



Community PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

of Clarendon Hills

2023 Annual Report



Our Future is Now!

A defining year of joy, togetherness, generosity and gratitude

Welcomed New Families

8 Adults

4 Youth

6 Children



Enjoyed Strong Participation in Fellowship Events



Christmas Brunch packed Fellowship Hall

Pet Blessing well attended



Progressive Dinner

57 Attendees

Your Generosity Paved the Path for a Very Bright Future

\$586,384!

Goal: \$572,000



\$500,000
\$400,000
\$300,000
\$200,000
\$100,000

Pledge dollars increase **+18%**

Average pledge increase **+13%**

Number of new pledgers **13**

Innovated our Music Ministry

Welcomed Christopher Cock, Director of Music Ministries



Worship on the Lawn Gospel Music

Concert Series:

4 Concerts

420 Attendees



Our Future is Now!

A defining year of joy, togetherness, generosity and gratitude

A Year of Traditional and New Youth Experiences

COMMUNITY
Local students relish CPC mission trips



Judy Johns Schlegel

Sixteen local high-school students went on week-long mission trips this summer. They made a difference not just in the lives of those they helped, but also in their own lives. "I have always been passionate about helping others and building things," said Andrew Patterson, a Dayton resident and Hinsdale South junior. "The experiences that we had are unforgettable. "Although this trip was meant for doing work, the relationships we made were amazing." "The memories will forever shape me and change who I am as a person," said Cici Shaska of Clarendon Hills, a Hinsdale Central sophomore. "I am forever grateful for this life-altering experience that I was blessed to be a part of."

While the purpose of both trips was to undertake service work, all participants felt that they derived so much more from the experience than the homeowners or campers they were serving.

Community Presbyterian Church of Clarendon Hills (CPC) leads and sponsors summer "vacations," as part of Cubes, its high-school ministry program. Meredith Raab of Clarendon Hills, a Hinsdale Central sophomore, said the caravan exposed her to different life experiences...

PHOTO COURTESY OF JUDY JOHNS SCHLEGELE
 Local high-school students in the Cubes youth program at the Community Presbyterian Church of Clarendon Hills went on a mission trip to Camp Courageous in Iowa this past summer.



Children and Worship



Grace Space Introduced

CPC Kids' Academy
 Earned Coveted
 NAEYC Accreditation



\$42,000

in Mission Giving

Welcomed Syrian refugee family with apartment supplies



Christmas Pageant with 24 Participants

Worship Participation:
 Total Increased 5%
 Shifted to More In-Person

% In-Person

2023: **63%**

2022: **48%**

2023 CPC Income

\$46,175

compared to an \$85K budgeted deficit



Vacation Bible School

Our Future is Now!

A future of hope with two pastors, prioritized youth ministry, pastoral care for all, strong mission giving and a healthy financial foundation

2023 Financials and 2024 Budget

	<u>2023 Budget</u>	<u>2023 Actual</u>	<u>2024 Budget</u>
Revenue	\$595,322	\$702,662	\$732,783
Expenses	\$668,476	\$656,487	\$731,555
Income	(\$85,343)	\$46,175	\$1,229

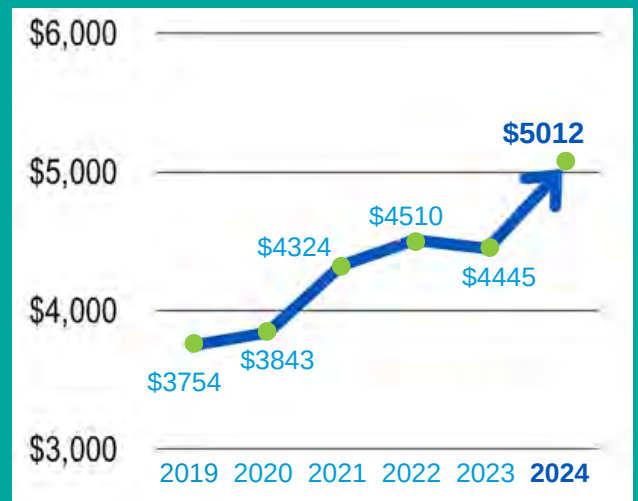
- 2023 Income was \$46,175 versus a planned budget deficit of (\$85,343)
- Actual income benefited from very strong interest income and higher plate giving, along with the execution of the \$50K planned staffing restructuring in the 2023 budget
- Balanced budget planned in 2024, the first in many years and ahead of 5 year plan

2024 Pledges

2024 Total Pledge Dollars Up 18%



2024 Average Pledges Up 13%



Your unprecedented generosity has led us to an exciting and hopeful future:

The Associate Pastor Nominating Committee has been formed to call a full-time Associate Pastor to take over when our beloved Pastor Susan is called to her next pastoral ministry.



We are a spiritual
Community for everyone
seeking HOPE, belonging, and growth



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A Message From Our Pastor

Reverend Beth Freese Dammers
Pastor / Head of Staff



This year has been filled with hope and gratitude. There has been so much momentum and energy that has been building throughout the year. We have much to celebrate and I hope we continue to give thanks to God for every blessing and opportunity!

Clearly the Holy Spirit is moving in this place. We began the year by re-organizing two staff positions and thereby reducing the budget by \$50,000. For several years, conversations and the five-year plans pointed to the need for decreasing budgets and what seemed like a real possibility: reducing the staffing model to one pastor. By mid-year, Session looked closely at the culture of CPC as a community that cares for each other and prioritizes faith ministry for youth and pastoral care and leadership for all. Session wanted to give the congregation every opportunity to weigh in on the priority of an Associate Pastor.

Our Stewardship campaign gathered momentum and generous pledges and joyful voices led to our goals being exceeded - we will continue to have two pastors. We celebrate with gratitude the way every corner of CPC has contributed to the whole. We thank folks who are continuing to pledge, those pledging for the first time, folks who have returned to pledging, and those who have significantly increased their financial commitment to the goal of offering the love and witness of Jesus Christ to our communities and world. While we absolutely love our brilliant and talented Pastor Susan, we are able to plan to continue the Associate Pastor role when she pursues her next calling.

We also express JOY for the high-quality music ministry among us. Dr. Christopher Cock joined the staff in January and has inspired the Chancel Choir and Bell Choir to share beautiful music in new ways. We are blessed to have his musical gifts and inspired to refine a musical sound under his leadership. Likewise, the Concert Series Committee was inspired to try a new thing: they added a family friendly concert with tremendous success. The Jim Gill concert in September brought new audience participants and sparked JOY and LAUGHTER with children and families!

