



# 2023 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.

## **Contents**

A Message from Pastor Pearce .....	3
Christian Education .....	5
Worship and Music .....	6
Home to Church .....	8
Fellowship and Hospitality .....	9
Membership.....	10
Property (Buildings & Grounds) .....	11
Mission.....	12
Stewardship .....	15
2024 Budget.....	16
Endowment Fund.....	17
Nominating Committee.....	18
Presbyterian Women .....	19
Board of Deacons.....	20

## **A Message from Pastor Pearce**

Friends in Jesus,

The year 2023 was not without its challenges, but it ends with a sense of celebration at the expanded mission work and vibrant worship in the Advent and Christmas season. In a number of ways, it seems as though some momentum is being restored after the three-years-plus of decline brought on by the global pandemic.

The last six weeks of the year saw the distribution of Thanksgiving food baskets to nearly a third more families than last year – and a large number of members as well as families, friends and neighbors taking part in the distribution. Thanks to the energetic and thoughtful leadership of our Board of Deacons, the project was generously supported by the rest of the congregation.

Our Head Start Shoe Box project also resulted in the best overall group of gifts and treats we've assembled in any year. And thanks to the Time and Talent Auction we started as a fund-raiser, the shoeboxes were financed without any need to draw on the congregation's mission budget. A lot of needy kids were blessed by the effort, and we had fun doing it.

The annual Advent candy sale also exceeded our past results, producing and selling more candy and raising more funds than ever before for next year's summer meal-packing event. It was also a year that was marked by small steps toward returning to pre-pandemic 'normalcy,' including resumption of children's messages in our worship services and several new participants in church life. At year's end, two new members took the step of formally joining the church family. Other signs of vibrancy included regular family game and project nights, a growing men's fellowship breakfast, and a successful PW program with both evening and morning groups. We also took modest steps toward the re-establishment of Vacation Bible School.

One new aspect of church life this year was the discussion group established to watch and talk about the video series *The Chosen*. A number of members gathered after worship throughout the year to discuss this powerful visualization of the events in the life of Jesus. Many people found their perceptions of Jesus changed. I certainly did.

Our worship continued to be enriched by the efforts of our singers and ringers, under the faithful leadership of Connie Baxter. We said good-bye to our organist of several years, Kristen Johnston, but were soon blessed with the creativity and musicianship of John Burke. His contributions during Advent made the season especially joyful. The technical team of Doug Skilskyj, Jack Howell and John Baxter continue to give our worship a sense of professionalism most paid staffs can't match.

As the new year begins, our challenge is to take advantage of the sense of renewal and momentum as an opportunity to bring friends and neighbors into the fold. If we are deriving

the joy of the Lord from the things the Holy Spirit is doing among us (and it seems that we are), we need to take advantage of that fact to invite others to share our joy and grow in their relationship with God in Jesus. The Great Commission commands us to make disciples, and 2024 is a year in which we should eagerly embrace that calling. Look for chances to tell others about the way God works in your life through your church!

It's a great pleasure to serve alongside such a warm and joyful group of followers of Jesus and their dynamic leaders. Melissa and I are thankful every day for your welcome and friendship. We feel so blessed to be among you. Let's resolve that together, we will let God show us how to do even more to meet human need and bring him glory in 2024.

Every Blessing,  
Henry

## **Christian Education**

2023 was a good year for CE. We continue to try and find new ways to reach our children and adults, to teach and experience God's love.

**Kid's Own Worship** (grades PreK-8): We have an average attendance 1 to 3 children most Sundays.

**Little Kid's Own Worship** (grade preschool-Kindergarten): Suspended

**Kids for Christ Youth Group** (grades 1-5): Suspended

### **Adult Ministries:**

Friday 12 Noon Study Group

"*The Chosen*" TV series discussion

Group after church services on Sundays

Esther Circle, 2<sup>nd</sup> Thursday morning of each month.

Book Club, 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday evening of every month.

