



# 2025 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
Fellowship and Hospitality .....	8
Membership .....	9
Property (Buildings & Grounds) .....	10
Mission .....	11
Stewardship .....	14
2025 Budget.....	15
Endowment Fund.....	16
Nominating Committee .....	17
Presbyterian Women .....	18
Board of Deacons.....	20

## **A Message from Pastor Pearce**

Sisters and Brothers in Jesus,

One of the benefits of holding our annual meeting in January is that we are invited to think back over the year that has just passed, and to consider how that year's experience can shape our approach to the future.

The year ended on a sad note with the passing of Ted Swartz in its final days – we held his funeral service on the first Sunday of 2026. The year was also marked with the passing of Barbara Conrad and Bobby Askew. Each of these three people played a leadership role in the life of the church in their own way, and each will be sadly missed. As in most years, a number of other faithful members moved away or removed their names from our membership rolls. John and Connie Baxter will be particularly missed after years of playing major roles in the life of the church; they made the decision to move their membership upon Connie's retirement as director of our chancel choir and bell choir.

So we will look back on 2025 with some sad memories, but we will also look back on a year that included continued growth in our mission outreach to needy neighbors in the community, as well as the world at large.

With the leadership of our Board of Deacons, we continued to fund and deliver an expanded number of Easter and Thanksgiving food baskets to needy neighbors in Medina County. The congregation also contributed enough funds and shoes for us to expand our school shoes ministry to Head Start kids at the beginning of the school year.

Once again this year, we raised enough money to pack 25,000 meals in July for starving people around the world. At year's end, we exceeded our most successful candy fundraiser of the past, producing around 510 pounds of homemade pecan clusters. Our Head Start shoe boxes and gift bags for Early Head Start kids were the highest quality we have created since the program began. We were also able to help once again with the distribution of stuffed animals through the Salvation Army and Catholic Charities.

Two of our shared interfaith ministries also continued to play an important role in the life of the community. Our partnership with the Medina Personal Care Pantry thrived and grew, although it will be necessary for the pantry to find new funding streams in 2026 to allow it to continue its ministry. The Medina Interfaith Coalition for Affordable Housing (MICAHA) has also continued to generate new momentum – a public event in the fall allowed MICAHA to attract some additional public attention and the partnership of representatives of business and government.

And so I ask once again a question I asked in this letter last year: Since we are active in so many important mission programs, allowing ourselves to be a conduit of God's blessing in the lives of

so many of our neighbors, doesn't it seem reasonable to ask whether we should in fact be a growing congregation?

Study after study tells us that people in the society around us have a hunger to participate in meaningful works to improve the community and the world. But we have not yet learned how to effectively communicate to those around us that they can find opportunities to do those works and serve God through our congregation. We have not yet learned to be effective in sharing faith and being evangelistic.

You have heard me say in the past what you will hear me say again and in the future: that I believe the Presbyterian way of following Jesus has more to offer to people in our world – and especially to young people – than any other part of the Christian tradition. So how can we learn to joyfully and effectively share our faith with unchurched others so they come to follow Jesus with us?

These are hard questions, and few Presbyterian churches have ready answers. But I'm confident that with the help of the Holy Spirit, and with the leadership of our congregation's vigorous officers, we can discern how God intends for us to return to a time of growth in membership as well as in mission.

On behalf of all the leaders of the church and those who have been blessed by God through our efforts in the past year, thanks for all you do in supporting our mission and ministries. May God richly bless you as he blesses so many through you.

When I was called to the pulpit of this congregation a little over 14 years ago, I said that if I were moving to Medina, even if I were not coming to be the pastor of this church, this is still the church I would want to join. Nothing that has happened in the 14 years since has led me to change that opinion. It's a great joy to participate in the rich adventure that is the life of Medina Presbyterian Church. Thanks for letting me be a part of it all.

Your friend in Jesus,  
Henry

## **Christian Education**

Christian Education 2025 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.

