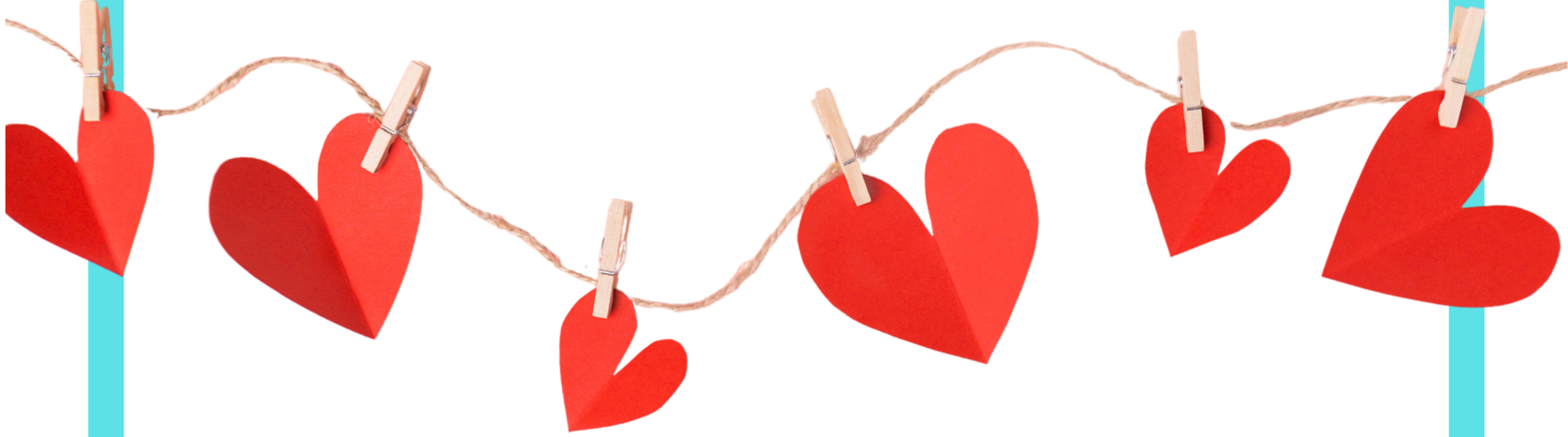


PARK RIDGE COMMUNITY CHURCH



# Connected by Love.

"ABOVE ALL, CLOTHE YOURSELVES WITH LOVE,  
WHICH BINDS EVERYTHING TOGETHER IN PERFECT  
HARMONY."  
COL. 3:14

## **ANNUAL REPORT 2026**

May 3  
11:00 AM

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# 2026 Annual Meeting Agenda



Call to Order

Convening Prayer

Appointment of the Parliamentarian

Declaration of a Quorum

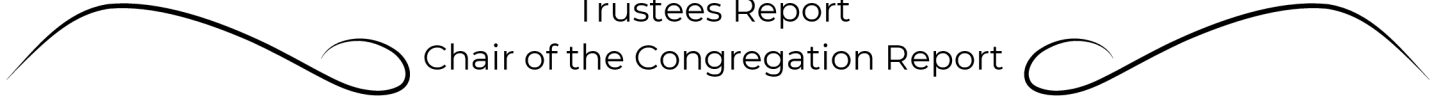
Approval of the 2025 Annual Meeting Minutes

Reports of Officers and Committees

Financial Report

Trustees Report

Chair of the Congregation Report



Appreciation for Those Completing their Terms

Elections of Officers

Appointment of Moderator

Nominating Committee Report

Award Presentations

Choir Member of the Year

Eric Nelson Scholarship

Second Mile Recognition

Motion to Adjourn

Concluding Prayer

# Annual Meeting Minutes - May 4, 2025

*The Annual Meeting was held in person.*



## **Call to Order:**

The meeting was called to order by Dan Smith, Chair of the Congregation, at 11:40 am Dan Smith, Chair of the Congregation, welcomed members and non-members and requested that non-members refrain from voting.

## **Opening Prayer:**

Pastor Mollie Foster led the congregation in an opening prayer.

## **Appointment of Parliamentarian:**

Dan Smith, appointed Tim Lapp as Parliamentarian for the 2025 Annual Meeting.

## **Verification of Quorum:**

Colleen Moriarty, Vice-Chair of the Congregation, confirmed there were 63 members present in person. A quorum of at least 50 people was confirmed, thus allowing the Annual Meeting to proceed.

## **Approval of the 2024 Annual Meeting Minutes**

Copies of the minutes from the May 5, 2024 Annual Meeting were included in the 2025 Annual Report, which was available digitally or as a physical copy. Colleen requested a motion to approve the minutes. Colleen made a motion to approve the minutes. Justin McCarty second the motion. The minutes were approved by unanimous consent.

## **Finance Report**

Dan welcomed Anita Rifkind, current Treasurer, to provide the financial report. Anita referred everyone to the annual report for detailed information and the 2025 budget. The current pledge campaign was a huge success; we are blessed with strong leadership and a growing and faithful congregation. Total pledges are up from last year and our Mardi Gras fundraising event was a great success.

Our change in accounting systems continues to go well and we have reduced our deficit. The Church has created a fundraising task force and a four-year plan for the future. Anita concluded her report with gratitude and thanks to the church for their trust and support.

Dan thanked Anita and the Finance Committee for their contributions over the year and celebrated all their success.

## **Trustee Report**

Dan welcomed Chris Chandler, Chair of the Board of Trustees, to give the trustee report.

Chris began by providing a list of completed projects that the Trustees had accomplished this past year. Chris stressed that we have an old property that requires significant upkeep but the property is in good hands.

The Trustees have continued to look ahead at what needs are coming in the future. Trustees have been working with the newly formed fundraising task force to open up more options for the care of our physical space and broadening the view of where our money comes from. Finally, Chris spoke about the insurance claims that have been made to facilitate roof repairs. Chris asked for patience through the summer months as work will hopefully begin on the roof. Chris concluded by thanking the congregation for its support and patience.

Dan thanked Chris and the entire trustee team for their dedication to keeping the church building and campus a beautiful landmark in the community.

### **Chair of the Congregation Report**

Dan provided the Chair of the Congregation Report. Dan began by speaking about the goal-setting exercise undertaken by the Board at the beginning of the 2024 fiscal year—setting goals for the Church for the next 100 years. These goals were to (1) activate the church body, (2) enrich our identity, internally and externally, and (3) ensure financial vitality. Dan spoke about the ways that the Church is living into those goals, by adopting a formal fundraising strategy, conducting a financial audit, holding educational sessions on estate planning, developing chargers for committee that tie into these goals, enhancing cross-awareness of activities being engaged in by our church body, providing quarterly leadership talks, preparing a policies and procedures book, and much more.

Dan expressed thanks for the wonderful volunteers that support the church, the amazing staff that support our efforts, Pastors that lead us, and grateful for the connections of our congregation and committees. Dan closed by expressing optimism about the big things coming for our congregation.

### **Election of Officers**

Dan explained that our Church is congregationally led and reminded members that we elect church members to serve as officers of the Church and to serve on the board. Dan welcomed Kyrie Nelson, Vice-Chair of the Nominating Committee, to serve as Moderator for the presentation of the nominations. Kyrie started by mentioning the Annual Report Materials contain a listing with all individuals serving on committees and teams within our church. Kyrie then read the names of the nominated slate requiring congregational support. Kyrie called for nominations from the floor, but none were heard. Kyrie called for a vote of the presented slate. There was a unanimous vote for the slate as presented.

Dan thanked everyone on the slate for taking on responsibilities in life and ministry at PRCC. Dan recognized the Nominating Committee for their work and care in filling the leadership roles. Transition of roles will take place at the next board meeting on May 19, 2025.

### **Eric Nelson Scholarship Award**

Dan welcomed Pastor Mollie to present the Eric Nelson Scholarship Award. The 2025 Eric Nelson Scholarship Award was presented to Katie Hill. Katie is an active presence at PRCC. Katie has served on many mission trip teams, volunteered in many ways, and works in the nursery. Katie will study sports broadcasting at DePaul in the fall. Congratulations to Katie!

### **Second Mile Award**

Dan welcomed Pastor Carol to present the Second Mile Award. The 2025 Second Mile Award was presented to Mark Houlihan. Pastor Carol spoke about all the ways in which Mark supports and contributes to the life and work of the church. Congratulations to Mark!

**Team Talk by Executive Committee**

The Executive Committee made itself available for questions by the assembled congregation. There was a question about how to make contact with relevant committees and an expression of gratitude for the members of the Executive Committee and their dedication to the church.

**Adjournment**

Dan encouraged everyone to read through the detailed reports in the Annual Report Materials. Dan thanked the PRCC staff, Board of Directors, and congregation members for giving their time and talents to the church.

Justin McCarty made a motion to adjourn the Annual Meeting. The motion was seconded by Andrea Smith. The meeting was adjourned at 12:35 pm.

**Closing Prayer**

Pastor Carol closed the meeting in prayer.

