



2022 Medina Presbyterian Church Annual Report

This annual report shares the wonderful work being done at Medina Presbyterian Church as they seek to serve and worship the Lord.

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A Message from Pastor Pearce

Brothers and Sisters in Jesus,

Like most years, 2022 had its ups and downs. Worship attendance and financial giving remained at levels lower than before the pandemic. Giving to our General Fund was down by more than \$36,000 from 2021, and like many churches, our weekly attendance remains similarly reduced.

At year's end, Session made a painful decision – but a responsible one. It voted to resume the pre-pandemic practice of removing from the membership rolls those who are no longer active in the life and work of the congregation. This practice was suspended for 2020 and 2021 out of respect for those who stayed home to protect their health, but since most people have now resumed more normal activity, it was time to resume this annual process. After this review, 22 persons were removed from the rolls.

(It should be emphasized that no one is removed from the rolls against their wishes. All those who were no longer active in any way were invited to let us know if they would like to remain on the rolls. One person asked to remain on, and continues as a member.)

These developments point to the need for those of us who remain to be active in sharing our faith with friends and neighbors. In a very real sense, we are now engaged in establishing a new church – a post-pandemic Medina Presbyterian.

But while giving and membership were down in 2022, mission activities were not.

As we have throughout the past few years, we held our annual meal-packing event, once again packing 20,000 meals for hungry people around the world. The event was largely paid for by our most successful candy sale ever.

Our deacons led the distribution of both food baskets and cleaning and hygiene supplies to more households than ever, with many families of the church (and some outside friends) helping with the deliveries. The deacons expanded on another of their assistance programs, providing school shoes to 80 kids from our local Head Start pre-school centers.

Our Christmas Shoebox program, operated in cooperation with our partners at the Highland High School Student Council, provided 305 shoeboxes of Christmas gifts to Head Start students and 86 gift bags to their younger siblings.

The Medina Personal Care Pantry made the move into our facilities as an adopted ministry of the church under the leadership of its directors, Kris Mog, and a variety of volunteers from our congregation and others in the area.

This year, we also became a charter member of the Medina Interfaith Coalition for Affordable Housing (MICAHA), formed to build and operate affordable housing in the Medina area in recognition of a glaring need in the community.

In spite of the reduced giving to our General Fund, these expanded ministries were supported richly by the congregation, allowing us to continue to live out our belief that “Our love for Jesus compels us to help people who are in need.”

The future holds many challenges as we work with God to build a church for the future. We have not yet figured out how best to provide ministry to children and youth and to re-start Bible Study and Sunday School classes. And we must still find a way to share our faith in ways that attract new members to our community of faith.

At Medina Presbyterian Church, we are blessed to have dedicated and innovated leaders who are committed to discerning together God’s vision for us. Our elders, deacons, teachers and other leaders strive to live out that vision, and to grow personally in service and discipleship. It is a great privilege to serve alongside them.

We are also blessed by our talented and dedicated church staff. Thanks to Laurel Jordan, who retired this year after many years as our church secretary, to Linda Dodds, who stepped in fill in for her, and to Kent Jordan, Kristen Johnson, Connie Baxter and Dave Foltz. All of them deserve the thanks of the congregation.

John Baxter and Doug Skilskyj have continued to produce our online worship services. As the new year begins, Jack Howell has upgraded our technology to allow us to begin live-streaming our services through YouTube. This will cut back drastically on the video production work these volunteers will have to do. But we should all be deeply grateful for the dedicated efforts of John and Doug along with Jack throughout the pandemic.

And finally, Diane Thomas has continued to perform the thankless work of Clerk of Session, a role to which she has just been re-elected. Thanks to Diane for cheerfully and competently doing this important work.

After 11 years in Medina, I continue to feel truly blessed and thankful to be here among you. I believe God has great things in store for us, and I look forward to the work of discerning and working toward those great things.

Grace and Peace,
Henry

Christian Education

2022 was a quiet year for CE. We continue to try and find new ways to reach our children and adults, to teach and experience God's love. I am very honored and privileged to serve alongside you and my team of volunteers.

