

Clinton Presbyterian Church Annual Report 2022

*Clinton Presbyterian Church
is a welcoming congregation
called to share Christ's love.*



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Church Staff in Ministry

Pastor
Director of Music Ministries
Administrative Assistant
Preschool Director
Preschool Teachers
Preschool Teaching Assistant
Cleaning Services
Accountant

Rev. Tracey C. Henry
Ted Brancato
Diane O'Connor
Adrienne Hodulik
Cathy Edelsberg, Sarah Kyte
Kathy Powick
Gabriella Pusztai
Mike Kirsch

Elders in Ministry

Deirdre Blaus
Jessica Bruno
Colleen Duerr
Dave Kelly
Tina Little
Sandie Lundeen

Gwili Marsh
Linda Schipmann-Pustai
Caleb Schlegel
Judi Sifuentes
Ross Traphagen

Deacons in Ministry

Julie Baldassare
Tracey Bardecker
Robin Carver
Abby Dougherty
Dick Farrell
David Henry

Rick Hyman
Robyn Meyh
Barbara Pearson
Barbara Plundeke
Jim Pustai

Clerk of Session's Report

Membership

Active Members 233 (2021)
Total Active Members 244 (2022)

Gains		Losses	
17 & Under	7	Certified	2
18 & Over	0	Deaths	2
Certified (transfers)	2	Other	6
Other	12		
Total Gains	21	Total Losses	10

Total Adherents 244 (*Female Members: 139*)

Worship Attendance

Average Attendance for 2021: N/A - Worship was fully virtual between January 1- March 28, 2021.
After March, worship held outdoors and attendance was not taken.

Average Attendance for 2022: Adults - 66 Children – 20 Live streaming views - 94
(This does not include Easter Sunday and Christmas Eve)

Easter Sunday In person Adults – 170 Children - 24
Livestream 458

Christmas Eve 5 In person Adults – 100 Children - 45
Live stream 136

Christmas Eve 11 In person Adults – 125 Children - 0
Live stream 96

Baptisms

Child Baptisms 4
Adult 2

Christian Education

Ages 3 & 4 6
Kindergarten & Grade 1 6
Grades 2 through 4 5
Grades 5 through 7 7
Confirmation (Grades 8, 9 & 10) 5
Adult Sunday School 8
Women's Bible Studies 20

Pastor's Report

I invite you to give this year's Annual Report more than just a passing glance. In the pages of this report, we tell just a little of the story about how we have tried to be the church over these last twelve months. Ours is a good and rich story and it is worth celebrating.

Looking back this year, we tell the story of new faces in our family. We celebrated 6 baptisms (with more to come in 2023!), welcomed 14 new members and confirmed 7 of our high school students in the Christian faith. That people feel at home in this family of faith is a testimony to the warm welcome I see you extend from week to week. That parents want to raise their children here is a gift. That our teenagers want to continue to grow in faith bears witness to the investment of Sunday school teachers, parents, and congregation members over the years.

We also tell the story this year of a first Capital Campaign at Clinton Presbyterian since the 1970's. With a little trepidation and a lot more faith, our Capital Campaign Team cast a vision which allowed us to see that this was our time to step up in taking care of this beautiful building which has been entrusted to us. Not only was the campaign successful from a financial standpoint, far exceeding our goal of \$700,000, but it also brought us together as a church family, as we gathered at tables, offered our testimonies and committed to trust God from "Generation to Generation."

Looking back on 2022, we will tell the story of bringing back VBS for the first time since 2018 and being blessed with 70 kids. We will tell the story of how we tried to stand in the gap for our neighbors with Thanksgiving and Christmas offerings, even as we sought to learn from our mission partners about the systemic issues which keep friends in poverty. We will tell of work with Family Promise and City Relief and others. We will tell of joyful worship and noisy pageants and live animals at the nativity!

Behind the "highlight stories" you will read in these pages, are a thousand little acts of faith, kindness and prayer which all combine to make this a place where God's love is known and shared. Ministry leaders faithfully gathering their teams, month by month diligence around budgeting, warm meals delivered and silent prayers whispered, visits made and cards sent, joys and sorrows shared. Life together in Christ.