Respectfully submitted,  
Justin McCarty - Clerk

# Senior Minister Report

—•••••—  
*Let all that you do, be done in love.*  
*1 Corinthians 16:14*

This is my eighth Annual Report at Park Ridge Community Church. The easiest “wins” to point to this year are all of the building projects - the Steeple work, the roof, the fire alarm system, new windows, new camera/door release system, new hot water heaters in the unisex bathrooms, and let us not forget AIR CONDITIONING! These projects were made possible by the hard work of the Trustees, the leadership of the Board, several generous gifts from our Saints - some living among us and some living in glory, an insurance claim and a federal emergency preparedness grant. These building projects are **obvious** reminders of what’s happening at PRCC, but truly, what is happening through this church goes so much deeper!

This year we have adopted the theme “Just Love.” We adopted this as our year-long theme before we knew exactly what this year would hold, and yet, God’s Spirit must have guided us! As we have navigated ever-changing circumstances, so many folks have encountered unspeakable challenges this year, and together as a church we have shown up. Many of you have taken to the streets to protest the injustice happening in our nation and world - from Chicago to Minneapolis to Broadview to here in Park Ridge - our voices have been raised. We gathered the community for a prayer vigil to mourn all of those lives lost at the hands of ICE agents and the broken immigration system. Some of you were there to get me out of jail after I was arrested while protesting at Broadview. We supported several families in need through the Angel fund, providing hope and support to strangers and friends alike.

We have begun to live into several administrative goals. Our Board has been diligently creating an all new, all inclusive handbook of policies and procedures at PRCC to cover the details of how we operate. This will eventually include everything from the use of our building, our staffing procedures, how we evaluate and hire contractors/vendors, approving payments, track giving and much more! The goal is that this living document would continue to shift as our needs shift, but provide a secure foundation on which to grow. This will allow our traditions to be passed from generation to the next as leadership changes. Our Finance team has launched an internal audit team to review our financial policies and audit last year’s accounting income, expenses, and record-keeping. This deep dive hasn’t been done in many years so we expect to discover several ways to improve. We have launched a strategic fundraising team, spearheaded by Dan Smith and Sasha Gerritson, who will work together to do a significant capital raise in the next few years to replenish the Capital Replacement Fund, build the endowment, and ensure a vibrant future for PRCC for generations into the future. We are learning to more effectively use our church management software system and align all of our church calendars (yes, there are

more than one). The Ministry Council has begun to collaborate and think through how ministry teams can capitalize on one another's successes. Our teams are working to create processes to update our outward facing publicity, including our social media, website, and printed materials. We know there are many things to improve, and yet, these seemingly small things are really important steps forward to efficiently using our resources to maximize our ministry impact! Oh - and have we mentioned the budget is BALANCED for the first time in....a good while (way before I started).

Our children, youth and adults are all growing in meaningful ways through our programming and ministries - from Loving Lunch making to mission trips to South Dakota to Schaumburg to Feed My Staving Children to Avalon Park- we are all invited to put our faith and God's love into action! We have learned together, and this upcoming summer, our choir (and friends) will share the joy of our faith in Tuscany, Italy! From Kindred Spirits' lunches to Knitting Knights to Senior Contact connecting with our homebound members to Mens' Breakfast and Carnival Benefit...our church members, community members, and friends have been loved on, fed, and found meaningful connection in this space! We have a group of folks training to become Stephen Ministers from ours and neighboring congregations. And the word is spreading, because we have more and more visitors every Sunday, and we keep welcoming in additional members too! Week after week we hear how the message and the music of Sunday morning have given individuals exactly what they needed that week.

We have continued to amplify our message of God's radical, inclusive love through efforts like the rainbow benches, joining Action Ridge's Community Inclusion Program, and spearheading the Pride in Park Ridge event. Our Creation Care team continues to find ways to help our congregation be better stewards of God's Earth. And our Social Justice Team is launching two taskforces to lead the congregation through the processes to consider becoming officially Accessible to All (A2A) and mental health conscious (W.I.S.E.). These programs seem to align with our shared values and will become additional means to project our values into the world.

I am proud to be a part of this community making a difference in the world and I look forward to a future filled with hope!

Blessed by you,

*Pastor Carol*

Senior Minister



# Associate Minister Report



It is a true privilege to serve as the Associate Minister at PRCC. I continue to be inspired by the creativity and faithfulness of our youth, volunteers, and staff as together we seek to serve both our congregation and our wider community. This year has been filled with meaningful milestones and joyful energy—growth in youth participation, Holy Chow gatherings, our South Dakota youth mission trip, the Fall Youth Retreat, Confirmation Class, Sunday School, and Wacky Wednesday. Whew—what a year it has been!

On Sunday, April 26, we celebrated the confirmation of six youth, and eleven additional youth completed their first year of Confirmation Class. Our hope in confirmation is that students move from learning familiar Christian concepts to claiming them in a personal way, developing both a sense of ownership in their faith and a commitment to grow as members of Park Ridge Community Church. Congratulations to Layla, Archer, Adrian, Rae, El, and Owen! A special thank you as well to the adults who mentored and faithfully walked alongside these remarkable youth: Siri Nelson, Jim Pantazi, Sandy Bowen, Rick Benedetto, Fred Siebert, Julie Bruno, and Pastor Carol.

In the summer of 2025, forty youth and ten adults participated in a powerful week of service in Sisseton, South Dakota, on the Lake Traverse Native American Reservation in partnership with YouthWorks. We now look forward with excitement to the 2026 trip to Portland, Oregon, where forty-two youth and eight adults will continue this meaningful tradition of service and learning together.

Our Fall Youth Retreat continues to be a treasured time of faith formation and relationship building. This year at Camp Timber-Lee, we focused on recognizing and shining God's light in the world while enjoying horseback riding, a hayride, and many opportunities for connection and fun together.

This year I also restructured our weekly youth programming schedule, and it has already made a positive difference in participation and engagement. Weekly Youth Ministry at PRCC now includes:

- Weekly Sunday School
- Weekly Wacky Wednesday
- Holy Chow, where youth gather twice a month for lunch and meaningful conversation
- Monthly Confirmation Class visits to diverse faith communities, including the Baha'i Temple, St. Moses the Black Church, and JRC Synagogue
- Monthly service opportunities such as Loving Lunches, the Avalon Park gift drive, and Carnival clean-up

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I continue to collaborate with the Outreach, Faith Development, and Fellowship Teams to create meaningful opportunities for service, learning, and connection. One of PRCC's greatest gifts is our multigenerational spirit. We are intentional about creating spaces where youth can build relationships across ages—whether through time with Kindred Spirits or by helping with VBS and Sunday School.

Since September, I have also been serving on the Committee on Ministry and Church Standing for the Chicago Metropolitan Association of the United Church of Christ. This has been a meaningful opportunity for learning and service within my ordained call.

I am deeply grateful to be surrounded by such generous hearts committed to nurturing our youth. Thank you to everyone who volunteers your time, presence, and care. Thank you as well to the Trustees for your continued stewardship of the Carriage House. I am truly grateful to live in such a beautiful home that has been so lovingly cared for over the years.

I look forward to continuing this shared ministry together and to all the ways God is still at work among us and through us.

Peace be with you,

*Pastor Mollie*

Associate Minister

# Chair of the Congregation Report



Dear Park Ridge Community Church,

It is with great love that I'm writing this report for our annual meeting. This has been a huge year for PRCC and I am so thankful for all of you leaning in to continue building the church we are called to be.

The church made significant strides on our annual goals as we saw membership grow, a huge increase in our giving spirit, and investing in our physical building to prepare us for the future. Job well done!

1. Engaging Our Church Body
  - a. Growing in Numbers of Active Members
  - b. Engaging the Faith of all ages - in Love of God and Love of Neighbor
  - c. Empowering Ministry Involvement/Leadership
  - d. Meaningful Connections - Small Group
  - e. Encouraging "Sweat Equity"
2. Invitation into Faithful Fellowship
  - a. To Build Our Connections with one another
  - b. Clarifying Our identity & What PRCC is about
  - c. Projecting Our Values Outward to Invite Others In
  - d. Broaden Our Impact on the World
3. Updating Our Resources to Facilitate Ministry
  - a. Teaching Faithful Stewardship
  - b. Building a Foundation for Generations to Come
  - c. Investing in Safe and Welcoming Spaces
  - d. Updating our Technology

I am truly amazed at what this church accomplishes when we put God at the heart of our plans and actions! So many of you give of yourselves in countless hours and generous dollars. I am honored to have served alongside you and am so excited to see all the ways our staff, our church leaders, and all of our volunteers will continue to build our church. A few years ago, we would not have dreamed of taking on the projects we completed this year, there were too many worries and concerns to even think about air conditioning. But this year, we air conditioned the entire church, replaced our roof, finished replacing every window in the church, and invested in a safety system which is long overdue. Much of this funded by generous donations and a federal grant and we could not have done it without our Trustees, thank you!! My hope and prayer for this

church is that we continue to pursue God's calling, and filled with faith, we move to accomplish even greater things. There is so much more good to do and I am so thankful to be a part of it.

As I conclude my time as Chair, I want to thank all of you for your support, your belief, and your prayers. Thank you to those who supported our family in all the ways as I traveled for work, you made it possible for our family to function and I am so touched by your generosity. Thank you to our Board of Directors and Executive Committee, your dedication allowed us to build systems that will help this church for years. Thank you to Colleen, Pastor Carol, and Pastor Mollie for keeping us focused and moving and being a great sounding board. Finally, thank you to all who show up for God's people at PRCC, you are what makes this church so special!