- **Kid's Own Worship** (grades PreK-8): Restarted with sporadic attendance ranging from 1 to 3 children a few times a month.
- **Little Kid's Own Worship** (grade preschool-Kindergarten): Suspended
- **Kids for Christ Youth Group** (grades 1-5): Suspended
- **Adult Sunday School and Youth Sunday School**: Suspended
- **Vacation Bible School**: Suspended
- **Children's Message**: Online Services and in-person (given even when no kids were in church)

Many thanks to Linda Dodds, Susan Vlcek, Rosemary Balsinger, Dave Thompson, Henry Pearce, and Shannon Skilskyj for their dedication to this ministry.

Respectfully submitted,
Elder Shannon Skilskyj
Chair, MPC Christian Education Committee

Worship and Music

W&M COMMITTEE MEMBERS: *Connie Baxter (Choir Director), Kristen Johnson (Organist/Pianist), Shari Cartwright (Chair), Donna Gray (W&M Assist), Diane Thomas (Clerk of Session; W&M Assist), Jennifer Hiteshue (Plants & Church-Entry Decorations, Membership Team Chair), Pastor Henry Pearce*

PRIMARY RESPONSIBILITY: Assist the Pastor with details of the in-person worship service and coordinate music to enrich worship. The music is selected and organized by the Pastor, Choir Director, and Organist.

DUTIES:

- Prepared for weekly in-person worship services. All pre-recorded online services were prepared and produced by Pastor Henry Pearce, John Baxter and Doug Skilskyj.
- Live-recording of the second Sunday in-person service began in October and is posted on the church website immediately following the service. Many thanks to Jack Howell for his role in this effort.
- Traditional Communion elements were prepared for in-person services. Pre-packaged communion elements were made available for in-person worship. Congregants processed to the chancel to choose traditional elements or pre-packaged elements through November. In December, we resumed having Elders hold the bread plate and the cup. Congregants were instructed to provide their own elements for the celebration of communion during online worship throughout the year.
- Communion was celebrated the first Sunday of each month (unless rescheduled per calendar conflicts) and on Easter and Christmas Eve.
- Infant and toddler care was not provided during in-person worship in 2022, although the infant and toddler room was often used by the Bonenfant family.
- Shari Cartwright organized liturgists for in-person worship. Donna Gray continued to organize liturgists for the online services until the format of the pre-recorded online service was changed in August and liturgists were no longer necessary.
- Organized the set up and decorating of the Sanctuary prior to the Advent season; as well as the removal in January. Organized seasonal windowsill decorations.
- Jennifer Hiteshue organized & maintained Church-entry decorations throughout the year
- Changed paraments based on the PCUSA Liturgical calendar. Pastor Henry Pearce changed the paraments accordingly for the videotaping of pre-recorded online services.
- Jack Howell and Kent Jordan maintained church sanitization.

SERVICES HELD:

- Sundays: One in-person service was held (10:15 a.m.) during 2022
- Ash Wednesday service was held in-person and pre-recorded online

- Maundy Thursday service of worship was held in-person and pre-recorded online
- Thanksgiving Eve service of worship was held in-person and recorded live/uploaded
- Lessons & Carols, the Sunday before Christmas was held in-person and recorded live/uploaded
- Christmas Eve, including Communion, was held in-person and recorded live/uploaded
- Christmas Day was held in-person and recorded live/uploaded

WORSHIP AND MUSIC CONTRIBUTORS:

The in-person and online worship services ran smoothly at Medina Presbyterian due to the efforts of many people whose contributions are exemplary and a blessing to us all:

- Pastor Henry Pearce for his daily morning prayers, Bible reflections, weekly Sunday sermons; Friday Book study, and all the other ministries he leads
- Diane Thomas for her email communications to the congregation
- John Baxter for his production of the pre-recorded online worship services throughout the year
- Doug Skilskyj for preparing the slides for both the in-person and online worship services; and running the in-person worship service display screen. Thanks to others who assisted in Doug's absence
- Kristen Johnson for sharing her musical talents for both in-person and online worship throughout the year
- Connie Baxter for leading the Chancel Choir, Bells of Faith Bell choir, our various musicians, and all involved in music ministry
- Bells of Faith for their faithful practice and for bringing music to our in-person worship
- Chancel Choir for their faithful practice and bringing music to our in-person worship
- To many congregants who brought us special music during the year for both in-person and online services of worship
- Elder Pam Stec for preparing and delivering the sermon on June 19
- John and Connie Baxter for maintaining the sound system and ensuring all equipment was set up correctly and in working order for in-person worship services
- Rosemary Balsinger, Linda Dodds, Connie Baxter, Dave Thompson, Susan Vlcek, Shannon Skilskyj, Pastor Henry and any others who prepared and presented the children's message during in-person worship and for the pre-recorded online services of worship prior to the format change in August.
- Jack Howell (Property Committee Chair) and Kent Jordan (Custodian) for indoor and outdoor maintenance, necessary building repairs, and sanitization
- Jennifer Hiteshue for maintaining communion table candles for in-person worship
- Members who served as Liturgists for the online worship services prior to the format change.
- Jennifer Hiteshue and the Membership Committee for taking weekly in-person worship attendance.
- College student Arianna Dodds for participating as Liturgist during our Christmas Eve in-person worship service

- Dave Foltz for ensuring all substitutes were paid and time sheets signed in his role as church treasurer
- Donna Gray and Diane Thomas for assisting with communion clean up, helping change the paraments and being willing to assist wherever needed during in-person worship
- The members of the Finance Committee who collect and count our financial offerings

Thank you for your contributions, understanding and flexibility during another challenging year.

Blessings to all for a healthy, happy, and blessed 2023.

Elder Shari Cartwright, Worship and Music Chair

Home to Church

The newly formed committee of the Session was established to address the needs of Medina Presbyterian Church members who, for a variety of reasons, have opted not to participate with in-person church services or activities.

The initial outreach effort was a letter of introduction sent to 25 members who identified the following reasons for non-attendance:

- Concerns about health and/or safety;
- Physical limitations;
- Scheduling conflicts.

In order to obtain some feedback, comments were requested on how the on-line service could be enhanced.

In addition, a follow up “Happy Fall” postcard was sent to 20 online worshippers (5 were eliminated after identifying moves to other states) plus an additional 10 random MPC members who attend in-person services regularly.

Thanksgiving postcards were sent to random Medina Prez members and some personal friends without a church. Feedback from the outreach to friends demonstrated keen interest in knowing more about the church and the church’s plans for the holidays. Therefore, the Committee recommended December postcards be distributed to Session members who would, in turn, send them to friends, highlighting activities of the church during the holidays. It was felt this could possibly attract individuals looking for a church family.

Sherry Bair
Committee, Chair

Fellowship and Hospitality

Covid concerns prevented us from holding get togethers. But, finally, in July following the Rise Against Hunger meal packing event, we held a potluck afterward and it was a joyous event! Being back together was wonderful.

We held another after the October Congregational Meeting and plan to continue this practice. As members of our congregation continue to return to worship, we'll continue to pursue opportunities to gather together in fellowship.

We welcome your ideas for and participation in future gatherings. We wish peace and good health to all of our Medina Prez friends, families and community.

Respectfully submitted,
Diane Thomas,
Chair, Hospitality Committee 2022

Committee: Sherry Bair, Pat Slaman

Membership

Membership Committee Members

- Jennifer Hiteshue (Chair) and Donna Gray are the two active members.
- Two other members can be reactivated when/if necessary.

Weekly Pew Duty

- Earlier in the year, need decreased due to less paper documents in the pew, etc.
- However, with attendance increasing, this need is also increasing with placement of hymnals, envelopes and weekly programs.
- Hand sanitizer bottles replaced as necessary.

Attendance Count

- Attendance is taken weekly for adults and children and to spot attendance trends.
- Attendance also taken for special services.

Social

- We meet, greet and welcome new members, visitors and members we have not seen for a while and attempt to make them feel welcome.
- We contact shut-ins and folks we have not seen for a while (and/or who have special needs) by telephone or by sending cards.
- Committee members make an extra effort during special services by being located at church entrances to greet people and in the narthex for socializing

Advertising

- Church advertisements are placed weekly in local newspapers and online.
- Special occasion services are advertised and placed for Easter and Christmas seasons, with press exposure for our summertime Rise Against Hunger meal packing event.

The MPC church directory is available upon request and will be updated as necessary.

