

JOHN KNOX PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

2024 ANNUAL REPORT



The mission of John Knox Presbyterian Church
is to grow in Christ,
be inspired to spread his word,
share his love throughout the community,
and experience joy on the way.



John Knox Presbyterian Church (USA)

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Pastor: Rev. Maggie Lewis

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Pastor's Message

Siblings in Christ —

I am so grateful to God for the evolution of our relationship over the last year. What started as occasional pulpit supply in 2023, turned into sharing together in the Advent Season that year, which turned into an extended contract, mutual discernment between the session and I, and the celebration of the commissioning service on Pentecost. I truly believe God called and equipped both of us for such a time as this. I have enjoyed learning about the history of the congregation, and your faithfulness and leadership through many transitions. It is truly a congregation led by its people!

A highlight for me over the past year has been designing and leading Sunday Worship. It is a blessing to be able to collaborate with such a great worship team, from those behind the scenes, to musicians and liturgists. I have enjoyed experimenting with different themes during the liturgical seasons, and engaging God's children of all ages in the worship elements.



Although I am only in the Salem/Keizer area a couple days a week, I have begun to form relationships with local colleagues and sister Presbyterian churches, and I look forward to more collaboration in the future. I have also attended meetings of the Presbytery of the Cascades and have been grateful for those collegial relationships.

The Session and I have continued conversations about discerning who God is calling us to be in this time and place, as well as the landscape of the community around us. I have been folded in to the ministries of the committees of the church and I hope to bring together that vision as we move into 2025.

And perhaps most importantly, I am extremely grateful for the relationships I am forming with each of you. I truly love both formal and informal conversations, being able to walk alongside you during life's journey. I am enjoying learning more about your interests and passions and talents, as you also learn about mine. I look forward to doing more pastoral care and visitations as we move forward.

I can clearly see God at work in each of you as individuals and collectively as the Church. I am grateful to be leading you in this chapter and trusting God's faithfulness in the past, present, and future.

Peace,

Pastor Maggie

"Arise, shine, for your light has come, and the glory of the Lord has risen upon you."
Isaiah 60:1

Operations Overview

Eileen Sheelar



Church Administration

Administration duties continue with volunteer staffing. Office hours are by appointment, which means we can generally be available to meet everyone's needs at the time they are available. Eileen Sheelar serves as office manager, and Bronwyn Curtis continues to serve as our bookkeeper and treasurer. Much of the office work and building management is done remotely. Bronwyn also maintains the church website and CJ High maintains our Facebook presence.

Building Partners

Three AA groups continued their weekly meetings, and Keizer Old Time Jam music group meets monthly. Our brothers and sisters in Christ from Puerta del Cielo continue to share the building with us for worship and social activities, and they have continued to maintain the grounds and keep the interior of the building in tip-top shape. This truly is a blessing, and we are so very grateful for their faithful presence in our church life and their faith-sharing!

Nominating Committee

Chaired by Anna Robinson, the Nominating Committee presented nominations for Class of 2027. Ruling Elders Eileen Sheelar and Mary Jo Emmett accepted the invitation to serve a second term, and Rosemary Willhite returned from sabbatical. Deacons Joan Allen and Lane Oxley were elected for their second terms, and Ashley Kramer was elected to her first term as an installed deacon at John Knox. These officers were installed on January 5, 2025.

The 2025 Nominating Committee will be elected at the annual congregational meeting in February of 2025. We will present a slate of members willing to serve on this committee. Thanks for all your prayers as we continue to serve this wonderful faith community.



Operations Overview

Administration and Building Management

The Administration Committee usually meets monthly to review general administration and building issues and coordinate who will be handling various in-person requirements related to running the church. Over the last two years, we have moved most of our routine bill-paying to auto-pay to guarantee timely payment. That was particularly helpful when Bronwyn took a one-month leave this last summer and Eileen covered the bill-paying duties.

JKPC is the emergency evacuation site for Cummings Elementary School, and an updated Memorandum of Understanding was signed in May of 2024.

The committee spent time this summer designing a plan for the congregation to evacuate the sanctuary in the case of a fire. Work continues on the front lawn near the office exit to make a smoother and safer walkway to a gathering place near the garden.

The lights in the social hall and kitchen were rewired to enable brighter, more energy-efficient LED lights. Puerta del Cielo graciously contributed to the cost of this project, which makes the area much more welcoming and enjoyable to work in. The center aisle lights were changed out to use LED lights in the sanctuary, providing brighter lights for the congregational gatherings. We enjoy sharing our building with our community partners, and these improvements help everyone enjoy their time at JKPC.



Installing the new back wall monitor on Feb. 10. Thanks to the Emmett family for shopping the Super Bowl sales and installing the monitor so worship leaders can see the projection without turning away from the congregation. Blair and Lee have also assisted with plug-in updates and other maintenance items on the “honey-do” list. *Thank you!*



Self-care is never a selfish act—it is only good stewardship of the only gift I have, the gift I was put on earth to offer others.

Parker J. Palmer

Operations Overview

Personnel

Mary Jo Emmett

Hiring a Pastor!

Early in the year, a Standing Committee was formed for the purposes of hiring a part-time Stated Supply Pastor, comprised of Elders Sheila Cunningham, CJ High, Eileen Sheelar and chair Mary Jo Emmett. After submitting our Mission Information form and position description to the Presbytery, the committee reviewed two applications and invited **the Rev. Maggie Lewis** for an interview. The whole Session along with the Deacon Representative was invited to participate; in attendance were: Vallory Bunday, Anna Robinson, CJ High, Sheila Cunningham, Eileen Sheelar, Joan Allen (Deacon Rep) and myself (Mary Jo Emmett) as chair. Subsequently, the position was offered to and accepted by Maggie.



Music Plays On!

Anna Robinson (Music Director) and Bethany Cozort (pianist) accepted contracts for 2025 after annual reviews in December. Both job position descriptions and contracts for the two music positions were updated by the Administration committee and approved by Session. Appreciations also go to all the members who add their voices and/or music talents to our worship! Thank You!

Kudos to our Volunteers!