### **Adult Ministries:**

- **Friday 12 Noon Study Group** held on Zoom
- **"The Chosen" TV series discussion group** was held after church services on Sundays in early 2025. Plans are to discuss Season 5 of "The Chosen" in 2026.
- **Esther Circle** on the 2nd Thursday morning of each month in the early part of 2025; not meeting presently.
- **Book Club** on the 3rd Tuesday evening of most months in attendees' homes.
- **Men's Breakfast** on the 2nd & 4th Thursdays of the month at Yours Truly on Rt. 18

**Vacation Bible School:** VBS went really well! We had 11 children participate from the ages of 5-9 and 14 volunteers between all 3 evenings. Everyone seemed to really enjoy the evening format with dinner before the activities which were Singing, Craft, Bible Lesson and Games. The theme was the story of Jonah using a program from ShareFaith. We are very blessed with all the support from the congregation.

**Easter Egg Hunt:** The Easter Egg Hunt was held on April 19th. We had great attendance with 17 children from ages 6 months to 12 years old. We had several teens and adult volunteers as well.

**Children's Message:** Given during the Sunday worship service, even when no kids were present at church. We provided a children's message each week and then moved into the Kid's Own Worship room to further the lesson with a craft, snack, and story.

Many thanks to Linda Dodds, Susan Vlcek, Dave Thompson, Henry Pearce, Andrew Lynden, Susan Lynden and Shannon Skilskyj for their dedication to Christian Education.

Respectfully submitted,  
Elder Shannon Skilskyj Chair MPC Christian Education Committee

## **Worship and Music**

**W&M COMMITTEE MEMBERS:** Donna Gray (Chair), Shari Cartwright, Jennifer Hitushue, Diane Thomas, Connie Baxter (Chancel Choir and Bells of Faith Director, Jan. to May) Craig Housum (Chancel Choir and Bells of Faith Director Aug. to Dec.), John Burke (Organist). Gayle Hughes, and Beth McDevitt (Choir Director search).

**Primary Responsibility:** The main responsibility of the W&M Committee is to assist the pastor with details of the worship service. The pastor prepares the service, and all the liturgy involved each week. The organist and choir director works with him to select and organize music to enrich the service.

### **Services:**

- Sundays: One Service begins at 10:15 a.m.
- Ash Wednesday: 7:00 p.m.
- Maundy Thursday including Communion: 7:00 p.m.
- Good Friday: Noon and 7:00 p.m.
- Thanksgiving Eve: 7:00 p.m.
- Lessons and Carols, the Sunday before Christmas: 10:15 a.m.
- Christmas Eve, including Communion: 7:00 p.m.
- Communion is served the first Sunday of the month.

**Bells of Faith:** Practice Wednesday evening 6:15 to 7:15 p.m. September through May. Presentations approximately once a month during Sunday services.

**Chancel Choir:** Practice Wednesday evening 7:30 to 8:30 p.m. September through May. Presentations during most Sunday services.

### **Weekly Responsibilities:**

Many people work behind the scenes to make the weekly service run smoothly. Each Sunday morning runs so smoothly you may not be aware of the time and energy these dedicated members give.

- John Baxter, Jack Howell, Doug Skilskyj, Andrew Everett run the Sound System.
- Jack Howell operates the Online Service Streaming.
- Doug Skilskyi prepares projected slides and runs the display screen.
- Donna Gray organizes Liturgists for Worship.
- Shari Cartwright and Donna Gray prepare and clean up Communion Elements.
- Jennifer Hitushue refills candle oil.
- Jennifer Hitushue records the attendance.
- Jack Howell records the online attendance.
- Shari Cartwright and Donna Gray set up the seasonal window decorations
- Jennifer Hitushue (Presbyterian Women) provides the outside door decorations.