Family of God, I see in you and through you the pure HOPE that is a life of faith! This year we have rediscovered the JOY of being together as witnessed in:

- Deacon Progressive Dinner
- All Church Christmas Brunch following the Christmas Pageant
- Worship on the Lawn with jazz musicians
- Trivia Nights
- Caring for one another with compassion and empathy during times of sympathy and healing

Other things I celebrate with you:

- Kids' Academy's NAEYC accreditation (National Association for the Education of Young Children)
- A dedicated staff, gifted in ministry and supportive of one another and the congregation
- Endowment Fund Committee's home visits to share opportunities to support the Legacy Fund. What a privilege it is to present a way for members to ensure the legacy of CPC
- Celebrating the 25th Anniversary of Stephen Ministry at CPC. Their compassion, empathy and listening support is a blessing
- Completed Continuing Education: one week at the World Parliament of Religions and attendance at the Covenant Network mini-conference with 4 members of CPC to explore "Beyond Words: from Mere Welcome to True Belonging" with a focus on LGBTQ+ persons

Because we are believers in Jesus Christ, we live, take action and make decisions grounded in the belief that in God all things are possible. Amen.

A Message From Our Transitional Associate Pastor



Reverend Susan Tindall
Transitional Associate Pastor

2023 was filled with making creative plans and collaborating on positive, proactive steps towards the changes to come in 2024. Some highlights of the year for me were:

- Working with West Virginia Ministry of Advocacy and Work Camps, our fantastic adult leaders and students to build not one but two ramps for vulnerable families.
- Collaborating with individuals and committees on laying foundational plans towards welcoming a new staff person in the future focused on youth ministry! We accomplished so much together, and the conversations were filled with creativity and love for CPC.
- Finding new connections and opportunities for hands-on mission work in our local community.
- Continuing the faithful ministry of the Deacons from sending cards, setting the table for Communion, and sharing in joyful fellowship during the Progressive Dinner.
- Trying out some collaborative youth ministry events with local churches in Hinsdale.
- Supporting committees during this time of transition and change while seeing them flourish in their ministry.

2024 will bring good and faithful change. CPC has a bright and beautiful future and I'm excited for this next chapter in our history!

With gratitude,
Rev. Susan Tindall



CPC's Foundation

A Great Staff, Strategic Leadership and a Welcoming Facility

Community Presbyterian Church is a fellowship of believers who seek God's purpose, share life's passages, and strive to live out Christ's teachings. Through God's grace, all are welcomed and may find respect, nurture and refuge as we live out our love for service to each other, the greater community, and the world.

Administration and Personnel Committee

Chair: Kelly Bufton

Members: Elizabeth Abraham, Kathy Adelman, Carol Crimmins, Ken Monson, Doug Newkirk, Lindy Steeves, Rev. Beth Freese Dammers (staff liaison)

2023 Goals

- Hire a Director of Music Ministries
- Develop/implement a consistent long-term methodology for document storage, security, and backup, which responds to both on-site and work-from-home access
- As required by Presbytery – Session review of:
 - Manual of Administration Operations and Personnel Policy Manuals
 - Boundary Training and Child & Youth Protection Policy
 - Insurance – Property, Casualty, and Directors & Officers coverage

2023 Highlights

- Hired Christopher Cock as Director of Music Ministries
- Welcomed Elizabeth Abraham as new member and thanked Janet Plate for her long service to A&P
- Extended Rev. Susan Tindall's contract for an additional year until July 2024
- Cut \$50,000 from 2023 budget due to pledge shortfall
- Determined what additional staff cuts would be necessary if pledges did not increase significantly
- Trained staff on new "Ethics Policy for Business Matters"
- Implemented Google Drive to store A&P documents and minutes
- Prepared timeline for calling Associate Pastor
- Prepared transition plan for departure of Susan Tindall and calling Associate Pastor
- Conducted annual job performance reviews

Looking Forward to 2024

- Operate without any budget cuts
- Call an Associate Pastor (Youth)

Safety Security and Emergency Response (SSER) Subcommittee

Co-Chairs: Rich Cirillo and Pat Garner

Members: Lindy Steeves (A&P liaison), Wayne Pritzel (H&G liaison), Mark Rediehs, Berrie Salbego, Tracy Sims, Dan Youngman, Mary Youngman, Rev. Beth Freese Dammers (staff liaison)

2023 Goals

- Continue to monitor the pandemic and prepare updated information as needed
- Conduct facility inspections and emergency response training
- Update the SSER Plan

2023 Highlights

- Continued pandemic monitoring until state's emergency declaration ended in May
- Overseen by Shannon, installed additional security cameras in first floor hallway and classrooms, new app allowing viewing of security cameras on authorized cell phones installed, maintenance on access control and security camera systems done
- Reviewed incident reports concerning fire alarms and falling accidents
- Provided safety and security guidance for new Elders and Deacons
- Worked on update of SSER plan

Looking Forward to 2024

- Conduct facility inspections and emergency response training
- Continue work on updating SSER plan

Nominating Committee

Chair: Patrick Garner

Members: Carol Crimmins (on leave most of year), Amy Hall, Ann Jaltuch, Gloria Tatar, Fred Veenbaas, Barb Webster, Wendy Wilhelm, Rev. Beth Freese Dammers (staff liaison)

2023 Goals

- Prayerfully discern and call to service those with gifts needed to strengthen God's church and meet our strategic pillars
- Encourage those who have not previously served in ordained leadership
- Secure leaders for all open roles on the Board of Deacons and Session in time to allow new officer training in November, meeting with Session and installation in January

2023 Highlights

- Celebrated filling a mid-year vacancy on Session. Paul Abraham joined the Class of 2025 during a special Congregational Meeting on June 4.
- Contacted almost 40 people, first by USPS mail then follow-up phone call, in order to secure agreements to be nominated for 13 of 14 open positions. During the Congregational Meeting on October 29, there were no nominations from the floor and 13 people were elected. After the meeting one person, who had initially declined, volunteered to be nominated to fill the open position, which was accomplished in a second Congregational Meeting on November 19.
- Pleased that several currently serving Deacons and Elders agreed to a second 3-year term and that both youth asked to serve said "yes"

Deacons

Class of 2025

Meredith Rush

Class of 2026

Amy Hall

Ann Lorenz

Larry Schulz

Jessica Skupien

Lindy Steeves

Julie Trowbridge

Ruling Elders

Class of 2025

Summer Ryan

Class of 2026

Annie Cahill

Linda Cirillo

Justin Crouse

Phil Lorenz

Gregg Morton

Doug Newkirk

- Asked in December to discern congregation members to serve on an Associate Pastor Nominating Committee and that task has started

Looking forward to 2024

- Explore ways to encourage leadership service, in particular, commitment for 3-year terms
- Address failures in our contact process, such as lost USPS mail, unreturned phone calls, and email going to spam

We are a Welcoming Church

We believe feeling welcome is foundational for members and visitors to be open to the journey of lifelong faith formation and growth. We strive to welcome each other whenever we are together. We work to welcome visitors to our church so that we might enrich each other's faith journeys. And we welcome our neighbors near and far so that we may experience the grace of God together.

