beautiful writings to spend time reading and sharing with others.

## Newsletter Statistics

Currently about 65% of our congregation opens these communications. I would like to see that number increase. It is a good measure to know how many people are accessing our most up to date information.

## MailChimp Newsletter Open Rate Statistics -- December Newsletters

 <b>Windsor Weekly   December 20, 2023</b> Regular · Windsor Presbyterian Church Tags: Windsor Weekly Sent Wed, December 20th, 2023 10:13 AM to 115 recipients by you	Sent Classic Builder	<b>66.7%</b> Opens	<b>2.6%</b> Clicks
 <b>Windsor Weekly   December 13, 2023</b> Regular · Windsor Presbyterian Church Tags: Windsor Weekly Sent Tue, December 12th, 2023 4:30 PM to 113 recipients by you	Sent Classic Builder	<b>62.8%</b> Opens	<b>5.3%</b> Clicks
 <b>Windsor Weekly   December 6, 2023</b> Regular · Windsor Presbyterian Church Tags: Windsor Weekly Sent Tue, December 5th, 2023 8:48 AM to 112 recipients by you	Sent Classic Builder	<b>61.6%</b> Opens	<b>7.1%</b> Clicks
 <b>Mini ChurchMouse December Newsletter</b> Regular · Windsor Presbyterian Church Tags: Windsor Weekly Sent Fri, December 1st, 2023 4:52 PM to 112 recipients by you	Sent Classic Builder	<b>64.3%</b> Opens	<b>13.4%</b> Clicks



**HOW CAN I HELP YOU?**  
 I CONTINUE TO BE EXCITED ABOUT ALL THE MINISTRIES THAT TAKE PLACE AT WPC AND ENJOY CREATING GRAPHIC DESIGNS THAT DESCRIBE AND PROMOTE OUR MINISTRIES. MANY OF THESE DESIGNS ARE THEN USED ON OUR WEBSITE, SOCIAL MEDIA, BULLETIN BOARDS, PRINT MATERIAL, BULLETINS, PROGRAMS AND NEWSLETTERS. I AM AVAILABLE TO HELP CONSULT AND/OR DESIGN ANY NEW CHURCH OUTREACH OR PROMOTIONAL MATERIALS. PLEASE LET ME KNOW HOW I CAN HELP.

# Outreach: Mission and Generosity by Beth Schmitz



The accomplishments of Mission and Stewardship in 2023 are due to a committed team who leads and the support of the congregation as well as many volunteers. Thanks to everyone for your contributions and for being a part of a small group doing mighty and wonderful things in the local community and the larger world.

## Providing Monthly Meals Through CFUM

In 2023, Children and Family Urban Movement (CFUM) continued to be a strong mission project for us under the guidance of Linda and Jim Newsom. We provided 150 meals (100 adult and 50 children) each month on the first Thursday of the month. For a few special months, we were able to do this in person and I know each of the volunteers particularly cherished that opportunity and look forward to a time when we can deliver this mission and these meals in person again. In December, a \$10 gift was included with the meals. Linda and Jim Newsom are supported by many volunteers and donations. It is a program we will continue to support through the coming year. Thank you to Jim and Linda for all your time and talents in leading this mission and to all the members who have contributed in some way to the success of this program.

## Amazing DMARC Food Pantry Contributions

We continued our participation with the DMARC Food Pantry, making a total contribution of over \$11,000.00. This was up significantly from previous years and from our goal of \$5,000.00. We raised a phenomenal amount during some special food pantry offerings, such as Souper Bowl Sunday and in honor of mothers and fathers. The DMARC contributions continue to reflect the generosity of our members and our commitment to addressing the issue of food insecurity in the local community. We have set the goal for DMARC contributions at \$5,000.00 again this year and there is no doubt that we will reach and exceed it again.

## Our Community's Food Insecurity Needs

We also continued assisting our community in Windsor Heights with our small food pantry and another one just west and across the street from the church. Members are donating non-perishable food items at a level that allows us to support the little food pantries and replenish the food in them. Replenishing them is required almost every day which means that we are really meeting a need in our community. Several members of the congregation participated in the Second Annual Short Hike for Hunger through our neighborhood in October. We also received a Harvest Grant \$1,000.00 from the Presbyterian Church to use in our efforts to address food insecurity in this area.

## Presbyterian Special Offerings

Special offerings were taken for **One Great Hour of Sharing, Pentecost, Peace and Global Witness, and Christmas Joy**. We gave generously and now have some seed money to consider projects related to children and peace in our local community.

## Neighborhood School Support

In addition to these financial offerings, we gathered supplies and clothing to support back to school and winter clothing needs for children in our neighborhood schools of **Windsor Elementary** and **Cowles Elementary**. We also provided 350 bottles of water to Windsor Elementary in support of their Field Day in May. Gardening and weeding was done in the gardens at Cowles school again this past summer. Thanks to Rich Teig for heading this project and to Jody Cox for her participation. In December, we provided gifts for a family at Windsor Elementary. Thanks to Rich Teig, Linda Newsom, and others for their active role in helping to get materials to the school.