Bronwyn Curtis as our long-standing Treasurer keeps the church's finances in order, organizes and trains volunteer weekly counters, maintains the payroll and government reporting deadlines, tracks investments and oversees bill paying along with making regular giving statements to donors. Bronwyn also develops the annual budget and as Administration Committee chair assists with the Stewardship Drive and tracks pledges. She also picks up the mundane but important weekly task of picking up mail at the Post Office.

Eileen Sheelar (aka the wearer of many hats) is Clerk of Session – the 'secretary' of Session meetings and congregational meetings and a liaison to Presbytery. She also serves as Chair of Worship, organizing monthly communion servers and weekly lay leaders. She lays out and prints the weekly bulletins, incorporating the pastor's liturgy, scriptures, and sermon topic. Preparing the PowerPoint presentation, tailored specifically to each week's overall theme, and recording the worship services are part of the Sunday worship tasks, too. As volunteer office/building manager, she monitors email and voicemail messages, and oversees supplies and minor repairs or updates like recruiting help to have old outlets replaced and taking on the painting the baseboard on the back wall of the chancel! (God knows she does much more and we are grateful!).

Then there are the Church M.O.M.s (others use the term church mice), those dear folks who are the Managers Of Minutiae like Betty Correll who takes note of and greets everyone on Sunday morning;

Operations Overview

Personnel—*continued*

Vallory Bunday who during the week, unloads the dishwasher, collects the wastebaskets and moves the garbage can out to the parking lot for pickup; and others who check the pews, replenish offering envelopes and sharpen pencils; and Linda Arnold who not only built but maintains the Little Free Library. Tracking church seasons and changing the tablecloth and paraments as well as, from time to time, adding appropriate liturgical visual enhancements in the sanctuary or narthex is something that I enjoy and have done since the early 1990's.

I don't want to forget to mention the work of the Deacons and all the folks who provide refreshments for the social hour; the Women's Fellowship, those who make phone calls, send cards, visit, provide rides and all of you unrecognized here otherwise. God Bless you all – We Are the Church — Together!

Stewardship

Eileen Sheelar



This year, we received pledges, or financial commitments, from 18 units, for a total of \$81,510. Pledges help us create a budget and talk and dream about plans for the coming year. We also have a number of people who do not pledge and who are faithful in their giving. We are very grateful for the financial support of our mission to spread the gospel, to care for and further God's kin-dom, and to live out and

share the grace, love, and mercy of God, *who, by the power at work within us is able to accomplish abundantly far more than all we can ask or imagine* (Ephesians 3:20). See the Financial Reports and 2025 budget at the end of this report for how we plan to steward your gifts over the year ahead.



Worship

Eileen Sheelar
Mary Jo Emmett

Last year, we reported our “handshake agreement” with Rev. Maggie Lewis for her to serve as our pulpit supply preacher through at least Pentecost, to provide worship continuity and a pastoral presence as needed while session and Maggie explored the situation to determine if it was a good fit for everyone concerned. That trial period went well, and as reported in the Personnel report, session voted to hire Pastor Maggie as our stated supply pastor, with her first contract beginning May 1, 2024. Maggie’s contract has been renewed for the 2025 year, as session and the congregation are very pleased with Maggie’s pastoral presence and leadership.

We have followed a variety of themes in worship throughout the year. During Lent, we followed Peter’s faith journey using a series entitled “Wandering Heart” by A Sanctified Art. Weekly themes based on the hymn “Come,



Thou Fount of Every Blessing,” guided our journey with Peter as he figured out his faith by following Jesus’ call—and got some help in looking at our own faith, too! Mary Jo’s liturgical art helped us follow the path from the narthex to the chancel, and the youth kept us going with icons placed on a smaller version of that wandering path. The traditional Maundy Thursday simple supper and worship was held with good attendance and fellowship. Easter worship featured the flowered cross, special music by the choir, and a special offering of “I Know that My Redeemer Liveth” by Adam and Anna Robinson. The sermon, “And I Hope” emphasized that with each new day, we hold onto hope for new life and resurrection.



From Easter to Pentecost, we followed the formation of the early church, watching Peter and Paul work with believers from all the known world, leading to Pentecost and the gift of the Holy Spirit. It was fitting that Pastor Maggie was commissioned to service at John Knox on Pentecost by our retiring moderator, Rev. David Horn. We bid him a fond farewell with thanks for guiding us over our time of searching, and we look to a future of new adventures with Pastor Maggie.

Summer worship was relaxed and featured guest speakers Rev. Ben Dake and Rev. Hillary Hughes while Maggie enjoyed some time away. Other fellowship and outreach activities continued, as described in other reports. As the school year began, so did our celebration of a Season for Peace. Our worship theme was Sowing Seeds of Peace, and we opened each worship service saying this together: *Warmed by love, grounded in faith, bathed with joy, we sow seeds of peace.*



Worship

Reformation Sunday, we learned about our Legacy of Faith, the Reformed Confessions, hearing about the background and context of these statements of our faith and beliefs. On November 3, we celebrated the saints of the faith and the saints in our lives during the Great Prayer of Thanksgiving.

Our Advent theme was “On the Way” and we followed the story of Jesus’ birth from Rome, to Jerusalem, Nazareth, and finally Bethlehem. On Christmas Eve, we celebrated the birth of the Christ Child in our traditional candlelight service with Communion, a fitting way to celebrate the Prince of Peace.

Worship is at its most complete when combined with music, and we are very fortunate to have talented musicians serving at John Knox. Anna

Robinson is the music director, responsible for choir, handbell and chimes, and leading congregational singing.

Bethany Cozort is our pianist. Bethany selects some amazing pieces to open and close worship, preparing us to join in worship and sending us on our way with joy and energy. We have several vocalists in the congregation who have



Dec. 22, 2024 “The Humblest of Them All”
Adam Robinson, piano, Cayla High, Pat McKelvie, Janet Anderson, Doug Anderson, Mark McKelvie, Anna Robinson, Vallyory Bunday, Ashley Kramer, Lane Oxley

added depth and variety to our singing. Anna and Adam Robinson’s musical offerings always enhance our worship, and we are grateful for Adam’s contributions to the congregational singing, too. Doug Anderson’s “The Friendly Beasts” was a highlight of our December 29 worship service! Cayla High offered a solo on December 22, and others have also shared their talents that allow us to worship not only with words, but in joyful music and song.