Worship and Music

Chair: Barb Coop

Members: Paul Abraham, Willem Marginean, Betty Ann Morton, Dianna Tomisek, Barb Webster, Rev. Beth Freese Dammers (staff liaison), Christopher Cock (staff liaison)

2023 Goals

- Continue to provide a meaningful worship experience for those worshipping in the Sanctuary and those worshipping virtually
- Train people to work the audio-visual equipment to provide people the ability to attend online worship services, some memorial services and other events such as the Concert Series
- Have an outdoor worship service that is somewhat different from our normal Sunday morning services and that would reach out to those who may not have a church home or have not experienced worship services

2023 Highlights

- Welcomed Christopher Cock as Director of Music
- Held Worship on the Lawn in August featuring Gospel Music with Shantée Lewis. This was an amazing worship service. A tent was available for those not wanting to be in the sun. Refreshments were served after the service. It was well attended by CPC members and there were many guests.
- Trained an AV group in how to use the equipment. Implemented an easy to use and access sign-up sheet that has ensured that we have members acting as liturgists, online hosts, AV Team and other available positions weekly and as needed
- Provided written devotions for the seasons of Lent and Advent
- Celebrated 6 Baptisms

Looking Forward to 2024

- Make Worship on the Lawn an annual event. We will be exploring the various themes and types of worship that would be appropriate.
- Reach out to members and friends of CPC, encouraging them to try the roles of Liturgist, Online Host, AV Team and other available positions
- Look to enhance our committee and invite those interested in what goes into worshipping at CPC to consider joining us



Music Ministries

Director: Christopher M. Cock

The choirs and congregation of Community Presbyterian Church have been so welcoming this year as I have assumed the position of DMM. Thank you so very much for your warmth and generosity as I settled in and have worked through 2023.

Our music ministry is blessed to have the devoted members of the Chancel Choir and the Clarion Bells who lead worship almost every Sunday between September and May. They are committed to working each week in rehearsals, leading worship when invited, and sharing their music with joy and a commitment to the Gospel.

2023 Highlights

- Celebrated that the membership of both ensembles was consistent, averaging approximately 15 members in the Chancel Choir and 8 members in Clarion Bells
- Participated in Easter Sunday with a festive liturgy with both choirs and a guest brass quartet
- Convened the Summer Choir once each month (June - July - August) and we had a good choir assemble for each of those occasions
- Participated in outdoor Gospel worship, led by Shantée Lewis and her guest instrumentalists, and was a great success
- Enjoyed a variety of special music on various Sundays shared by Gregg Morton, Barbie Polus, Maura Janton Cock, Glenn Gabanski, Liz Monson and Ruth Karasek. Members of the Chancel Choir faithfully led hymns and worship from the Chancel when they were not singing a choir anthem.
- Presented a special music Advent Service on Dec 17th, joined by harp and three guest soloists
- Grateful that CPC is ably and wonderfully supported by the professional work of our keyboardist/church musician, Jason Hill

Looking forward to 2024

- Adjust to a hybrid working model when I will spend weekdays in Michigan teaching as a visiting professor at Alma College. Maura Janton Cock will lead the choir each Wednesday and we will work together each Sunday to lead the choirs and the worship life of CPC.
- Rise to our biggest challenge with our music ministry here at CPC – continuing to find enough members of the church who will participate. When members travel or are absent due to illness, it can put a lot of pressure on the process of rehearsal and leading worship. Having spent this year leading these groups, they are marvelous fellowships - communities who share a wonderful task and offer a supportive network for our church and to one another. Please consider joining either the Chancel Choir or Clarion Bells.

Respectfully submitted,
Christopher M. Cock, D.M.A.
Director of Music Ministries

Concert Series Committee

Chair: Glenn Gabanski

Members: Scott Anderson, Audrey Crouse, Pat Garner, Nancee Margison (through February), Fred Veenbaas, Christopher Cock (staff liaison)

2023 Highlights

- Presented on January 29 a beautifully played chamber music concert featuring the CHAI Collaborative Ensemble: 76 guests attended in person, 28 via livestream
- Presented on March 5 the Quarantet Wind Quintet featuring players from the Chicago Symphony and Lyric Opera orchestras: 77 guests attended in person, 21 via livestream
- Presented on September 24 our first ever family concert featuring the engaging Jim Gill: around 80 adults and children attended in Fellowship Hall
- Presented on October 29 the Chicago Brass Quintet with organist David Jonies: 121 people attended in person, 16 via live stream

Looking Forward to 2024

- Present on January 21st the Jeremy Kahn Quintet singing and swinging to the great standards. On April 28 we will present the Avalon String Quartet, one of the country's leading string chamber music ensembles.
- Continue our success in attracting people from the community beyond our church family, which was clearly the case for the Jim Gill and Chicago Brass Quintet concerts



Audio-Video Support for Worship Services

AV Team: Paul Abraham, Scott Anderson, Sam Dammers, Glenn Gabanski, Pat Garner, Teagan Manning, Liz Monson, Robert Monson, Andrew Petersen, Tristan Rush, Isaac Schloegel, Shannon Nyhart (staff liaison), Stephanie Rens-Domiano (staff liaison)

Over the past four years, CPC has invested in equipment to provide a quality worship experience for remote attendees as well as supporting the attendees in the Sanctuary. Each service requires 1-2 people who orchestrate up to 6 cameras, computer graphics (i.e. slides), pre-service music from Spotify, and 12-16 microphones.



2023 Highlights

- Transitioned to a team of volunteers who are trained and then work with more experienced volunteers. System operators alternate between audio and video jobs and volunteer monthly.
- Added the capability to view from the robotic camera on the screens in the Sanctuary. This allows in-person attendees a closer view during “Growing with God” or other portions of the service.
- Provided AV services to CPC’s Concert Series Committee for use during concerts
- Offered livestream and recording services to those planning memorial services
- Created livestream recordings of worship and events and archived them on Vimeo

Anyone interested in joining the AV Team should please contact Pat Garner or any other team member.