Men's Breakfast at Yours Truly, 2<sup>nd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> Thursdays of most months.

**Vacation Bible School:** We recycled a program from many years back, *Everest: Conquering Challenges with God's Mighty Power* presented for Pre-Schoolers ages 3 – 10. We had a one day program with 5 children and 14 volunteers on July 31<sup>st</sup> from 9am to 2pm.

**Children's Message:** In-person during worship (given even when no kids were in church)

Many thanks to Linda Dodds, Susan Vlcek, Rosemary Balsinger, Dave Thompson, Henry Pearce, Donna Gray and Shannon Skilskyj for their dedication to this ministry, preparing lessons, crafts, and snacks for both Kid's Own Worship and the Children's Message during weekly services.

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 through October 22), Shari Cartwright (Chair), Donna Gray (W&M Assist), Diane Thomas (Clerk of Session; Church Communication; W&M Assist), Jennifer Hiteshue (Plants & Church-Entry Decorations, Membership Team Chair), Pastor Henry Pearce

**PRIMARY RESPONSIBILITY:** Assist the Pastor by coordinating liturgists, changing the paraments according to the liturgical calendar, decorating the sanctuary, preparing and setting up communion, and other duties to enrich worship. The music is selected and organized by the Pastor, Choir Director, and Organist.

### **DUTIES:**

- Prepared for weekly worship services. Many thanks to Doug Skilskyj for creating the worship slides projected on the front wall of the sanctuary.
- All services were live-streamed and posted on the church website (via YouTube) 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. Those participating in online worship provided their own elements for the celebration of communion.
- Communion was celebrated the first Sunday of each month (unless rescheduled per calendar conflicts) and on Easter and Christmas Eve.
- Organized liturgists for worship.
- 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.
- Jack Howell, Chair of Building & Grounds, coordinated building sanitation.

### **SERVICES HELD:**

- Sundays: One service was held (10:15 a.m.)
- Ash Wednesday service
- Maundy Thursday service of worship
- Thanksgiving Eve service of worship
- Lessons & Carols, the Sunday before Christmas
- Christmas Eve, including Communion

### **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, moderator of Session and Board of Deacons; moderator of The Chosen group study; and all the other ministries he leads.
- Carmen Cox Harwell and Matt Bauhaf serving as guest pulpit fill on May 7th and October 1st, respectively.
- Elder Shari Cartwright for delivering Pastor Henry's sermon on September 24th.
- Diane Thomas for her email communications throughout each week to the congregation.
- Doug Skilskyj for preparing the slides, 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 until her resignation on October 22nd.
- John Burke for sharing his musical talents from November through the end of 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 worship
- Chancel Choir for their faithful practice and bringing music to our worship
- To many congregants who brought us special music during the year
- John and Connie Baxter for maintaining the sound system and ensuring all equipment was set up correctly and in working order for 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, and provided leadership of Kids Own Worship.
- Jennifer Hiteshue and Donna Gray for maintaining communion table candles.
- Jennifer Hiteshue and the Membership Committee for taking weekly in-person worship attendance.
- 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 2024.

Elder Shari Cartwright, Worship and Music Chair

## **Home to Church**

This committee was established at the end of 2021 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.

After study and discussion, the committee decided to concentrate on a card outreach program to connect with people who are homebound, ill, on the prayer chain as well as those church members who mourn losses or celebrate great joy and news.

After the initial mailings for Thanksgiving, Christmas and Easter, chair Sherry Bair sent a number of cards to people on our prayer chain and to anyone a church member requested a card be sent. The challenge has been acquiring addresses for those to whom cards may be welcomed, especially those individuals on our prayer chain. The reminder of the option to have a card sent to someone is included in every weekly e-blast.

Sherry plans to continue to lead this outreach into 2024. Please contact Sherry with any questions or needs.

Sherry Bair  
Committee, Chair



## **Fellowship and Hospitality**

Thankfully, 2023 was fairly normal. We held 3 potlucks during the year, more than in recent years.