A note from Anna: I would like to express the wonderful gift that we have received over the past year from the many volunteers who made worship more musical. The choir was able to provide music for EVERY Sunday during Advent and on Christmas Eve, which has not happened in many years. The bells and chimes were used in worship in various ways to support and enhance our worship. Thank you to all the musicians who offer their time and talents. We would also like to thank Vallyory Bunday and Doug and Janet Anderson for stepping in to share their expertise and musical talents to allow Bethany and I to take our vacation days. It is such a gift to know the congregation will be cared for by these capable and gifted musicians.

Worship brings us together every week to sing, to hear Scripture, and to reflect on what those words mean to us in our lives and in the world today. Our fellowship is genuine; we love because we have been and are loved by the Creator, Redeemer, and Sustainer of us all.

Christian Education

Mary Jo Emmett

Christian Education at John Knox doesn't always look like the traditional model. Busy schedules complicate planning, and we don't want to overload those schedules even more! Our middle and high school youth are eligible to participate in Salem Youth Collective, offering an opportunity to join with other youth in service, learning, and fellowship adventures. During worship, Time with the Children of God in worship challenges our youth (and adults!) to consider many different topics, usually related to the scripture of the day. The youth look forward to this special time for them in worship. Our youth also sing in the choir, offer special music, play bells, and help with other worship activities. One high schooler serves as the audio-visual operator every other Sunday.



Adult education in 2024 included opportunities to participate in book studies and Bible studies held on Zoom, led by Sheila Cunningham. The fellowship and exploration of how to live out our faith in today's world made these gatherings meaningful, and the participants hope to continue them as time allows. Seasonally, we may offer an informal opportunity for conversation and learning in the narthex before worship begins. We continue to look for ways to encourage worship participation and faith formation in both formal and informal ways as we seek to walk and live in the way of our risen Lord.



PDA Blue Shirt Sunday is observed on the first Sunday in Lent. We wear blue to honor the work and the workers of Presbyterian Disaster Assistance, and we take a congregational photo to celebrate that when we all do a little, it adds up to a LOT, whether it is in contributions to disaster assistance, or helping in the church or community here in Keizer. We are our best when we worship and work together.

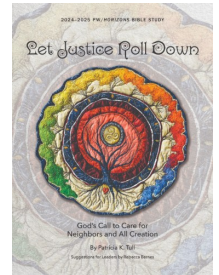


Congregational Life

Congregational Life

Worship is an important part of congregational life, but it's certainly not the only part! We gathered together in various groups and activities over the year. Here's a mention of some of those times:

Women's Fellowship meets monthly September through May. In 2024, they began a study of *Let Justice Roll Down: God's Call to Care for Neighbors and All Creation*. Between six and eight women attend this fellowship and study time, enjoying each other and some refreshments, too! This group also facilitates a Winter and Spring Luncheon at a local eatery, providing yet another venue for fellowship and fun!



Ice Cream Social has been held in September for the last couple of years, and is a good fellowship time for the congregation and neighbors who are invited to stop by and enjoy some ice cream. Keizer Old Time Jam provided some great background music for our visiting.



Deacon's Fall Potluck and Stewardship Bingo was held in October to greet the new program/school year as well as to celebrate what we know about each other and about the programs of the church. It's always a fun time, and this year, there were enough prizes for everyone! (I still want to know how Pastor Maggie managed to win both the first Bingo AND the first blackout!)

Fall Paper Drive for the food bank yielded 248 paper products and a lot of fun as we built a tower in the narthex with the incoming donations.



All-Church Christmas Party was held on December 14, complete with a Santa photo opportunity sponsored by the High family. We enjoyed a potluck, a time of memory sharing and gift exchange (and stealing!) and we finished up by singing a few favorite carols.



Mission

Sheila Cunningham

The members of the Mission Committee include Sheila Cunningham, Linda Garland, Dixie Schafer and Lane Oxley. Everyone is welcome to join our meetings.

Mission Through the Larger Church

Cascades Presbytery Partnership Giving \$8,150

This is basic mission support (undesignated giving) which supports the work of Presbytery, Synod and General Assembly in our area and around the world. We calculate this amount based on a tithe (10%) of pledges received by January 2024 as well as projected offerings.



Special Offerings (PCUSA) \$9,201



Christmas Joy (\$5,955) supports past, present, and future leaders of the church through racial/ ethnic schools and the Assistance Program of the Board of Pensions.

One Great Hour of Sharing (\$826) supports many different programs around the world including Self Development of People, Presbyterian Disaster Assistance, and the Presbyterian Hunger Program.

Pentecost (\$585) supports young people and inspires them to share their faith, ideas, and unique gifts with the church and the world. We keep 40% of this offering for local use.

Peace & Global Witness (\$640) encourages the church to embrace God’s reconciling mission to those around the corner and around the world, empowering congregations and individuals to become peace-makers themselves. We kept 25% (\$160) which was sent to Presbyterian Disaster Assistance for aid to flood victims in North Carolina, forwarding \$480 to Presbytery and PCUSA.

Presbyterian Disaster Assistance \$1,195

In addition to the four special offerings, John Knox also received and forwarded \$1,195 of designated donations for Presbyterian Disaster Assistance. These funds are received on the first Sunday of Lent, “PDA Blue Shirt Sunday,” and through the season of Lent.



Mission

Local Mission

Keizer Community Food Bank \$2,900



We budget \$100 per month to support the food bank located at Faith Lutheran Church, and we also pass through designated monetary gifts. In 2024 we sent \$1,700 along with our budgeted amount. The food bank is located in the building which was previously owned and occupied by Faith Lutheran Church. This building was recently purchased by Crossroads Fellowship who will continue to house the food bank. We will continue to designate food items to be focused on each month but will always accept any non-perishable items as well as monetary gifts. Lane Oxley serves as JKPC's representative on the KCFB board, and she and Teresa Read volunteer at the food bank each week. Sheila and Jacob Cunningham volunteer at the Marion County Food Share each week. See the separate KCFB report for more information.