Board of Deacons

Moderators: Todd Petersen, John Boxell

Members: Lynn Banks, Janice Bouchard, Sam Dammers, Amy Hall, Ann Jultuch, Joanne King, Ann Lorenz, Julia Lorenz, Teagan Manning, Andrew Petersen, Nancy Pritzel, Wendy Rudolph, Jason Salbego, Lindy Steeves, Kris Veenbaas, Bill Vickery, Wendy Wilhelm, Rev. Susan Tindall (staff liaison)

2023 Highlights

The focus of the Deacons in 2023 was “getting back to normal” and re-launching some of the pre-pandemic fellowship activities that help bring the CPC family back together:

- Reopened fellowship hour following services
- Hosted our first Progressive Dinner in 3 years with 57 people participating
- Held a 50+ year member celebration
- Continued monthly outreach to members in need and homebound
- Organized a fundraiser for holiday dinners
- Organized and distributed Thanksgiving and Christmas dinners to over 30 of our neighbors in need
- Began the process of merging efforts with the Membership Committee



Looking Forward to 2024

- Continue to seek opportunities to bring the congregation together in fun ways and to welcome new members from our community.

Membership

Chair: Ingrid Ellithorpe

Members: Barb Smiles, Alyssa Woody, Rev. Susan Tindall (staff liaison)

2023 Membership Changes

- +12 new members:
 - +5 joined by Profession of Faith; +5 joined by Reaffirmation of Faith, +1 joined by Letter of Transfer, +1 Reactivation from Associate Membership
- - 7 deaths (1 death from 2021 that wasn't recorded)
- - 73 moved to Associate Membership

339

Members

3

Affiliate
Members

2023 Highlights

The Membership Committee spent the year reaching out to keep the CPC membership connected and supported as well as trying to increase our visibility in the community. As the year progressed, we looked to welcome and draw the attention of the many residents in the community as well as our existing membership.

- Celebrated Easter with a flashy and fun photo booth for members and visitors
- Hosted a Pet Blessing in August; promotions included the Sloan Triangle sign in Clarendon Hills
- Decorated the CPC van and handed out candy to all participants at the Clarendon Hills Truck or Treating event on 10/28
- Hosted a Blood Drive in November with Versiti Blood Center, surpassing their donor goal. Mission and Outreach supported this event by purchasing the Sloan Triangle banner.
- Sponsored a Clarendon Hills Chamber of Commerce Christmas tree decorated with Kids' Academy ornaments in preparation for the Clarendon Hills Holiday Walk on 12/1/23
- Published "Meet a Member" with the assistance of Ann Hamman, profiling 8 members in the weekly eBlast
- Worked closely with the Communications Committee on various events. New in 2023 was the purchasing of the banner for the Sloan Triangle sign in Clarendon Hills.
- Identified and contacted members that we have not heard from in the past few years. Continued contact with these members in the year including mailing of the Christmas Advent bookmark
- Submitted (150) "CPC's Welcome to the Neighborhood" flier and (150) Daisy Flower Seeds to the Chamber of Clarendon Hills to participate in their Welcome Basket program for people moving into the community
- Assisted with the new member joining service and provided a cake reception
- Continued to connect with visitors and families interested in joining CPC
- Began the transition of Membership Chair sitting on Deacons

Looking Forward to 2024

- Continue reaching out to all members and visitors to welcome them into God's home with open arms
- Work with Deacons on collaborative projects
- Continue strengthening our visibility within the community



Communications

Chair: Judy Johns Schloegel

Members: Linda Cirillo (through June), Wendy Cook, Katie McGowan, Isaac Schloegel, Courtney Templeton, Rev. Beth Freese Dammers (staff liaison), Stephanie Rens-Domiano (staff liaison)

2023 Goals

- Partner strategically with other CPC committees to enhance messaging and engagement of CPC in the community
- Enhance access and welcoming messaging to first-time visitors and community members through website, social and other media

2023 Highlights

- In partnership with other committees, enhanced community engagement through graphics, social media, signage, press release and other support, e.g., Stewardship campaign, Pet Blessing, Worship on the Lawn, Membership outreach, Youth kickoff, Concert Series, church holidays
- Maximized various media (QR codes linking to website landing pages, social media, press releases, highly visible banners and more) to promote the good news, community service and engagement of the church
- Supported Lenten worship experience of Visio Divina
- Partnered with Worship & Music to enhance online worship experience
- Supported "Let's Get Connected" initiative to enhance CPC community connection through Realm
- Organized a fresh, new all-church photo!

Looking Forward to 2024

- Develop a unifying message for CPC and integrate it throughout CPC's website, activities and communications
- Implement a plan for obtaining and organizing photos of CPC activities that reflect our unifying message
- Significantly increase our social media advertising for Youth and Adult/Families
- Support CPC good news in the year ahead!



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COMMUNITY

Local students relish CPC mission trips



Local high-school students in the Cubes youth program at the Community Presbyterian Church of Clarendon Hills went on a mission trip to Camp Courageous in Iowa this past summer.

Judy Johns Schloegel

Sixteen local high-school students went on week-long mission trips this summer.

They made a difference not just in the lives of those they helped, but also in their own lives.

"I have always been passionate about helping others and building things," said Andrew Petersen, a Darien resident and Hinsdale South junior. "The experiences that we had are unforgettable.

"Although this trip was meant for doing work, the relationships we made were amazing."

"The memories will forever shape me and change who I am as a person," said Cici Stanek of Clarendon Hills, a Hinsdale Central sophomore. "I am forever grateful for this life-altering experience that I was blessed to be

a part of."

Groups of high-school students traveled either to West Virginia to conduct building projects for struggling homeowners, or to Camp Courageous in Monticello, Iowa, to serve as assistant camp counselors for youth with special needs.

While the purpose of both trips was to undertake service work, all participants felt that they derived so much more from the experience than the homeowners or campers they were serving.

Community Presbyterian Church of Clarendon Hills (CPC) leads and sponsors summer "caravans," as part of Cubes, its high-school ministry program.

Meredith Rush of Clarendon Hills, a Hinsdale Central sophomore, said the caravans exposed her to different life experiences.

Digital Platforms

Director: Stephanie Rens-Domiano

2023 Highlights

It was a busy and interesting year working with staff, committees and members to improve communication and database management, as well as committee and member experiences.

- Worked with staff and many CPC committees to continue to utilize the strength of our online membership database Realm. Additionally provided yearly updates, registration events, managed groups, reporting, fielded questions, etc.
- Maintained our presence on the social media platforms Facebook and Instagram to continue our outreach into the community. Emphasized Youth Sunday, Lent, Holy Week and Easter, Concert Series and Advent/Christmas Eve. Worked to incorporate more photos of events into our social media posts
- Continued to update the website to keep our outreach to visitors and members fresh, inviting and useful
- Helped gather, upload and organize all the photos on the common server so they are accessible and preserved on one location
- Worked with the Communication Committee to create the Annual Report
- Worked closely with Communication, Stewardship, and Membership committees on member communication and reporting. Worked with AV team to manage worship live streams, manage online attendance and Vimeo recordings of worship and all other group recordings

Looking forward to what new adventures 2024 will bring!

