



THE CHURCHMOUSE

Windsor Presbyterian Church

July 2021



To the Flock: Comm-Unity!

The last few weeks our corner of the world has transformed from pandemic precautions to vaccinated gatherings. It is incredible! People are able to meet for lunch, the Arts Festival is happening and we are getting ready to gather for worship. I cannot wait to worship God together!

The last couple of weeks, we have tried some different things in the sanctuary to see what works with Zoom.



The first week was pretty rough and the second week was even worse! The good news is that we're learning quite a bit about what doesn't work and what we need to do to make worship available online. This is a fantastic opportunity to stretch as a congregation and expand our worship offerings.

Here is what we know :

- 1) we want to be in the room together, and
- 2) we want to include those who can't be in the room.

We may do this using Zoom, a live video feed, or a recording posted online. We know for sure that we need better internet in the sanctuary and that we will need to be flexible as we experiment and try different things.

We will also need patience, honest feedback, and grace for ourselves and each other. And we will need prayer, lots of prayer. Like many churches, we are in a time of great transition. Not only are we returning to in-person activities, but we are also trying to discern and follow God's will as we make big decisions about our land and the future mission and ministries of this congregation.

Please, please pray for our congregation in this transition. Pray that we would be open to God's leading and that those who see us would glimpse God's kingdom—a community defined by our love of God and our neighbors. In the midst of all the



division around us (and we are more divided than ever), Jesus calls us to be known by our love—not by our political affiliation, or our opinions, or our right-ness, but by our love and grace, our humility and service to others.

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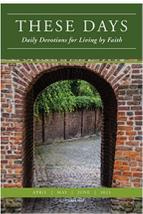
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Christian Formation - Angie King

Responses to starting a Presbyterian Women's group have been excellent. We are tentatively planning a kick-off potluck on Wednesday, August 4, from 5:00-7:00 in Ward Hall. As the date gets closer, we will check with the Windsor Covid Safety Team to get a final okay for the event.

PW will meet at 10:00-12:00 on the second Saturday of the month from September to May. We settled on this after considering jobs, the difficulty and dislike of going out in the evening during winter weather, and other Windsor events. So, mark your calendars for September 11, October 9, November 13, December 11, January 8, February 12, March 12, April 9, and May 14. More information will be coming.



I wanted to share something from an old These Days. Every day, we charge up our phones, computers, Kindles, iPads, and other devices. If we forget, things just don't function. Remember that God is our power source, and His power is infinite. When we feel ourselves fading, we need to plug in to God who keeps us always fully charged and ready to function. Our God is an awesome God who can recharge our spirit and our strength. Thanks be to God.



Session Highlights - Angie King

Our June meeting was exciting because we met IN PERSON in Ward Hall, socially distanced, of course. Just one more baby step to returning to our new normal, which we will be creating as we go along.



For our Session Formation, we shared thoughts about the wonderful Pentecost Festival at Colby Park. Witnessing the confirmation of those ten extraordinary young people and the baptism of Michal was thrilling. We send a huge thanks to Jody Cox, Judy Hunt, Donna Dickerson, Heather Carlson, and others who worked so hard to make this a memorable, enjoyable day.

Session discussed ways to increase our visibility and involvement in the community, including getting a new digital church sign, volunteering at some of the Windsor Heights events, such as Fourth of July, Movies in the Park, and the annual neighborhood ice cream socials, and making connections with the schools in our area. If you have any ideas or are interested in doing things like this, please talk to an elder.

Property Update

Members and friends, we recently published a written update in the June *Churchmouse* and delivered a verbal one in the worship service on June 20. Very little has changed except that the closing date was to be June 17 and the buyer has requested another extension of time (60 days) for closing the contract and remitting the funds to us to complete the sale. We are currently negotiating with them as to the terms of the extension. The City of Windsor Heights and the Iowa DOT are concerned about the proper installation of turning lanes in and out of the property on both University Avenue and 63rd St, respectively. As soon as we have more information, we will provide it to you.