Respectfully submitted,

Jennifer Hiteshue, Chair

Property (Buildings & Grounds)

Session Representative and Committee Chair: Jack Howell

The 2022 Buildings and Grounds maintenance was conducted per the previously agreed to commitments from and to our regular contractors. Our staff custodian Kent Jordan continued with his inside cleaning assignments and outside mowing. He assisted regularly in various projects in and around the property that helped us to maintain the budget and keep a Covid-free environment.

The yearly fire and sprinkler, elevator lift, back flow and water inspections were all passed with minimal to no issues.

The Presbyterian Women's group held several outside cleaning, mulching and landscaping workdays which greatly enhanced the outside appearance.

A new secure locking outdoor mailbox was installed along with continuing outside lighting LED bulb improvements.

Our tenants (Via Quest) moved out in the summer this year due to lack of attendance by their participants because of Covid restrictions imposed by the state. Several Via Quest locations were combined into one location in the Fairlawn area.

Several building repairs were undertaken due to aging equipment failures or use. The kitchen disposal was replaced and a new Lennox furnace was installed on the first floor of the Family Life Building addition. The outside cooling units were all inspected and placed on a continuing upkeep program to prolong their life expectancy. All inside vents were cleaned and several aging trees along the west property line were trimmed or removed.

A preventative and scheduled maintenance manual/document was developed to enhance our future planning of recurring maintenance items throughout the building and grounds.

Please feel free to contact us on any matters building related that may need attention.

Jack

Mission

MLT Members: Wendy Calhoun, Rebecca Coste, Anne Gates, Beth McDevitt, Pastor Henry Pearce, Pamela Stec (Committee Chair), Nan Steinmetz, Diane Thomas and Susan Vlcek. We invite you to add your support and join our team.

In 2022, our Mission Leadership Team along with Pastor Henry and the Deacons continued to lead the way and navigate the direction for the MPC congregation in local hands-on and in-kind mission activities. Your support is invaluable and has allowed us to steward the financial support of various local, national and international missions.

The committee began the year by adopting the two Compassion International who were previously pledged the support of MPC's Kids Own Worship and Adult Sunday School. We reaffirmed our personal financial support of a third child, pooling our funds to provide their monthly financial support and additional monetary gifts for birthday and Christmas. Each month one member of the committee writes to all three children via the Compassion International website, where it is translated into their native language.

Every Saturday in March found us and a few volunteers preparing and packing 50 bagged lunches to be distributed by our sister church in northeast Cleveland, North Presbyterian Church. Throughout its history, North Church was focused on mission and in 2012 joined forces with Lutheran Metropolitan Ministries, a social justice and advocacy ministry.

Continuing with the expanded (in 2021) program to include the Head Start children from both Wayne and Medina Counties, we collected socks, hats, small toys, books, personal care items and adorable stuffed animals (donated by PetSmart) to fill 305 Christmas Shoeboxes. Additionally, 86 Christmas gift bags were provided to their younger siblings. We gratefully acknowledge that 100 of the boxes were packed by the Student Council of Highland High School.

Post-Thanksgiving, while the Christmas Shoe Box 2022 mission was "wrapping" up, many volunteers over the four Saturdays of Advent helped to produce 417 pounds of luscious chocolate covered pecan candy. Our profits from these sales currently sit at \$4,305.57, which is over half our goal (if costs do not increase again over our 2022 supply expenses) to fund our summer project, Rise Against Hunger.

On July 10, 2022, 54 volunteers joyously gathered to weigh and pack 20,088 meals, which were shipped to Convoy of Hope in the Philippines.

We have, for several years, participated in The Medina Personal Care Pantry collecting and contributing cleaning and personal care items. These are items not allowed to be purchased with food stamps nor are they provided by the Medina County Food Bank. In 2022, we brought this worthy charity in house and transitioned the administrative

responsibilities. While you continue to help provide the products (or funds to purchase them), you can also contribute your time in packing the bags or soliciting additional products from the greater Medina community at Drug Mart or Buehler's River Styx. Simply contact any member of this committee or visit Medina Personal Care Pantry at <https://medinapersonalcarepantry.org> to discover how you can make a difference.