Backpack Buddies \$3,040

JKPC continues to provide 20 food bags each week to designated students at Cummings Elementary. These bags have non-perishable food items to cover two breakfasts and two lunches for weekend meals. We budgeted \$300 a month to cover the expenses for these meals. Because of designated donations totaling \$1,260, we only spent \$1,780 of the budgeted amount in 2024, with the remainder staying in reserve. We send home a jar of peanut butter each month along with a flyer written in both English and Spanish that tells the location, days, and hours of the Keizer Community Food Bank.

Oregon Department of Human Services/Child Welfare Gift Cards \$3,120 (up from \$2,440 last year!)

See the separate article under Deacons for a description of this established outreach.

Congregations Helping People (CHP) \$2,583



We budget \$100 a month to support this non-profit organization. In addition to this pledge, we received \$1,383 in designated donations as well as coins and money collected on Christ Jar Sunday, the third Sunday of each month. CHP is supported by 10 local congregations and JKPC is the third largest donor to this organization, a pretty impressive feat for our small congregation! CHP moved to a new location in a shared building with The Salvation Army located at 1977 Front St NE. Client hours are Monday – Thursday, 10:00 – 1:00. CHP's mission is to help individuals and families remain in their homes and keep their utilities turned on. They provide assistance with rent, utilities, identification cards, birth certificates and bus passes. CHP is governed by a Board of Directors, of which Sheila Cunningham is a member.

Hygiene Kits

Items for hygiene kits were collected over several months and on May 29, 2024, Pentecost Sunday, we assembled 19 kits which were donated to the men's UGM shelter that were then taken out to homeless folks in the area.

Mission

Local Mission (con't)

Liberty House

JKPC had a budget surplus from the 2023 budget, and because of this the mission committee was able to donate \$3500 to Liberty House, a Children's Advocacy Center serving Marion and Polk counties, the only place providing special assessment service in a safe, comfortable, child-friendly environment. They provide excellence in assessment, treatment, and prevention of child abuse, neglect, trauma, and grief to promote health and hope in children youth, families, and communities. In addition to this monetary donation, blankets and stuffed animals were also offered to help comfort children using these services. \$160, our 40% portion of the Pentecost Special Offering collected in 2024, was also donated to Liberty House. Lane Oxley, Dixie Schafer, Jacob and Sheila Cunningham toured the facility to get a better understanding of the services they offer.

Warm Springs Presbyterian Church

Because of the budget surplus from 2023, Mission Committee was able to designate \$1500 in recognition of the Warm Springs Presbyterian Church's 150th anniversary. The money will be used to help refurbish their manse in anticipation of calling a new pastor. In June, Pastor Maggie, Linda Garland, and Sheila and Jacob Cunningham attended their celebration and enjoyed a wonderful salmon bake along with dancing, singing and sharing of history.

Ice Cream Social

Mission Committee hosted our second annual ice cream social in early September. This year we were entertained by Keizer Old Time Jam and welcomed several neighbors and friends of church members. A good time was had by all, and we plan to continue this tradition.



Other mission projects

Pull tabs are collected and donated to Ronald McDonald House in Bend as a fundraiser.

Styrofoam is collected and taken to the recycling center on Center Street in Salem.

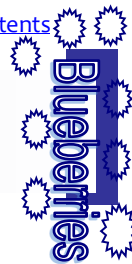
Bibles in any translation, language, or condition are collected and donated to the Bible Foundation.

In September, prior to the beginning of the new school year, Pastor Maggie, Pat and Mark McKelvie, Lane Oxley, Sheila and Jacob walked to Cummings Elementary and said a blessing for the staff and students for the upcoming school year.

Dixie Schafer and Sheila Cunningham made and delivered three casseroles for Family Promise of the Mid-Willamette Valley, an organization helping families experiencing housing instability.

Sheila Cunningham and Dixie Schafer served cookies and punch at Cummings Elementary Spring concert.

Linda Arnold continues to maintain our Little Free Library for use by the community to share the joy of reading and making books accessible in the neighborhood for children and adults alike.