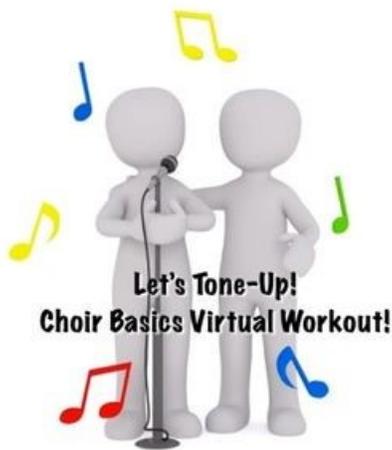
~ Ron Grohe



Congregational Care & Fellowship - Sue Cooper



We have been **praying for the Lawlor family** in Pennsylvania for some time. They are very thankful for our continued prayers. We extend our heartfelt Christian sympathy to them as Pam's father, Don Yost, has come to the end of his earthly journey and has joined the rest of the angels at the foot of God's throne. He passed peacefully in his sleep, earning his eternal rest. Please keep the Lawlor family, and especially Pam's mother Janet, in your prayers, asking for strength in the coming days. We also **pray for Eric**, who is facing additional surgery for fusing additional spinal vertebrae in the hopes that he will regain his ability to walk without crutches or a walker. We pray that it is in God's plans for Eric to walk again.



**Join Us for Choir Tone Up
Wednesday, June 30 & August 4
7:00 p.m.**

[https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83956877212?
pwd=T1NaUFg2U1I6d0RLL2RITzFBam1lUT09](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83956877212?pwd=T1NaUFg2U1I6d0RLL2RITzFBam1lUT09)

Or call (312) 626-6799.

Meeting ID: 839 5687 7212 Password: 247

July

Birthdays

- 2 Ryan Newsom
- 4 Esther Chol
- 6 Deja McCubbin
- 7 Gloria Ashby
- 28 Mindy Millard

Anniversaries

- 1 Erich & JoAnn Hirschberger
- 16 Ryan & Heather Carlson

(Let the office know if we are missing your birthday or anniversary.)





(To add or remove a name, contact the church office.)

Recent Prayers: Curt Weatherby, Family of Don Yost (Pam Lawlor's father), Eric Lawlor, Marge Steenson (David's mother)

Continuing Prayers: Nancy Baker, Brad Behrens, Phyllis Bryan, Jim & Georgia Burnes, Jean Carlston, Dick Cox, Wanda Hill, Virginia Nichols, Peggy Paschall, Steve Pope

Friends of the Church: Kayla and Marvin (Angie King), Bruce Baker (Gloria Ashby's brother-in-law), Nancy Jo Baker (Barb Pomeroy), Jean Bower, Vickie Brown, Chuck Bryan's brother and other family members, Gisma Butras (Esther Chol), Comer Family (Angie King), Jody Cox's mother, Will Cox, Darrel Cox, Donna Eckham, Norma Grinstead (Linda Newsom), Helen Hickman (former member), Kathy King (Stephen's mother), Anna Krull (Jayne Owen & Dwight Tomes), Ken Lee (Laura Ward), David Leitch, Chris McDougal Family, Derek Mullennax (Ruth Hardin), the Ray Family, Ray Tackett (Shamaine's uncle), Susie Anderson, Jasper & Quincy (Kings)



Worship & Media - Jody Cox



We are planning to bring back in-person worship on Sunday, July 18. We will continue to adjust as recommendations change but plan to have pews blocked off to maintain social distancing, encourage mask wearing and limit singing. As you know, we are working on being able to stream/record the worship services, so that we can continue to reach those who aren't ready to attend in person and those who have been long-distance worshipping with us.

To resume worship in the sanctuary, we need a few more folks to help with sound, visuals, zoom and other technology needs. Training is available. We will need people to serve as greeters and help in other non-technical ways. Please let me or Pastor Shamaine know if you are willing to serve on this volunteer team or help out in some other way.

At this time, we don't plan to have fellowship after worship but instead go across the street to Nations Green, weather permitting. We are also planning some additional outdoor worship opportunities. We may be at the Arts Festival on June 27 for the Habitat for Humanity build. Then on July 11 we are planning an outdoor worship at Jester Park in a shelter house. Dwight and

Jayne will be serving lunch and beverages. Please RSVP to them if you plan to stay for lunch. Other summer plans will be announced at a later time.