In 2022, I celebrated 15 years of ordained ministry in the Presbyterian Church (USA). It was a year that included a term of service as the Moderator of the newly formed Presbytery of the Highlands, serving on both the Executive Committee and the Administration and Coordinating Team, and a year in which I continued to work towards the completion of my Doctor of Ministry. While I rejoice in these opportunities to serve the wider church and to further my education, the most meaningful part of my call remains ministry in and with the local church. As I look back, I am so very grateful that almost 10 of those 15 years have been in partnership with you and "I give thanks to my God always for you." (1 Cor 1:4).

Rev. Tracey C. Henry
Pastor

Director of Music Ministries Report

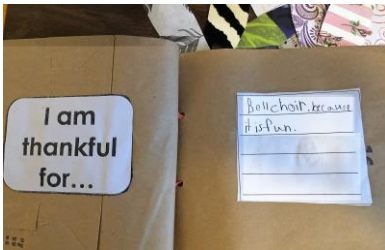
2022 was a year of transition - moving from strictly online worship to in-person worship; reincorporating the Chancel Choir into the normal schedule of church services even though we were down a few members; welcoming new young singers and instrumentalists into the fold, as well as some, shall we say, more experienced well-worn musicians. We featured several guest musicians and during the summer, weather permitting, featured a country music service, a jazz music service, and a rock music service that we decided to postpone until next summer because the weather didn't allow us to worship outdoors.

We said "goodbye" to a dear friend, Betty Ann Dhein, who participated in our Music Ministry whole-heartedly to nearly the end of her life. Amey Barnes was inspired to compose the words and music to a piece titled "Take Me Home" that was movingly performed at Betty Ann's memorial service, and again for the entire congregation during a regular church service.

Some of the younger singers and musicians who participated in the music program were Scarlett Penyak, Brielle and Sienna Madriz, Tristan Dornbusch, Evan Plaxe, the Dougherty family (Adam, Emmett, August and Marin), Julia Morrissette, Mollie Little, Margaret Blaus and Casey Hipsher.

Some of the adult members who were added to our music roster in 2022 were Julie Baldassare (vocals), Glenn Gray (drums and percussion), Bill Anthony Jr. (guitar), Laurel Kelly (alto) and Rick Klippstein (bass/baritone).

We also welcomed some new participants in the Bell Choir this past year: Deirdre Blaus and her daughter Margaret, Julie Baldassare and her son Casey Hipsher. Bell Choir is a group that is especially fun for parents and kids to participate in together. It requires no prior musical training - only the ability to concentrate and count to "4" (over and over again). Margaret Blaus even included bell choir in her list of things she is thankful for:



I encourage any and all church goers to try out singing in one of our two choirs. Chancel Choir, which sings more traditional choir repertoire, meets on Wednesday evenings at 7pm. Praise Team, which sings contemporary Christian music, meets on Saturday mornings at 11am. Both choirs provide a feeling of camaraderie and friendship that only comes from learning new music and singing our hearts out! When in session (usually 2 months before the Christmas and Easter seasons), the Bell Choir meets on Wednesday nights at 6pm and provides a fun atmosphere for making music together.

During the past year, Matt Hodulik and I have been "tweaking" both the sound in the Sanctuary, and on our livestream broadcast - in an effort to make the listening experience more enjoyable. In my mind, one of our biggest successes was hosting a performance by a singing group - Kirin Young Wimberly and the McGraths - a family of fine singers from Ireland who presented selections from their latest recording "Celtic Psalms". Matt amended our existing sound system with added speakers and also provided a dramatic backdrop of purple lighting that added a lot to the presentation. The concert inspired us to think in terms of hosting future concerts in our Sanctuary, which has innately beautiful acoustics.

So, that was our year in a nutshell...too many highlights to mention! We look to 2023 with the hope of a fully engaged Music Ministry that will provide memorable "live" performances by our talented congregation and musical guests - performances that will heighten the worship experience on a weekly basis.

Ted Brancato
Director of Music Ministries

Children's Ministry

Children's Ministry provides CPC families with a biblically based, nurturing environment for newborns through Middle School. School was paused at the beginning of 2022 due to a resurgence of COVID. We returned to in-person events and classes in February.

Cradle Roll, coordinated by Judy Moller, provides resources/support to parents and children birth to age three. Instead of using a purchased curriculum, we continue to use the program Judy created.

