



ELMHURST  
PRESBYTERIAN  
CHURCH

# Annual Report 2023

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Elmhurst Presbyterian Church

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**Presented February 4, 2024**

## **MISSION STATEMENT**

We are a church called by Jesus Christ to proclaim, teach and serve.

## **BELIEFS AND VALUES STATEMENT**

**The articles of faith to which we turn for strength in time of confusion or stress:**

1. God loves us unconditionally.
2. Jesus is our Lord and Savior through whom we have eternal life.
3. Grace is the basis of our relationship with God.
4. Our sins are forgiven through Christ's life, death, and resurrection.
5. The Bible reveals God's word.
6. God has a plan and purpose for us and we are not alone.
7. God hears our prayers and guides us.
8. There is nothing so evil that God cannot redeem it and use it for God's good will and purpose.

**The positive, habitual behaviors that we are expected to demonstrate in daily living.**

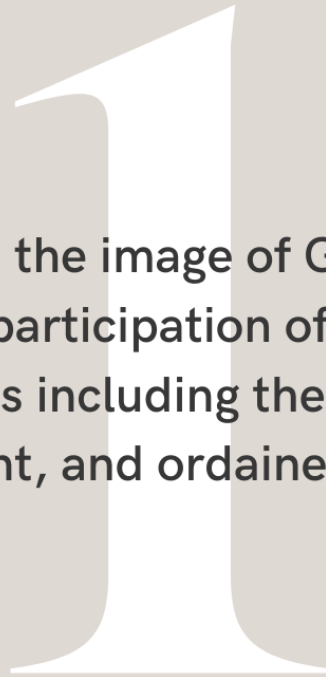
1. Welcoming people in the name of Jesus Christ.
2. Worshipping joyfully.
3. Transforming lives by connecting people to Jesus Christ.
4. Nurturing Christian discipleship.
5. Empowering people to serve through their spiritual gifts.
6. Working together in collaborative and accountable relationships.
7. Reaching out to serve a broken world.
8. Making every effort to preserve and restore God's creation.
9. Giving distinctively Christian care to individuals in need.



ELMHURST  
PRESBYTERIAN  
CHURCH

# OUR THREE WHYS

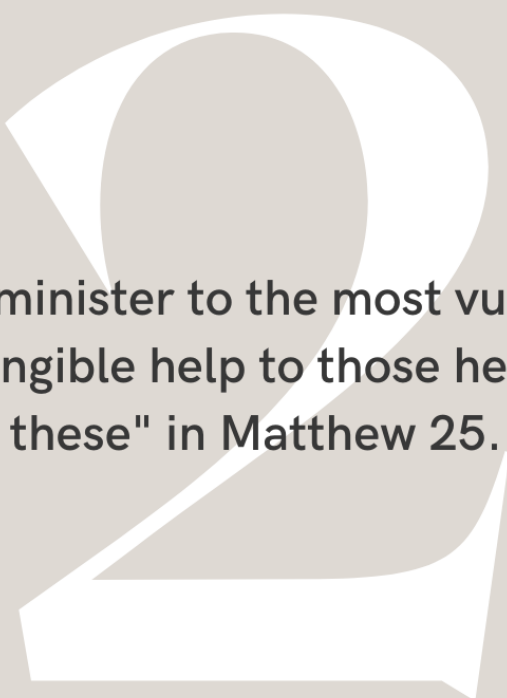
Elmhurst Presbyterian Church




All people are made in the image of God (*the imago dei*) and are invited into full participation of every area of EPC's church life and witness including the communion table, the baptismal font, and ordained leadership.

VISIT OUR WEBSITE FOR  
MORE

ELMHURSTCHURCH.ORG



Christ calls us to minister to the most vulnerable among us  
and to provide tangible help to those he calls "the least of  
these" in Matthew 25.



The earth is a gift given to us by God to protect  
and steward.

V I S I T   O U R   W E B S I T E   F O R   M O R E

E L M H U R S T C H U R C H . O R G



ELMHURST  
PRESBYTERIAN  
CHURCH

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Website: <http://www.elmhurstchurch.org>

### **STAFF**

Pastor – Traci Smith

Director of Music - Susan Smentek

Youth Leader – Emerson Azocoitia

Sunday School Teacher – Micaiah Brown

Office Administrator – Cristi Vander Naald

Pastoral Assistant – Kaleigh Corbett Rasmussen

Custodian – Stan Muklewicz at Certiclean

Technology Assistants – Keith Baumann & Mike Cammack



**Clerk of Session**  
Patti Berner

**Treasurer**  
Doug Fitzgerald

**THE SESSION**  
of  
**Elmhurst Presbyterian Church**

**Class of 2023**  
Anna Pearson Lu  
Doug Fitzgerald

**Class of 2024**  
Patti Berner  
Jennifer Gordon  
Stephen Mortensen

**Class of 2025**  
Carol Ewert  
Rob Kopecky  
Clare Collins

## REPORT OF THE CLERK OF SESSION

Submitted by Patti Berner

Total membership 12/31/22..... 167

### Membership Gains

#### 17 and under

by profession of faith	3
by reaffirmation of faith	0
by restoration	0
by certificate (letter of transfer)	0
other	0

#### 18 and over

by profession of faith	0
by reaffirmation of faith	13
by restoration	0
by certificate (letter of transfer)	0
other	<u>0</u>

TOTAL GAINS..... 16

### Membership Losses

#### 17 and under

by death	0
by certificate (letter of transfer)	0
by other participant	0
by session action	0

#### 18 and over

by death	3
by certificate (letter of transfer)	0
by other participant	2
by session action	0
by recording error	<u>0</u>

TOTAL LOSSES..... 5

TOTAL ACTIVE MEMBERSHIP 12/31/2022 ..... 178

Baptisms (without confession of faith) 1

Necrology: John Foulkes, Richard Irving, Joan E. Stone

## PASTOR'S REPORT

Submitted by Rev. Traci Smith

Greetings, EPC Members and Friends —

I'd like to highlight just a portion of what we've learned and experienced in 2023 in light of the three values Session identified in 2022. As I've been saying in recent sermons and conversations — when we know why we do what we do, the what and the how matter much less.