Jesus said, "Whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me" (Matthew 25:40)

Every year we participate in "Special Offerings." Each is connected to a season of the church, established by our General Assembly to help the whole church join together in response to God's grace. They represent a collective way Presbyterians can come together to work for a better world. One Great Hour of Sharing, Peace & Global Witness and the Christmas Joy Offering allow us to engage in ministries of compassion, justice, education, peacemaking and global witness.

When we combine all the special offerings throughout the year, the donations to our Presbytery and local charities, all the mission works for which we supply food, clothing and/or care items, the hours of labor expended to accomplish these missions, gas cards, food cards given to people in need, emergency housing (short term hotel stays) for homeless persons, the percent of MPC's modest budget speaks of our priorities as a church. It is our privilege to be part of such an active, generous and mission-oriented church body dedicated to the service of others in the name of our Lord Jesus, the Christ. We are so blessed.

"Our love of Jesus compels us to help others in need."

FINANCIAL CONTRIBUTIONS:

- The Battered Women's Shelter of Medina and Summit Counties
- The Medina County Home (clothing purchases)
- Compassion International
- International Institute of Akron (assists with the assimilation of immigrants in the Akron Community)
- Esperanza 2022 (normally an adult mission trip attended by Beth McDevitt, but canceled due to COVID19); we sent funds for their continued expenses
- Medina Community Services
- Presbyterian Disaster Assistance, National
- Presbyterian Disaster Assistance, International
- Presbytery of the Western Reserve
- Dougbe River School, Liberia (affiliate of our sister church in Cleveland Heights)
- Rise Against Hunger 2022 Meal Packing Event
- 2022 Christmas Shoe Box Program

- Low Interest Auto Loan Program
- Financed the March Sunday meals for North Church
- Head Start-Community Action
- Medina Personal Care Pantry
- World Vision Walk for Water

HANDS-ON PARTICIPATION:

- Medina Personal Care Pantry, solicitation of goods and distribution
- Preparation and packing of meals for North Church (our sister church in Cleveland)
- Rise Against Hunger 2022 Meal Packing Event
- Lenten candy production to finance RAH 2022
- Advent candy production to finance RAH 2023
- 2022 Christmas Shoebox Program
- World Vision Walk for Water

PCUSA SPECIAL OFFERING PARTICIPATION:

- One Great Hour of Sharing (Lent)
- Peace and Global Witness (World Communion Sunday)
- Christmas Joy (Advent)

Pam Stec
 Chair, Mission Leadership Team 2022

Stewardship

Committee: Dave Foltz, Ed Hiteshue, KC Howell, Doug Skilskyj, Ron Vlcek

End of Year Balances

General Fund Checking Account	\$31,968
Savings Account	\$7,976
Money Market Account	\$117,518
Online Giving Holding Account (transferred regularly to General Fund Checking)	\$8,286
Westfield Bank CD backup Auto Loan	\$3,969
Westfield Bank CD backup Auto Loan 2	\$4,493
Westfield Bank CD backup Auto Loan 3	\$4,316
Westfield Bank CD backup Auto Loan 4	\$4,755
Auto Loan Savings	\$746

Submitted by Dave Foltz
Chair, Finance Committee

2023 Budget

Total Contributions \$215,000

Expenses

Personnel	\$148,308
Administrative	\$3,600
Worship & Music	\$2,842
Mission	\$10,900
Christian Education	\$1,975
Evangelism & Fellowship	\$1,900
Building & Grounds	\$38,250
Stewardship	\$7,125

Total Expense Budget \$214,900

Endowment Fund

The Endowment Fund currently has an undesignated fund and a fund designated for Christian Education.

All monies are invested in the New Covenant Balanced Growth Fund, a mutual fund which makes investment decisions consistent with the social-witness principles of the General Assembly, PC(USA).

As of September 30, the date of latest statement received, the fund has 139.5 shares valued at \$13,836.62. On September 30, the fund balances were:

- Undesignated Fund \$6,475.54
- Christian Education Fund \$7,361.08

Contributions to MPC's Endowment Fund are welcome at any time.

Please direct any questions about the Endowment Fund, how it operates or how you might participate, to me or any member of the committee. Members are Chris Day, Melissa Pearce and Jim Stalker.