- Shari Cartwright, Diane Thomas, Jennifer Hiteshue, Donna Gray change paraments based on PCUSA Liturgical calendar.
- John Burke provides exciting and enriching music each week.
- Beth McDevitt is often our excellent substitute Organist.
- Connie Baxter directed the Chancel Choir and Bells of Faith from Jan. to May.
- Craig Housum is our current Bell and Choir Director.
- The committee organizes the Hanging of the Greens set up and take down.
- The committee provides palms for Palm Sunday and Easter, and a Poinsettia for Christmas.
- There is weekly watering of live plants.

### **Special Gift:**

The Dirham Family (Joyce, wife, Keith, and Tom, sons and their families) gave an exceedingly generous gift in memory of husband and father, Richard Dirham. The rather ancient sound system has been totally updated. A very big thank you goes to John Baxter for the many hours it took to set up the new system.

In addition, all the light bulbs in the sanctuary ceiling and chandeliers were changed to LED lighting. This was a huge expense and required special equipment to reach the ceiling. Jack Howell and Stan Hughes did the climbing and cleaning way up in the heavens!

### **Special Recognition:**

In May, our Choir Director of 20 years retired. Connie Baxter gave an extraordinary amount of time to the Chancel Choir, providing beautiful presentations every week. She was able to procure bells from Faith Presbyterian Church, thus the name, Bells of Faith. A great deal of time was spent on her part learning how to teach the choir how to produce some great sounds. Both Connie and John Baxter made stands, cushions and covers needed to set the bells up each week. They were instrumental in getting the old bells refurbished and learned how to make minor adjustments. Much of the music was donated in memory of Marcia Robinson's late husband John Robinson. A reception was given to Connie on her last day of directing.

### **Welcome:**

Welcome to our new Bells of Faith and Chancel Choir Director, Craig Housum. Craig teaches music in grades Pre-K to 8<sup>th</sup> grade in the Cleveland Metropolitan School District in Cleveland. A real plus is his extensive performance experience! It is a joy to have him share his talent.

Elder Donna Gray  
Worship and Music Chair

## **Fellowship and Hospitality**

During 2025, we held 3 potlucks. 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, we had good turnouts and plenty of food for everyone.

The potlucks are enjoyable as it's fun and enjoyable to break bread together with fellow congregation members. It's also an excellent opportunity to include guests and visitors.

Our small committee comprises Pat Slaman and Diane Thomas. We welcome anyone who wishes to help plan future gatherings to let us know and join us. Thank you to everyone who brings in dishes and food items to share for each potluck and for everyone who jumps in to clean up at the end.

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

Respectfully submitted,  
Diane Thomas  
Chair, Hospitality



## **Membership**

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

- Donna Gray (chair)
- Jennifer Hiteshue
- Sherry Bair~ Card Ministry

### ***Social***

- Meet, greet and welcome new members, and visitors. Be available to direct visitors to the narthex, sanctuary, restrooms, etc. Invite to stay for coffee and snacks after service.
- Contact shut-ins and folks we have not seen for a while. Occasionally provide rides as necessary to and from church.
- Routinely contact members on the prayer chain, if appropriate.
- Work in conjunction with Sherry Bair to suggest names of people who would appreciate a card. (get well, congratulations, support, etc.)
- Welcome new members by taking their photo and posting it in the Narthex along with a brief bio.
- Send welcome cards to new members.

### ***Attendance Count***

- Attendance is taken weekly and for special services for both adults and children.
- Jack Howell includes the attendance count from the online streaming services.

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

- After each worship service, clean up leftover papers and items in the pews, restock giving envelopes, and clean up special offering envelopes.
- Replace hand sanitizers and pens in the pew pockets.

### ***Advertising***

- Special occasion services are advertised in the newspaper for Easter, Christmas season, and for our annual Rise Against Hunger meal packing event in July.

Respectfully submitted,  
Donna Gray, Chair

## **Property (Buildings & Grounds)**

**Session Representative and Committee Chair:** Jack Howell

**Committee Members:** Stan Hughes and Thom Janini

The 2025 Buildings and Grounds maintenance was conducted per the previously agreed to commitments from and to our regular contractors. 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 again contracted for a once weekly custodial cleaning of the interior of the church. Their commitment to providing quality and reliable service has been commendable.