First, All people are made in the image of God (the imago dei) and are invited into full participation of every area of Elmhurst Presbyterian Church's life and witness including the communion table, the baptismal font, and ordained leadership. We continued to shine our light brightly through our annual pride festival (the biggest one yet!) offering space to the Elmhurst Pride Collective in our basement, and being a welcoming presence for immigrant neighbors through joint worship services. We strive to be a church for all, and we can see this reflected in who feels comfortable to visit and worship with us.

Second, Christ calls us to minister to the most vulnerable among us and to provide tangible help to those he calls "the least of these" in Matthew 25. In addition to serving our community through the Elmhurst Yorkfield Food Pantry and ICDI (the Illinois Community for Displaced Immigrants) we stretched ourselves this year to raise enough funds to send a shipping container full of medical supplies to Malawi through Project Cure. This extraordinary effort was successful by every metric we'd use to measure it and a true gift from the Spirit. We continue to look for ways to be the church Christ calls us to be.

Finally, The earth is a gift given to us by God to protect and steward. We renewed our efforts with the vegetable garden this year as we did it without our longtime garden champion Ruth, Schroeder. We miss Ruth so much, but also learned that we can do it in a new way! The garden was a huge success this year. The Session also voted to turn a portion of our grounds over to native plants, a project that will be revisited this coming year!

Dear Ones, as our paths diverge for now, please know how my heart overflows with gratitude and praise for the times we've shared together in worship and prayer, and our joint ministry together. We've truly been partners in the gospel. As the apostle Paul prayed for the Pihilppians with deep affection and joy, I pray that your love may abound more and more in knowledge and depth of insight. May your discernment guide you on the path of righteousness and may your lives be filled with the fruit of the Spirit that comes through Jesus Christ, to the glory and praise of God. As we bid one another farewell, let us rejoice in the assurance that the God who began a good work in us will carry it on to completion. And may the grace of our lord and savior Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all, not only today, this day, but all your days as well. Thanks be to God, Amen.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Rev. Traci Smith

**Board of Deacons Report**  
**Submitted by Susan Leslie**

**The following Deacons served for all or part of 2023:**

Suzanne Legg, Dave Fuesz, Karen Fitzgerald, Ruth Schroeter, Susan Leslie, Pat Campbell, Suzanne Pitz, Berlirce Chetgna, Connie Nestler and Ted Steiskal.

Karen was Moderator until September when her term ended (Thank you Karen) and Susan took over. We were very reluctant to see Ruth depart in the Spring but wished her well as she and Fred embarked on a new journey to live with family.

- We continued to keep track of our assigned care units by way of phone calls, cards and visits. Cards and gift cards were sent to high school and college students in the Spring to wish them good luck on their finals.
- Circle of Care forms were distributed for the congregation to indicate ways they would be willing to help other members, such as providing meals, rides and visits.
- We held our annual picnic in September, indoors again for convenience, and served Jimmy John's instead of keeping someone tied to the grill for hours. We had a good turnout.
- We volunteered to help with the baby shower for Declan Collins but had to do little as the family handled most of it.
- We instituted an Amazon card collection to help Brian and Clare out with all the clothing and supplies needed to care for Declan.
- We are all thrilled for the new parents. If you did not have a chance to give a gift card, they are still being accepted.
- We compiled a list of fourteen worthy recipients of Christmas bags, purchased the contents, filled the bags and delivered them. They were well received.
- Future plans include a possible blood drive in the Spring.

## TREASURER'S REPORT

Submitted by Doug Fitzgerald

This report presents three documents ...

- 2023 Statement of Financial Activity
- 2023 Statement of Financial Position
- 2024 Budget

### Notes About The Statement of Financial Activity

EPC operates using funds from a number of sources. These include ...

1. Pledges and other contributions
2. Earnings and withdrawals from funds that EPC has built up over the years
3. Support from groups that use our space to further missions regarding education and social services

This past year we drew on our funds to help fund church activities and to enable a number of projects that will deliver long term value. These included:

- Funding the balance of the renovation to our much-used kitchen
- Hanging new doors in the basement that meet updated building codes
- A new heating/air conditioning system in the Sanctuary, which we were fortunate to replace before January's arctic blast arrived
- A new, portable audio/visual system that we use in faith formation, Session meetings, and other gatherings
- Painting the classrooms and connecting washroom that enable our congregation's children to walk down the hall to Sunday School, rather than having to walk downstairs and to the far end of the basement.

There are some activities — particularly Mission-related activities — that do not appear in our financial reports. For example ...

- Christmas gifts to children served by the Erie Settlement House are not in a spreadsheet. (No spreadsheet could capture a smile and a look of wonderment.)
- The manger full of diapers that were donated in support of a sister church's ministry in the Roseland neighborhood are not in a spreadsheet. (A baby's contented cooing and a weary mother's sigh of relief don't fit into an accounting formula.)
- Many of the gifts that will help deliver medical supplies to Malawi did not flow through our financial reports. The lives that delivery will save aren't measured on spreadsheets.

### Notes About The Statement of Financial Position

We finished the year with about \$800,000 in savings and investments. Each year, we budget to use some of savings ... because that is what the gifts were given for — to be used in the service of the church.

In recent years, investment gains quickly replaced what we had drawn out and added more besides. The stock market was very kind. Again in 2023, not so much. We actively rebalanced our portfolio to be more defensive, but even the fourth quarter's recovery could not offset some of the previous declines and withdrawals.

EPC continues to have no debt. No mortgage. No looming payments due. This means that we're not paying for the past ... our expenditures are reflected in activity now.