We held a potluck after each of the Congregational meetings in January and October as well as after our meal packing event for Rise Against Hunger in July. At each one, attendance increased as people acclimated to being able to engage in Fellowship together.

It was truly wonderful enjoying the company of fellow congregation members and some visitors as we broke bread together. At the October potluck, we had so many people bring food in slow cookers and other warmers that we ran out of places to plug them in! A terrific “problem” to have after these last few years.

Our “committee” of Pat Slaman and Diane Thomas is quite small, so we welcome anyone who wishes to help plan future gatherings to let us know and join us.

We wish peace and good health to all of our Medina Presbyterian friends, families and community.

Respectfully submitted,  
Diane Thomas  
Chair, Hospitality: 2024

## **Membership**

### ***Membership Committee Members***

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

### ***Weekly Pew Duty***

- After each worship service, clean up leftover papers and items in the pews, restock giving envelopes including seasonal giving envelopes.
- Replaced all hand sanitizers, restocked pens and placed Bibles back in the pews in December.

### ***Attendance Count***

- Attendance is taken weekly (and for special services) for adults and children.

### ***Social***

- Meet, greet and welcome new members, visitors and members we have not seen for a while and attempt to make them feel welcome.
- Contact shut-ins and folks we have not seen for a while and provide rides as necessary to and from church.
- Routinely contact members on the prayer chain, if appropriate.
- Be available and make an extra effort during special services to meet and greet folks and direct them to the narthex, sanctuary, restrooms, etc.
- Work in conjunction with Sherry Bair to suggest names of folks who could use a greeting/get well card or such.
- Committee members keep track of new members, take their photo, post it on the bulletin board in the narthex and attach a biography to help everyone get familiar, plus update the Membership notebook as well.

### ***Advertising***

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

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 2023 Buildings and Grounds maintenance was conducted per the previously agreed to commitments from and to our regular contractors.

After many years of dedication and hard work our staff custodian Kent Jordan elected to step down from his maintenance duties to travel more frequently and enjoy his summers golfing.

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

To provide an inviting and clean atmosphere, Marks Cleaning of Medina was contracted for a once weekly custodial cleaning of the interior of the church. Our outside lawn care has been handled by a local landscaper who lives in the adjacent neighborhood in exchange for 2 parking spaces he utilizes to store landscaping trailers.

The preventative and scheduled maintenance manual/documents were developed and used to enhance our future planning of recurring maintenance items throughout the building and grounds.

The outside storage shed was emptied, cleaned and reorganized for better utilization. New brighter LED parking lot lights and front yard LED lights were installed. All church windows were professionally cleaned both inside and outside. All furnace and air conditioning equipment was inspected/upgraded/cleaned.

The ODOT road improvements on HWY 18 Medina Road are nearing a completion date of mid-2024. All items that directly affect MPC (e.g., front entrance apron striping, curbing, landscaping repair/replanting) have been addressed or are in final stages of completion.

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 2023, our Mission Leadership Team along with Pastor Henry and the Deacons continued to spearhead 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.

This committee began the year by reaffirming our personal financial support of 2 **Compassion International** children, pooling our funds to provide their monthly financial support and additional monetary gifts for birthdays and Christmas. Each month, one member of the committee writes to both children via the Compassion International website, where it is translated into their native language.

Every Sunday in March found us and a few volunteers preparing and providing 50 meals to be served 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. Volunteers also worshipped with these friends in Christ and hope we can entice even greater participation in 2024.

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 (544 stuffed animals were donated by PetSmart\*\*) to fill **288 Christmas Shoeboxes**. Additionally, **75 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. \*\*All extra animals were distributed through other organizations: Catholic Charities, The Salvation Army and Cups Café.