2024 John Knox Community Garden

South fence line Iglesia de Jesucristo PDC Garden Area

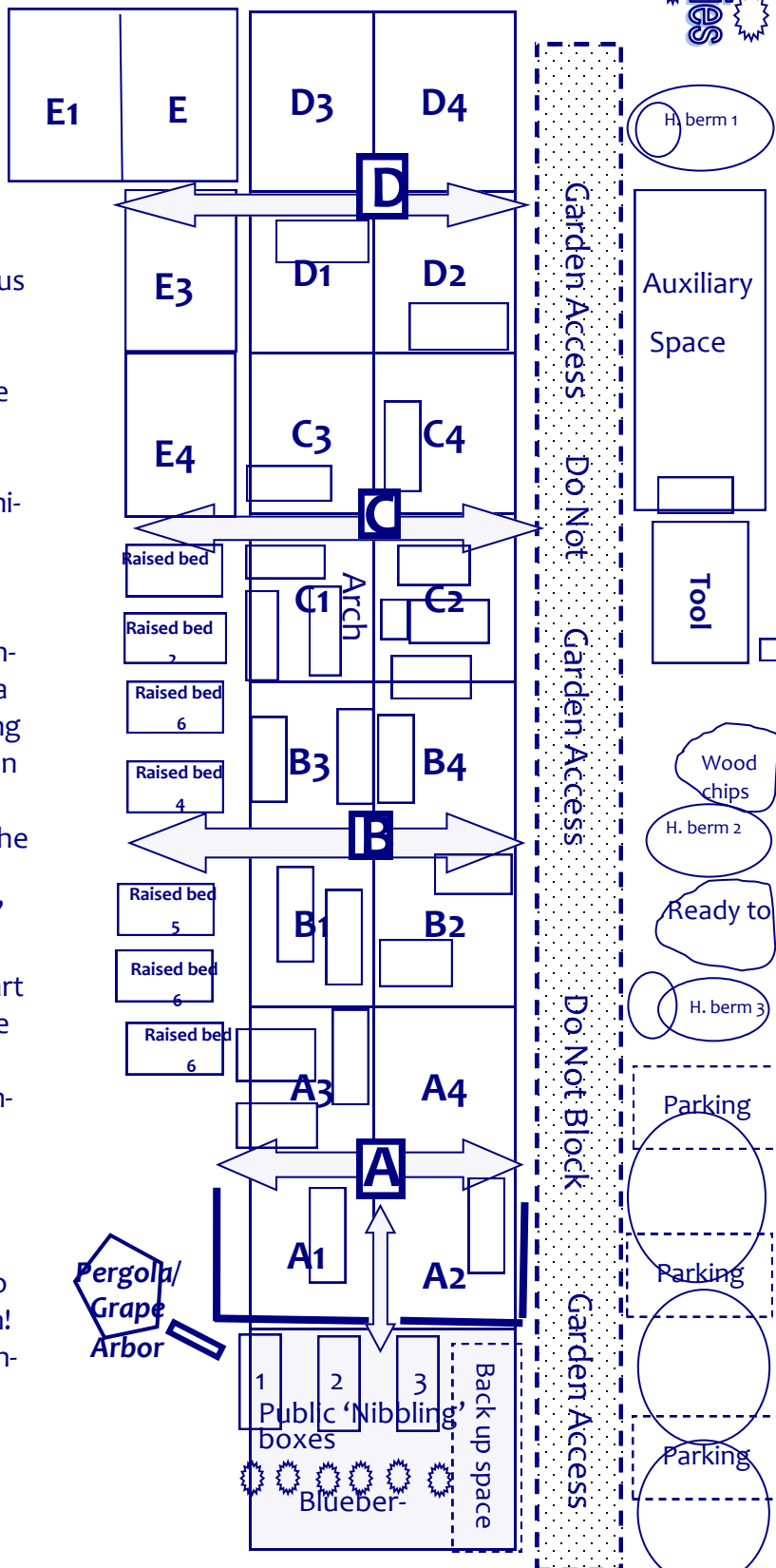
The Garden completed its 15th season in 2024 with 3 plots and 3 boxes being designated for communal use or donations and the remaining spaces assigned to 18 family units. Most were returnees but we were glad to welcome 3 new gardeners! Only 4 units are JKPC church members; the rest are neighbors or they found us through the MPFS Community Garden website. Community members came mostly from the Keizer area; 6 are single households, the rest are couples but only 3 have children living at home; about half are retired or semi-retired.

For the first time, we had no outside community volunteer groups; students from Corban University were scheduled for MLK Day in January but we canceled due to icy road conditions. We do thank and recognize two of our garden volunteers - Linda Arnold and Roger Applegate! Linda took on the task of cleaning the sign and painting the pergola, then furnished it with pillows and an outdoor carpet! It looked beautiful and so inviting! Roger weeded and re-established most of the main paths, laying down cardboard and woodchips as well as tending to the 'Nibbling Garden' boxes along Cummings Lane.

We also thank Keizer United for funding in part the purchase of premium compost - the balance came from the church garden account to which others have generously donated. MPFS also generously gifted the garden with a \$350 gift card with which we have decided to use to replace nozzles, hoses, and buy fertilizer and more garden infrastructure (posts, wire fencing, hose hangers etc.). Last but not least, many thanks to the church for continuing to support the garden! With 2 major heat waves in 2024, the garden consumed more than its usual amount of water by over \$100.

Thank you!

Mary Jo Emmett
Coordinator



Keizer Community Food Bank

Jim Johnson
Chair of KCFB



The volunteers who worked during 2024 provided stellar service to our clients and have demonstrated exceptional loyalty to KCFB. KCFB continued to provide goods to the clients as they remain in their vehicles. This method of distribution has proven to be effective and efficient for all. No changes were made during the year.

KCFB needed to continue to purchase lots of goods due to supply chain disruptions. Canned vegetables, peanut butter, and canned soups (to name a few items) continued in short supply in 2024.

Since March, 2022, we ordered what was offered by Marion Polk Food Share (MPFS) and supplemented what we received with purchases from local grocery stores. We did not receive what we ordered/wanted most of the time. We were spending about \$1000/week to continue to provide very similar food boxes to what was provided in the past.

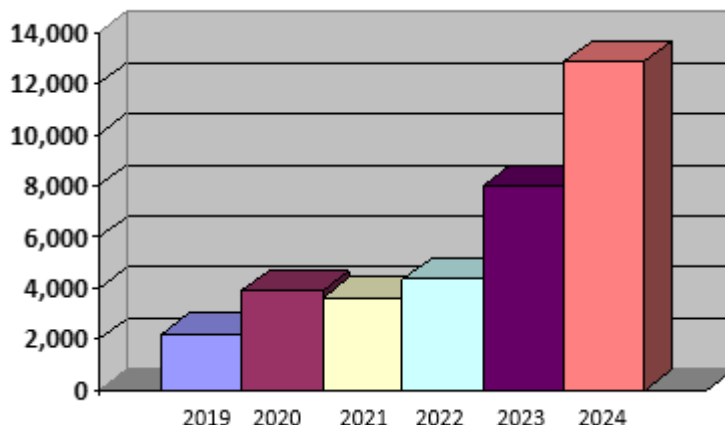
Link-2-Feed was discontinued by MPFS. So, we modified registration to be a written list (30 clients/page which was in compliance with Oregon Food Bank). Totals are counted in the same manner as L2F. Digital copies of the registration forms are made and these written registration pages are destroyed (shredded). The digital files meet OFB/MPFS requirements.

At a September 23, 2024 meeting, MPFS announced a new contract was going to be issued, effective 1/1/2025. They presented what was new and what was going to be enforced. A troubling issue was that MPFS indicated that there were hard lines in the sand and if not complied with, dismissal from MPFS network would occur. One issue (client choice) was discussed by me because to comply would require double the quantity of volunteers and the total hours for each volunteer would double. I advised it was not realistic. Through negotiation and support from The Keizer Times, MPFS accepted our method as the best method to feed the quantity of clients we serve. The new contract was signed by me and MPFS and will be implemented January 1, 2025.

We maintained distributions on the 5th Monday when it occurred in a month, with all churches providing volunteers for each event.