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. He has provided superior service and has kept our outside environment inviting and well groomed.

Several members (Rick and Donna Gray and our Presbyterian Women's Group) have contributed countless hours towards maintaining and keeping our interior fellowship hall, Sanctuary and exterior flower beds looking neat, clean and colorful.

Our biggest challenge this year has been in the parking lot area. As it has aged over the last 15-20 plus years, wear and tear is showing in several areas requiring some pothole repairs and parking area painting and striping improvements. The outside maintenance building has needed some attention with the garage door and the entrance door. The interior of the building was cleaned out of old and unnecessary broken tools and landscaping implements, which had been stored there for some time. In addition, several members have stepped up and assisted in grounds keeping and outside repairs.

The Building committee consisting of invited Elders and Deacons and interested members, meets on an as needed basis. Many lingering issues, especially with outside areas, were addressed and resolved this year.

Respectfully submitted,  
Jack Howell, Chair

## **Mission**

**MLT Members:** Pastor Henry Pearce, Pamela Stec (Committee Chair), Nan Steinmetz, Diane Thomas and Susan Vlcek. Note the diminished membership for 2025 to this leadership team and please consider adding your support and join us; no experience necessary.

In 2025, 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.

With Session's blessing, the MLT began a financial commitment to Kristen from Ecuador through Compassion International. Kristen celebrated her 14th birthday on September 22nd. MPC also continues to support of 11 year old Ronald from Guatemala. Writing to these children about God's blessings in your lives, your family, your church family, even the weather is encouraged and appreciated. Translation is possible and provided through their website: <https://www.compassion.com/my-account/sponsorships-list.htm>.

This year in January, MPC volunteers prepared a ham dinner complete with sides, salad, desserts and provided beverages to serve to the membership of 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. Our volunteers also worshipped with these friends in Christ. In September we revisited our friends at North Church, now pastored by Katherine Chilcote, as Charlie Hurst and his wife, Maria, retired in 2025. Again we provided a meal, this time breakfast themed. This is a wonderful blessing for all who participate and we encourage you to experience the same joy we have shared with them. Throughout the year, MPC also provided individually-sized personal care items and once the cold happened, we responded to a need for winter weather clothing.

Continuing with the expanded (since 2021) program to include Community Action's Head Start Children from both Wayne and Medina Counties, we collected socks, hats, small toys, candy, books, personal care items and adorable stuffed animals (donated by the patrons of PetSmart) to fill 250 Christmas Shoeboxes. Additionally, 85 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. An enormous amount of gratitude to all who provided the contents, who assembled and/or wrapped these boxes. The bounty of stuffed animals was so generous from the Medina community through PetSmart, we were able to share the cuddly creatures with other community organizations beyond the Head Start children and siblings. These included Catholic Charities and The Salvation Army.

Post Thanksgiving, while the Christmas Shoe Box 2025 mission was "wrapping" up,

many volunteers over the four Saturdays of Advent helped to produce 510 pounds of luscious chocolate covered pecan candy. Our profits from these sales currently sit at \$6,082, which is over half our goal (if costs do not increase again over our 2025 supply expenses) to fund our July 12, 2026 packing of 25,000 meals for *Rise Against Hunger*.

On July 13th, 2025, 76 volunteers joyously gathered to weigh and pack 25,008 meals, half of which were shipped to the Philippines with Convoy of Hope. The other half went to the South Sudan with Salesian. Again, thank you for your time and your commitment and don't forget to mark your calendars for July 12<sup>th</sup>!