May God Bless Us All and all the BIG THINGS to come!

Thank you, and God bless,

*Dan Smith*

Chair of the Congregation

# Finance Committee Report



The Finance Committee consists of the Chair of the Finance Committee (who also serves as the Vice-Chair of the Congregation), the Treasurer, the Receipts Treasurer, the Fund Managers of the Capital Replacement (CRF), the Contingency Fund, and the Endowment Fund, as well as a representative from the Memorial Gifts Team. The Finance Committee is entrusted with care and stewardship of all PRCC financial resources, including the ongoing tracking of pledges, gifts, fundraising activity, and expenditures. The committee meets monthly to review both past and anticipated financial activity as presented by the Trustees and the church leadership. It also supports the Annual Stewardship Campaign and prepares the annual budget, which is presented to the Board of Directors (BoD) for approval.

This year, the Finance Committee focused on strengthening and streamlining financial processes for bill payment and reimbursement while strengthening internal controls and accountability. We worked to ensure that expenditures are properly and transparently allocated to the appropriate church accounts, including transitioning church credit cards services twice during the year. While the first provider proved cost-prohibitive due to higher than expected fees, the move to the Ramp card proved effective and well suited to our needs.

The Finance Committee also commissioned an Internal Audit Team, which is currently underway. In light of the significant volume and complexity of capital work done this year, we are grateful that our financial systems continued to operate with accuracy, strong oversight, and timely payment of all obligations. In 2026, approximately \$1.6 million in capital replacement projects were managed.

This year brought both considerable demands and remarkable generosity. The PRCC community responded with extraordinary support. We are especially grateful for several significant anonymous gifts that underwrote the final phase of the window replacement project, helped offset Fire/Safety project costs beyond grant funding, and provided meaningful support to the Capital Replacement Fund (CRF), strengthening our shared ability to care for our facilities. We give thanks for these gifts and affirm that they were used faithfully and as you intended.

In 2024, PRCC was awarded a \$150,000 Federal Fire/Safety grant. To date, \$54,700 has been reimbursed, and an additional \$73,000 has been approved and we await payment! The final reimbursement, totaling \$22,300, will be submitted in the coming months.

The church roof and external steeple were funded through our insurance coverage, with the exception of some painting and our deductible. The cost of the roof project was \$857,288. Several estate gifts funded the churchwide air conditioning project which totaled \$210,397.

The 2026 Stewardship Campaign, Sacred Worth, Imbued by the Creator, was a beautiful expression of what is possible when our community comes together in faith and commitment. The campaign resulted in 112 pledges totaling \$611,422 representing a 10.1% increase in total pledged giving over the prior year. As a result, for the first time in recent

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memory, a balanced budget was presented to and approved by the Board of Directors for 2026. In addition, the Carnival Fundraiser was a resounding success, bringing our community together and raising approximately \$58,000 and has now become a reliable part of our annual budget.

The Fund Managers report the end of the year 2025 gains were strong and the stock market uncertainty this spring has only slightly impacted our accounts. The PRCC Fund Managers continue to invest the church funds in a way that aligns with our risk tolerance. The 2025 Endowment interest, which had been part of the 2025 budget, was not needed for 2025 and was left in the Endowment Fund to allow it to continue to grow. In March 2026, the 2025 funds reconciliation were as follows:

- 1. From CRF: \$33,292.72 to Time Bank
- 2. From CRF: \$ 5,416.84 to Endowment

The changes to the CRF listed above are to account for the new refrigerator, hot water heater, and exterior steeple work done in 2025. However funds were moved in March 2026 as part of the annual reconciliation.

	12/31/24	12/31/25	2025 Return*
Endowment Trust	\$520,356	\$609,873	17.2%
Contingency Fund	\$213,216	\$193,604	6.5%
Capital Replacement	\$ 77,233	\$102,439	11.4%

\*Returns reflected here are exclusive of the annual true up/reconciliation

Our church remains on solid ground financially; however, additional fundraising will be necessary to support larger capital projects and to offset costs from prior improvements, such as the air conditioning installation. Looking ahead, the Trustees have identified a structural issue requiring attention, the internal steeple, which is expected to exceed \$100,000. The Fundraising Taskforce, now called Envision, was formed this last year and is being led by Sasah Gerritson and Dan Smith and is ramping up for a great year!

With deepest gratitude and humility, we give thanks to this congregation for your faithful generosity, steadfast commitment, and continued trust. Every pledge, every gift, every act of support, seen and unseen, has made a meaningful difference in the life of this church. We are grateful to serve alongside you in this shared ministry

Respectfully submitted,

*Collen Moriarty*

Vice-Chair & Finance Committee Chair

*Mary Biardo*

Treasurer

*Scott Hollingsworth*

Head Fund Manager

*Laura Lapp*

Receipts Treasurer

# 2026 Budget

<u>Account # Description</u>	<u>2026 Budget</u>
Department 1: General Income	
Total Pledges	\$600,000.00
Offerings	\$21,000.00
Total Donations	\$60,500.00
Misc Income	\$10,635.00
<b>TOTAL GENERAL INCOME:</b>	<b>\$692,135.00</b>
Department 2: Music Ministry	
Music Ministry Income	\$1,500.00
Music Ministry Expenses	\$59,250.00
<b>MUSIC MINISTRY NET</b>	<b>\$57,750.00</b>
Department 3: Youth Ministry	
Youth Ministry Income	\$4,000.00
Youth Ministry Expenses	\$13,050.00
<b>YOUTH MINISTRY NET</b>	<b>\$9,050.00</b>
Department 4: Christian Ed	
Christian Ed Income	\$500.00
Christian Ed Expenses	\$1,900.00
<b>CHRISTIAN ED NET</b>	<b>\$1,400.00</b>
Department 5: Children's Ministry	
Children's Ministry Income	\$800.00
Children's Ministry Expenses	\$5,800.00
<b>CHILDREN'S MINISTRY NET</b>	<b>\$5,000.00</b>
Department 6: Pastoral Services	
Pastoral Services Income	\$0.00
Pastoral Services Expenses	\$3,100.00
<b>PASTORAL SERVICES NET</b>	<b>\$3,100.00</b>
Department 7: Christian Outreach	
Christian Outreach Income	\$9,500.00
Christian Outreach Expenses	\$19,700.00
<b>CHRISTIAN OUTREACH NET</b>	<b>\$10,200.00</b>
Department 8: General Ministry	
General Ministry Income	\$9,500.00
General Ministry Expenses	\$17,350.00
<b>GENERAL MINISTRY NET</b>	<b>\$7,850.00</b>

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Department 9: Professional Expenses	
Professional Expenses Income	\$0.00
Professional Expenses Expenses	\$434,447.00
PROFESSIONAL EXPENSES NET	<b>\$434,447.00</b>
Department 10: Worship	
Worship Income	\$1,800.00
Worship Expenses	\$14,898.00
WORSHIP NET	<b>\$13,098.00</b>
Department 11: Property Operations	
Property Operations	\$111,050.00
Maintenance/Repair Expenses	\$39,250.00
PROPERTY OPERATIONS NET	<b>\$150,300.00</b>
Department 12: Office Operations	
OFFICE OPERATIONS NET	<b>\$51,190.00</b>
Department 13: Fundraisers	
Fundraisers Income	\$71,250.00
Fundraisers Expenses	\$20,000.00
FUNDRAISERS NET	<b>(\$51,250.00)</b>
<b>NET EXPENSES</b>	<b>\$692,135.00</b>
<b>GENERAL INCOME</b>	<b>\$692,135.00</b>
<b>GENERAL NET INCOME</b>	<b>\$0.00</b>

# Audit Note



Park Ridge Community Church  
Interim Report from the PRCC Audit Committee  
May 3, 2026

The board of directors created an internal audit committee to review the finances and the operating efficiencies for the fiscal year ended December 31, 2025.

The committee includes members Jennifer Gudmundsson, Michael Maher, George Van Geem and Bill Williams. Church officers Colleen Moriarty and Mary Biardo are also actively involved.

The committee is using audit guidelines published by the United Methodist Church network. These guidelines use national auditing standards as a basis for testing church balances and transactions.

While the audit is not yet fully complete, the committee can state that all balances tested to date have been accurate and fairly presented. The operations that have been reviewed have reasonable controls in place. Those controls are in place to assure accurate accounting and adequate stewardship.

The internal audit committee expects to release its final report by May 31, 2026. copies will be available to all interested parties.

# Arts & Decor Report



With all of the building projects taking place this year, the Arts & Decor Team has paused most of our efforts until the dust settles. In the meantime, we have been working on a design to spruce up the Library, to reconfigure the Parlor to create better storage solutions for tables and chairs, and to refresh Jordan Hall. These ideas are just in their beginning creative phases, but we are hoping to have more movement in the year ahead when the current projects are complete.

In the meantime, Marylynn and Dick Collentine have been diligently cleaning the Eugene Romeo reliefs and have done incredible work!

Stay tuned as we work together to make our spaces more and more inviting!

Respectfully submitted,

*Sally Mauery*

Chair of Arts & Decor

# Children's Ministry Report



This has been such a special year, and we are so grateful to the incredible children, teachers, musicians, and parent volunteers who made it all possible. Because of your time, energy, and care, the 2025–2026 year has been filled with meaningful moments of growth and connection. Together, we've helped our Sunday School program flourish, creating a warm and enriching experience for every child in the PRCC community.