### Notes About The 2024 Budget

We have budgeted for some aggressive capital expenditures in our 2024 budget. Capital expenditures are those that have lasting value. (Buying new stoves was a capital expenditure. Having the kitchen floor waxed is maintenance.)

During 2024 we are considering a significant makeover to the Nelson-White Room, where we gather before and after services. We also may need to update the audio/visual system in the Sanctuary. The sophisticated projectors are nearing the end of their expected service timeline.

So far, we have funded a variety of capital projects out of the funds we've accumulated over the years. We did not do any special fund-raising when we repaired the exterior walls of the church, or redid the kitchen, or put in new heating and AC units. We largely drew on our savings.

## 2024 BUDGET

				2023 Actual	2023 Budget	2024 Budget
Sources						
	PLEDGES					
		801 · 801 Pledges Current		245,230.51	164,000.04	221,000.00
		802 · 802 Pledges - stock		52,331.78	68,000.00	52,000.00
		803 - Release of Restrict Pledges		22,919.47	55,000.00	0.00
		804 - Deacons				306.00
		805 - Per Capita				5,950.00
	Total PLEDGES			320,481.76	287,000.04	279,256.00
	OTHER CONTRIBUTIONS					
		810 - Contributions - Loose		1,979.00	2,400.00	2,000.00
		813 Events (Weddings, Memorials)		1,226.00	166.67	1,200.00
	Total OTHER CONTRIBUTIONS			3,205.00	2,566.67	3,200.00
	INVESTMENT INCOME					
		870 Permanent Fund Income		0.00	7,500.00	0.00
		850 Investment Income		1,470.43	6,000.00	0.00
	Total INVESTMENT INCOME			1,470.43	13,500.00	0.00
	SERVICE INCOME					
		830 · ICDI		20,956.00		19,200.00
		828 · Contributions To Building Use		21,075.00	55,000.00	8,400.00
		829 Miscellaneous		2,275.00		
	Total SERVICE INCOME			44,306.00	55,000.00	27,600.00
	x ASSETS RELEASED FROM RESTRICT		Released from Funds			
		856 · Education		0.00	2,000.00	2,000.00
		850 · 850 Program, Mission & Benev.		19,902.36	24,000.00	200,813.00
		853 · 853 Deacons		0.00	1,000.00	0.00
	Total x ASSETS RELEASED FROM RESTRICT		Assets Released From Funds	19,902.36	27,000.00	202,813.00
Total Sources				389,365.55	385,066.71	512,869.00
Uses						
	ADMINISTRATION					
		989 · Fund Raising and Services		0.00	500.00	0.00
		980 · Pension Expense		2,623.29	3,300.00	2,700.00
		981 Office Expense		22,619.18	21,000.00	23,000.00
		983 Telephone		3,208.30	31,500.00	3,500.00
		984 Insurance		17,795.02	18,000.00	18,000.00
		988 Credit Card Expense		2,035.89		

		6560 · 989 Payroll Fees	7.00	200.00	200.00
		990 Professional Fees	0.00	3,750.00	4,200.00
		987 Per Capita	0.00	6,249.00	5,950.00
		ADMINISTRATION - Other	1,000.00		
	Total ADMINISTRATION		49,288.68	84,499.00	57,550.00
	DEACONS MINISTRY				
		945 · Deacons Care	0.00	1,000.00	500.00
		947 Special Events	206.87		
	Total DEACONS MINISTRY		206.87	1,000.00	500.00
	BUILDING AND GROUNDS				
		996 · Cleaning Service	24,310.00		24,500.00
		995 - Nelson White Remodel	11,817.00		60,000.00
		992 Maintenance	47,239.58	30,000.00	30,000.00
		993 Utilities	35,131.19	37,500.00	37,500.00
		994 · Capital, Equipment & Upgrades	17,261.83	60,000.00	20,000.00
		BUILDING AND GROUNDS - Other	1,154.85		
	Total BUILDING AND GROUNDS		136,914.45	127,500.00	172,000.00
	CHILDRENS MINISTRY				
		921 Curriculum	2,041.44		
		922 Supplies	633.60	1,200.00	600.00
		925 Child Care	0.00	11,250.00	600.00
		929 - Vacation Bible School	140.63		
		930 Pride Carnival	7,546.44	2,000.00	2,000.00
	Total CHILDRENS MINISTRY		10,362.11	14,450.00	3,200.00
	COMMUNICATIONS				
		963 Other	0.00	1,000.00	0.00
	Total COMMUNICATIONS		0.00	1,000.00	0.00
	HOSPITALITY				
		949 Hospitality	617.70	600.00	2,500.00
		HOSPITALITY - Other	1,869.18		
	Total HOSPITALITY		2,486.88	600.00	2,500.00
	MINISTERIAL				
		901 Ministerial Salaries	92,310.37	92,941.27	78,500.00
		902 Ministerial Pension/Health	33,627.36	36,853.20	28,500.00
		904 Professional Expense	462.90	750.00	750.00
		905 Continuing Education	2,358.70	1,375.00	1,375.00
		906 Medical Deductible	0.00	2,950.00	0.00
	Total MINISTERIAL		128,759.33	134,869.47	109,125.00
	MISSION				
		960 · Memorial Service	200.00		600.00
		943 Elmhurst Walk in Assist	1,500.00	1,200.00	1,500.00
		953 Christmas Joy	0.00	2,500.00	1,000.00