Summer is upon us. It has the "school's out" feeling, long days and often weddings. Many of you may have gotten married in summer or have someone in your family who did. This might bring to mind the wedding Jesus attended with his mother. One of the worst things happened: the host ran out of wine. But at the request of his mother, Jesus turned water into wine—really great wine. His mom has asked for the impossible but He honored her request. He cared about his mother, the bride and groom, the hosts and the guests. He cared enough to perform a miracle. He still cares for you and for me and he does so with unconditional love. During these summer months, let us find moments to care for one another.

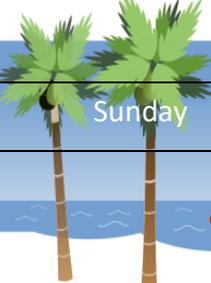
Everyone should look out not only for his own interests, but also for the interests of others. Philippians 2:4

If you have any thoughts or ideas about worship opportunities, don't hesitate to reach out to me.

Worship in July

- 7/4** **6th Sunday after Pentecost; Communion**
Acts 16:16-24
The Enslaved Girl
- 7/11** **7th Sunday after Pentecost**
Ephesians 1:3-14
The Blessings of Redemption
- 7/18** **8th Sunday after Pentecost**
Ephesians 2:11-22
Made Alive in Christ
- 7/25** **9th Sunday after Pentecost**
Ephesians 3:14-21
Paul's Stewardship



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
 <h1 style="color: red;">July 2021</h1>						
Regular Sunday Schedule: 10:30 a.m. Worship 10:45 a.m. Fellowship	Regular Monday Schedule: 9:30 AM Bible Study			<div style="border: 2px solid blue; padding: 10px;"> <b style="color: red;">Monthly Events First Thursday—CFUM Meal First Thursday—Uke Jam Second Thursday—Session </div>		
			June 30 <b style="color: blue;">7:00 p.m. Choir Tone Up	1 <b style="color: red;">12:00 CFUM Meal Prep <b style="color: blue;">3:30 PM CFUM Meal Served <b style="color: red;">7:00 PM Ukulele Choir	2 5:00 p.m. Arabic Church Cooking in Kitchen	3
4 <b style="color: red;">Independence Day  <b style="color: blue;">Communion	5 <b style="color: red;">Office Closed for the July 4 Holiday	6	7	8 4:30 Session Meeting	9 5:00 p.m. Arabic Church Cooking in Kitchen	10
11 <b style="color: red;">Worship at Jester Park	12	13	14	15	16	17
18 <b style="color: red;">Worship Begins in Person <b style="color: blue;">Food Pantry Sunday 	19 <b style="color: red;">Newsletter Articles Due	20	21	22	23	24
				<div style="border: 2px solid blue; padding: 10px;"> <b style="color: red;">Coming in August: Sun., Aug. 1—Communion Wed., Aug. 4—Choir Tone Up Thurs., Aug. 5—CFUM </div>		



Mission & Stewardship - Rich Teig



The Mission Team met on May 19 to discuss possible new mission ideas. One idea was to assist neighborhood elementary students who will need warm clothes or school supplies this fall. A counselor at Cowles was contacted. She said the school has another source for clothes, but they may need some help with other fundraisers. She added that a real need at this time was someone to weed and water the student gardens. There are 17 raised bed gardens, plus a butterfly garden and a prairie. Each class had one of the 17 gardens to plant vegetables. The vegetables will be donated to homeless shelters or food pantries. Jody Cox and I have been assisting with this for the past couple of weeks and will continue until the students return at the end of August.



As of the end of May only \$70 was received for the **Pentecost Offering**. We are hoping that some more will be donated in June. Remember that 40% of the offering stays at WPC. Food Pantry donations have also been below budget, but I am confident these donations will pick up.

WPC volunteers continue to prepare 100 meal sacks each month for **CFUM**. Some regular volunteers were not available on June 3, but others stepped in to prepare and distribute the food in front of Trinity Methodist Church, 8th and College. When school resumes, there will likely be a need for more meals. Thank you for the food and money donations, as well as the volunteer time.



Another new mission idea that was discussed at our team meeting was to have a book sale and ice cream social in late August or September. At this time, we expect to be wearing masks in the church building. So, in order to eat ice cream sundaes, we would have to be outside. If we are able to have this activity, we will want to encourage others in our neighborhood to join us.



CFUM Meal on Thursday, June 3. Thank you, donors and volunteers!