## **Nursery:**

We remain dedicated to offering professionally staffed, background-checked childcare services every Sunday morning throughout the year, available during both our 8:30 and 10:00 AM services, as well as during special services like Ash Wednesday, Good Friday, etc.

## **Sunday School Attendance:**

Sunday School enrollment (nursery through 5th grade) has averaged 21–27 children each week. We've been encouraged to see new visitors not only attend, but return regularly, with many children also inviting friends and relatives to join. In total, we currently have 47 active participants, supported by a dedicated team of 6 teachers and 7 youth helpers.

## **Sunday School Curriculum:**

We continue to use the Sparkhouse Digital curriculum, with our preschool through 5th grade classes following the Spark Classroom model. Children meet in grade-level groups, where they actively engage with Bible stories and lessons in a way that is both meaningful and age-appropriate. In addition to the core curriculum, we've enriched their experience with special opportunities for spiritual growth during Advent and Lent, helping deepen their understanding of these important seasons.

## **Sunday School Music:**

Andrew and Angie Weber continue to lead our preschool through fifth grade children in music each Sunday before they head to their classrooms. These joyful sessions give children the chance to grow in confidence and share their gifts, with opportunities to participate in worship about four times a year. Highlights include beloved traditions like the Christmas Pageant, Palm Sunday, Consecration Sunday, and the Annual Meeting.

## **Advent Festival:**

This year's Advent Festival was a truly special evening, inviting members of all ages to step back in time and experience the wonder of Bethlehem. The space came alive with hands-on activities and meaningful moments—guests sampled foods that would have been common in Jesus' time, explored the spice market to create their own sachets, and visited the carpenter's shop to craft wooden nativities and ornaments. In the inn, families heard the story of Mary and Joseph's long journey, while at the potter's station, children shaped their own pinch pots.

The evening concluded in a beautiful and heartfelt way as we gathered at the Summit, sharing the joy of Bethlehem with residents through the singing of Christmas carols. It was a meaningful celebration of community, creativity, and the true spirit of the season.

**Summer Sunday School:**

Throughout the summer, we will continue offering in-worship activities for children, helping families participate in outdoor services in a meaningful and engaging way. We're also looking forward to creating additional opportunities for connection and community, with a mix of social gatherings and outreach activities planned throughout the season. Nursery care will remain available for children ages 0-5.

**Vacation Bible School:**

Last year's Vacation Bible School was a joyful and memorable experience, bringing together people of all ages from across our congregation. Through the theme Road Trip: On the Go With God!, children explored their faith in fun, meaningful, and engaging ways. With over 30 participants, VBS became a vibrant expression of community, connection, and spiritual growth.

We're excited to build on that momentum this year! Vacation Bible School will take place June 15-18 from 5:00-7:00 PM, featuring the theme True North: Trusting Jesus in a Wild World. We're looking forward to another incredible week filled with faith, friendship, and adventure.

**Church Camp:**

Church camp returned last summer, and it was truly a highlight of the year. We spent August 23-24 at Tower Hill Camp in Sawyer, Michigan, where 37 members of our community gathered for a joyful weekend of connection and renewal. From peaceful nature hikes to splashing in the lake and exploring the creek, there was something for everyone to enjoy. We shared laughter while making homemade root beer, reconnected around the campfire, and experienced the beauty of worshiping together on the shores of Lake Michigan. It was a meaningful, memory-filled weekend that many are still talking about.

**Fellowship:**

We believe it's so important for our children to learn, play, serve, and grow together—and this year offered so many joyful opportunities to do just that. From the laughter and excitement of Trunk or Treat to the delight of our Annual Easter Egg Hunt with the Easter Bunny, the wonder of the Advent Festival, and the fun-filled School's Out Carnival, these moments helped build meaningful connections and lasting memories.

We're thrilled to bring back the School's Out Carnival on May 17! It promises to be another wonderful day of fun, fellowship, and celebration for our entire congregation.

**Outreach Projects:**

At the core of our Children's Ministry is a deep commitment to instilling a heart for outreach from a young age. We are continually inspired by the enthusiasm children show in helping others and are dedicated to nurturing this spirit of compassion in every young member of our community.

- In October, we purchased and decorated mini pumpkins, which were delivered by Senior Contact to PRCC's homebound senior members, spreading warmth and joy.
- For this year's CROP Walk, the children participated in a noisy collection during worship, gathering coins to support the cause.
- During the Advent Festival, we shared the spirit of Christmas by singing carols for the seniors at The Summit, bringing joy to both the residents and our community.
- In February, a group of 54 volunteers served at Feed My Starving Children, making a meaningful impact.
- Our Sunday School children made Valentine's Day cards, which were delivered by Senior Contact to PRCC's homebound members, sharing love and kindness.
- The children made cards and sent well wishes to mission trip participants.
- We held a book drive in partnership with Outreach for Bernie's Book Bank which culminated in volunteering together at Bernie's with families to help sort books for distribution.

**Christmas Pageant:**

Last year, we were captivated by a truly remarkable Christmas Pageant, with children showcasing their talents in two unforgettable performances—one for the Park Ridge Stroll and another for the traditional worship service. Thanks to Ann Swindell’s beautifully handcrafted costumes, the dedicated musical direction of Angie and Andrew Weber, and Sasha Gerritson’s expert production oversight, we were fortunate to host such a spectacular celebration at PRCC. The excitement is building as we look forward to another memorable performance this year!

**My Bible Class:**

Students in third grade and older participated in a meaningful milestone experience as they learned how to navigate and use their Bibles with confidence. Through engaging instruction and hands-on practice, they were introduced to the structure of Scripture and encouraged to explore God’s Word for themselves.

This important step in their faith journey was celebrated during a special worship service, where each student was joyfully presented with their own Bible. The moment served as both a celebration and a commissioning, affirming their growing independence in faith.

The class was led with great enthusiasm by Sue Laurie, who guided six students alongside two helpers, creating a warm, supportive, and memorable learning experience for all involved.

**My Communion Class:**

This year’s My Communion Class brought together a wonderful and diverse group of children of various ages, all gathered to learn and grow in their understanding of Holy Communion. The class of 12 explored the meaning, significance, and sacredness of Communion in a way that was engaging, thoughtful, and accessible for each child.

It was especially meaningful to see such enthusiasm for the class, including one child who chose to repeat the experience in order to deepen their understanding even further. Throughout the sessions, children were invited to ask questions, reflect on their faith, and gain a richer appreciation for this important sacrament.

Overall, it was a beautiful time of learning and spiritual growth, thoughtfully guided by Pastor Mollie and embraced wholeheartedly by the children.

**Children’s Ministry Team:**

Our Children’s Ministry team meets quarterly to plan upcoming events and create engaging Sunday School curriculum. Through collaborative discussions, creative brainstorming, and strategic coordination, we ensure every aspect of our ministry is thoughtfully designed to support the spiritual growth and development of the children at PRCC.

Respectfully submitted,

*Morgan Tone*

Director of Children’s Ministries

# Christian Outreach Committee Report



The Christian Outreach Committee consists of 22 members of PRCC who are dedicated to reaching out in faith and joining in loving service with others. Over the last year we have added 5 new members: Jim Davis, Sue Douglas, Susan Greenwood, Sandy Metts, and Jim Solomon! We do this mainly through our partners, including Lincoln Park Community Services, Park Ridge Sunday Night Suppers, Loving Lunches, PRCC Outdoor Food Pantry, Ronald MacDonald House, the Chicago Night Ministry, Exodus, Bernie's Books, Kids Above All, PADS/Journeys, Maine Township Food Pantry and support to Avalon Park. We coordinate through UCC donations, relevant areas of need around the world and in our community.

**Lincoln Park Community Services** provides housing for homeless men and women as well as services to empower them to become independent members of the community. On the first Thursday of the month, team leader Luan Zoellner and dedicated members of our faith community provide hot meals to the residents of the shelter. Meals are prepared at Church on that Thursday and driven down in the early afternoon. Sue D., Lorel B., Rich R., Susan G., Jim D., and Kathy E. are regular supporters, we are grateful to Patrice C. for delivering the meal to Lincoln Park.

**Loving Lunches (LL)** is a non-profit organization located in Des Plaines that prepares 320 bagged lunches every week for those suffering from food insecurity. Since 2022 PRCC has committed to supporting Loving Lunches by sponsoring one meal a month, which is scheduled for the second Sunday each month during coffee hour. This wonderful outreach opportunity has engaged more than 120 people, volunteering 500+ hours, and making close to 2000 lunches each year. The impact of this ministry is great; not only feeding its recipients, but the hearts of PRCC volunteers and ministries serving like Sunday School, Youth Group, and Kindred Spirits; all of which have supported the monthly packing days by purchasing needed supplies, making kindness cards and assembling lunches. All these donations of time, talent and treasure are greatly appreciated and make a real difference in the lives of those in need of a meal. And, thank you to Paula Mack and Laura Lapp for leading this effort and leading Marylynn Collentine and Dave Kapolnek as they step up in leadership roles.