		955 Children Up		2,000.00	2,200.00	2,000.00
		957 McCormick Seminary		1,250.00		1,000.00
		958 Cuba		3,000.00	3,500.00	3,500.00
		959 Presbyterian Disaster Rel.		1,000.00	2,500.00	1,000.00
		951 Presbyterian Shared Mission		-385.66	8,000.00	8,000.00
		953 - Afghan Family Support		12,876.86	14,000.00	0.00
		941 - Other		16,901.12	7,500.00	7,500.00
		MISSION - Other		171.98		14,900.00
	Total MISSION			38,514.30	41,400.00	41,000.00
	STAFF SALARIES AND BENEFITS					
		910 Staff Salaries		69,229.94	75,957.87	71,650.00
		911 Payroll Taxes		5,203.54	9,199.53	5,384.00
		973 - Dir of Youth Ministry		6,823.76		
		975 Associate Pastor Salary		0.00		
	Total STAFF SALARIES AND BENEFITS			81,257.24	85,157.40	77,034.00
	WORSHIP COMMITTEE					
		935 - Memorial Service		0.00	250.00	250.00
		913 - Worship Contractors		350.00	8,260.00	8,260.00
		914 Church Adornment		1,927.80	1,200.00	1,200.00
		915 Worship Aids		0.00	250.00	250.00
		916 Music-Contractors		23,225.00	21,000.00	22,000.00
		918 Pulpit Supply		0.00	600.00	2,000.00
		920 Instrument Maintenance		0.00	600.00	600.00
		931 Media		15,497.50	12,000.00	13,000.00
		932 Music Supplies		6,371.25	2,400.00	2,400.00
		934 - Organ Maint. & Repairs		379.00		0.00
	Total WORSHIP COMMITTEE			47,750.55	46,560.00	49,960.00
Total Uses				495,540.41	537,035.87	512,869.00

# STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION

	31-Dec-23	31-Dec-22	\$ Change	% Change
<b>ASSETS</b>				
Current Assets				
Checking/Savings				
102 Wintrust Bank - Checking	25,584.33	46,679.06	-21,094.73	-45.19%
Total Checking/Savings	25,584.33	46,679.06	-21,094.73	-45.19%
Other Current Assets				
11001 · Misc Receivable	1,550.95	0	1,550.95	100.00%
108 PCS	355,803.50	474,902.58	-119,099.08	-25.08%
120 Permanent Fund	416,239.22	382,554.58	33,684.64	8.81%
Total Other Current Assets	773,593.67	857,457.16	-83,863.49	-9.78%
Total Current Assets	799,178.00	904,136.22	-104,958.22	-11.61%
<b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>	<b>799,178.00</b>	<b>904,136.22</b>	<b>-104,958.22</b>	<b>-11.61%</b>
<b>LIABILITIES &amp; EQUITY</b>				
Liabilities				
Current Liabilities				
Other Current Liabilities				
Pension Liability	1,892.50	412.52	1,479.98	358.77%
201 Interest received	14.25	14.25	0	0.00%
2100 · Payroll Liabilities				
Dependent Care FSA	2,758.70	1,278.50	1,480.20	115.78%
Medical FSA	-3,574.63	-3,577.58	2.95	0.08%
2100 · Payroll Liabilities - Other	2,267.58	2,458.36	-190.78	-7.76%
Total 2100 · Payroll Liabilities	1,451.65	159.28	1,292.37	811.38%
Total Other Current Liabilities	3,358.40	586.05	2,772.35	473.06%
Total Current Liabilities	3,358.40	586.05	2,772.35	473.06%
Long Term Liabilities				
300 Unrealized gain/loss	107,167.66	113,926.68	-6,759.02	-5.93%
PERMANENTLY RESTRICTED FUNDS				
501 Permanent Fund	416,239.22	382,554.58	33,684.64	8.81%
Total PERMANENTLY RESTRICTED FUNDS	416,239.22	382,554.58	33,684.64	8.81%
TEMPORARILY RESTRICTED				
505 · Time Restricted Fund	2,075.05	54,994.52	-52,919.47	-96.23%
500 Mission	83,854.44	92,655.76	-8,801.32	-9.50%
504 Deacons Fund	4,044.25	4,044.25	0	0.00%
506 Education fund	65,710.15	67,710.15	-2,000.00	-2.95%
Total TEMPORARILY RESTRICTED	155,683.89	219,404.68	-63,720.79	-29.04%
Total Long Term Liabilities	679,090.77	715,885.94	-36,795.17	-5.14%
Total Liabilities	682,449.17	716,471.99	-34,022.82	

Equity				
3000 · Opening Bal Equity	24,114.17	0	24,114.17	100.00%
3900 · Unrestricted Funds	189,789.52	127,504.37	62,285.15	48.85%
				-
Net Income	-97,174.86	60,159.86	-157,334.72	261.53%
Total Equity	116,728.83	187,664.23	-70,935.40	-37.80%
TOTAL LIABILITIES & EQUITY	799,178.00	904,136.22	-104,958.22	-11.61%

# STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITY

			Jan - Dec 23	Annual Budget
Sources				
	PLEDGES			
		801 · 801 Pledges Current	245,230.51	164,000.04
		802 · 802 Pledges - stock	52,331.78	68,000.00
		803 Release of Restrict Pledges	22,919.47	55,000.00
	Total PLEDGES		324,860.76	287,000.04
	OTHER CONTRIBUTIONS			
		810 - Contributions - Loose	1,979.00	2,400.00
		813 Miscellaneous	1,226.00	166.67
	Total OTHER CONTRIBUTIONS		3,205.00	2,566.67
	INVESTMENT INCOME			
		870 Permanent Fund Income	0.00	7,500.00
		850 Investment Income	1,470.43	6,000.00
	Total INVESTMENT INCOME		1,470.43	13,500.00
	SERVICE INCOME			
		830 · ICDI	20,956.00	
		828 · Building Rentals Incl. Parking	21,075.00	55,000.00
		821 Buttons & Bows	9,000.00	
		829 Miscellaneous	2,275.00	
	Total SERVICE INCOME		53,306.00	55,000.00
	x ASSETS RELEASED FROM RESTRICT			
		856 · Education	0.00	2,000.00
		850 · 850 Program, Mission & Benev	19,902.36	24,000.00
		853 · 853 Deacons	0.00	1,000.00
	Total x ASSETS RELEASED FROM RESTRICT		19,902.36	27,000.00
Total Sources			402,744.55	385,066.71
Uses				
	ADMINISTRATION			
		989 · Fund Raising and Services	0.00	500.00
		980 · Pension Expense	2,623.29	3,300.00
		981 Office Expense	22,619.18	21,000.00
		983 Telephone	3,208.30	31,500.00
		984 Insurance	17,795.02	18,000.00
		988 Credit Card Expense	2,035.89	
		6560 · 989 Payroll Fees	7.00	200.00
		990 Professional Fees	0.00	3,750.00