We have, for several years, participated in The Medina Personal Care Pantry by collecting and contributing cleaning and personal care items for 300 families, or approximately 600 people, in Medina County each month. In addition to the drive-through distribution each month, deliveries are made to those home-bound or with limited transportation. These items cannot be purchased with food stamps nor are they provided by the Medina County Food Bank. In 2022, we brought this valuable mission in-house and transitioned the administrative responsibilities. This mission is so important to the welfare of our community. While you continue to help provide the products (or funds to purchase them), you may also contribute your time in packing the bags or soliciting additional products from the greater Medina community. The first pantry date is set this year for February 7, 2026 because of the holidays, but usually runs the first Saturday of each month, with the previous Thursday set as packing day. 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.

Each fall, we have contributed a "cornucopia" of fruits and vegetables to The Medina County Home and in 2025 we continued the practice. However, with the leadership of Andrew Everett, you provided a similar bounty of produce just prior to Easter. Maybe in 2026 we can aspire to add a third haul of fresh produce when our gardens are blessing us with enough to share. It is so appreciated by the folks there. 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 offering 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 (\$486.30), Peace & Global Witness (\$472.50) and the Christmas Joy (\$1,050) offerings 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 Medina County Home
- Compassion International
- Cups Café of Medina - a local mission for mid-day meals
- Rise Against Hunger 2025 Meal Packing Event
- 2025 Christmas Shoe Box Program
- Head Start-Community Action
- Medina Personal Care Pantry

**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 2025 Meal Packing Event
- Lenten candy production to finance RAH 2025
- Advent candy production to finance RAH 2026
- 2025 Christmas Shoebox Program

**PCUSA SPECIAL OFFERING PARTICIPATION:**

- One Great Hour of Sharing (Lent)
- Peace and Global Witness (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	\$36,268
-------------------------------	----------

Money Market Account	\$28,098
----------------------	----------

Certificate of Deposit	\$151,905
------------------------	-----------

Online Giving Holding Account (transferred regularly to General Fund Checking)	\$474
---	-------

Total Cash Balances	<u>\$216,745</u>
---------------------	------------------

Submitted by Dave Foltz

Treasurer

## **2026 Budget**

<b>Total Contributions</b>	<b>\$224,000</b>
----------------------------	------------------

### **Expenses**

Personnel	\$139,776
Administrative	\$3,540
Worship & Music	\$2,575
Mission	\$6,100
Christian Education	\$700
Evangelism & Fellowship	\$2,125
Building & Grounds	\$51,530
Stewardship	\$6,315

---

<b>Total Expense Budget</b>	<b>\$212,661</b>
-----------------------------	------------------

## **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 December 31 the fund has 184.37 shares and is valued at \$23,044.41.

The fund balances are:

Undesignated Fund	\$11,202.98
Christian education Fund	\$11,841.43

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 and Melissa Pearce.

Respectfully submitted,  
KC Howell



## **Nominating Committee**

Each year, the Nominating Committee meets to find the new members of Session, Deacons and Members-At-Large. Session and Deacon Representatives to the committee are selected each January by their respective bodies. At-Large Members are selected by the committee and elected by the Congregation. This group cannot be currently serving in a leadership role, and the elected At-Large Members must outnumber the active Session and Deacon Members.

Session Members and Deacons may serve for 2 consecutive, 3-year terms for a total of 6 years. They can be chosen for the same leadership position, if called, after a year off. In special cases, an Elder's or Deacon's service can be extended through Presbytery approval.

### **2025 Nominating Committee Members:**

Donna Gray, Chair

Diane Thomas, Session Representative

Barbara Steinmetz, Deacon Representative

Members-At-Large: Shari Cartwright, Sandy Cullen, Jennifer Hiteshue and KC Howell

Thank you to the following Elders who have completed their terms as of December 31, 2025: Jack Howell and Shannon Skilsky.

A thank you to our Deacon who has completed her term: Nan Steinmetz

The new slate of officers for Session and the Board of Deacons was presented to the Congregation on Sunday, October 26<sup>th</sup>. They were accepted by the Congregation and installed for the offices. The Members-At-Large were also accepted.