Totals for families served in 2024: 12,854 clients; 34,573 individuals. This was a huge increase over all previous years. See the table on the next page for more detailed statistics.

Clients



Keizer Community Food Bank

Year	# Clients**	% increase over previous year	% increase over 2019
2019	2,173		
2020	3,851	77%	77%
2021	3,589	n/a	65%
2022	4,337	20.8%	99.5%
2023	8,004	84.6%	368.3%
2024	12,854	60.1%	591.5%



** # Clients is the number of family units, not individuals. In 2024, 34,573 individuals were served with 1,012,499 pounds of food goods, about double 2023 numbers.

This year, as stated above, we needed to purchase significant pantry goods locally. Fresh produce and personal items traditionally supplied to meet our distribution needs were purchased. At times, we were spending over \$1,000 per week. We have been able to do this due to the **fantastic financial support** received from our Keizer community. More than 35 entities donated during 2024 exceeding \$40,365.64. **WE HAVE FANTASTIC SUPPORT FROM THE KEIZER COMMUNITY!!!!**

For Thanksgiving, we did our own program again this year. Experience from 2023 caused us to review delivery of actual turkeys. It was physically too much. So, we decided to provide \$20 gift cards from Walmart. We provided 200 cards on each of November 21 and November 25. On Monday, November 25, we served a record 279 clients (provided \$20 gift card to first 200 clients). Total distribution time was 4 hours. Thank you, Crossroads, for the volunteers for this date.

UPTOWN MUSIC and TONY’S COMICS have provided continuous great support. Unfortunately, Tony decided to retire and close down the store, and subsequently Tony had a fatal accident. We will miss him and his support.

A HUGE THANKS to ALL of our churches and volunteers. Keizer Food Bank needs everyone to serve the food insecure.

Near the end of December, Faith Lutheran officially transferred ownership of the property at 4505 River Rd N to Crossroads Fellowship. Faith has officially closed. Crossroads will replace Faith as our fifth church. MANY, MANY THANKS TO FAITH LUTHERAN FOR ALLOWING US TO WORK FROM THEIR CHURCH.

We look forward to continuing our food bank operations with Crossroads Fellowship.

Your servant,

Jim Johnson, Chair

Participating churches: Faith Lutheran Church, John Knox Presbyterian Church, St. Edward Catholic Church, Clearlake United Methodist Church, Keizer Christian Church, and Crossroads Fellowship.

Session

Eileen Sheelar

Session and Clerk’s Report

Rev. David Horn moderated our session meetings through May of 2024, when we hired Rev. Maggie Lewis as our half-time stated supply pastor. We will be ever grateful for his friendship, guidance, and commitment to John Knox as we discerned where God continues to lead us.

At the beginning of 2025, we installed Ruling Elders Eileen Sheelar and Mary Jo Emmett Bronwyn Curtis for their second term on session and Rosemary Willhite returned from her sabbatical. CJ High is taking a well-deserved sabbatical. We are thankful for the officers who served in 2024 and those who will serve this year and in the future:

RULING ELDERS			2025	DEACONS		
Class of 2025	Class of 2026	Class of 2027	Class of 2025	Class of 2026	Class of 2027	
Sheila Cunningham	Bronwyn Curtis Treasurer	Mary Jo Emmett	Linda Garland	(vacant)	Joan Allen Moderator	
Vallory Bunday	Anna Robinson	Eileen Sheelar	Dixie Schafer	(vacant)	Lane Oxley	
Beth Neal	(vacant)	Rosemary Willhite		(vacant)	Ashley Kramer	

In 2024, our average attendance was 32 during in-person worship. Website statistics indicate 3-5 views online each week.

At the end of 2024, we have 31 active members on the rolls. This does not count our youth or a number of people considered “friends of the church,” those who actively participate in the life and worship of JKPC but who have not officially joined as members. We appreciate and enjoy their participation in our faith community.

In 2024, The Reverend Charles Willming, The Reverend Dr. John Neal, Elder Harry Pease, and inactive members Linda Waldner, Roy Ebel and Virginia Dake joined the great cloud of witnesses. We celebrate their grace-filled lives and we are grateful they shared their faith and wisdom with us. Well done, good and faithful servants!



Deacons

Joan Allen, Moderator

The position of deacon is one of caring and compassion. During 2024, Joan Allen, Betty Correll, Linda Garland, Carrie High, Lane Oxley, and Dixie Schafer served as deacons. Ashley Kramer served as “deacon-in-training” part of the year, assisting deacons where needed. Ashley was installed as a deacon on January 5, 2025.

The deacons are responsible for the coffee/social hour after worship. Thank you to other members and friends of the congregation who consistently helped with this great time of fellowship. We also celebrate birthdays and anniversaries on the third Sunday of each month.

Deacon meetings were held as needed. The deacons kept in contact with their flocks via calls, visits, cards, emails, and texts.

Transportation was provided by the deacons for home-bound members and friends.

The Christmas fundraiser this year was to purchase gift cards for youth in the care of Marion County Child Welfare Program. The gift cards, valued from \$10 - \$50, are used to purchase clothing and other personal items, especially for teens. Youth in care value every opportunity to make choices and purchases for themselves and to have resources that allow them to feel “part of the group” in social situations. Linda Garland coordinated this effort on behalf of the congregation. \$3,120 was generously donated for the purchase of gift cards in varying amounts at Walmart, Dutch Bros, Target, Ulta Beauty, Taco Bell, Panda Express, Amazon, Subway and McDonalds. Oregon DHS presented John Knox with a certificate of appreciation for our active expression of care for these youth.

**Let the peace of Christ
rule in your hearts, to
which indeed you were
called in the one body.
And be thankful.**

Colossians 3:15



Treasurer

Bronwyn Curtis

2024 concluded with net operating revenue of \$24,250 versus an expected loss of -\$1,525. This can be attributed to:

1. Your faith-filled commitment to the work of Jesus Christ through John Knox by maintaining your tithes and gifts.
2. A one-time generous gift towards the 2024 deficit and the 2025 projected deficit.