House and Grounds

Chair: Wayne Pritzel

Members: Bill Cahill, Zoltan Olah, Jason Salbego, Christian Schloegel, Jim Trchka (through September), Fred Veenbaas, Bill Vickery and Shannon Nyhart (staff liaison)

2023 Goals

- Repairs & maintenance to our buildings and property
- Capital improvements
- Response to facility related emergencies

2023 Highlights

The following projects were completed in 2023:

- Replaced failed wooden fence, SE perimeter of property
- Replaced 60 ft. of unsafe concrete sidewalk through Memorial Garden area
- Select tree removal, CPC Grounds
- Select tree trimming and insect treatment
- Landscape Improvements
- Paver replacement in Memorial Garden
- Epoxy wall injection, Fellowship Hall
- Seal coated and striped Norfolk Ave paved parking area
- Reroofed Storage Shed
- Repaired air conditioner to Chancel after electrician located isolation breaker
- New door stops installed on Sanctuary entrance doors
- Multiple plumbing items repaired
- Replaced RTU#1 Air Handler
- Replaced Air Handler Duct work insulation for both RTU#1 & RTU#2
- Replaced failed clothes dryer in Manse
- Replaced failed refrigerator in Gathering Room
- Signed new 2 year maintenance agreement for HVAC equipment with Hayes Mechanical
- Boiler repairs made to comply with Illinois State Fire Marshal inspection report
- Replaced failed transformer to restore functioning fire doors
- Installed water and low temperature monitoring device
- Spring and Fall cleanup of church grounds performed

Looking Forward to 2024

We are hoping to accomplish the following this coming year:

- Repaint Storage Shed
- Repair and repainting or replacement of railings, east elevation
- Replace Sconce lighting in Sanctuary with LED lighting
- Complete Facility Rental Agreement
- Level sinking concrete in front and back of church and seal cracks
- Repair and repaint main wooden entrance doors
- Repair or repave the parking lot

Thanks to our committee members and staff liaison, with special thanks to those who contribute their time and talent performing project work at the church and Manse.



We are Dedicated to Lifelong Faith Formation

We believe that as children of God, lifelong spiritual exploration, discernment and growth are key to living out our faith. We want to experience God through collective worship that includes inspirational preaching, prayer, arts and music. We strive to provide meaningful and engaging Christian education to all age groups through studying the word of God, understanding historical and modern events in the light of Christ's teachings, and experiencing the Holy Spirit through service.

Children and Family Ministries

Director: Kristin Duy

2023 Goals

- Find ways to support families through relevant ministry
- Encourage families to engage in the ministries of CPC to deepen and live out their faith
- Partner with Pastor Susan and Pastor Beth to implement children-centered worship services throughout the year

2023 Highlights

- Updated the name of Sunday School to Faith Formation and A Time For Children to Growing with God. These new names accurately reflect the mission of these 2 programs.
- Prepared weekly *Illustrated Ministries* lesson plans and enrichment activities for our Faith Formation class
- Coordinated kids to volunteer as the weekly acolyte
- Created weekly summer worship bags filled with activities specific to each Sunday's service

Looking forward to 2024

- Offer VBS Summer Camp for children 4 - 12 yrs old
- Offer a monthly intergenerational mid-week program
- Offer participation roles for children in worship



Christian Education – Children

Chair: Kathy Florence

Members: Val Cooper, Alison Kocoras, Liz Monson, Tracy Sims (KA liaison), Jessica Skupien, Kristin Duy (staff liaison)



2023 Goals

- Hold new family fellowship opportunities
- Increase awareness of community needs and stewardship among CPC kids
- Offer and fund a CPC family mission opportunity over the summer
- Promote participation in both CPC Kids and Kids' Academy activities among CPC families

2023 Highlights

- Supported the creation of "Grace Space" in the sanctuary for children to participate in the worship service
- Held spaghetti dinner game night, *Charlotte's Web* family read with outdoor movie night, midwinter parents' night out, and Cookies Cocoa & Crafts Advent celebration
- Had 22 children and 10 youth volunteers take part in "Compassion Camp" VBS
- Collected items for community organizations via One Great Hour of Sharing, Socktober drive, winter coat drive, and a holiday toy drive
- Worked with volunteers of all ages to pack meals at Feed My Starving Children in August

Looking forward to 2024

- Encourage active participation from children and families in worship
- Provide live streaming of the worship service in the nursery
- Offer intergenerational opportunities for families to connect with God
- Hold four-week Bible class for 3-5th graders to gain familiarity with the Bible



Christian Education – Youth

Chair: Derek Rush

Members: Kristin Bronsteader, Amy Campbell, Valerie Cooper, Ann Lorenz (through May), Joanna Petersen, Sarah Ryan, Mark Schloegel, Alyssa Woody, Rev. Susan Tindall (staff liaison)



2023 Goals

- Create more connectional spaces by building on new and old traditions

2023 Highlights

- Built on our faithful foundation while also incorporating adaptive plans for a more sustainable future:
 - Two Summer Caravans to West Virginia and Camp Courageous
 - Pre-program year event at WickedBall with 22 middle and high school students including many new friends
 - Meals prepared by high school Cubes and their adult leaders as well as parent meals coordinated by the Monson and Lorenz families
 - New trivia fundraiser for Caravans where youth and their families welcomed incoming 6th graders and celebrated an amazing year in youth ministry
 - WF hosting of off-site events including an escape room and participating in the CROP Hunger Walk
 - Middle School Bagel Bunch: an opportunity for Middle School students to gather on Sunday mornings for breakfast and conversation

Looking Forward to 2024

- Welcome a new staff person to support and encourage youth ministry while continuing to maintain our connectional spaces with youth and trusted adults



Christian Education – Adult

Chair: Gregg Morton

Members: Kelly Bufton, Linda Cirillo, Ann Hamman, Robin Randall, Rev. Susan Tindall (staff liaison)

2023 Goals

- Provide a variety of adult faith formation opportunities

2023 Highlights

- Continued Thursday Morning Devotions via Zoom and read a variety of books
- Held regular Sunday morning classes:
 - Second Temple Literature
 - Spiritual Journey of Martin Luther King, Jr.
 - Abraham Lincoln and Lament
 - Lenten series: *Seven Words: Listening to Christ From the Cross* by Susan Robb
 - Worship Music, or hymnal, and how we plan a cohesive worship service
 - The history of the churches in Clarendon Hills
 - Abolition and the Underground Railroad
 - Issues of Housing in DuPage County, with speakers from three agencies
 - Advent series: *An Unlikely Advent* by Rachel Billups

Looking Forward to 2024

- Continue regular Sunday morning classes, including:
 - A speaker to connect persons mentioned in the Bible to those mentioned in the Koran
 - A class led by the Rev. Dr. Barbara Wilson
 - A class encouraging artistic creativity
 - Lenten and Advent series, to be selected
 - A series on sustainability, leading up to Earth Day
 - Opportunities for adult faith formation outside our regular programs