Our nursery program, under the direction of Kim Darcy, provides childcare during worship for infants through first grade. This year we introduced name tags on a lanyard for each child. We are also working with each family to ensure one adult signs in/out their child(ren). On specific days in the summer when service is held outside, we provide care outside as well. Children in the nursery are brought back to the sanctuary to receive communion with their family each month. Our nursery program is supported weekly by two adult volunteers from a rotating list. CPC cares about the safety of our children and ensures all volunteers receive a background check.

Sunday School serves three-year-olds through seventh grade. Due to our growing congregation, we offered four in-person classes: Preschool – led by Ross & Megan Traphagen; Kindergarten-1st Grade – led by Rich & Jill Prakopcyk; 2nd-4th Grade – led by Kim Darcy, Cathy Edelsberg, Adrienne Hodulik and Judi Sifuentes (chair); and 5th-& 7th – led by Jim Dornbusch & Ben Dougherty. As of December 31, we had 44 children in our Sunday School program. We are using PCUSA's Grace and Gratitude curriculum, reusing books from 2019-2020.

Sunday Funday, a monthly youth group for 4th – 7th graders, returned in the fall.

This fall Abby Dougherty introduced the idea for Joy Scouts – an outreach group connecting CPC families and children to volunteer opportunities in the community. The focus is on helping children serve face-to-face with people and organizations, sharing God's love while actively learning more about the world around them. Joy Scouts serve others with a joyful heart. We are in the early stages of outlining the areas to focus on and designing a group shirt for everyone to wear.

Our Sunday School Year

In April the PreK-5th graders introduced the Palm Sunday worship service singing Ho-Ho-Ho-Hosannah and The Mustard Seed. Following a brief Sunday School lesson, thirty-eight children enjoyed the Annual Easter Egg Hunt on the lawn. This year we had over 1,000 plastic eggs filled and available for the children. Also, during Holy Week, eighteen children attended a Good Friday children's event.

In July we were happy to see the return of Vacation Bible School (VBS) under the leadership of Jessica Bruno and Jill Prakopcyk. We had over 70 children both from our CPC families and the community.

October 23rd was Children's Sunday. Preschool - 7th grade led the service. They greeted, ushered, read scripture, and prayed. The Children's Chorus sang the Prelude.

In October Sunday School children colored Thanksgiving pictures to be included in the Mission Ministry's November Thanksgiving Baskets.

In November an Advent calendar was provided to each Sunday School family.

December 18th was the Annual Christmas Pageant chaired by Kim Darcy and Abby Dougherty with tremendous support from the moms working behind the scenes to fit and dress our children – Leigh Perry, Robin Carver, Ashley Guge and Jill Prakopcyk. On Christmas Eve several children participated in the Family Service Kids' Choir, blessing us with "It Was on a Starry Night."

We are blessed to share the love and promises of God with our growing number of little ones. If you feel called to work with us, we would love to have you join our team.

Members: Kim Darcy, Abby Dougherty, Cathy Edelsberg, Adrienne Hodulik, Judy Moller, Judi Sifuentes (chair) and Megan Traphagen

Fellowship and Member Care

Membership: Total number of active members is 244. In 2022, we welcomed 21 new members, transferred 2 members, removed 2 members, moved 4 to inactive and had 2 deaths.

Events:

In February we delivered homemade Valentine's goodies to several members of the congregation.

One of the biggest things that we brought back for 2022 was indoor fellowship hour. We were excited to have everyone gather after church again starting in March and have had a great turn out each week.

Easter cookies were delivered to members of the congregation as well as boxes made for each of the confirmands. We were able to host a Maundy Thursday dinner again in 2022, which was another great thing to bring back. In May we helped host our Capital Campaign Celebration which was a huge hit. Thanks to Andres Madriz and his amazing team, we had delicious food that everyone loved. The kids had a great time in the bounce house and everyone loved Kona Ice. We also had fun gathering things for the free raffle and the winners were excited! The sun was shining and it was a fantastic day!

Over the summer we offered summer outings to Beneduce's, Sunken Silo and Ironbound. Unfortunately Beneduce's was the highest signed up for, but was cancelled due to weather. Sunken Silo had a small, but fun group and we did not end up going to Ironbound. We will try this again in 2023 when the weather is warm.

Another thing that came back for 2022 was our Fall Kick off Breakfast. We had a wonderful outdoor service followed by a continental breakfast and a great jazz band during and after.

In October we held Trunk or Treat and handed out over 500 hot dogs and water to the community. It was a huge hit as always!