Personnel & Finance - Richard Ankeney



General contributions in May were above budget by \$2,372.67, and total income was above budget by \$1,316.00. Expenses in May were \$757.08 above budget, leaving \$558.92 in net income for the month.

Although total income for the year is off by \$5040.34 after a difficult January and February, lower than expected expenses and the generosity of the congregation has resulted in a net income loss for the year to date of only \$946.14. Thank you!

Some sad news to report: one of our tenants, the Ethiopian Eritrean Reformation Church that meets upstairs, is moving out at the end of the month.

Financial Report 2021	May 2021	1-Month Budget	Year-to-Date Actual	Year-to-Date Budget
General Contributions	13,206.00	11,208.33	51,886.00	56,041.67
Operating Income	1,485.00	2,166.67	9,948.66	10,833.33
Operating Expenses	14,132.08	13,375.00	62,780.80	66,875.00
Net Gain (Loss)	558.92	—	(946.14)	—
Capital Income	35.00	—	35.00	—
Capital Expenses	31.80	—	159.00	—
Net Gain (Loss)	3.20	—	(124.00)	—

CROSS Outreach Back-to-School Giveaway

The kids need your help! This is the 28th year of the CROSS Back-to-School Giveaway. Last year because of the pandemic, school supplies and backpacks were distributed directly to the metro schools. Once again, this year's preparation is well underway as CROSS collaborates with the DM Public School's Success Program to ensure that the children receive the most needed supplies and for the safety of everyone involved. We are grateful to the Clive Public Library that is donating reading books that CROSS volunteers will pick up and deliver along with the supplies. You can't imagine how much these critical tools mean to the kids and their teachers as they are distributed to the most vulnerable kids.



So how can you help? A gift of any size, any amount, will go toward helping at-risk youth have the tools they need to succeed. Every dollar makes a difference to families during these challenging times.

You can make a donation by writing a check to WPC and noting "CROSS" on the memo line. We will make sure it gets to CROSS Outreach. Together we can make a big difference in the lives of the kids who have already been through so much!



Building & Grounds - Don Beeson



We have had limited use of our building, as you all know, and with the successful spring cleaning, repairs, and replacement normal to usage, our committee's efforts have been looking forward to considering what WPC activities might be after we have returned to in-person worship. After some 15 months where we have met remotely using ZOOM, most members are anxious to return in person. However, we know that ZOOM enabled several non-members, as well as our own, to participate, and those folks may wish to continue to do so. This is a good opportunity for us to reach out to others in our community.

The City of Windsor Heights plan for University Avenue street improvement program has reached our properties. It will create some additional traffic flow changes on a temporary basis to the access of our large parking lot across the street, but also to a lesser extent to the close-in church parking. It reminds us that many things change, which may be at the moment chaotic, but all for the best in short order. Folks across the street have been given permission to park at Nations Green while their driveways have been dug up.

Several of our committees are in the process of meeting our own needs, such as Dwight working with outside specialists to improve Internet access to all areas of the building. Dwight, Ron and Angie have been exploring how we might improve and expand our sanctuary sound system. Angie has been in conversation with organizations specializing in exterior signage. All of their efforts work toward how we might better serve our community.

We invite members of WPC who have ideas on how we may add to our efforts to meet the needs of others in our community to please share them with us now and as we begin to return to regular in-person worship and celebration to gather.

Centennial Year Celebration Opportunities

We have a truly remarkable opportunity ahead in 2022. Historically, our congregation was formed by families gathering informally for Sunday School in January of 1921. As attendance grew by December 14, 1922, formal Articles of Incorporation were drafted to form Windsor Community Church with 26 Charter Members. Within a short time, May 11, 1924, an affiliation with the Presbyterian Church of U.S.A. was completed.

Beginning in January 2022, we will be looking ahead to a 2nd century of providing worship, fellowship and service within and throughout the Windsor Heights area. Considering what we have been through these past 18 months, as well as what our church 100 years old has seen, shared and done, IT'S TIME TO CELEBRATE TOGETHER!