Amos Group

Chair: Gregg Morton

Members: Amy Hall, Ruth Karasek (through Spring), Doug Newkirk (as of May), Kris Veenbaas, Rev. Beth Freese Dammers (staff liaison)

2023 Goals

- Educate ourselves and others in our church and community about the issues of systemic racism, social injustice, and inequity
- Maintain our lending library in the church office and our database of relevant resources on the church website
- Provide and encourage initiatives that improve the livelihoods of those harmed by systemic racism, social injustice, and inequity

2023 Highlights

- Promoted the reading of *See No Stranger: A Memoir and Manifesto of Revolutionary Love* by Valarie Kaur; participated in book discussions with other churches
- Continued ongoing support of staff at Hinsdale South High School who are working with underserved, deserving students
- Organized a Sunday morning trip to Trinity United Church of Christ in Chicago, to meet and worship with African American congregants there
- Organized a group to provide lunches to residents in Garfield Park to support The Night Ministry's efforts there
- Helped Love Christian Clearinghouse find volunteers to schedule appointments for families to visit Toy Express

Looking Forward to 2024

- Partner with local agencies and groups to support those harmed by systemic racism, social injustice, and inequity
- With Fourth Presbyterian Church of Chicago, organize and help lead a November pilgrimage to sites that were key to the Civil Rights Movement in the 60s – in Louisiana, Mississippi and Alabama



CPC Kids' Academy

Program Directors: Jane Hudgins (Program Director), Sintia Arambula (Assistant Program Director)

KA Board Members: Annie Karsh Cahill (Board Chair), Erin James (Treasurer), Tracy Sims, Melissa Flood, Colleen Hall, Amy Wheeler, Beth Freese Dammers (staff liaison)



2023 Goals

- Offer a Summer Camp for 3-12 yr. olds. Include onsite and offsite field trip experiences for maximum of 90% camp capacity - 43 kids
- Prepare for site visit with the National Association for the Education of Young Children, NAEYC, to regain accreditation. The visit took place September 14, 2023.

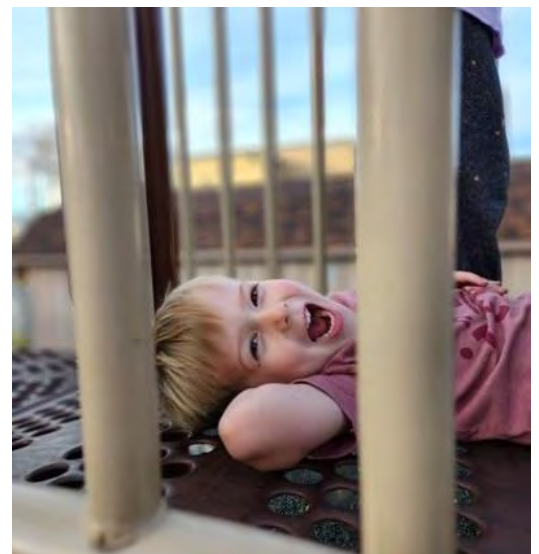
2023 Highlights

- Celebrated that Kids' Academy Early Learning Program was accredited by NAEYC in October: the accreditation lasts for five years
- Successfully implemented a Summer Camp Program for 43 kids, exceeding our goal of 41 kids. The school-aged children enjoyed 10 off-site field trips and all children enjoyed an abundance of onsite activities for 10 weeks, early June through mid-August 2023.
- Continued to offer flexibility for Walker and Prospect parents by providing care before PM kindergarten for eleven children. KA saw a decreased number of kindergarten students enrolled in our program due to D181 offering the Rising Stars (i.e. all day learning) program for more kindergartners.
- Continued to offer flexibility for Walker and Prospect parents by providing Before and After School Program for grades 1st - 5th for twenty-one children
- Continued to use *Teaching Strategies, Creative Curriculum*. It aligns with the stringent NAEYC standards and has proven to be a fantastic backbone and resource for the Little Learners, Preschool and Prekindergarten teachers.

Looking Forward to 2024

As we look forward to 2024, our goals remain rooted in the children and families we serve:

- Expand our Summer Camp so that even more children can participate
- Prepare to expand our Preschool/Pre-K programs to help boost enrollment before All Day Kindergarten is implemented in D181
- Implement detailed Marketing Plan to promote KA and drive increased enrollment
- Prepare for our DCFS license renewal visit between April/May 2024
- Continue with our three Professional Development days for KA fourteen staff members



Circle of Voices

Chairs: Ann Hamman and Barb Coop

Members: Any interested women are welcome to join at any time for any length of time (typically 10-12 women per session)

Circle of Voices, the women's book discussion group, meets at 9:30 a.m. on the third Wednesday of the month from September through June each year except for March. Any woman interested is welcome to join the group at any time for any length of time. In recent years, 10-12 women usually attend the meeting. After the discussion, which is led by one of our members, many go out for lunch at a local restaurant.

Books are chosen by a vote of those at the June meeting. We strive to read books by a variety of authors, fiction and nonfiction, on topics of current interest plus occasional classics and religious books. Some members choose to buy their books, but the Clarendon Hills Library also provides several copies each month.

The books for the 2023-2024 year are:

- Remember: The Science of Memory and the Art of Forgetting by Lisa Genova
- Empire of Pain: The Secret History of the Sackler Dynasty by Patrick Raddon Keef
- Our Missing Hearts by Celeste Ng
- Lessons in Chemistry by Bonnie Garmus
- The Stories of Your Life and Others by Ted Chiang
- West with Giraffes by Lynda Rutledge
- The Secret Life of Groceries: The Dark Miracle of the American Supermarket by Benjamin Lorr
- Horse by Geraldine Brooks
- The Covenant of Water by Abraham Verghase

The group began in December 1992 with nine women in attendance. The first book read was "Circle of Quiet" by Madeleine L'Engle, hence the origin of the group name. By the end of June 2024, the group will have read more than 300 books.

Presbyterian Women

Moderators: Linda Cirillo and Gloria Tatar

Board Members: Diane Clarke, Diane Cryer, Pat Debs, Donna Gabanski, Betty Ann Morton, Michele Vickery, Wendy Wilhelm

2023 Goals

- Meet monthly to cover the 9 lessons in *Horizon* study guide focusing on celebrating the Sabbath
- Present entertaining and educational programs on the first Tuesdays of the months of September, October, November, December, March, April and May during the day
- Raise money for missions through donations

2023 Highlights

- Hosted programming on the following topics:
 - The military career of Colonel Robert McCormick by Jeffrey Anderson of Cantigny Park
 - Mary Magdalene
 - Responsible landscaping
 - Love, INC presentation

Looking Forward to 2024

- Reintroduce meals at our programs now that the pandemic is behind us
- Schedule one program in 2024 for the evening, at 7:00 p.m.