### Salvation Army Bell Ringing Tradition

Several members joined together to ring bells for Salvation Army on December 9, 2023. And we contributed a total of \$4,500.00 to 18 worthy organizations to help in their service to our community. We also sent \$7500.00 to the PCUSA Mission. I am amazed and humbled by the good work this small church with a big heart does in the community. God is truly working through us to enrich the lives of others.

### More Giving and Blessings for 2024

Our plan for 2024 is to continue the work we have committed to in the past and add new projects and organizations that allow us to expand the Outreach of God's Blessings to our local community and the larger world.

### Special Thanks to Our Mission and Generosity Team

Providing wonderful guidance and support through the committee are: Linda Newsom, Rich Teig, Ron Grohe, Shelley Mitchell, and Ruth Hardin. We are excited that Tracy Mikesell-Branch will be joining us this year to continue the important work of this committee.



### 2023 MISSION DONATION RECIPIENTS

**FEBRUARY:** CROSS OUTREACH AND CALVIN GOOD SAMARITAN

**MARCH:** HABITAT FOR HUMANITY AND IOWA HOMELESS YOUTH SHELTER

**APRIL:** CFUM AND CENTRAL IOWA SHELTER

**MAY:** HAWTHORN HILL AND ORCHARD PLACE

**JUNE:** ART FORCE IOWA AND GIRLS ROCK SCHOLARSHIP

**JULY:** EVERYSTEP AND BEACON OF LIFE

**AUGUST:** JOPPA AND AFTERSCHOOL ART PROGRAM

**SEPTEMBER:** DMARC COMPASSION IN ACTION AND EPWORTH UNITED METHODIST

**NOVEMBER:** DRAKE UNIVERSITY WRONGFUL CONVICTION CLINIC AND INTERFAITH ALLIANCE OF IOWA



# Building and Grounds by Don Beeson

We have had quite a year to look back on and praise God for all that has been accomplished at our facility.

As a reminder to the congregation, our building has a 100 year old history dating to 1924, 1948, 1951 and 1958. There are 9 furnaces, 3 air conditioners, 6 electric control boxes and a very large roofing cover to be maintained.

## Furnace Care and Fire/Smoke Detectors Updated

In January we had a furnace condensation line failure which resulted in a large amount of water into the basement kitchen; a short in one of the electric panels left us with two days without heating on the first floor.

Later in the year the company which monitors our fire/smoke detectors told us that the present units needed to be replaced as the reporting system needed an overhaul. This was a \$9,224.00 expense surprise but not the only one of the year.

## Sewer Repairs and AC Concerns Addressed

A sewer line in the basement which was original cast iron had crack from "old age" and required replacement of some 20 foot of line.

Just as the tenant on 2nd floor, Girls Rock of Des Moines, was to begin their summer camps in June and July, the air conditioning of their classrooms failed due to electrical and cooling problems which required several days of uncomfortable temperatures.

## Roof Replacement Project and New Fellowship Hall Door

On a very positive side of 2023, the Session approved \$26,250.00 replacement of roofing over East Hall which makes all of our roofing having been replaced since 2016. In addition, new exterior double doors replaced in Fellowship Hall, an expense of \$10,738.00.

Additionally the B & G Committee scraped and repainted the exterior of East Hall and repainted all the exterior doors in addition to care of lawns, trimming bushes, and the mundane housekeeping chores.



THE BUILDING AND GROUNDS  
COMMITTEE TRULY APPRECIATES  
THE CONGREGATION WILLINGNESS  
TO FINANCIALLY AS WELL AS  
PHYSICALLY SUPPORT THE NEEDS  
OF THE CHURCH FACILITIES AND  
FEEL THAT WHAT HAS BEEN  
ACCOMPLISHED THIS YEAR HAS  
LONG-LASTING USAGE INTO THE  
FUTURE.





# Budget and Financial Stewardship by Richard Ankeney

2023 was a year of extremes for Windsor Presbyterian Church finances. We began the year with a request to fund a capital campaign drive to replace aging and damaged roofs and new outer doors for Ward Hall. We seldom ask for money, but circumstances required coming forward to ask for your help. Our congregation has a history of generosity, and after prayerful consideration you made the repairs and improvements possible.

## Financial Faithfulness

Here are some examples of the congregation's faithfulness in 2023:

- \$153,090.67 - General Contributions
- \$22,013.21 - Mission Offerings
- \$49,550.00 - Raised during the Capital Campaign Drive

## Operating Expenses Increasing

Another financial extreme in 2023 was the expenses. Despite the response during the campaign drive and generosity throughout the year, we needed to transfer \$14,968.20 from The Capital Account to the Operating Account to make up for the income shortfall. Paying the bills doesn't warm the heart in the same way as filling up the little food pantry or seeing the faces of the children when handing out meals at CFUM. However, our operating costs are increasing, and we need everyone's help so we can continue to thrive now and into the future.