#### **Elder Class of 2028**

Wendy Calhoun

Shari Cartwright

Donna Gray

#### **Deacon Class of 2028**

Cheryl Scott

Barbara Steinmetz

Mary Lou Swartz

#### **Members-at-Large for 2026**

Sandy Cullen

Andrew Everett

Jennifer Hiteshue

Gayle Hughes

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, with a hiatus during the summer months. Our routine is to have devotions, book discussion and a business meeting.

This year, we completed a Women of Faith series for our discussion book, *“Understanding Purpose”*. We currently are using the book, **Glasses Off** by Ciara Laine Myers.

Devotions and chapter discussion are led by PW members on a volunteer, rotating basis. Refreshments and the “Least Coin” collection are part of each meeting as well.

We have discussion/learning time, fellowship time and provide support for our sisters in Christ. We welcome all women who would like to join us.

During 2025, several events and activities were coordinated with the support of our Members:

- Held an outing on February 17<sup>th</sup> to Monarca Cantina on the Square
- Many members continued to help Building and Grounds with weeding and bush trimming throughout the summer and fall. We had a huge donation by Marcia Robinson in memory of her husband, John Robinson. Marcia provided the labor of tree and bush trimming/removal along with additional bushes. Memorial money from Morna Shearer was used to add a small decorative tree.
- Provided summer ferns and flowers for the church.
- Provided seasonal wreaths on all the church doors throughout the year.
- Provided fall décor for the front porch and in the courtyard by Fellowship Hall.
- Held our annual *Ladies Night Out* on June 24<sup>th</sup> at the Tilted Farmer.
- Held an Ice Cream Social August 28<sup>th</sup> to which all women of the church and friends were invited. Our program was a presentation of “Live Inspired”, a group that provides educational coaches and resources for preschoolers and their parents.

Special Donations and support activities have included:

- MPC Deacons to assist in Christmas Shoebox donations.
- Holiday decorations for outside of our church building.
- Garden cleanup.
- Presbyterian Women’s Least Coin Offering.
- Spent an evening packing/wrapping shoebox for our Christmas Shoeboxes for Head Start mission.

This past April, we said goodbye to our dear friend and sister-in-Christ, Barbara Conrad. She Co-Chaired Presbyterian Women. Memorials were given to the Medina Presbyterian Women in her memory. The instructions were to use the funds to finish projects, to be able to donate to those in need and to keep the group running. We thank Bryan Conrad for arranging this fund and to the many who gave in Barb’s name.

In 2024, we also said goodbye to our dear friend Rosemary Balsinger. Money was donated to a memorial fund for her. Session voted to have Presbyterian Women decide how the money would be used. With Rick and Amy Balsinger's involvement, we decided to purchase a bench in her memory. We gathered more money and the project turned into a Memory Garden for both Rosemary and Barb. A huge thank you goes out to Rick Gray, Jack Howell and Stan Hughes for the labor involved in creating the space for the Garden. Jon Edinger purchased an umbrella for shade. Now, thanks to the memorial fund and everyone's efforts, outside our Fellowship Hall is a bench, 2 chairs and an umbrella, surrounded by boxwood bushes. Between Rosemary's love of nature and gardens and Barb's fabulous attention to decorative details, we feel we have honored these wonderful women!

Respectfully Submitted by:

Jennifer Hiteshue, Chair

Cindy Pallini, Treasurer

Donna Gray, Secretary

## **Board of Deacons**

The Board of Deacons held regularly scheduled meetings on the second Thursday of each Month, except July and August. During our meetings, we prayerfully considered how to best meet the needs in our church and in the wider Medina community. Empowered by the generous donations from the MPS congregation, we were able to make a significant impact in several areas.

### Ongoing Initiatives:

- Valentine's Day care packages reaching 8 college students and 13 homebound households.
- Easter and Thanksgiving food deliveries reaching 80 families for each holiday.
- Head Start shoe drive reaching 175 children.
- Benevolence assistance for rent assistance or other emergency requests. The total benevolence expenses for 2025 reached \$3,000, demonstrating the church's ongoing commitment to community support.
- Funeral Luncheons - planning and support for 2 funeral luncheons.
- Meal delivery as needed for members of the congregation who are ill.
- Support of the Medina Personal Care Pantry with \$200 per month.