We are Committed to Service

We believe Christ commands us to go into the world to serve God’s people. We strive to serve those in need in our local community and in the larger world by providing programs of refuge and comfort for young and old, individuals and families, who struggle with issues of faith, emotional turmoil, economic want and social stigmatization. We also share our financial gifts with organizations that are serving those in need.

Mission and Outreach

Chair: Doug James

Members: Linda Cirillo, Bob Parsons, Gloria Tatar, Gregg Morton (Amos Group), Rev. Susan Tindall (staff liaison)

2023 Highlights

- Through mission partner Exodus World Service, engaged the congregation in the highly successful “Welcome to America” project to purchase essential items, set up an apartment and personally welcome a newly arrived refugee family of six from Syria.
- Supported mission partners in a variety of non-financial ways including Love Christian Clearinghouse (Valentine’s Day Pizza Fundraiser), Metropolitan Family Services (CPC Youth Socktober), The Night Ministry (Amos Group providing lunches), People’s Resource Center (winter coat drive) and our on-going food donations to Hinsdale Community Services food pantry.

2023 Mission Giving

Association House	\$2,000	PC(USA) - Disaster Relief	\$5,500
The Boulevard	\$3,500	Chicago Presbytery Shared Mission	\$8,000
Metropolitan Family Services	\$1,500	CPC Kids Academy – Tuition Assistance	\$1,000
The Inclusive Collective	\$1,000	Hinsdale Community Services	\$3,000
Love Christian Clearinghouse	\$2,000	The Pillars	\$1,000
The Night Ministry	\$3,000	Exodus World Service	\$2,000
Northern Illinois Food Bank	\$2,000	DuPage PADS	\$2,000
People’s Resource Center	\$3,000	CPC Youth Caravan	\$1,500
Total 2023 M&O Budget	\$42,000		

Additional Benevolent Giving

Presbyterian Women Mission Giving	\$4,862.31
Peace and Global Witness Offering	\$85.00
Two Cents a Meal	\$2,014.00
One Great Hour of Sharing	\$2,410.33
PCUSA Christmas Joy Offering	\$1,364.00
Total Monetary Gifts	\$10,735.64

- Amos Group College donations
- Food for Thanksgiving and Christmas Dinners
- Share the Love Poinsettia Donations
- Food donated to Hinsdale Community Service Food Pantry and People’s Resource Center (Meal a Month bags)

Looking forward to 2024

- Continue to actively explore increasing our commitment to and involvement with current mission partners while also evaluating potential new partners



Stephen Ministry

Stephen Minister Leaders: Dave Butts, Barbara Coop, Carol Crimmins, Gregg Morton

Stephen Ministers: Gary Coop, Ann Jaltuch, Ruth Karasek, Wayne Leopold, Betty Ann Morton, Kit Olah, Janet Plate

Stephen Ministers provide confidential, one-to-one care for those who are experiencing a life-changing situation. Stephen Ministers initially commit to over fifty hours of training. As a part of our bi-monthly meetings, continuing education provides additional training to meet the different needs of our care receivers.



Highlights of 2023

Along with our confidential, one-to-one ministry, helped make calls, visits, and whatever is needed for members and friends of CPC to augment the ministry of Pastor Beth and Pastor Susan

- Met in person and hybrid, twice a month for continuing education and supervision
- Continued to meet with Care Receivers using such platforms as Zoom, Facetime and Skype if meeting in person was not possible
- Updated our rosters: Dave Butts, a member of the first Stephen Ministry class in 1998, has retired. Wayne Leopold has left Stephen Ministry and Ruth Karasek has stepped away for a short time.
- Continued to provide the four-part Experiencing Grief series. We personally provided them for 12 recipients and know that people have picked them up from the credenza in the Narthex.

Looking forward to 2024

- Sponsor one or two presentations that would focus on specific topics that would be pertinent to our community



Mission Stitchers

Leader: Jane Hennig

Members: Carla Bufton, Deb Garner, Jane Hennig, Karla Kretchmer, Joni Sedivy

Mission Stitchers has met occasionally this year, and we also work from home.

2023 Highlights

- Continued our ministry to give comfort, hope, and healing. These were our donations for 2023:
 - To Sharing Connections: 2 large quilts, 8 baby/child quilts, 5 cloth dolls, 2 knitted baby blankets, 1 knitted lap robe, 22 Christmas stockings
 - To Mission and Outreach: 9 quilts and crocheted dolls and teddy bears to a refuge family sponsored by CPC through Exodus World Services

Please call Jane Hennig if you have any questions or would like to join us.



We are Good Stewards of the Gifts God has Given Us

We believe we are called to be good stewards of God's world. We maintain a vital facility that supports our mission and outreach programs. We do long term financial planning and manage a balanced budget of income and expenses. We encourage our members to share their gifts to support our programs.

Finance Committee

Chair: Mark Karasek

Members: Becky Bewley Rush (Treasurer), Erin James (KA Financial Secretary), J. Kelly Bufton, Stan Cook, Gary Coop, Nancy Pritzel, Barbie Polus, Kaki Schnieders, Michele Vickery, Rev. Beth Freese Dammers (staff liaison)

2023 Highlights

- Total income came in well higher than budget and total spending coming in a bit lower than budgeted
- Finished 2023 with a net surplus of about \$46,175 compared to a planned budget deficit of (\$85,343). This favorability was driven primarily by much higher plate/non pledge giving and higher than expected interest income
- Donations for Special Holiday Giving and Presbytery Offering/Per Capita income were very strong
- 2024 pledge drive EXCEEDED (!) the very aggressive goal of \$572,000, with a final pledge total of \$586,383. (Note that the 2024 CPC Budget approved by Session in December included a pledge total of \$583,383. Additional pledges were received after Session approval of the budget)

Note: This, combined with a continuing expectation of strong interest income and a planned increase in the Kids Academy cost sharing income, results in 2024 budgeted total income about 23% higher than the 2023 budgeted total income and about 4% higher than the 2023 actual total income. Inflation continues to drive increased costs for staffing, administration, and utilities, resulting in a projected 2024 surplus of about \$1,229. (Due to the additional pledges received after approval of the 2024 CPC Budget, the projected budget surplus for 2024 would be \$4,229.)