The final thing we brought back for 2022 was the Advent breakfast. After the children did a beautiful job retelling the greatest story ever told, we all gathered in Fellowship Hall to enjoy homemade food and goodies.

Finally, we ended the year with the Live Nativity. We had close to 300 people walk through this year and added on Santa, hot chocolate, a s'mores/fire pit station and dinner. It was a great event that we will build upon in 2023.

Overall, 2022 was a great year for the Fellowship and Member Care Team because we were able to start bringing people together again. Connecting new members and longtime members with fun events and fellowship has brought even more life to our church. We are looking forward to even more in 2023!

Members: Jessica Bruno (chair), Valerie Boyer, Shelley Brankner, Barbara Pearson, Sharon Rosenberg, Martha Roth and Cathie Sayre

Mission Ministry

The Mission Team, with lots of help and generosity from this congregation, accomplished a lot in 2022 to spread the love of Christ through CPC mission opportunities, prayer, educational opportunities, and allocations from our budget to help a variety of organizations further their mission and work.

We found many ways, some brand new, to serve our community in 2022:

Our February Souper Bowl of Caring collection resulted in lots of canned goods and \$155 in cash donations for the Flemington Area Food Pantry.

In April we kicked off a “spring cleaning” drive for the women of Anderson House. We were able to assemble and deliver five laundry baskets filled with cleaning supplies, mops, brooms, and dishcloths. We still have supplies to make more and continue to deliver these, as needed, to Anderson House as they have very little storage. These baskets will be used for women transitioning into the three-quarter house as well as for those that are moving into their own housing after successfully completing the program. Helen from Anderson House joined us in worship in June to share stories of these incredibly strong women in recovery.

After a devastating fire at the Union Hill condo complex in April, the mission team made a \$300 financial donation from CPC to help these families re-build.

We continued to serve the Flemington Area Food Pantry in many ways, but the most unique was our continued support of the dorm-sized refrigerator deliveries. We collected and delivered 12 of these fridges to folks living in hotels so that they have more (and safer) options for food and food storage.

In the spring, we did a congregational survey and found out the dozens of ways that our church members serve. This gave us great information to use for expanded volunteer opportunities and ways to support organizations through our annual disbursements.

Congregant Jens Duerr initiated a Pedals for Progress collection day in June that provided 35 bikes, 7 sewing machines, and \$820 in financial donations for this organization. P4P bikes are put to work not only as basic transportation but are used as a supplement to school and community programs. The bikes are adapted for use as trash haulers, produce trucks, taxis, and farm machinery. Soon after P4P was founded, they realized that sewing machines fit their mission as well, as they provide a relatively simple way to improve economic circumstances. Pedals for Progress was thrilled!

Mission partnered with the VBS leadership team to collect small tools to create tool kits for the families of Family Promise when they move into housing. They were so pleased to receive them!

A lot has changed with Family Promise of Hunterdon County due to the effects of the pandemic and congregational hosting being suspended. Our congregation provided support with grocery deliveries to families being housed in hotels. With their new transitional housing center in Flemington now approved, Family Promise has a lot of exciting plans for 2023 so stay tuned for ways that we can continue to be a blessing to these families.

A small but sturdy team served America’s Grow-a-Row in August by picking vegetables in VERY hot weather that were donated to the food insecure.

We continue to support and pray for the City Relief (formerly Relief Bus) program. Volunteers from the congregation help serve food, pass out clothing, pray and offer simple conversations to those battling homelessness in that area. A CPC group volunteers with City Relief on the 3rd Friday of every month and they are always in need of more help with this meaningful and impactful ministry. In September, we welcomed Brett Hartford from City Relief to speak to the congregation about the issues facing those battling homelessness. In addition to the annual support which CPC offers to City Relief, we presented Brett with a check for \$4,500 to help with the restoration of their home base in Elizabeth which was affected by Ida. As we continue to make many

repairs and renovations in our own building, we are committed as a church to meeting the very real needs which exist outside of our doors and we thank you for your generosity which makes this possible.

We asked you to donate to Thanksgiving baskets in November, and you responded so incredibly generously. Thanks to those donations, we were able to prepare and deliver 25 Thanksgiving food baskets complete with meat, potatoes, fruit, pantry staples, and cards from our littlest congregants.