### New Initiatives:

- Creation of a Church Activity Calendar to be used to organize congregational involvement in 2026.
- Next Step Up shelter- planning of partnership in 2026 to provide welcome bags for clients entering the shelter.
- County Home Valentines Day party planning for 2026.

### Financial Overview:

- In 2025, total income reached \$14,740, reflecting a decrease from the previous year of \$4354.
- Total expenses for 2025: expenses totaled \$15,478.84, with notable costs in Thanksgiving baskets and outreach programs. This reflected a decrease of \$3945.79 from the previous year.
- Income Sources: Contributions and Thanksgiving baskets were the primary income source, with significant amounts also coming from Easter baskets and shoes for Head Start.

The Deacons wish to express sincere appreciation for the opportunity to serve the community. We extend gratitude to the MPC congregation for their generous support, which enables our

ongoing efforts. We remain committed to advancing the ministry of compassion and service on behalf of MPC with dedication and integrity.

**Medina Presbyterian Church - Medina OH**  
**Deacon's Treasurer Report**  
**2025**

	<b>2025</b>		<b>2024</b>	
	<i>Activity December</i>	<i>Activity YTD</i>	<i>Activity December</i>	<i>Activity YTD</i>
<b><i>Income</i></b>				
Contributions	\$ 75.00	\$ 6,475.00	\$ -	\$ 7,573.00
Valentine Packages	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Easter Baskets	\$ -	\$ 4,465.00	\$ -	\$ 4,350.00
Shoes for Head Start	\$ -	\$ 635.00	\$ -	\$ 1,795.00
Thanksgiving Baskets	\$ 665.00	\$ 3,905.00	\$ -	\$ 5,376.00
Outreach - Lodging	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
<b><i>Total Income</i></b>	<b>\$ 740.00</b>	<b>\$ 15,480.00</b>	<b>\$ -</b>	<b>\$ 19,094.00</b>
<b><i>Expenses</i></b>				
Medina Personal Care Pantry	\$ 200.00	\$ 2,400.00	\$ 200.00	\$ 3,400.00
Valentine Care Packages	\$ -	\$ 788.77	\$ -	\$ 446.87
Easter Baskets	\$ -	\$ 4,473.09	\$ -	\$ 3,962.38
Shoes for Head Start	\$ -	\$ 489.39	\$ -	\$ 2,078.52
Thanksgiving Baskets	\$ -	\$ 4,187.58	\$ -	\$ 5,103.86
Missions Shoe Box Project	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Congregation Benevolence	\$ -	\$ 340.01	\$ -	\$ 612.91
Hospitality	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 113.78
Outreach - Lodging	\$ 195.00	\$ 2,955.00	\$ 130.00	\$ 3,214.82
Outreach - Utilities	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 500.00
Outreach - Food Gift Cards	\$ -	\$ 165.00	\$ 75.00	\$ 225.00
Outreach - Gas Gift Cards	\$ -	\$ 75.00	\$ -	\$ -
Admin - Bank Checks/stamps	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 171.49
<b><i>Total Expense</i></b>	<b>\$ 395.00</b>	<b>\$ 15,873.84</b>	<b>\$ 405.00</b>	<b>\$ 19,829.63</b>
<b><i>Cash Beginning Balance</i></b>	<b>\$ 4,357.25</b>	<b>\$ 5,096.09</b>	<b>\$ 5,501.09</b>	<b>\$ 5,831.72</b>
<b><i>Cash Ending Balance</i></b>	<b>\$ 4,702.25</b>	<b>\$ 4,702.25</b>	<b>\$ 5,096.09</b>	<b>\$ 5,096.09</b>

Respectfully submitted,  
Rebecca Coste, Secretary  
Kathy Foltz, Treasurer  
Melissa Pearce, Moderator