- Session approved the transfer of remaining undesignated funds in the Memorial and Gifts Fund (Memorial & Gifts Committee is a subcommittee of the Finance Committee) to the Legacy Endowment Fund
- Finance Committee intends to recommend that Session eliminate the M&G Committee and direct funds that would have traditionally flowed into that fund go into the Legacy Endowment fund instead

Stewardship

Chair: Stan Cook

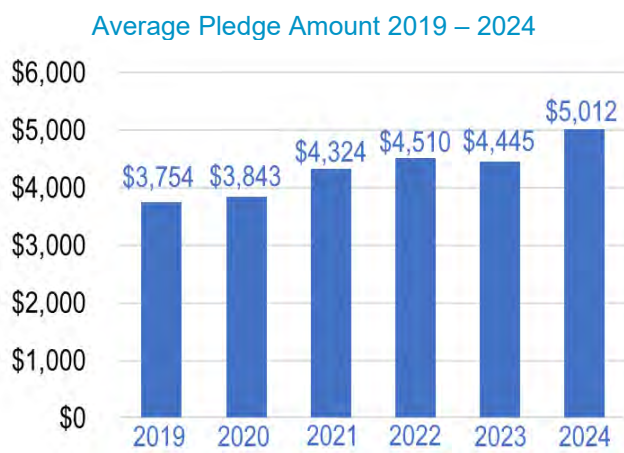
Members: Kathy Adelman, Wendy Cook, Justin Crouse, Ingrid Ellithorpe, Pat Garner, Beth Freese Dammers (staff liaison), Stephanie Rens-Domiano (staff liaison)

2023 Highlights

- Understood our 2024 stewardship goals were ambitious. Our generous church family rose to the challenge and all goals were exceeded.
- Pledged a remarkable \$586,383 for 2024, \$88,501 (+18%) over last year. Our average 2024 pledge increased by 13% to \$5012.
- Added 13 new pledgers, higher than the goal of 10 and considerably higher than recent years.
- Excited to announce that, thanks to our pledges, CPC can pursue two exciting, important goals: 1) maintain our two-pastor model to provide pastoral care for all ages, and 2) ensure strong ongoing support for our youth ministries. Both have been beloved pillars of our history; both position us for a vibrant future.
- Look ahead to the promise of the new year and give thanks for the incredible generosity of our congregation. We are fortunate to be part of such a caring, giving church.

Looking Ahead to 2024

- Maintain our strong spirit of giving to live out God's plan for our faith community



Endowment Fund Committee

Chair: Michele Vickery

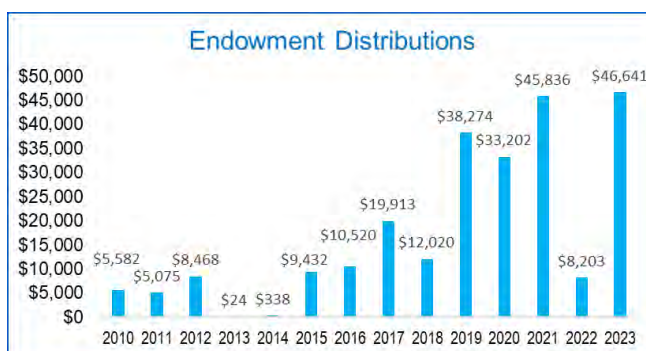
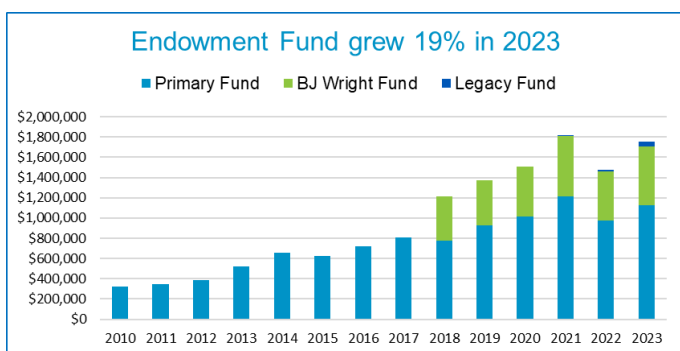
Members: Walter Florence, Sheri Malec Videbeck, Lynn Mehrhoff, Courtney Templeton, Rev. Beth Freese Dammers (staff liaison)

2023 Highlights

- Despite a volatile year for financial markets, reported a net effect increase in the value of the three Endowment funds of 19% to \$1,757,948.
- Received into the Legacy Fund the Memorial and Gifts balance of \$20,421. M&G responsibilities are being folded into the Endowment Fund Committee making the total value of the Legacy Fund \$52,172. The Legacy Fund made its first contribution to the General Fund, totaling \$753.
- Approved \$49,641 in distribution from the Endowment Fund for several projects, including:
 - New announcement screen in the Narthex
 - Replacement of an HVAC unit and associated duct and repair work
 - Replacement of landscaping and leveling and replacement of Memorial Garden pavers and the concrete sidewalk
 - Replacement of the back fence and the shed roof
 - Seal coating the north parking area
 - Replacement of the transformer in the fire safety system
- Distributed over \$2,600 from the BJ Wright Designated Fund to help fund CE-Y:
 - Fall kickoff event
 - Midyear event
- Provided nearly \$5,000 in funding from the BJ Wright Designated Fund to pay for summer interns, Robert Monson and Tristan Rush
- Updated the Endowment Fund and Tree of Life brochures
- Visited seven families to explain the new Legacy Fund and answer questions regarding bequests to CPC

Looking Forward to 2024

- Thank Courtney Templeton for her five years of service on the committee
- Look forward to helping fund capital projects in 2024 per a House & Grounds prioritized list of pending projects
- Plan to hold educational events to increase members' awareness of tax advantaged ways in which bequests to CPC can be structured



2023 CPC Commissioners: Barbara Coop, Ann Schenck, Fred Veenbaas, Kris Veenbaas

The Presbytery of Chicago serves and supports nearly 40,000 members and more than 100 congregations and worshiping fellowships throughout Chicago and the surrounding area. They are a Christian community and a regional governing body of the Presbyterian Church (USA).

The Assembly consists of the clergy members of the Presbytery of Chicago and an approximately equal number of elders who are commissioners and other elder members. The purpose of the Presbytery Assembly is to oversee the mission and governance of the Presbytery of Chicago. The Presbytery Assembly gathers in stated meetings four times a year and whenever called into special session.

To be a commissioner you need only be an ordained elder. If you would be interested, contact Rev. Beth Freese Dammers.



2023 Highlights

- Met in person for the first time since February 2020 for our May meeting. The schedule is to meet in person in May and September and virtually in February and November.
- Recognized Craig Howard as the Executive Presbyter. This year the Assembly approved Reverend Dr. Barbara Wilson as Associate Executive Presbyter.
- Proud that several members of CPC sit on various Presbytery committees
- Welcomed several new pastors to the Presbytery. An important responsibility of the Assembly is to examine those who have received a first call and to approve that they be ordained and installed.