		987 Per Capita	0.00	6,249.00
		ADMINISTRATION - Other	1,000.00	
	Total ADMINISTRATION		49,288.68	84,499.00
	DEACONS MINISTRY			
		945 · Deacons Care	0.00	1,000.00
		947 Special Events	206.87	
	Total DEACONS MINISTRY		206.87	1,000.00
	BUILDING AND GROUNDS			
		996 · Cleaning Service	24,310.00	
		995 · Kitchen Renovation	11,817.00	
		992 Maintenance	47,239.58	30,000.00
		993 Utilities	35,131.19	37,500.00
		994 · Capital, Equipment & Upgrades	17,261.83	60,000.00
		BUILDING AND GROUNDS - Other	1,154.85	
	Total BUILDING AND GROUNDS		136,914.45	127,500.00
	CHILDRENS MINISTRY			
		921 Curriculum	2,041.44	
		922 Supplies	633.60	1,200.00
		925 Child Care	0.00	11,250.00
		929 - Vacation Bible School	140.63	
		930 Pride Carnival	7,546.44	2,000.00
	Total CHILDRENS MINISTRY		10,362.11	14,450.00
	COMMUNICATIONS			
		963 Other	0.00	1,000.00
	Total COMMUNICATIONS		0.00	1,000.00
	HOSPITALITY			
		949 Hospitality	617.70	600.00
		HOSPITALITY - Other	1,869.18	
	Total HOSPITALITY		2,486.88	600.00
	MINISTERIAL			
		901 Ministerial Salaries	92,310.37	92,941.27
		902 Ministerial Pension/Health	33,627.36	36,853.20
		904 Professional Expense	462.90	750.00
		905 Continuing Education	2,358.70	1,375.00
		906 Medical Deductible	0.00	2,950.00
	Total MINISTERIAL		128,759.33	134,869.47
	MISSION			
		960 · Memorial Service	200.00	
		943 Elmhurst Walk in Assist	1,500.00	1,200.00
		953 PADS	0.00	2,500.00
		955 Children Up	2,000.00	2,200.00
		957 Theological Education	1,250.00	
		958 Cuba	3,000.00	3,500.00
		959 Presbyterian Disaster Rel.	1,000.00	2,500.00

		951 Presbyterian Shared Mission		-385.66	8,000.00
		953 · Afghan Family Support		12,876.86	14,000.00
		941 - Other		16,901.12	7,500.00
		MISSION - Other		171.98	
	Total MISSION			38,514.30	41,400.00
	STAFF SALARIES AND BENEFITS				
		910 Staff Salaries		69,229.94	75,957.87
		911 Payroll Taxes		5,203.54	9,199.53
		973 - Dir of Youth Ministry		6,823.76	
		975 Associate Pastor Salary		0.00	
	Total STAFF SALARIES AND BENEFITS			81,257.24	85,157.40
	WORSHIP COMMITTEE				
		935 · Memorial Service		0.00	250.00
		913 - Worship Contractors		350.00	8,260.00
		914 Church Adornment		1,927.80	1,200.00
		915 Worship Aids		0.00	250.00
		916 Music-Contractors		23,225.00	21,000.00
		918 Pulpit Supply		0.00	600.00
		920 Instrument Maintenance		0.00	600.00
		931 Media		15,497.50	12,000.00
		932 Music Supplies		6,371.25	2,400.00
		934 - Organ Maint. & Repairs		379.00	
	Total WORSHIP COMMITTEE			47,750.55	46,560.00
Total Uses				495,540.41	537,035.87

## **BUILDING & GROUNDS 2023 ANNUAL REPORT**

**Submitted by Stephen Mortensen, Chair**

Committee Members: Jim Davidovich, Paula Reckley, Steve Reckley, Marjorie Schuham, Dawn Yanahan, John Yanahan

The Building & Grounds committee was able to sustain momentum in 2023 from the many accomplishments completed in 2022, including the major kitchen renovation project. In addition to routine building maintenance and repair expected with a building of our age and size, several larger projects and accomplishments of the B&G committee in 2023 are cited below:

- Fire doors were installed in the lower level bringing the space into compliance
- The two aging air-conditioning units supplying the sanctuary were proactively replaced and are now controlled by smart thermostats to aid with energy savings
- Relatively minor, yet important, repairs were made to the shingles and plumbing stacks on the east side of the sanctuary roof
- With the retirement of our church custodian in March, an agreement with Certiclean Team was negotiated and put in place for regular custodial cleaning services
- Isolated basement area water seepage was detected due to several heavy late summer rains. Leaves and debris were removed from surrounding window wells to aid in the proper drainage of rainwater
- Extensive tree trimming was completed late year to raise tree canopies, remove deadwood, and rid overgrown shrubs and invasive species
- Additional exterior maintenance and enhancements included the removal of ivy and empty bird nests from exterior walls, signage and the large cross on the building
- An all-church “Fall Clean-up” event was conducted late year to trim bushes, tend to the wildflower beds and clear out plants from the vegetable garden
- In conjunction with the Mission committee, a large exterior banner was installed on the north portion of the grounds making known our joining the PC(USA) Matthew 25 movement
- The first-floor classrooms vacated by Buttons and Bows Nursery were freshly painted and converted for use as EPC Sunday School and Youth rooms