In December, the congregation provided more than 180 gifts for The Giving Tree. The loving generosity by the congregation allowed us to provide gifts to many families in Hunterdon County and beyond. We added a collection for pre-school scholarships and the congregation responded with over \$1,000 in donations. We also provided 14 Bibles to the women residing at The Anderson House.

Our financial distributions totaled over \$6,600 to help 24 different organizations and initiatives. Those contributions were received with deep gratitude.

In 2022 we started shining a light on issues faced by many in our community, starting with hunger. Brett from City Relief and Jeannine from the Flemington Area Food Pantry spoke to the congregation during worship and stayed afterwards to help us all understand the nuances of hunger that we may not even realize. Watch the church communication for other ways that we can learn about struggles and issues faced by so many in our community and our own congregation in 2023.

We are so thankful for the Mission team and their tireless amount of dedication to those who need us. Every member of this team steps up to not only participate in mission work, but each team member leads at least one initiative every year. This truly an example of “many hands make light work.” That said, if you would like to lend your hands to mission – please contact us. We’d love to have you! We also welcome ideas for new mission projects and ways that we can help our community and beyond. Finally, you will probably never hear us say, “we have enough volunteers” so please keep an eye out for opportunities to serve.

Please know that your generosity and support of all of these initiatives is deeply appreciated by this team and all those who we serve. We are proud of what we are able to do because of it and we know that little or nothing would happen without it. Thank you!

Members: Colleen Duerr (chair), Cindy Boyer, Rick Hyman, Robin Meyh, Courtney Morrisette, Stephanie Ramos-Dominko and Christina Schlegel

Operations

Members: Deirdre Blaus (chair, Finance) Gwili Marsh (chair, Property) Paul Morrissette (chair, Personnel), Michael Penyak, Dave Boyer, Dave Kelly, Karen Kursar, Liz Scannell, Caleb Schlegel

Operations consists of 3 subcommittees that administer the church's finances, property, and personnel. Thanks to the generosity of the congregation in offering time and financial gifts, the group had a busy and successful year.

2022 Financial Summary/Karen Kursar

CPC ended the year with an operating deficit of \$28,052 versus a budgeted deficit of \$19,549. Income was \$5,496 under budget, and expenses were over budget by \$3,007.

- CPC received 92% of pledged income and 99% of total budgeted income, when memorial gifts and bequests are included.
- Preschool income and expenses were both slightly over budget in 2022 as Preschool resumed with full classes.

Treasurer's Report Summary 2022

	2022 Actual	2022 Budget	2022 Actual vs. Budget Variance
Income	\$371,079	\$376,575	99%
Expense	<u>\$399,131</u>	<u>\$396,124</u>	101%
Operating Deficit	(\$28,052)	(\$19,549)	

2023 Budget:

For 2023, your Session has approved an operating budget with a \$13,745 deficit.

- Based on pledges received to date, 2023 income is forecast at \$400,247.
- Quarterly dividend payments from the endowment are included in the operating budget to off-set expenses but Bequest and Memorial income is not included.
- 2023 Expenses are planned to increase to \$413,992 as programing returns to normal levels and overall expenses increase with inflation.

Vanguard Funds:

- Investment Allocation: 46% stocks, 20% bonds and 34% short-term reserves (money market fund).
- We hold a number of bonds received from the Mary Louise Thornton Trust. As each bond matures over the next three years, the funds will automatically transfer into our Vanguard money market account.
- Short-term reserves include contributions made to our capital campaign but not yet needed to cover expenses. The funds are only transferred to checking as needed so they continue to earn interest.

Presbyterian Foundation Endowment:

- In February, 2020 CPC funded a permanent endowment through the Presbyterian Foundation with an initial investment of \$300,000 from the Mary Louise Thornton Bequest.
- CPC receives quarterly distributions from this endowment. In 2022 distributions totaled \$13,040.
- As of 9/30/2022, the endowment had a market value of \$329,088.06. Final 2022 value not yet available.

CPC Total Asset Values as of December 31, 2022:

Bank Checking/Savings Accounts	\$ 85,535
Presbyterian Endowment Fund	\$ 329,088
Vanguard Investment Funds	\$ 1,745,147
Total Value	\$ 2,159,770

Loans/Liabilities – In 2021, CPC took a fixed rate loan from the Presbyterian Church USA Investment and Loan Program. The loan has a 20-year term and a 3% interest rate. Monthly payments are \$1,386.49 and are deducted from our capital campaign funds. Our outstanding balance at the end of 2022 was \$237,585.04.