Another factor to consider is the role volunteers play in the running of the church. We have many volunteers who perform the day-to-day tasks to run the church, including our brothers and sisters in Christ at Puerta Del Cielo who maintain our building and grounds. We do not pay wages for a part-time office manager, building manager, groundskeeper, cleaning service, audiovisual and tech support, social media management, bookkeeper, or treasurer. Our creative liturgical arts use materials we already have on hand and re-sources previously used materials creatively.

The usable income was around \$105,187 made up of the pledge, offering, and building rent categories. The balance of the income categories is pass-through (mostly mission). The income of \$18,149.97 from our investments was reinvested.

Your generosity towards foster children in Marion County through the Oregon Department of Human Services was simply amazing; you gave \$2,960 to purchase gift cards, plus we received \$160 in physical gift cards for a total of \$3,120. The giving to the four Special offerings through the PC(USA) totaled \$9,201 (including a one-time gift of \$5,000 to the Christmas Joy offering). These funds help serve ministries within the USA and around the world, to lift the oppressed and find long term solutions to feeding the hungry, to work for justice, for peaceful resolutions to conflict, and to increase the safety for children and offer education opportunities. We contributed \$1195 to USA Flooding through the PC(USA) Presbyterian Disaster Assistance program, along with \$160 from our share of the Peace and Global Witness offering.

Annette Hatley, CPA reviewed our financial practices for 2023, and I am pleased to say we passed without exception.

Headwater Investment Consulting manages our Fidelity Investment funds and provides monthly economic and market commentary. Our investment strategy continues to be conservative, and we are currently reinvesting all returns.

Despite market volatility before the 2024 presidential election, our investments performed well overall. Our Fidelity and New Covenant investments ended the year with an unrealized positive gain of \$44,475.26, a realized loss of -\$19,475.92, with investment expenses of \$2,801.00.

**A good steward understands
money, not for the money,
but for the possibilities.**

Steve Garnaas-Holmes

PROFIT & LOSS**2024**

INCOME	ACTUAL	BUDGET
Pledges	\$ 74,697.78	\$ 76,320.00
Offerings	\$ 28,761.70	\$ 5,004.00
Miscellaneous	\$ 14,631.60	\$ 11,140.00
Christ Jar	\$ 1,383.29	\$ 1,080.00
Building Use	\$ 1,728.00	\$ 1,104.00
Per Capita	\$ 732.20	\$ 600.00
Food Bank	\$ 1,700.00	\$ 1,800.00
Backpack Buddies	\$ 1,260.00	\$ 1,200.00
Transfers In/Out	\$ 1,541.98	\$ -
TOTAL	\$ 126,436.55	\$ 98,248.00
EXPENSES	ACTUAL	BUDGET
Salary/Wages	\$ 34,365.46	\$ 37,784.00
Operations	\$ 21,996.41	\$ 22,688.00
Worship	\$ 5,874.01	\$ 6,584.00
Finance	\$ 175.00	\$ 175.00
Christian Education	\$ 4,314.08	\$ 4,600.00
Property	\$ 5,590.75	\$ 3,600.00
Mission	\$ 29,820.84	\$ 24,092.00
Outreach	\$ 50.00	\$ 250.00
TOTAL	\$ 102,186.55	\$ 99,773.00
NET PROFIT/LOSS	\$ 24,250.00	\$ (1,525.00)

STATEMENT OF POSITION

		12.31.2023	12.31.2024
	FUND ACCOUNTS		
9001	Capital Improve & Maint	\$ 17,641.60	\$ 26,867.45
9002	Food Bank	\$ 275.00	\$ 400.00
9003	Christmas Joy	\$ 1,060.00	\$ 5,680.00
9004	Peace & Global Witness	\$ -	\$ -
9005	Pentecost	\$ -	\$ -
9006	One Great Hour of Sharing	\$ -	\$ -
9007	JK Education Reserve	\$ 3,163.67	\$ 2,986.67
9008	Deacon's Reserve	\$ 164.07	\$ 104.01
9009	Youth Reserve	\$ 1,892.75	\$ 1,892.75
9010	Peace & Global Witness Reserve	\$ 556.25	\$ 556.25
9011	Congregations Helping People	\$ 147.25	\$ 195.52
9013	Community BBQ	\$ 50.00	\$ 60.00
9014	Community Garden	\$ 542.19	\$ 99.41
9015	Youth Triennium Fund	\$ 632.20	\$ 632.20
9016	Backpack Buddies	\$ 360.12	\$ 130.00
9017	PDA	\$ -	\$ -
9018	Choir/Music Reserve	\$ 355.12	\$ 355.12
9019	Fellowship Times	\$ 116.52	\$ -
9020	Women's Fellowship	\$ 189.20	\$ 189.20
9021	DHS Gift Cards	\$ -	\$ -
9022	Pentecost Reserve	\$ 469.20	\$ 469.20
9023	Hygiene Kits	\$ 49.71	\$ 60.91
9024	Transportation Reimbursement	\$ 860.00	\$ 840.00
9025	Eco Justice Reserve	\$ 45.00	\$ 45.00
9054	Pastor Health Insurance Costs	\$ 16,982.11	\$ 26,933.29
9059	Insurance Deductible Fund	\$ 5,000.00	\$ 5,000.00
9060	Unrestricted Short Term Gifts	\$ -	\$ -
9099	Memorial - Misc.	\$ 100.00	\$ -
	Subtotal Fund Accounts	\$ 50,651.96	\$ 73,496.98
	General Fund	\$ 70,879.49	\$ 72,284.47
	Balance Checking Account	\$ 121,531.45	\$ 145,781.45
	Checking Account	\$ 121,531.45	\$ 145,781.45
	New Covenant Mutual Funds	\$ 39,869.70	\$ 45,428.18
	Fidelity Investments	\$ 411,251.69	\$ 445,413.10
	Savings Account	\$ 25,858.01	\$ 25,860.61
	Umpqua Bank CD	\$ 15,419.77	\$ 16,045.59
	TOTAL ASSETS	\$ 613,930.62	\$ 678,528.93

2025 Budget Explanation

Session approved the 2025 budget at the December Session meeting, then adopted an amended budget at the January session meeting. Our budget is a guideline, or a goal post if you will, which allows flexibility when needed. As we know life is not static and we assess and adapt as best we can to changing circumstances.