Respectfully submitted,
KC Howell

Nominating Committee

The Nominating Committee met during the summer and fall of 2022 to discuss the slate of candidates for Session and the Board of Deacons for the class of 2025.

The following candidates were nominated and subsequently elected at the Congregational Meeting held in person on Sunday, October 30, 2022. All Elders in the congregation came forward to participate in the “laying of hands” during the Ordination of Pat Slaman as Deacon. Following this, all Officers were formally installed by Pastor Henry Pearce.

Class of 2025 Elders/Members of Session:

Donna Gray (1st Term)
Jack Howell (2nd Term)
Shannon Skilskyj (2nd Term)

Class of 2025 Member of the Board of Deacons:

Bruce Gamin (2nd Term)
Pat Slaman (1st Term)
Mary Lou (ML) Swartz (2nd Term)

The 2023 Nominating Committee At-Large Members from the Congregation are:

Kate Biter
KC Howell
Kathy Janini
Barbara Steinmetz

TBD—Deacon Representative

Shari Cartwright—Session Representative and 2022 Committee Chair

Jennifer Hiteshue—Session Representative

Respectfully Submitted,
Elder Shari Cartwright

Presbyterian Women

EVENTS & ACTIVITIES 2022:

On the 4th Thursday of most months, 8-10 members of the evening PW group met in the church parlor to study and discuss the book titled: *'Finding God in all the Broken Places'* from the Women of Faith Series. Devotions and chapter discussion are provided by PW members on a rotating basis. Monthly refreshments and the 'least coin' collection continued at each meeting as well.

Also, the following activities were coordinated throughout the year with support from the members:

Spring

- Ferns were purchased and planted in planters on the front porch and geraniums were placed at the back entrance. Bi-weekly watering took place throughout the summer months into fall.
- PW assistance was minimal for weeding and trimming trees during Spring through Fall this year due to our aging and dwindling group. But the group, Donna Gray, Marcia Robinson and KC Howell, led by Jennifer Hiteshue, selected and planted bushes in memory of Morna Shearer thanks to generous donations by her family. The bushes flank either side of the front steps of the church.
- A donation of PB & J was provided to honor Laurel Jordan's retirement & Grandma's cart.

Summer

- June outing for dinner was held at Blue Heron, with great fellowship. All women of the church were invited.
- The annual Ice Cream Social was held in September this year with good attendance. All women of the church were invited to participate.
- Secret Sisters were revealed but no new names were drawn due to lack of interest this year.

Fall/Winter

- Coordinated a phone campaign in collaboration with Buildings & Grounds to solicit volunteers to prepare the grounds for the upcoming winter months and we are thankful for a great turnout.
- Decorated the front porch for autumn with pumpkins and cornstalks and promptly removed them.
- Holiday greens were hung for the holidays & later removed on the exterior of the building.
- Provided financial support for children's books for the Head Start Children's shoe box holiday campaign and individually supported the local personal care pantry mission.

Respectfully submitted,
Barb Conrad and Jennifer Hiteshue, Co-chairs

Board of Deacons

The Board of Deacons held regularly scheduled meetings on the second Thursday of each month, except for July. It was a blessing for the group to meet in person with Pastor Henry, share a time of devotion, learn together, and prayerfully consider how best to meet the needs of the church and others who turn to MPC in time of need.

Empowered by the generosity and faithful giving of the MPC congregation, the Deacon Fund supplemented the Pastor's Benevolence Fund (\$1,978) and provided gas and food cards, lodging, rent assistance, and utility support to individuals in need. The Deacons continued previously established initiatives, including the Easter and Thanksgiving Food delivery, and supported MPC's shoe box project and meal packing event.

The Valentine's Day military and college care box initiative was expanded to include homebound church members. Beginning in May, the Deacons renewed a monthly donation of \$200 to help the Personal Care Pantry meet the community's needs. With the congregation's generous support, the number of children reached by the Head Start shoe drive increased to 80. In addition, Deacons assisted with receptions following two memorial services.

The Deacons are appreciative of the opportunity to serve. We look forward to faithfully continuing the ministry of compassion and service on behalf of MPC.

Respectfully submitted,
Kathy Janini
Secretary, Board of Deacons