Currently, a written history has been in process and will be available shortly before the end of this year. Members and friends are now asked to consider how we might celebrate the first 100 years, i.e. possibly an open house with displays illustrating the multiple art talents of members of our congregation. Certainly there will be fellowship with cookies, cake and coffee, which is definitely a Presbyterian tradition. Previously for the 25th, 50th and 75th anniversaries, there were sit-down dinners. However, there are other ideas that we hope will make us all very proud to continue into the next 100 years.



Did you know?

Three U.S. presidents died on the Fourth of July:

- Thomas Jefferson and John Adams both died in 1826;
- James Monroe died in 1831.



Items of Interest



Clear Joy Music, Elaina and Anna Steenson, will be performing at Plymouth Church's Sounds of the City Lawn Concert Series at 7 p.m., Friday, July 2! Bring your lawn chair or blanket and enjoy an evening of music outdoors.

Check out Plymouth Congregational Church for more "family friendly" concerts on the 1st and 3rd Fridays of each month. Performances are located on the lawn of Plymouth Congregational Church at 4126 Ingersoll Ave.

Food Drive for DMARC at Iowa Cubs



Give a donation and get a chance to win a \$500 travel voucher! Join DMARC and UNITS of Central Iowa on Saturday, July 10, at the Iowa Cubs game and bring a donation of cereal (low sugar, high fiber) or cash. Each donation gives you a chance to win! If you were already intending to show your support, now is a great time to make it count even more!

Don't forget: You can also support DMARC at all Iowa Cubs Sunday home games during the summer. Bring a donation of 3 food items and get a free general admission ticket!



Volunteers Needed

- 1) To resume worship in the sanctuary, we need a few more folks to help with sound, visuals, zoom and other technology needs. Training is available. We will need people to serve as greeters and help in other non-technical ways. Please let Jody or Pastor Shamaine know if you are willing to serve on this volunteer team or help out in some other way.
- 2) **100th Year Celebration Committee:**
Don Beeson has been putting together a history of our church and beginning plans for our 100th Anniversary Celebration! We are going to need lots of help with this, so please let Don know if you can help with the planning.

Reminder: Wear Your Mask!



At this time, we are still asking people to wear a mask, social distance, or stay outside the church.

The Covid Safety Team is keeping on top of the statistics and this will change. But for now, we would rather be safe than sorry!



More Summer Fun



Presbyterian Summer Youth Camp

The Presbytery's Camping and Youth Ministries Committee is pleased to announce the dates of their **Summer Fun and Friends Camp**, which will be held at Camp Wesley Woods, outside Indianola, Wednesday, July 7 to Saturday, July 10, for youth that have completed 2nd through 12th grade.

Scholarships will be available for this camp, as well as for Synod School. Feel free to contact Barb Britson with any questions, 515-974-7326. Windsor PC also offers scholarships. Talk to Pastor Shamaine.

The Rosebush and the Road

One day the rosebush and the road
Were having a conversation;
The road said, "oh you smell so good!
Is this some special occasion?"



The rosebush said to the road,
"People have been trampling on me all day
When many of my petals are crushed,
I always smell this way.

"The road said, vehicles roll over me
And people trample on me with their feet,
I become harder and harder,
I never do become sweet."

Some people, like the road, are made harder
By many of life's crushing blows,
Others become sweeter when they're crushed
Like the petals of the rose.

~ Merle Saeger Miller



Prepare ye for *Godspell*, a modern-day retelling of the New Testament parables this summer in a tent outside the Des Moines Playhouse. With a Tony-nominated score of songs ranging in style from pop to vaudeville, including the hit song "Day by Day," composer Stephen Schwartz (*Wicked*) brings to vibrant life the timeless messages of kindness, tolerance, and love.

Godspell is one of those musicals that makes you think, "Huh, that's not your average Sunday School lesson." A group of actors, who you would mistake for audience members, hear an actor singing "Prepare ye" and the story takes off from there. The music and dance is electrifying and ranges from Broadway to pop to hip hop.

But the heart of *Godspell* is parables from the Bible that talk about love, kindness, and acceptance. The idea of "doing unto others" especially hits home after a year with a pandemic and so much division and hate.

Godspell is based on the Gospel of Matthew. From the opening to stories of "All Good Gifts" and being the "Light of the World," it is a message that still speaks to us today. As the show ends, the cast, having created a community, carries Jesus' teachings out into the world.