**Sunday Night Suppers** are coordinated through the Park Ridge Ministerial Association and offered to anyone from the surrounding area in need of a healthy, hot meal. Local churches and organizations volunteer to prepare and serve meals for approximately 50-60 guests. PRCC provided and served a meal three times this year. Led by Cheryl DeYoung and Luan Zoellner, PRCC volunteers prepared, cooked and served meals on our 3 assigned dates as well as coordinating an Easter Supper. Meals are prepared in the PRCC kitchen usually by 4-5 people, transported to Park Ridge Methodist Church, the current host location, and served to guests by 12 volunteers. Servers are also responsible for setup and cleanup at the Church. Anyone over the age of 13 may help, and we had several families and groups that volunteered this year. Gratefully, we recognize regular volunteers, Tom and Cindy K. and Sarah H.

We provided funds to assist in the stocking of the **PRCC Community Food Pantry** located on the lawn near the Butler Place entrance. We are grateful for the non-perishable food donations that continue to come in to replenish this pantry and to support **Maine Township Food Pantry**. We have successfully stocked both pantries by collecting food during worship on the first Sunday each month. A local Brownie troop has continued to help supply the Butler Place pantry.

# Christian Outreach Committee Report



After a successful 2025 project led by George VanGeem, we repeated the Super Bowl food drive challenge, **“100 yards of Food”**. It was a success in the fight against hunger as a heartwarming and generous response by our congregation helped many Maine Township families.

Sue Greenwood and George VanGeem connected closely to the evolving needs at the MTFP; we provided empty egg cartons and grocery sacks along with specific food needs. Our collection of egg cartons is well received, we may add on paper or plastic grocery bags to help with pantry needs- however, they no longer need egg cartons- thank you for your thoughtfulness.

The **Ronald McDonald House** at Advocate Lutheran General Hospital is a 2nd year project for our Committee. It supports families while their children are being treated in the hospital, and our budget supports a meal three times per year. The catered lunch is provided by our team, delivered, set up and served to families allowing them to eat together without the stress or expense of eating out. Kathy Erlandson coordinates this ongoing service.

The **Exodus World Service** mission is to mobilize the Christian community to support refugees. PRCC continues to work with Exodus flexibly as its needs continually change. Volunteers continually respond with household needs, time and manpower, at times to set up or sustain apartments for refugees and create lasting friendships in New Neighbor programs, a system to regularly connect with newly arrived families.

**Exodus World Service** Starting Nov 2026 up to 500 Exodus families were affected by the elimination of SNAP. Exodus sponsored a Winter Boot Boutique event Nov 22nd to “shop” for needed winter gear.

The Outreach Committee participated by supplying \$490 to the purchase of 10 pairs of boots and the Congregation added 4 more pairs, socks, hats, and gloves.

During the last week in January, we hosted a gallery of **Exodus** refugee photos in Jordan Hall for viewing and a culminating event on Jan. 31st, *Service, Sweets and Stories*. We welcomed 42 guests from PRCC and the community to enjoy Jody May, Exodus staff member, as she brought the photos to life, sharing refugee’s life stories and the powerful connections made with volunteers.

On April 16, 2026, a large group represented PRCC at the **Exodus Celebration Event** at Drury Lane in Oakbrook to learn more and support the important work the organization is doing. Paula Mack and Laura Lapp remain our dedicated leaders to outreach efforts.

**Kids Above All**, a DesPlaines organization, works to provide opportunities for youth to realize their full potential. In September, our **Rally Sunday** on Sept 7th Back to School drive culminated in a delivery of 4 wagons full of supplies and a \$500 donation from our Outreach funds for headphones and specific calculators.

**The Night Ministry** is a clothing rescue organization providing those in need with cold weather gear. To help in this effort, we held waterproof insulated boots and a warm accessory drive. The Erlandsons and Collentines organized and made deliveries of 22 pairs of boots and other essentials in December and January.

**Holiday Giving Tree-** Over the Christmas holiday, we partnered with the **Avalon Park Community** to provide gifts for kids. Over 100 gift tags were hung on our Outreach Christmas tree professionally decorated by Jim Davis. An outpouring of gifts appeared, culminating with delivery just in time for Christmas. Roosevelt Girl Scout troop donated at least 25 gifts. Thank you to Pastor Mollie for her work organizing this amazing effort and to the many congregants who delivered the gifts, creating a heartwarming holiday impact for our Avalon Park families.

We partnered with **JOURNEYS the Road Home**, a Palatine organization which provides both shelter and social services to the homeless and at-risk, serving nearly 900 clients the past year. From February thru April we collected 22 tents to be distributed by Journeys for Spring/Summer shelter needs. In January we collected needed toiletries along with soapsacks crafted by The Knitting Knights. We are grateful for team leaders Marylynn Collentine and Laura Lapp who coordinate our efforts with this local charity.

**Bernie's Books** was a new initiative, led by Tricia Williams and Morgan Tone, director of Children's Ministries. Bernie's Book Banks strive to help children read their way to a better life by providing high quality used books. Throughout February we collected 4 large bins and a group of volunteers visited the Libertyville book bank in April to help prepare books for distribution.

#### **Other PRCC Outreach Activities**

Cindy Klimmeck's **Community Karma Yoga** program raises funds through yogi donations, distributed to recipients chosen by participants with 15% of the money designated for PRCC. Yogis meet Monday evenings at 7pm in the Great Hall. A generous \$1700 donation to Outreach funding was made in Fall 2024.

Our Christian Outreach Committee contributed \$1000 toward the **2025 UCC Great Hour of Sharing**, and provided resources and information to congregants wishing to participate.

We donated \$1000 to **Global H.O.P.E.** through UCC to create robust structures of welcome for the resettlement of refugees and the protection of asylum seekers within the United States while advocating for and responding to the needs of the displaced globally.

Due to the devastation of natural disasters, our church also stepped up and donated \$2,255 to hurricane relief and \$100 for California wildfires relief and Hawaiian flood relief.

We also supported **Sarah's Circle** with \$300, a Chicago program whose primary goal is to end homelessness for women in Chicago. Tricia Williams provides on-going information on fundraising opportunities and needs. We are proud of Tricia and her 2026 Sarah's Walk team, having had the most support.

It is truly inspiring and rewarding to work alongside the energetic and passionate members of this team. We look forward to expanding our membership and outreach efforts in the coming year. We welcome all volunteers to join us in sharing God's love and grace. Our meetings are open to all, typically scheduled the first Thursday of each month at 6pm in the Church Parlor.

Respectfully submitted,

*Jamie Knoblauch and Rich Roecker*

Co-Chairs of Christian Outreach

# CROP Walk Report



Park Ridge Ministerial Association's CROP Walk – is an annual event in cooperation with the Park Ridge Ministerial Association and Church World Service to raise awareness and support of those throughout the world facing hunger. Once again, our team was named The Bill Zoellner Memorial Crop Walk Team from Park Ridge Community Church. We joined other Park Ridge churches as we walked from Our Lady of Ransom for our Walk. PRCC had 49 walkers and 2 volunteers; we raised \$10,442.55. As a community we had 200 walkers and volunteers raising \$33,361.50. Over \$8,000 was contributed to the Maine Township Food Pantry from the Walk. Sandy Bowen helped to organize and inspire PRCC efforts for this local project with global reach.

Respectfully submitted,

*Sandy Bowen*

Crop Walk Coordinator

# Deacon Report



This year the Deacons were busy working behind the scenes to help the pastoral staff and the congregation with its many activities and projects. The first Sunday of each month the Deacons prepare and serve Communion at both services by Intinction and Serving in the Pews. The Deacons happily assist with Baptisms and many serve on additional committees, teams, and service projects. Rally Day had beautiful weather for a church picnic of grilled hot dogs including gluten-free options and side dishes. In December the sanctuary was decorated in festive style for the holidays and then returned to normal in January. Deacons hosted two coffee hours this year and unofficially helped with many others. The Deacons hosted the Confirmands and their families to breakfast on Confirmation morning. We thank our retiring deacons who have worked steadily to serve our church family over the years. We welcome the newly appointed Deacons to the group and look forward to serving with you.

Respectfully submitted,

*Siri Nelson & Kathy Logan*

Deacon Co-Chairs

# Faith Development Committee Report



Just Love served as our theme for the past year. It reveals the Gospel teaching of Jesus as simplicity while provoking deep challenge to faithful living in our community and world.

We are all, each one of us, theologians as we strive to follow the lessons of Jesus in a hurting world. Every time we wonder about God and our own participation as disciples, we are doing theology.

The seasonal themes are developed by the staff at retreat days of vision and prayer. However, they are really the integration of the countless relationships and faithful pursuits of the entire congregation. As staff gather, they bring within them all the conversations, prayers, insights, frustrations, hurts, sincerity of hopes, wisdom, questions, misunderstandings, and wonder of God that stirs the hearts and minds of the congregation.

The Faith Development Committee has worked this year to offer opportunities to spiritually feed the theologians of our congregation... various age levels and interest areas.

We began to meet as a larger group combining Children's Ministry Team, Youth Ministry Team, and Adult Education Team rather than seek individuals to represent those teams. This allowed a livelier dynamic of brainstorming "can do" ideas and a better sense of collaboration for implementation. Together we considered:

- What are our educational and spiritual goals?
- Name differing ways of learning – to offer pathways for a diverse congregation
- How can we accomplish these?
- Can we cast a wider net – to the other side of the boat? Who may benefit?
- Are there ways to collaborate?