Mary Louise Thornton Bequest – Funds from the trust were distributed to CPC in late 2019. These funds are invested in the Endowment and with Vanguard. They are used to offset Preschool expenses, as needed.

Stock and Required Minimum Distribution Donations – In 2022, CPC received gifts of stock and Required Minimum Distributions directly from IRA accounts to offset annual pledges as well as Capital Campaign pledges. Please speak to a member of the Operations Team if you would like to explore tax-efficient giving methods in 2023.

Capital Campaign Highlights

Total number of pledges – 71 Total pledged - \$903,404 (includes one stock gift estimated at \$20,000)

Capital Campaign Contributions received through 12/31/2022 = \$663,058
(This includes contributions received in 2021.)

Capital Campaign Expenditures through 12/31/2022 = \$272,097 (This also includes expenses in 2021.)

Personnel/Paul Morrissette

CPC continues to benefit from staff and a pastor who demonstrate exceptional dedication to fulfill the mission of our church.

Key accomplishments in 2022 included:

1. Coordination of performance review process that provides staff with much-appreciated feedback from the congregation.
2. Collaboration with Session on staff and pastoral compensation while balancing fiscal responsibility in an inflationary environment.
3. Working with Session to update our employee handbook in accordance with Presbytery requirements.
4. Regular communication with staff members to address concerns and ensure job satisfaction.
5. Our staff members continue to perform administrative, musical, preschool, and pastoral functions at an excellent level and take great pride in their contributions to our congregation.

Property/Gwili Marsh

The following are the larger projects/repairs accomplished in 2022:

1. Two large trees were taken down.
2. The tile flooring in the lower level (preschool, nursery, den and hall) was removed and replaced.
3. The den was cleaned out and painted.
4. Progress has been made on the front door surrounds (arched trim, siding and lights).
5. The dungeon was cleaned out and organized.

The projects funded by your Capital Campaign pledges continue. The exterior was painted during the summer. The painter will return to paint new trim and foundation as the carpenter finishes them. The foundation coating (purging) is finished on the west and front walls. The unused deteriorated chimney was taken down to roof level and the roof repaired.

Welcome and Growth

In a more post-pandemic world, Welcome and Growth began in 2022 to take part in community events again, such as hosting a table at the Hunterdon Half Marathon/Superhero Sprint Festival in downtown Clinton. The table had information on the Church and our Preschool, as well as activities and giveaways for kids. The church as a whole of course also continued its traditions of participating in the Clinton Christmas Parade and another amazing year of the Live Nativity (thanks to the leadership of Jill Prakopcyk and Jess Bruno, and many volunteers!). Going into 2023, we hope to participate in more events going on in town and the area through our committee and with the help of the congregation.

For the Christmas season, we put together posters and information cards which we distributed throughout Clinton in many of the businesses downtown to let the community know of what was going on at CPC. This included information on worship, events, etc. during the month of December.

Near the end of 2022, we were contacted about participating in a Town-wide emergency response group, known as the Local Emergency Management Council. This group would consist of Police, Fire, EMS, as well as a representative from education, religion, and the business community. The group will be reviewing emergency plans and needs should something happen in town that would be a large scale incident. We are currently in discussions about this and look forward to being involved.

Members: Ross Traphagen (elder), Tina Honthy-Little (elder), Zan Struebing

Worship Ministry

The call of the Worship & Music Ministry team is to support Pastor Henry in providing for worship and special events. We answer this call by scheduling liturgists, Communion stewards, Communion servers, musicians, singers and ushers/greeters for weekly services. We assist Pastor Henry in arranging for special services during the Advent and Lenten seasons and coordinate the decorating of the sanctuary for these seasons.

During the Lenten season, the sanctuary was decorated with banners and potted palms a festive background for services. Palm branches & fronds, along with instructions on how to make a palm cross, were provided for the congregation and the community.

CPC services were fully in-person in 2022 but live-streaming of services continued to be provided. "Second Sunday" outdoor services were provided in June, July, August and September. The parking lot was filled with the sound of music and praise.

In July, the team sponsored a free-will, indoor concert at CPC by the Celtic Psalms that was not just for CPC members but open to the community. It was well-attended and everyone present enjoyed the beautiful music provided by the group. Ticket sales in excess of the performance fee were donated to the Halstead Street Park Revitalization Project.