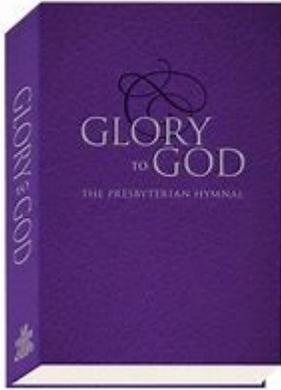
The show starts at 7:30 p.m. on Thursdays through Sundays on July 9-11, July 22-25, and August 5-8. Group tickets are available.

For more information or to make your reservation, contact Debbie:

515-974-5361 or djacobson@dmplayhouse.com.



My Favorite Hymn - Nancy Baker



Do you have a favorite hymn that you would like to share with the congregation? If so, please email the church office and tell us why it is special to you. You can write it yourself or talk to Ann McGowan in the office and she will write it. This month Nancy Baker shares two of her favorite hymns with us.

Follow the Gleam

Did you have a favorite song from your church youth group days? Mine was "Follow the Gleam" and remains a favorite to this day, both the tune and the words. In 1920, Sallie Douglas, a teacher, attended a YWCA conference at the Silver Bay Association at Lake George in New York's Adirondacks. There was to be a song contest. Douglas, who had written a few songs, composed the tune and met Helen Hill, a Bryn Mawr College student, also at the conference, who wrote the lyrics. And they won the contest.

The title comes from the last line of a Tennyson Arthurian poem. I like how it ties in with the Light (Jesus), bringing the dawn and the challenge we still face today, 100 years after the song was written. It became a favorite to sing at many conferences and camps, especially for youth.

Hymn of Promise

On June 6 of this year, the hospice where Keith spent his last earthly days held a butterfly release. As we picked up the containers of two, we were handed a copy of the "Hymn of Promise," written by Natalie Sleeth.

Natalie Wakeley (1930-1992) was an American composer. She was born in Evanston, IL. In 1934, she began to study the piano at the early age of 4. In 1952, she earned a BA in music theory at Wellesley College in MA. She married the Rev. Dr. Ronald E. Sleeth.

CCLI License #1986457

Follow the Gleam

- 1 To the knights in the days of old,
Keeping watch on the mountain height,
Came a vision of Holy Grail
And a voice through the waiting night:
Follow, follow, follow the gleam;
Banners unfurled o'er all the world;
Follow, follow, follow the gleam
Of the chalice that is the grail.
- 2 And we who would serve the King,
And loyally him obey,
In the consecrate silence know
That the challenge still lives today,
Follow, follow, follow the gleam
Standards of worth o'er all the earth;
Follow, follow, follow the gleam
Of the Light that shall bring the dawn.

Hymn of Promise

- 1 In the bulb there is a flower; in the seed, an apple tree;
in cocoons, a hidden promise: butterflies will soon be free!
In the cold and snow of winter there's a spring that waits to be,
unrevealed until its season, something God alone can see.
- 2 There's a song in every silence, seeking word and melody;
there's a dawn in every darkness, bringing hope to you and me.
From the past will come the future; what it holds, a mystery,
unrevealed until its season, something God alone can see.
- 3 In the end is our beginning; in our time, infinity;
in our doubt there is believing; in our life, eternity.
In our death, a resurrection; at the last, a victory,
unrevealed until its season, something God alone can see.



WINDSOR PRESBYTERIAN

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We're on the Web!
www.windsorpc.org

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

Like us on Facebook!

Staff

Shamaine Chambers King, Pastor
Ann McGowan, Administrative Assistant
Natalie Steenson, Director of Music, Worship & Arts
Jim Behrens, Organist
Deb Hibbert, Accountant
Duda Plavulj, Custodian
Michal King & Kaitlin Mogle, Children's Ministries

Session

Sue Cooper (2022), Congregation Care & Fellowship
Rich Teig (2022), Mission & Stewardship
Jody Cox (2023), Worship & Media
Angie King (2023), Christian Formation
Richard Ankeney (2024), Finance & Personnel
Don Beeson (2024), Buildings & Grounds
Dwight Tomes, Clerk of Session

Deacons

Cindy Ray (2022), Moderator
Laura Ward (2022)
Beth Mogle (2023)
Judy Teig (2023)
Gloria Ashby (2024)
Mary Willson (2024)