We believe and are open to fresh ideas, expansion of inclusion, and ever-growing love. We felt the ways that it continues our commitment to intergenerational ministries and the "hidden gems" of our engagements with one another, in our communities beyond church.

This year we also invited guest moments to hear more from groups not on this chain. We appreciated Sarah McCarty speaking about the Social Justice Team activities and Jaime Knoblauch sharing about mission through Circle 10. These are brief and yet so meaningful as we strive to integrate Just Love throughout our intentions and faithfulness.

Lastly, so many thanks to the people who have kept the physical structure of our church in such good condition! Sometimes when we say the "Church" we do mean the building.

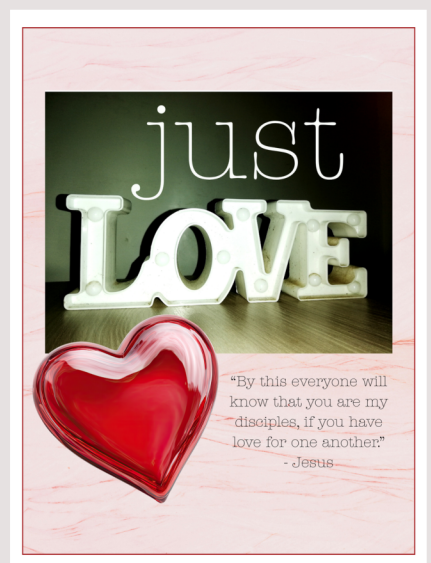
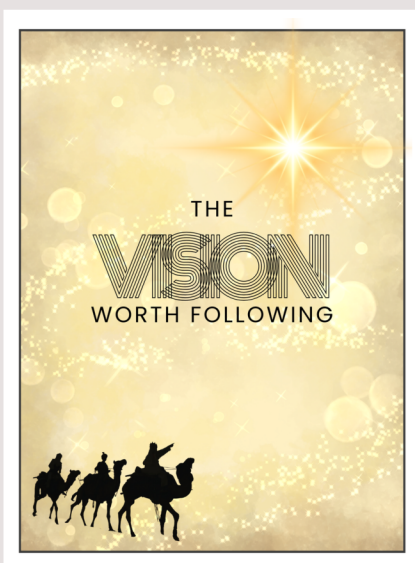
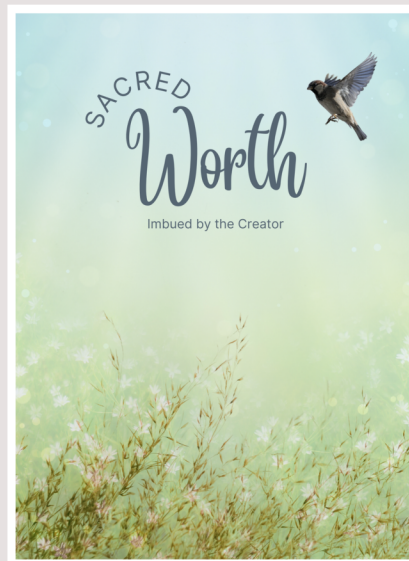
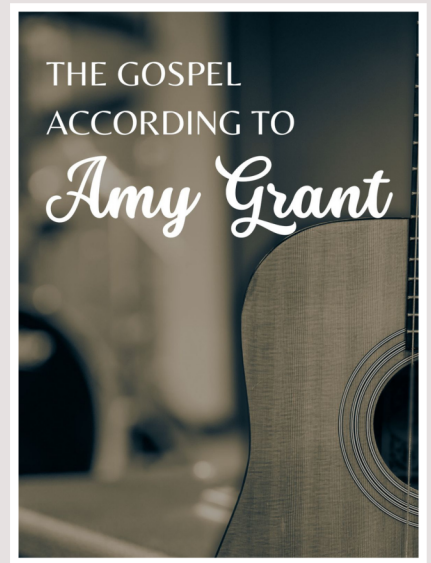
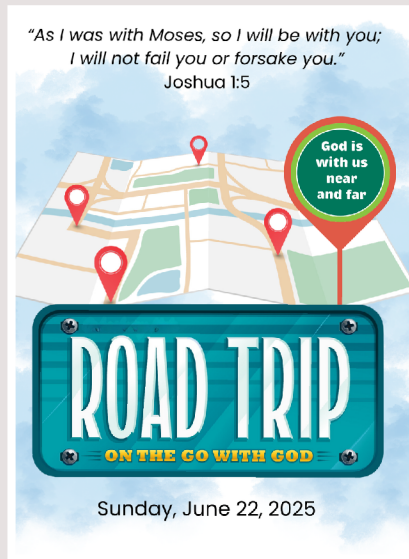
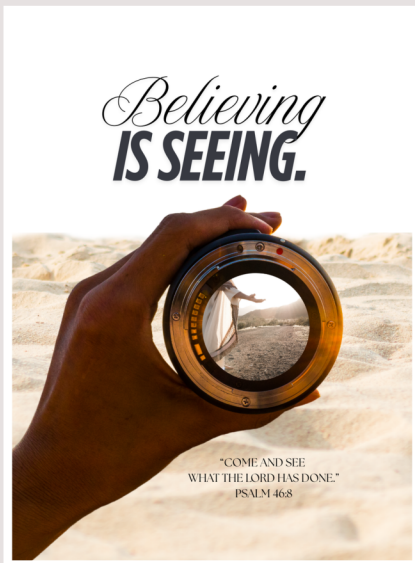
Our Committee strives to be strong a Spiritual foundation. For the "the Church" is also understood as the Body of Christ in the world. We want to offer God's light and love.

Faithfully submitted,

*Sue Laurie*

Chair of Faith Development Committee

# Reflecting on our sermon series...



# Fellowship Committee Report



The Fellowship Committee continues to uphold our beloved traditions.

Last August, we had a group of over 80 people come and enjoy a game at the Ballpark to watch the Chicago Dogs in Rosemont. Because of the huge turnout and success, we will repeat this event this coming summer.

In September, we participated in the Ministry Fair with a display of all the events we had planned for the year.

In October, we hosted a Square Dance with live musicians, and everyone had a great evening along with an aerobic workout. Another fun event to be repeated down the road.

A fun crowd gathered at Harp & Fiddle, where our very own Mark Holihan and Wall of Sound performed for a fundraiser.

The traditional Consecration Sunday Luncheon was a huge success. We continue to support our beloved Sunrise Grill and partnered with Creation Care to use real dishes and flatware, reducing waste.

In February, we hosted a Movie and Popcorn Night in the Parlor. Families gathered to enjoy the movie Rio, a film that mirrored our Carnival themed fundraiser later that month.

Looking ahead, in August we will have a Family Day at Chicago Dogs Park in Rosemont.

On September 19th, we are excited to host a Halfway to St. Paddy's Day Party with Mark Holihan's Irish Band, Mulligan Stew along with special guests!

We are always moved by the number of people who arrive early and stay late to help clean up. It is truly the work of the Holy Spirit, bringing us together in service and community. By continuing to host both small and large gatherings, we are reminded that happiness often lies in appreciating the simple joys in life.

Respectfully submitted,

*Mark Holihan & Fred Siebert*

Chair of Fellowship Committee

# Medical Lending Closet Report



This Ministry has been in existence since 1992 when Ann Schwartz had the idea to provide medical equipment to those in need at no charge, no matter where they lived. After 34 years we're still providing that care to whomever walks in our door.

In 2025 we provided 1,859 items of medical equipment to 633 individuals. We also received \$2,040 in monetary donations and 336 pieces of equipment. We, in turn, were able to donate our excess equipment to Devices 4 The Disabled and the Park Ridge Senior Center. We are such a visible Ministry to Park Ridge and the wider community.

We continue to serve the community four mornings each week. This is possible only because of our dedicated team of volunteers: Dot Bourgeois, Sandy Bowen, Marc Erlandson, Paula Mack, Karen Nelson, Char Neumann, Katie Reboletti, Rich Roecker, Barbara Scharringhausen and Tricia Williams. This entire team has the ability to handle each patron in a caring fashion, making sure they each have what they need to aid in their recovery. Bruce Nelson and John Sasser also volunteer their services to repair equipment as needed. We are so sorry to be saying goodbye to Rich in June as he is relocating. He will be missed. This spring we "teamed up" with the Knitting Knights and began handing out hand-made hearts with an inspiring message along with the medical equipment needed.

Not only does the Medical Loan Closet serve Park Ridge and the Community at large, it provides exposure to Park Ridge Community Church and the ministries provided. All this is done by a team of volunteers and is totally funded by donations.

Respectfully submitted,

*Barbara Scharringhausen, Sandy Bowen, & Karen Nelson*

Coordinators of Medical Lending Closet

# Memorial Gifts Report



The task of the Memorial Gifts Team is to select projects and items that will honor the beloved Saints in whose names monetary gifts have been given and bless the ministries and function of PRCC. Protocol requires that proposals recommended by the team need final approval by the Executive Committee before proceeding.

This year, a new glass baptismal font was crafted and will soon be displayed along with a custom wooden base that has been ordered. There is a plan in place to install a chair lift to the Sunday School wing this summer, making the area accessible to all. We are working with the city of Park Ridge on the design/installation of a PRCC sign to be located at the corner of Prospect and Crescent, serving to better identify our property. We will also be updating the card tables and round banquet tables to replace some of the older tables in Jordan Hall.