### **Goals and Preliminary Projects Planned for 2024 include:**

- Installation of a native plants garden, approved by the Session in the fall of 2022, is expected to commence when weather allows this coming spring
- A refresh and updating of the Nelson-White room is under consideration with project planning activities underway and cost estimates being gathered
- Deferred from 2023 plans, circle drive and parking lot asphalt repair work and restriping is expected to be completed in 2024

## MISSION COMMITTEE REPORT

Submitted by Anna Lu, Chair



### 2023 Team Members:

Anna Lu, Alan West, Suzanne Pitz, Amy Mortensen,  
Jeffrey Deutsch, Suzanne Springate

### 2023 Focus/Goals:

We began this year as a Matthew 25 church and planned to focus our efforts on building our congregation's vitality.

"Matthew 25: 31-46 calls us to actively engage in the world around us so our faith comes alive and we wake up to new possibilities." We were excited to see what the Spirit had in store for us as we banded together in mission, love, and action for God's people in 2023. And She led us to amazing places!

We also continued to nurture our long-standing partnerships and take part in our traditional annual missions. As always, we tried to maintain a balance of mission work in regard to who we serve (local, PCUSA, and global) and how we serve (donation of goods or money, spending time or labor).

### Here is what Elmhurst Presbyterian Church & the Mission Team accomplished together in 2023!

- **Project C.U.R.E.:** For the first time in many years, EPC threw a gala! The Spirit led us to make a commitment to Project C.U.R.E. to raise \$15,000 toward the shipping fee for a container of donated medical supplies to be sent from the U.S. to hospitals in desperate need in Malawi. The gala subcommittee put together an amazing event that featured Elmhurst musicians, a silent auction of fantastic prizes, a live auction, a lovely meal at our local Angelo's Ristorante, and a marketplace of Malawian goods. It was a smashing success: we hit our goal, we connected with each other for a worthy cause, and we had a great time!
- **Elmhurst Yorkfield Food Pantry:** We purchased & delivered monthly donations totaling \$1500 this year. We gave 200 bars of soap, 450 tubes of toothpaste, 350 sticks of deodorant, 150 bottles of dishwashing soap, and a few odds and ends to the people served by EYFP. (Also, any and all nonperishables donated to the mission cabinet in the Nelson White Room were given to EYFP.)
- **Children Up:** We gave our annual \$2,000 to Children Up. We continue to sponsor Lanyero Peasline and Olara Daniel. We also had a mission team member attend their annual gala this year. For updates on our students' education and lives, check the Mission Board in the Nelson White Room!
- **Guines Iglesia:** We sent our sister church in Cuba our annual \$3,000 donation early in the year because Pastor Abel reached out, telling us of increased needs in his community.
- **Illinois Community for Displaced Immigrants (ICDI):** This year we partnered with

this group by renting out space to them in the basement where they sort & package clothing donations for newly arriving detained immigrants in Chicago. We also connected them with York High School's National Honor Society & Interact Club to provide them with additional volunteers and to provide community youth members the chance to help with ICDI's ministry. We had a mission team member attend their gala this year as well.

- ***McCormick Theological Seminary:*** We gave \$1,000 to this PCUSA theological seminary.
- ***Presbyterian Disaster Relief:*** In February, we put flyers in the pews informing the congregation that they could give to PDA for earthquake disaster relief in Turkey & Syria. We raised more than \$1000 for this PCUSA organization that aids people in the midst of disaster.
- ***Elmhurst Walk-In Assistance Network:*** We supported the Elmhurst Walk-in Assistance Network with a gift of \$1,500.
- ***Erie House Christmas:*** Together, we provided Christmas gifts for 50 children at Erie House in Chicago.
- ***Tzu Chi Meals:*** We partnered with a Buddhist organization named Tzu Chi to provide a free meal to anyone in the community. This was a 3-time experiment that led to wonderful connections, bellies full of hearty vegetarian meals, and good vibes all-around.
- ***Out of the Closet Charity:*** After meeting this charity at Pridefest, we connected with them to become a donation location for clothing, makeup, and accessories for trans/non-binary/gender non-conforming folks. We made our first donation this fall. The donation box can be found in the Nelson White Room.
- ***Days for Girls Lenten Collection:*** We collected over \$2000 for Days for Girls International, which helped pay for the training of 8 young women from Sierra Leone to provide reproductive health training to girls and boys. They distributed 77 menstrual kits to girls in need. Those kits help to keep these girls healthy AND attending school.
- ***New Deliverance:*** We continued to support the diaper ministry with a very large donation of diapers collected from church members to our sister church in the Roseland neighborhood of Chicago. A group of us worshipped together with them at their church and it was very special. We also invited a group of our New Deliverance friends to the gala and they joined us!

- *EPC Family Pridefest:* We have a mission team member serve on the Pridefest Committee because this event is a part of the mission work of our church. This connection keeps the mission team (and thus Session & the church) abreast of what is happening with the planning and execution of Pridefest all year long. This year Pridefest was bigger and better than ever and the focus was on centering LGBTQ performers: featured recording artist Jennifer Knapp, a queer bagpipe band, and local youth performers. The whole church community makes this event happen in conjunction with the Elmhurst Pride Collective and it truly is a celebration of love and all things rainbow.

This year, we also put some time and effort into communicating our focus on mission through: the 20-foot vinyl banner out front, Pastor Traci's sermons, using the M25 logo in our bulletins, and doing some St. Paddy's Day Parade public relations with Radical Hospitality in March.