The Worship & Music Ministry Team lost a valuable member of our team with the passing of Betty Ann Dhein in July. She brought so much to the team and CPC. She will be forever missed by us all.

Prior to the Advent/Christmas season, the team organized the decorating of the sanctuary and the outside of the church. Two in-person and live-streamed Christmas Eve services were provided – a Service for the Young and Young at Heart at 5pm and a Traditional Service at 11pm with communion.

The Worship & Music Ministry Team is extremely grateful for Pastor Henry, Ted Brancato, the AV team (Matt Hodulik, Tristan & Jim Dornbusch, Paul Morrissette), the Chancel Choir, the Praise Team, the Bell Choir, guest singers and musicians, scripture readers, greeters & ushers, communion stewards & servers, and everyone who offered their time and talent in 2022.

Members: Judy Beck, Ted Brancato, Matt Hodulik, Lee Longell, Cathy Nace and Linda Schipmann-Pustai (chair)

Youth Ministry

The Youth Ministry team kicked off 2022 with Chaos and Confirmation. We were so excited to welcome 7 new members into the church family through the confirmation process. These seven students provided us with great hope towards the future by their thoughtful questions conversations and commitments.

Chaos was held on the first and third Sunday evenings every month. The kids had fun playing games and building friendships at Chaos.

In the fall of 2022, a new Confirmation class began with 5 students. Leslie Hyman and Tom Brankner are leading the class preparing the students to become new members of CPC.

The fall also saw Maggie Bell continue to head up the fun with Chaos being held again on the first and third Sunday evenings of the month.

We prayerfully wait for an individual to fill the position of Director of Children and Youth Ministries. We are confident that God has someone in store for this position.

In 2023 we will continue to look for opportunities to serve the community, find ways to engage with one another and to grow in our walk in faith.

We are so thankful for each and every student who continues to stay connected with us and for the support of the parents who encourage them.

The Youth Ministry team welcomes your continued prayer and support and would encourage you to consider joining our team.

Members: Sandie Lundeen (chair), Maggie Bell and Leslie Hyman

Nominating Committee

The Nominating Ministry Team began its work in June with a review of the current classes of Elders and Deacons, concentrating on the number of openings on each Board and openings on specific ministry teams.

The candidates for the open positions were presented at the October 2, 2022 congregational meeting. The team was pleased to receive the congregation's approval for the candidates presented.

We currently have 11 Deacons and 11 Elders and will remain with that amount for the 2023 year and see where God leads us for the 2023-2024 year.

Elders

Deirdre Blaus – first term

Tina Little – first term

Dave Kelly – second term

Deacons

Robin Carver – first term

Abby Dougherty – first term

Julie Baldassare – first term

Jim Pustai – second term

Members: Jessica Bruno (chair), Rick Hyman (Deacon representative), Jens Duerr, Laurel Kelly and Liz Scannell

Deacons

In 2022, as we stepped into a new normal, our Deacon Board was able to resume some former ministries and introduce some new ones. To gain traction, we considered our ministries to fall into three primary categories: Spiritual, social, and practical. As we explore each of these areas, we will be bringing offerings to support all the members and friends of our church, in conjunction with other ministry teams.

This fall, we offered a Sunday Morning Bible Study on the Gospel of John, and this has continued into the new year. We also offered a two-week workshop entitled "Abide: Faithful Planning for End-of-Life Decisions." These resources are invaluable and can be made available to members and friends as needed.

We continued to send greetings from the Table of Well Wishes and to arrange for the delivery of meals for members recovering from surgery, welcoming a baby, or experiencing a time of grief. At each of our meetings, we prayed for our congregation and followed up on needs which we were aware of.

With gratitude we thanked the deacons who rotated off the board this fall: Colin Bruno and Andrew Kvarta. And with joy we welcomed new deacons to the table: Julie Baldassare, Robin Carver and Abby Dougherty.

Our deacon board looks forward to continuing to serve as the hands and feet of Christ in the year ahead.

Deacons: Julie Baldassare, Tracey Bardecker (moderator), Robin Carver, Abby Dougherty, Dick Farrell, David Henry, Rick Hyman, Robin Meyh, Barbara Pearson, Barbara Plundeke and Jim Pustai