Post-Thanksgiving, while the Christmas Shoe Box 2023 mission was “wrapping” up, many volunteers over the four Saturdays of Advent helped to produce **456 pounds** of luscious chocolate covered pecan candy. Our profits from these sales currently sit at \$6,213.76, which is over half our goal (if costs do not increase again over our 2023 supply expenses) to fund our summer (July 14, 2024) project, packing 20,000 meals for **Rise Against Hunger**. On July 9, 2023, 58 volunteers joyously gathered to weigh and pack 20,088 meals, which were shipped to International Care Ministries in the Philippines.

For several years, we have participated in **The Medina Personal Care Pantry**, collecting and contributing cleaning and personal care items for **180 families** each month. These are items not allowed to be purchased with food stamps nor are they provided by **Feeding Medina County**, the Medina County Food Bank. In 2022, we brought this valuable mission 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. 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 unhoused 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:**

- Compassion International
- Cups Café of Medina - a local mission for mid-day meals
- International Institute of Akron--assists with the assimilation of immigrants in the Akron Community
- Esperanza 2023--an adult mission trip usually attended by Deacon Beth McDevitt; in 2023, 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—an affiliate of our sister church in Cleveland Heights
- *Rise Against Hunger* 2023 Meal Packing Event
- 2023 Christmas Shoe Box 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 serving of meals for North Church (our sister church in Cleveland)
- Rise Against Hunger 2023 (RAH) Meal Packing Event
- Lenten candy production to finance RAH 2023
- Advent candy production to finance RAH 2024
- 2023 Christmas Shoebox Program
- World Vision Walk for Water

**PCUSA SPECIAL OFFERING PARTICIPATION:**

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

## **Stewardship**

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

### **End of Year Balances**

General Fund Checking Account	\$27,578
Money Market Account	\$125,707
Online Giving Holding Account (transferred regularly to General Fund Checking)	\$544

Submitted by Dave Foltz  
Chair, Finance Committee

## **2024 Budget**

**Total Contributions            \$180,000**

### **Expenses**

Personnel	\$140,075
Administrative	\$3,625
Worship & Music	\$2,530
Mission	\$5,296
Christian Education	\$850
Evangelism & Fellowship	\$2,207
Building & Grounds	\$40,730
Stewardship	\$6,200

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**Total Expense Budget            \$201,513**



## **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 145.94 shares valued at \$5,487.15.

On September 30, the fund balances were:

Undesignated Fund	\$7,529.00
Christian Education Fund	\$7,958.15

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 consists of Donna Gray, Chair, Jennifer Hiteshue, Session Representative, Kathy Janini and Barbara Steinmetz Deacon Representatives, and Members-At-Large Kate Biter, KC Howell and Thom Janini.

We met for the first time in January of 2023 as a need arose to fill a Deacon slot. Barbara Steinmetz was selected and elected by the congregation for the Class of 2025.

We met again in July of 2023 to consider the slate for the October election. The new slate of officers for Session and the Board of Deacons were presented to the Congregation on Sunday Oct. 29, 2023. They were accepted by the Congregation and ordained and/or installed for the respective offices. The Members-At-Large were also accepted. All of the Elders and Deacons had served as church officers previously, except for Melissa Pearce. She had been an Elder at a different church, but has now also been ordained as a Deacon.

The following is the new slate, effective January 1, 2024:

### **Elders Class of 2026**

Rosemary Balsinger (1st term)  
Thom Janini (1st term)  
Diane Thomas (1st term)

### **Deacons Class of 2026**

Rebecca Coste (2nd term)  
Linda Dodds (1st term)  
Melissa Pearce (1st term)

### **Members-at-Large for 2024**

Sandy Cullen\*  
Jennifer Hiteshue  
KC Howell  
Becky Jeppe

\*In December 2023, Kate Biter had to step down as a Member-at-Large due to a job transfer. We thank her for her past work on the committee. Sandy Cullen has agreed to fill that slot.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Elder Donna Gray  
Committee Chair

## **Presbyterian Women**

The Presbyterian Women meet on the 4<sup>th</sup> Thursday of most months in the evening. Our routine is to have devotions, book discussion, and a business meeting. From January to May, we completed our book titled; “Finding God in all the Broken Places” from the Women of Faith Series. Since September, we have been using another Women of Faith book, “Understanding Faith”. Devotions and chapter discussion are provided by PW Members on a rotating volunteer basis. Monthly refreshments and the “least coin” collection is a part of each meeting as well.