## THE MUSIC MINISTRY & DIRECTOR'S REPORT

### Submitted by Susan Smentek, Director of Music

*5 Praise him with sounding cymbals;*

*praise him with loud clashing cymbals!*

*6 Let everything that has breath praise the LORD!*

*praise the LORD! – Ps. 150:5-6*

Our most joyful musical accomplishment of 2023 can be summed up with two words, “Bell Choir”. While our bell music was not synonymous with clashing cymbals, it was loud at times, with bells that sounded (or failed to sound) and always in praise of God! Our intrepid group of five inter-generational bell ringers enthusiastically embraced the challenges of learning how to make music together. We had so much fun, we hope that others will want to join in and ring a bell (or two) in 2024.

We also enjoyed worshipping together while making a joyful noise unto the Lord in the Sanctuary and via the Livestream.

Thank you to everyone who put their time, talents and effort into music for EPC worship in 2023, including:

The EPC Handbell Choir: Clayton, Marina, Mary Ellen, Samuel & Suzanne

Keith Baumann, guitar & mandolin

Bobby Berner, bass

Gayle Bisesi, vocals

Luciana Bisesi, vocals & percussion

Samuel Carbacas-Smith, piano

Brian Collins, drums & percussion

Kathy Cowan, vocals

Paul Heinz, piano

Charlotte Jackson, piano

Dan Kristan, bass

Jade, bass

Susan Smentek, vocals & guitar

Phil Videckis, piano

Audio/Visual/Livestream Technicians:

Keith Baumann, Technical Director - designs, maintains, operates and supervises all technical systems involved in Worship services.

Mike Cammack, Technical Staff– operates livestream for EPC Worship.

Bill Berner – volunteers to operate livestream when needed.

Looking forward, we'll move quickly into the season of Lent and enjoy hymns and praise songs, old favorites and new discoveries.

## **WORSHIP TEAM REPORT**

**Submitted by Carol Ewert, Chair**

Worship Team Members: Kathy Thompson, Cheryl Turek and Susan Leslie

Special Thank You to Jim Davidovich for his help putting up the banners and doing the draping, and to Paula Reckley who coordinates Easter Flowers and Christmas Poinsettias.

Worship is responsible for adorning the Sanctuary. Changing the Drapes and Banners – following the Liturgical Colors – Typically; white, purple, red, green and blue, which mark the seasons of the Christian year. We Coordinate ordering Christmas and Easter Flowers and the Palms for Palm Sunday. We keep the Sanctuary clean, making sure bulletins and cups from Communion left in the pews are picked up and recycled. We upgraded and purchased battery operated candles for the candelabras behind the Communion Table. Our budget also includes Music and Band.

### **Highlights of 2023**

- January was the Baptism of the Lord. The January sermon series theme was Refocus.
- For Lent through Easter we adorned the Sanctuary with weekly visual additions until Easter when we had our beautiful flowers on display around the Cross. We had special services on Ash Wednesday and Maundy Thursday.
- The Worship theme through April and May was: Repentance, Repair, Regret, Restoration, Revelation. Celebrating Pentecost on Sunday 5/28/23
- June along with Pride Month, the Theme was the “Symbols” withing the Presbyterian Seal.
- Summer: We had VBS and a number of guest preachers that included: Jim Davidovich, Scott Matheney, Art Pitz, and Doug Fitzgerald. We blessed Backpacks on 8/13/23. The Sermon Series in August and September was on our beautiful Stained-Glass windows.
- October started with World Communion Sunday, Stewardship continued the next 3 Sundays. On October 29, 2023 we had an Intergenerational Worship – Bilingual
- November 5, 2023 was All Saints Sunday and the congregation was invited to bring something to remember loved ones who have passed. We went back to Stewardship and Gratitude on November 12th & 19Th. During October and November, the various committees talked about their committees including visual displays, acknowledging opportunities for Stewardship beyond monetary contributions.
- November 26th, was the start of Advent and hanging of the Greens.
- Thursday December 21, 2023 we had an Advent Prayer Gathering Service.
- We had 2 services on Sunday 12/24/23 10:30 and 5:00 PM. The Christmas Pageant was performed at both services. During Advent we again, draped the Communion Table and hung our Star and twinkling lights and displayed the Red and White poinsettias.
- December 31, 2023, New Year’s Eve. “Countdown to Noon” after Worship.

## FAITH FORMATION COMMITTEE REPORT

Submitted by Clare Collins, Committee Chair

### Faith Formation Committee Members in 2023:

Clare Collins, Erin Fitzgerald, Betsy Lee, Emerson Azcoitia, Micaiah Brown, Faith Lee

### Graduations and Scholarships

A scholarship of \$2,000 was awarded to graduating senior, Lena Baumann, during the May 28, 2023 service.

### 2023 TOP TEN Highlights!

**1. Confirmation:** We received 3 new confirmands on September 10, 2023! Emerson enthusiastically led our Confirmation class using the “Confirm, Not Conform” curriculum. Congratulations to Bobby Berner, Bekah Berner, and Ziko Mbewe!



**2. VBS:** We brought VBS back for the first time since the pandemic! Using the “Changemakers Lab” curriculum, our Faith Formation crew led 4 fun-filled nights of Vacation Bible School with an energetic group of 13 children. The children rotated between Worship and Drama, Bible Lab, STEAM Lab, and Action Lab. The week culminated with a family movie and popcorn night watching “Ferngully”. We grew stronger as a team and the kids had a blast, despite 2 tornado warnings throwing a wrench in our plans on night 3!



**3. Vegetable garden:** Jan Happel of “Heaven and Earth Growers” helped an intergenerational crew of about 12 people plant the vegetable garden crops in May. Suzanne Springate came up with the brilliant idea to purchase an automated sprinkler to assist with daily watering, and with this ingenious idea our little vegetables flourished! We grew delicious food and the kids loved harvesting the crops each week for the food pantry. Micaiah and Emerson are thankful to all of the “harvest helpers” throughout the season as well. This was an intergenerational endeavor from beginning to end!