## Land Sale Brings New Opportunities

This brings us to the final and perhaps most important extreme of 2023, opportunity. Many years ago, several forward-looking members of the church saw an opportunity to provide for the church's future needs and purchased the properties south of University Avenue. Those properties provided income for the church for many years, and now with the sale of the property completed, a new chapter in the story of Windsor Presbyterian Church begins. After paying off the loans to purchase the three houses north of the church, we have approximately \$1,200,000 remaining. This money represents an opportunity for ministry and serving the community unlike any in the history of Windsor Presbyterian Church.

## Financial Priorities

Last Spring the session examined an article about the traits of churches focused on Christ entitled, *'Eight Priorities of a Healthy Church'* by Karl Vaters (karlvaters.com). The article describes why emphasizing certain areas and behaviors results in a positive or negative outcome. The money God has entrusted to us represents not only an opportunity, but also a potential stumbling block. Please remember, the congregation is responsible for paying the bills. Construction costs, like most things, have increased since the decision to sell the property was made in 2016. To replace the income lost from the rental properties, several hundred thousand dollars will need to be invested.

## A Legacy of Generosity and Stewardship Continues

We have inherited a 100-year legacy of generosity and stewardship. During construction our monthly bills will continue, and probably a surprise or two. Stewardship is more than being prudent with finances, it means directing our resources in ways that contribute to the church Jesus is building. Let's use this opportunity well.



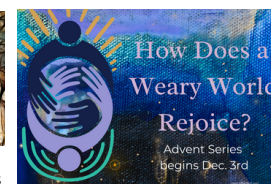
Wow! I HOPE  
THE FOUNDERS  
OF OUR CHURCH  
KNOW THE TRUST  
THEY PLACED IN  
GOD'S  
FAITHFULNESS IS  
BEING  
CONTINUED 100  
YEARS LATER.



# 2023 Wrap Up by Shamaine Chambers-King

## Worship Through the Year

The best view in the house on a Sunday morning is from the front, looking out at all of you. We have worshiped together through the church seasons. *Come and See the Light* was our Epiphany theme and we sought to see the ways Jesus shines in our world and in our hearts. We had a wonderful *Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper* and a cold and snowy *Ash Wednesday* service to kick off our Lenten season where we asked, *When Did We See You?* Many of you stepped up to share your stories of seeing and serving those who are hungry, thirsty, a stranger, naked, sick, and imprisoned. It was so very beautiful. During the Easter Season, we took lessons from *Paul's letter to the Romans* on walking faithfully in the way of Christ. During the summer we learned some basic theology and ecclesiology in the series, *Why Are Presbyterian Like That?* In the Fall, we turned once again to the *Old Testament*, spending time with the stories of David, Elijah and Elisha, and Isaiah. We did many incredible things in this season including the sweetest *Blessing of the Animals* service and *All Saints Day Worship and Lunch*. During Advent, we asked *How Does a Weary World Rejoice?* with beautiful worship resources from A Sanctified Art. *Blue Christmas* and *Christmas Eve* worship services were so holy and beautiful. The string ensemble added beauty to our celebration of Christ's birth.



## Growing

We started out the year in the winter WOW (Windsor on Wednesday) book club reading Brené Brown's *Atlas of the Heart*. We followed up the summer *Why are Presbyterian Like That?* series with Newcomers Gatherings, which were great fun (pizza party anyone?) and pretty informative too. Ten members of the class became members in October while others opted to remain highly engaged as friends of the congregation. If all that wasn't reason enough to celebrate, we were able to baptize Henry Jackson in worship that Sunday!

## Being Cared For

My jaw surgery was scheduled for July and the congregation stepped up in so many ways to care for me and make sure things around the church ran smoothly. I am still humbled and so grateful for how you all supported, prayed for and took care of me during my recovery.

## "What's Happening at Windsor?"

Recently a fellow pastor from a much larger church asked, "What in the world is going on over at Windsor? Y'all are hitting it out of the park on social media. Every time I open Facebook or Instagram I see another amazing post." And he is right. To borrow a sports metaphor, we are boxing above our weight. To turn another phrase, we have caviar communications on canned tuna budget. This is what evangelism looks like now. And isn't commenting on a post easier than knocking on doors and trying to get reluctant neighbors to talk with you? Believe it or not, liking, sharing, and commenting on Windsor's posts really gets us noticed, and it isn't difficult or time consuming. Let's spread the good news about what God is up to in the world and at WPC.

## New Community Opportunities in 2024

In 2024, I am excited to see this church finally have a parking lot that accommodates the congregation and allows better access for community ministry. During COVID, we stopped some of our informal fellowship opportunities. Now, a new gathering is starting, **Guess Who's Coming to Dinner?** in which groups of 8 or so gather in homes for dinner with a special guest. Relationship-building is essential for a healthy church and I encourage you to get involved in this new ministry!



It is the mission of Windsor Presbyterian Church to be a warm, supporting family for worshiping God, learning and practicing Christ's teachings, and sharing Christ's good news with others.



WINDSOR  
PRESBYTERIAN



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Special thanks to Dwight Tomes for all the photos in our Annual Report