We have learning time, fellowship time, and provide support for our sisters in Christ. We welcome all women who would like to join us. If someone can't make the evening meetings, we encourage them to attend the Esther Circle which meets the 2<sup>nd</sup> Thursday of the month at 10:00 a.m. The Esther Circle uses a Presbyterian Women's Study book. Questions are to be directed to the Esther Leader, Laurel Jordan.

During the year, several events and activities were coordinated with the support of our members:

- Held a social outing to Monarca Cantina on the Square on February 27<sup>th</sup>.
- Coordinated garden clean up and weeding throughout the spring, summer and fall. Included was a gathering to clean out weeds before a wedding.
- Provided summer ferns and flowers for the church.
- Provided seasonal wreaths on all the church doors throughout the year.
- Placed fall décor on the front porch.
- Held the “Annual Ladies Night Out” on June 22<sup>nd</sup> at The Brown Derby.
- Sponsored a Rummage Sale from July 26<sup>th</sup> through July 29<sup>th</sup>.
- Held an Ice Cream Social on August 24<sup>th</sup> where Donna Gray provided a small program, “The Many Hats Women Wear”.

Special Donations and support activities included:

- Hope and Healing Center: Donated sheets for their Grand Opening.
- MPC Deacons: Assisted with financial needs during the Christmas season.
- Presbyterian Women: Participated in the “Least Coin Offering”
- Deonna Dirham: Sent a “card chain” to encourage Deonna through her extended hospital stay.
- Christmas Shoeboxes for Head Start: Wrapped shoeboxes for an evening following our December meeting.

Respectfully Submitted by:

Barb Conrad and Jennifer Hiteshue, Co-Chairs

Cindy Pallini, Treasurer

Donna Gray, Secretary

## **Board of Deacons**

In 2023, the Board of Deacons met monthly, except for July and August, to fulfill their mission of serving the needs of Medina Presbyterian Church and the broader local community. Each meeting also offered time for the sharing of devotions and learning together through texts.

Learning Together: Howard Thurman's 1949 text, Jesus and the Disinherited, provided a context for interpreting the teachings of Jesus through the experience of the oppressed. Using Thurman's exploration of such concepts as deception, hate, and love, the Deacons engaged in candid conversations about those who may be identified as "disinherited" in today's society and how we, as Christians, can respond in caring, affirmative ways. The group concluded that Thurman's overarching message is to serve as "agents of love" to all whom we encounter in our daily lives. Starting this past fall, Deacons turned their attention to the text, The Presbyterian Deacon: An Essential Guide, as a means of understanding more fully their roles in the life of the church in both historical and contemporary contexts.

Procedural Updates: Procedurally, the Board of Deacons committed to a monthly update to the congregation as part of the stewardship message during worship. This "Deacons' Moment" provided an opportunity to share information on recent and upcoming activities, as well as to invite participation from members of the congregation.

Additionally, the Deacons formalized the process of voting between scheduled meetings on requests for financial assistance. All Deacons now respond to an email from Henry before any action is taken; the vote of the members is officially recorded in the subsequent meeting notes. As detailed on the year-end report from Treasurer Kathy Foltz, the Deacons supported numerous requests for lodging, food, gas, and utility assistance.