Thank you to all the volunteers who helped plant, weed, harvest, and deliver foods to the food pantry this year! With your help, we were able to donate a grand total of 502 lbs 13 ounces to local food pantries!



**4. Cookie Exchange:** We kicked off the holiday season by teaming up with the Radical Hospitality Committee for a magical cookie exchange. The kids got very creative with their Christmas cookie decorations! We look forward to teaming up with other committees in the future for more intergenerational fun!



**5. Family Scavenger Hunt and Movie Night:** On December 16th we hosted a Scavenger Hunt & Movie Night for families. We watched “Muppet Christmas Carol” followed by a holiday-themed scavenger hunt around the church leading to a delicious treat.

**6. Easter Egg Hunt:** It was a beautiful, sunny Easter Sunday for our annual Easter Egg Hunt! The event was a hit with both children and adults alike.



**7. Trunk-or-Treat:** On October 29th children dressed up in Halloween costumes and adults decorated trunks for our annual Trunk-or-Treat event. We seem to recruit more trunks and more trick-or-treaters every year! It’s exciting to watch the enthusiasm for this event continue to grow.



**8. New Classrooms:** The departure of Buttons and Bows made it possible for our youth and Sunday School classrooms to move upstairs. No more trudging all the way across the building and downstairs for our youngest members anymore! We worked with the Buildings and Grounds Committee to have the new classrooms painted and we moved all the furniture upstairs. Emerson and Micaiah have been busy decorating the new classrooms to create inviting spaces for our youth.

**9. New Sunday School Curriculum:** Micaiah used the “Shine: Seeking God Together” curriculum to educate our youngest members during Sunday School. The students are loving the interactive, hands-on approach to learning!

**10. Christmas Pageant:** On Christmas Eve we presented an impromptu Christmas pageant featuring our very own baby Jesus, as well as actors and readers of all ages. It was a beautiful, intergenerational performance!



**2023 was a great year for intergenerational bonding. After such a successful year, we are feeling energized and ready for 2024!**

### **Goals for 2024**

- \*Recruit new members to our committee... We need YOU! :)
- \*Find new ways to engage our EPC youth and families
- \*Plan an adult education group
- \*Plan activities that bring our EPC community together on days other than Sundays (Chess club? Game night?)
- \*Involve youth in services (worship leaders, music, ushers, etc.)

## CONGREGATIONAL CARE AND RADICAL HOSPITALITY REPORT

Submitted by Jennifer Gordon, Chair

**Committee Members:** Connie Nestler, Berlirce Menendie-Chetgna, Alan West, Ted Steiskal, Rita Steiskal, Karen Fitzgerald, Susan Leslie, Bedsy Lee, Suzanne Springate

**Friends of the committee who also assist:** Carol Ewert, Kathy Thompson, Robin Benecke, Doug Fitzgerald

2023 - What a year! It was great to be together and able to use our new kitchen. It is wonderful to have this space to assist in making our fellowship so much better. We enjoyed a lot of refreshments and great conversation after church. The Congregational Care & Radical Hospitality had planned on providing refreshments 2 times a month but exceeded their goal and had refreshments most Sundays. It really helps with the conversation after church.

Thank you coffee master, Alan West for your dedication of making coffee for us each week. It is appreciated by all and doesn't go unnoticed.

The Congregational Care & Radical Hospitality teamed up with other committees to have fun events such as:

1. Serving hot chocolate & popcorn and handed out flyers at the St. Patty's Day Parade patrons
2. Supported Pride Fest
3. Celebrated Elias Ordination and Di Nuevo church
4. Hosted a soup, salad and bread luncheon
5. Afternoon Tea & Treats in the Calvin
6. All church Thanksgiving Potluck
7. Welcomed many new members
8. Hosted all church Christmas cookie making and exchange event

These were successful events which most will be repeated. Please let me know if you have any ideas you want to share.

I look forward to what 2024 has to offer. There will be many more events for our congregation to participate in. Keep an eye out for our upcoming events. If you are interested in joining our committee, we would love to have you!

Thank you for all your support of making EPC the best place to be!

Blessings & Gratitude,  
Jennifer Gordon

## **HUMAN RESOURCES TEAM REPORT**

**Submitted by Patti Berner, Chair**

**2023 Team members:** Patti Berner, Ray Lee, Bob Miller, Cheryl Kopecky, and Tom Turek. We are excited to welcome new Member Kay Pankau, to our team, beginning in 2024.

### **Summary**

The Human Resources team continues to provide counsel, recommendations, and support to the Head of Staff, EPC staff, the Session and all leadership teams.

### **Highlights**

- This year, 2023, marks the first full year Session has had an HR Chairperson on Session. (Patti Berner, current EPC HR Chairperson, was nominated, and accepted as the Clerk of Session in 2022.)
- Meeting with the Head of Staff is on an as needed basis rather than monthly this year as HR related items are discussed at/with Session.
- Streamlined annual employee/contractor acknowledgement process to ensure appropriate and timely confirmation of key employment criteria ex. Pay, title, job functions, etc., along with Illinois State compliance.
- Pastor Appreciation Day was acknowledged in a special way this October, with plans to continue this celebration.
- Continued the second year of our annual “Flat Turkey” at our EPC Friendsgiving. This gift continues to be well received.
- Began “shout outs” of staff work anniversaries during Sunday services. Plans are to continue this practice of appreciation and gratitude to all our employees and contractors.
- Thanks to Ray Lee for his many years of valuable contributions to our team.
- Grateful for Tom Turek’s acceptance to join the team and serve EPC, faithfully.

### **2024 goals**

- Continue to meet as needed with the Head of Staff and the HR Chairperson.
- Continue building opportunities to celebrate staff accomplishments.
- Conduct HR Team meetings in conjunction with the all-church leadership breakfasts, whenever possible.
- Continue offering grace and patience for all.

Respectfully submitted by Patti Berner, Chair - Human Resources Team