Currently, we are considering projects and proposals which include adding items that enhance our worship space. A proposal to spruce up our library is being developed. We are always open to considering ventures that coordinate with the Trustees' plans.

We have been enriched by the lives of our Saints who chose to bless PRCC, not only while they are alive but also after death. Our discussions are guided by our desire to honor them.

We are grateful for the support and input of team members: Pastor Carol Hill, Marilyn Collentine, Dave Figgins and Jim Pantazi.

Respectfully submitted,

*Sandy Bowen and Kathy Erlandson*

Chair of Memorial Gifts Committee

# Music Ministry Report



The PRCC Music Ministry is committed to providing the highest quality music for the glory of God. Varied & diverse repertoire is of the utmost importance to the Music Ministry as we strive to meet the needs of our ever growing and diverse congregation. Everyone is welcome to join us!

The Music Ministry of the Park Ridge Community Church provides liturgical music to enrich our worship services and participates in special musical events as an outreach to the community. Various music groups include Chancel Choir, Angeli Choir, Bells on High, Youth Choir and Sunday School Music. Additionally, an important part of our work is inviting guest artists, ensembles and directors to present meaningful music as part of worship and to promote fellowship building experiences. Our 8:30 am service features Angie and Andrew Weber playing guitar, mandolin and singing folk-style music. At the 10 am service we enjoy meaningful worship music of the Chancel Choir, organ, piano and other classical music instruments and ensembles.

Our hand bell program is possible because of the dedicated leadership of Sandra Bowen, along with the faithful members of the group. The Bells on High play regularly in worship services, approximately once a month.

This year we celebrated the long tenure of Choir President Bill Scharringhausen for his 15 years of service! WE are grateful to you Bill! And we welcome with open arms newly appointed Choir President Katie Reboletti.

We remain so blessed with our amazing Chancel Choir soloists: Angie Weber, soprano, Sarah Hibbard, soprano, Theresa Egan, soprano, Gisella Milla, soprano, Mel Budreck, soprano, Meg Thomas-Cary, alto, Alex Makkawy, tenor, Cliff Gabor, tenor, Lorenzo Formosa, baritone, Andrew Weber, baritone, Alex Honzen, bass and Lyle Nicholson, bass. Their valuable assistance in leading the Chancel Choir at the 10 am worship service each week is extremely important and much appreciated.

In 2007, the Chancel Choir started a program that honors Chancel Choir Members of the Year. Two chancel choir members are chosen each year by the Director of Music Ministries. The 2024-25 recipients were **Sara Born, alto** and **Dave Kapolnek, bass** and the 2025-26 recipients are **Ann Siena, alto** and **Justin McCarty, tenor** for their amazing work that went above and beyond expectations. A plaque is found in the main hallway, next to the door that leads to the organ.

Guest artists and directors have been invited to participate in our program as well, to add to our scope and add meaningful moments to our worship. We've invited the Wehman band, the Joe Mullins Radio Ramblers, string quartets led by Karen Nelson, Irwin Heller, clarinet, Linda Thomas, harp, Travis Heath, trumpet, the Brass Roots Trio, John Bruce Yeh, clarinet, Brian Torosian, guitar, and many more.

## PRCC 2026 ANNUAL REPORT

Since last year's annual meeting during this program year the Music Ministry did the following:

**June** - Angie & Andrew Weber led music for VBS and the Wall of Sound provided special folk music for Father's Day.

**July/August** - Music at outdoor and indoor worship services continued including Sasha, Angie, Andrew, the string quartet and various other instrumental and vocal soloists.

**September** - Rally Day included music by the Wehman Band! All Choirs and bell groups started rehearsals again, including Youth Choir, which meets Wednesdays at 3:30 pm, Bells on High at 6:30 pm on Thursdays, Chancel Choir which meets Thursdays at 7:30 pm. All are welcome! A special word of thanks to Sue Douglass and Jane Kenas-Heller for accompanying them, as well as Meg Thomas-Cary for serving as assistant Youth Choir director. A small, but mighty group of dedicated singers!

**October** - It was a joy to welcome Joe Mullins & the Radio Ramblers as well as the Take Note Quartet to worship with us and to hear their musical offerings!

**November** - At the Annual Service of Remembrance, the Bells on High offered their selections that evening as well as the Youth Choir. Additionally, members of the choir sang in the Community wide Ecumenical Thanksgiving worship. Also our folk ensemble the Wall of Sound played and sang at the Harp & Fiddle for their annual fundraiser.

**December** - The Chancel Choir presented excerpts from various larger works focused on the theme of "How Does a Weary World Rejoice?" The Christmas Pageant, with the kids, was OUTSTANDING and included older male voices singing the parts of the three Magi singing in harmony. We had a special extra performance of the pageant and both the Chancel Choir and Youth Choir sang concerts for the Park Ridge Community Stroll and that was great. Advent brought music from all choir and bell groups as well as special guest artists in guitar, string quartet, trumpet and more!

**January & February** -The Chancel Choir sang each Sunday, and we featured our string quartet once a month.

**March** - Palm Sunday included our Youth Choir, Sunday School singers and Chancel Choir and Bells on High.

**April** - The Good Friday Cantata was John Rutter's Requiem and the soloist was Sarah Hibbard, soprano and featured the Chancel Choir and string quartet. Easter Sunday we welcome the Brass Roots Trio. Jazz Sunday, now in its 33rd year, was held on Sunday April 12th and featured the Wehman Band and was fantastic!

*Coming up: The Chancel Choir will travel to Italy on Choir Tour! There are 78 people signed up to take part in the Tuscany International Choral Festival with choirs from around the world. More info to come!*

Respectfully submitted,

*Sasha Gerritson*

Director of Music Ministries

# Nominating Committee Report



Many thanks to the Saints who serve on the Nominating Committee: Grace Curtis, Sue Douglass, Mark Holihan, Kyrie Nelson, Tim Lapp, Dave Swanson, Jennifer Wang, Sara Born, Fred Siebert, and Pastor Carol.

The Nominating Committee always begins our work in collaboration with the Chair and Vice Chair, inviting the members of the Board of Directors to be in conversation with us about openings in their committees and noting if any existing persons are concluding their terms (Sometimes due to personal circumstances, a person may step out of a role before their term is complete). Committee and Team members do not currently have term limits, but our elected officers and chair positions do. When we have a clear list of openings, we brainstorm individuals who are newer members, those who haven't been involved in leadership capacities, and those who seem to need a new role. The Nominating Committee prayerfully considers the needs of our ministry areas in conversation with the Church Leadership, and we begin making phone calls. Sometimes an individual isn't interested in a particular role or serving in an official capacity. Other phone conversations are simply informational about the variety of ministries in our church. Through explanations of the ministry areas, the meeting regularity, expectations, etc. our committee and the individual chat about where God might be calling them. The Nominating Committee members bring back reports on their conversations, and one by one, the empty slots are filled with names and faces who have said they would be willing to serve.

It is with humility and joy that every year in April we offer slate of officers and committees, where faithful folks throughout our congregation have agreed to serve. We give thanks for all the ways so many members of this congregation step up and give of their time, expertise, energy, and prayers in leading this congregation! Thank you for saying "Yes!"

Respectfully submitted,

*Tim Lapp*

Chair of Nominating Committee

*Kyrie Nelson*

Vice Chair of Nominating Committee

# 2026 Leadership of PRCC



Blue text indicates new nominee as of 2026 Annual Meeting; Green text indicates the beginning of a second term.

**BOLD Text indicates an office elected at the Annual Meeting.**

BOARD OF DIRECTORS: (\* indicates member of Executive Committee)

Ministers: Rev. Carol Hill\* and Rev. Mollie Foster

**Chair of Congregation:** Colleen Moriarty\*

**Vice-Chair:** Scott Hollingsworth\*

**Clerk:** Justin McCarty\*

**Treasurer:** Mary Biardo\*

**Chair of Trustees:** Chris Chandler\*

**Chairs of Welcoming and Membership:** Susie Hollingsworth & Kate Joyce

**Christian Education/Faith Development Chair:** Julie Smith

**Co-Chairs of Fellowship (Social) Committee:** Mark Holihan & Fred Siebert

**Chairs of Staff Parish Relations Committee:** Ryan McGuffey\*

**Chair of Worship Committee:** Rachel Lapp

**Chair of Christian Outreach:** Jamie Knoblauch & Kathy Berry

**At-Large Board of Director:** Keith Reboletti

**At-Large Board of Director:** Liz Swanson

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**Co-Chairs of Deacons:** Siri Nelson and Blaire Sullivan

**Receipts Treasurer:** Laura Lapp

**Church Attorney:** Paul Hammond

**UCC Representative:** Meg Ulery

**Endowment Fund Manager:** Tim Lapp

**Contingency Fund Manager:** Siobhan Hunter

**Capital Replacement Fund Manager:** Eugene Jarvis

**Chair of Finance:** Vice Chair of the Congregation - Scott Hollingsworth

**Chair of Nominating Committee:** Tim Lapp

**Chair of Senior Contact:** Julie Bruno

**Co-Chairs of Memorial Gifts:** Sandy Bowen and Kathy Erlandson

**Chair of Ushers:** Tim Lapp

**Chair of Arts & Decor Team:** Sally Mauery

**Co-Chairs of Children's Ministry Team:** Jason Hinton and Sheila Blackburn

**Chair of Youth Team:** Abbey Bernardo & Candace McGuffey

**Co-Chairs of Social Justice Team:** Rick Graham

**Co-Chairs of Creation Care Team:** Jenny Sanderson

**Trustees:** Bill Barsanti, Dick Collentine, Bruce Nelson, Sharon Kemerer, Rich Sivertsen, Chris Chandler, Dave Figgins, Dave Kapolnek, Matt Sullivan