Outreach Activities: The Board of Deacons received with deep appreciation ongoing gifts from the congregation in support of its outreach activities. These are summarized below:

1. **Personal Care Pantry:** In recognition of the significant work being done by the Personal Care Pantry, the Deacons allocated \$200 per month in support of this outreach program to the local community.
2. **Valentine's Day packages:** The Deacons continued their tradition of sending care packages for Valentine's Day to college students, military personnel, and homebound members of the congregation; there were 10 recipients in 2023. Consistent with the prior year, and where possible, these packages were personally delivered, adding an element of fellowship to the activity.
3. **Easter and Thanksgiving Meal Deliveries:** In partnership with Community Action of Wayne/Medina and Buehler's, the Deacons organized deliveries of 61 food baskets and bags of personal care/household items to individuals throughout Medina County for Easter 2023. Following consultation with Community Action and in recognition of steadily rising food costs, the Board decided to reduce the number of food items and to eliminate the personal care/household items for Thanksgiving. As a result, the Deacons

- increased their delivery of Thanksgiving baskets to a total of 80 households.
4. **Shoes for Head Start Children:** The Deacons expanded their “back-to-school” shoe purchases for the children in the Head Start program this year. A total of 126 pair of shoes was delivered to Community Action of Wayne/Medina for distribution.
  5. **Christmas Shoebox Donation:** Because donations for purchasing shoes for the Head Start children exceeded the cost of the project, the Deacons voted to donate the balance of funds to the Christmas Shoebox project spearheaded by the Mission Committee.
  6. **Meal Delivery and Memorial Service Luncheons:** In lieu of meal deliveries, the Deacons supplied two families with groceries and gift cards for food this past year. In addition, they assisted with a meal following a memorial service.

Membership: Kathy Foltz and Anne Gates concluded their terms of service in December 2023. The Deacons welcomed Melissa Pearce and Linda Dodds as newly-elected members, with terms of service to begin in January 2024.

The Deacons had a productive year in 2023, marked by thoughtful, productive conversations and a collaborative spirit. They were blessed by the opportunities to serve others and are immensely grateful for the support of the congregation, via both their participation and their financial donations. The Deacons look forward with commitment and enthusiasm to fulfilling their mission in 2024.

Respectfully submitted,

Anne Gates, Secretary Board of Deacons

<b>Medina Presbyterian Church - Medina OH</b>				
<b>Deacon's Treasurer Report</b>				
<b>2023</b>				
				<b>Designated</b>
		<b>Activity</b>	<b>Activity</b>	<b>Funds</b>
		<b>2023</b>	<b>2022</b>	<b>2022</b>
<b>Income</b>				
	Contributions	\$ 10,196.00	\$ 8,242.00	
	Valentine Packages	\$ -	\$ 305.00	
	Easter Baskets	\$ 2,555.00	\$ 2,110.00	
	Shoes for Head Start	\$ 1,430.00	\$ -	
	Thanksgiving Baskets	\$ 3,200.00	\$ 3,805.00	90.21
	Outreach - Lodging	\$ 250.00	\$ -	
	<b>Total Income</b>	<b>\$ 17,631.00</b>	<b>\$ 14,462.00</b>	
<b>Expenses</b>				
	Medina Personal Care Pantry	\$ 2,400.00	\$ 1,623.40	
	Valentine Care Packages	\$ 364.43	\$ 231.59	
	Easter Baskets	\$ 3,711.90	\$ 3,709.40	
	Shoes for Head Start	\$ 1,316.22	\$ 800.00	
	Thanksgiving Baskets	\$ 3,720.06	\$ 3,714.79	
	We Care Fund	\$ 156.66	\$ 147.02	
	Hospitality	\$ -	\$ 38.97	
	Outreach - Lodging	\$ 4,726.10	\$ 3,557.95	
	Outreach - Utilities	\$ 200.00	\$ 200.00	
	Outreach - Food Gift Cards	\$ 100.00	\$ 95.00	
	Outreach - Gas Gift Cards	\$ -	\$ 235.00	
	Admin - Bank Checks	\$ -	\$ 46.91	
	<b>Total Expense</b>	<b>\$ 16,695.37</b>	<b>\$ 14,400.03</b>	
	<b>Cash Beginning Balance</b>	<b>\$ 4,896.09</b>		
	<b>Cash Ending Balance</b>	<b>\$ 5,831.72</b>		