The amended 2025 budget projections are:

Income	\$100,890
Expenses	\$106,795.00
Net deficit	-\$5,905.

This is not a particularly positive result; however, after session’s initial adoption of the budget with a much larger deficit, the need became known, and members and friends of John Knox stepped up their giving, resulting in this much lower projected deficit. Funds received at the end of 2024 can help cover any 2025 deficit. These funds will be kept in reserve.

Expenses continue to increase, and we have tried our best to predict our operating costs; property and liability insurance we expect will increase significantly following the natural disasters of this past year. We hope that by replacing the old thermostat in the social hall with a smart thermostat we will, in the long term, reduce our heating costs. Our biggest expenditure is for staffing. Our staff received the Presbytery recommended COLA of 3.70% for 2025. As we follow the recently adopted Presbytery requirements for Pastor remuneration, we are benefiting from the Board of Pensions changes effective January 1st, which make our contributions for healthcare coverage for Pastor Maggie more affordable. I moved the cost of substitute music staff from a worship line item to a salary and wages line item #2019 to better reflect the nature of this expenditure. The budget doesn’t hold any new expenditure.

John Knox church is a small vital congregation, with a strong emphasis on mission. We continue to be the hands and feet of Christ through prayer, action, and money.

*I was hungry and you fed me, I was thirsty and you gave me a drink,
I was homeless and you gave me a room, I was shivering and you gave me clothes,
I was sick and you stopped to visit, I was in prison and you came to me.’*

“Then those ‘sheep’ are going to say, ‘Master, what are you talking about? When did we ever see you hungry and feed you, thirsty and give you a drink? And when did we ever see you sick or in prison and come to you?’ Then the King will say, ‘I’m telling the solemn truth: Whenever you did one of these things to someone overlooked or ignored, that was me—you did it to me.’ *Matthew 25:35-40 The Message*

Treasurer

2025 BUDGET

Bronwyn Curtis

	INCOME	2024
1001	Pledges	\$ 81,510.00
1002	Offerings	\$ 7,000.00
1003	Miscellaneous	\$ 6,500.00
1004	Christ jar + CHP Pledges	\$ 1,080.00
1005	Building Use	\$ 1,200.00
1006	Per Capita	\$ 600.00
1007	Food Bank Donations	\$ 1,800.00
1008	Backpack Buddies Donations	\$ 1,200.00
	TOTAL	\$ 100,890.00
	EXPENSES	
	Salary & Wages	
2001	Pastor - Salary	\$ 5,440.00
2002	Pastor - Housing Allowance	\$ 23,700.00
2003	Pastor - Professional Expenses	\$ 1,750.00
2004	Pastor - Pension	\$ 2,476.90
2005	Pastor - Continuing Education	\$ 750.00
2006	Pastor - Life/disability Insurance	\$ 437.10
2007	Pastor - Social Security (SECA)	n/a
2008	Pastor - Major Medical	\$ 6,000.00
2019	Staff—Substitute music staff	\$ 400.00
2020	Staff - Music Director	\$ 5,400.00
2021	Staff - Office Manager	\$ -
2022	Staff - Musician	\$ 5,400.00
2024	Payroll taxes	\$ 1,200.00
	TOTAL SALARY & WAGES	\$ 52,954.00
	Operations	
3001	Operations costs	\$ 1,200.00
3002	Equipment Lease & Maint	\$ 2,040.00
3003	Insurance	\$ 6,500.00
3004	Per Capita Expenses	\$ 1,550.00
3005	Electricity	\$ 2,160.00
3006	Natural gas	\$ 1,800.00
3007	Telephone & Internet	\$ 1,740.00
3008	Water & Sewer	\$ 2,000.00
3009	Garbage Service	\$ 750.00
3010	Janitorial Supplies incl PPE	\$ 200.00
3011	Session Expenses	\$ 200.00
3012	Deacon & Fellowship Expenses	\$ 350.00
3015	Bank Fees/Charges	\$ 50.00
3016	Communications & Licensing	\$ 1,225.00
3017	Transportation Reimbursement	\$
	TOTAL OPERATIONS	\$ 21,765.00

Treasurer

2024 BUDGET

Bronwyn Curtis

	Worship	
4001	Worship - Supplies	\$ 150.00
4002	Worship - Liturgical Arts	
4003	Worship - Music Materials	\$ 100.00
4004	Worship - Pulpit Supply	\$ 1,500.00
4006	Worship - Technology	\$ 200.00
4007	Worship - Special Music	\$ -
	TOTAL WORSHIP	\$ 1,950.00
	Finance	
5003	Finance - Financial Review costs	\$ 175.00
	TOTAL FINANCE	\$ 175.00
	Christian Education	
6001	CE- Children	\$
6002	CE - Adult	\$ 250.00
6003	CE - Supplies	
6004	CE - Library	\$ -
6005	CE - Volunteer Appreciation	\$ 800.00
	TOTAL Christian Education	\$ 1,050.00
	Property	
7001	Building & Grounds Maint	\$ 3,600.00
7002	Capital Improvement Exp	\$ -
	TOTAL PROPERTY	\$ 3,600.00
	Mission	
8001	Mission - Presbytery Pledge	\$ 8,851.00
8002	Mission - Backpack Buddies pledge	\$ 3,600.00
8003	Local - Misc.	\$ 2,120.00
8005	Special Offerings	\$ 4,000.00
8006	Food Bank Pledge	\$ 1,200.00
8007	Local - CHP	\$ 1,200.00
8008	Youth Mission Scholarship	\$ -
8009	Community Garden	\$ -
8010	Food Bank Donations	\$ 1,800.00
8011	CHP Donations	\$ 1,080.00
8012	Campus Ministry	\$ -
8013	Backpack Buddies donations	\$ 1,200.00
	TOTAL MISSION	\$ 25,051.00
	Outreach	
8501	Outreach	\$ 250.00
	TOTAL OUTREACH	\$ 250.00
	TOTAL INCOME	\$ 100,890.00
	TOTAL EXPENSES	\$ 106,795.00
	PROFIT/(LOSS)	\$ (5,905.00)