**Deacons:** Gretchen Kapolnek, Grace Curtis, Tim Anderson, Becca Lapp

**DEACONS** (\* denotes completing a second term)

Class of 2027	Class of 2028	Class of 2029
Adrian Hill*	Jennifer Wang*	<b>Gretchen Kapolnek*</b>
Siri Nelson*	Michael Proue*	<b>Grace Curtis*</b>
Julie Hanson	Kyrie Nelson*	<b>Tim Anderson</b>
Magda Zweifel	Megan Hinton	<b>Becca Lapp</b>
Robert Zweifel	Blaire Sullivan	
Mark Holihan	Kristin Krizman	
Dave Figgins	Jordan Pringle	
Marc Erlandson	Angie Pappasavas	
John Weber	Paul Hammond	
	Nadya Zimmerman	
	Stephanie Laginess	

**TRUSTEES** (\* denotes completing of a second term)

Class of 2027	Class of 2028	Class of 2029
Sharon Kemerer*	Bruce Nelson*	<b>Dave Figgins*</b>
Chris Chandler*	Bill Barsanti*	<b>Dave Kapolnek</b>
Rich Sivertsen*	Dick Collentine*	<b>Matt Sullivan</b>

**NOMINATING COMMITTEE** (\* denotes completing of a second term)

Chair: Tim Lapp

Class of 2027	Class of 2028
Mark Holihan*	<b>Fred Siebert*</b>
Grace Curtis*	<b>Sara Born*</b>
Tim Lapp*	<b>Shelley O'Brien</b>
Jennifer Wang*	<b>Lois Zitoli</b>
	<b>Gretchen Kapolnek</b>

**STAFF PARISH RELATIONS COMMITTEE** (\* denotes completing of a second term)

Chair: Ryan McGuffey

Class of 2027	Class of 2028	Class of 2029
Kathy Erlandson	Bob Mack	<b>Dave Swanson*</b>
	Laurie McClenaghan	<b>Ryan McGuffey*</b>
	Mark Holihan*	<b>Bill Peterson</b>
		<b>Katelyn Pringle</b>
		<b>Kathy Chandler</b>

## PRCC 2026 ANNUAL REPORT

*The following does not require a congregational vote, and is provided for informational purposes only. Per PRCC by-laws, the Minister(s), Chair, and Vice-Chair of the Congregation shall be members ex-officio of all regular and special committees.*

### **Adult Ministry Team/Lifelong Learning Team** Chair: Sue Laurie

Jackie Tilles                      Pastor Carol Hill  
Wayne Ewald                      Diane McCartney

### **Arts & Decor Team** Chair: [Sally Mauery \('25\)](#)

Marylynn Collentine ('21)  
Meg Ulery ('23)

### **Christian Outreach Committee** Chair: Jamie Knoblauch ('23) & Kathy Berry ('26)

Paula Mack	Marylynn Collentine	Michael Proue ('23)	Kathy Berry
Luan Zoellner	Cindy Klimmeck	Dave Kapolnek ('23)	Jay Crowley
Cheryll DeYoung	Rich Roecker ('23)	Tricia Williams ('23)	Sharon Solomon
Jamie Knoblauch ('22)	Laura Lapp	Kathy Erlandson	George Van Geem ('24)

### **Children's Ministry Team** Co-Chairs: [Jason Hinton \('24\)](#) and [Sheila Blackburn \('26\)](#)

Morgan Tone	Sheila Blackburn
Sue Laurie	Ann Swindell
Luan Zoellner	Rev. Mollie Foster

### **Church Use Taskforce:**

Chair of Congregation: Colleen Moriarty  
Senior Minister: Rev. Carol Hill  
Chair of Trustees: Chris Chandler  
Member of Welcome/Membership Committee: Sue Douglass

### **Creation Care Team:** Chairs: Jenny Sanderson

Karen Heckman	Bill Barsanti (Trustee)	Sue Laurie
Bob Mack	Tricia Williams	Megan Hinton
Karen Nelson	Susan Greenwood	

### **Faith Development Committee (Christian Education):** Chair: [Julie Smith \('26\)](#)

Siri Nelson	Michael Laginess	Jackie Tilles
Morgan Tone	Wayne Ewald	
Pastor Mollie Foster	Pastor Carol Hill	

PRCC 2026 ANNUAL REPORT

**Fellowship/Social Committee (5-8 persons):** Co-Chairs: Mark Holihan ('24) & Fred Siebert ('25)

Sarah Chacko ('19)	Rick Benedetto ('19)	Lisa Irwin ('19)	Candace McGuffey ('25)
Sarah McCarty	Michael Proue ('19)	Grace Curtis	Angie Papassavas ('25)
Nancy Fabisch	Ryan McGuffey ('19)	Sharon Coony ('25)	Keith Reboletti ('25)
		Magda Zweifel ('25)	Robert Zweifel ('25)

**Finance Committee:** Chair: Scott Hollingsworth, Vice Chair

Mary Biardo, Treasurer  
 -----, Member at large appointed by Chair  
 Laura Lapp, Receipts Treasurer  
 Sandy Bowen & Kathy Erlandson, Memorial Gifts Co-Chairs

**Fund Managers**

Contingency Fund Manager: Siobhan Hunter ('25)  
 Endowment Fund Manager: Tim Lapp ('26)  
 Capital Replacement Fund Manager: Eugene Jarvis ('21)

**Memorial Gifts Committee:** Chair: Sandy Bowen ('24) & Kathy Erlandson ('24)

Bill Barsanti, Trustee  
 Dave Figgins, Deacon  
 Marylynn Collentine, Altar Guild  
 Jim Pantazi

**Senior Contact Team:** Chairs: Julie Bruno ('23)

Sarah McCarty (staff)	Michael Proue	Karen Nelson	Amanda Hogle
Luan Zoellner	Janet Johnson	Loel Brunet	Jane McPherson
Penny Chlebicki	Kathy Erlandson	Julie Hanson	Carrie Plach
Rich Roecker			

**Social Justice Team:** Chair: Rick Graham ('24)

Katie Reboletti	Candace McGuffey	Rachel Lapp
Paula Mack	Megan Hinton	Sasha Gerritson
Luan Zoellner	Anita Rifkind	Sarah McCarty
Rev. Mollie Foster	Adrian Hill	Gregory Sarlo
Liz Swanson	Sue Laurie	

**Staff Parish Relations Committee:** Co-Chairs: Ryan McGuffey ('25)

<u>Class of 2027</u>	<u>Class of 2028</u>	<u>Class of 2029</u>
Kathy Erlandson	Mark Holihan*	Dave Swanson*
Grace Curtis*	Bob Mack	Ryan McGuffey*
	Lauri McCleneghan	Kathy Chandler
	Jaclyn Weir	Katelyn Pringle
		Bill Peterson

**Stephen Ministry:**

Leaders: Anita Rifkind, Liz Swanson, Laura Sissman, Sarah McCarty, Naomi Siebert

Kathy Erlandson	Rachel Lapp	Katie Reboletti
Becca Lapp	Sue Laurie	Anthony Salamone
Candace McGuffey	Tim Mauery	John Sasser

**Ushers:** Chair: Tim Lapp ('23)

Cindy Klimmeck	Rich Roecker	Tom Brunet	Dave Figgins
Sharon Kemerer	Laura Sissman	Lorel Brunet	Dan Smith
Bruce Nelson	Fred Siebert	Anita Rifkind	Bill Barsanti
Adrian Hill	Lonn Naudzius	Dave Kapolnek	Ace Steele
Marylynn Collentine	Scott Nelson	Gretchen Kapolnek	Haukur Gudmundsson
Michael Laginess	Dick Colletine	Barb Madro	Michael Proue
Budd Shinn	Marty McHugh	Kent Ulery ('23)	Rich Roecker
Chris Browning			

**Welcome & Membership Committee:** Co-Chairs: Susie Hollingsworth & Kate Joyce ('24)

Keith Reboletti	Julie Smith	Sarah Chacko
Tom Brunet	Lorel Brunet	Blaire Sullivan
Sara Born	Sue Douglass	

**Worship Committee:** Chair: Rachel Lapp (2023)

Ann Swindell	Siri Nelson	Sasha Gerritson (staff)
Gretchen Kapolnek	Morgan Tone	Sue Douglass
Tim Lapp	Rev. Carol Hill	Kathy Logan

**Altar Guild:** Ann Swindell, Siri Nelson, Gretchen Kapolnek

**Youth Ministry Team:** Co-Chairs: Abbey Bernardo & Candace McGuffey

Siri Nelson	Aimee Collins	Sarah Thompson
Susie Hollingsworth	Jason Hinton	Rev. Mollie Foster, Associate Minister
Sue Laurie	Andrea Goodwin	

# Pastoral Services Report



I continue to be amazed by the generosity, spiritual depth, and loving kindness of PRCC's congregation. It is a humbling experience to try to enumerate just some of the ways this community supports one another and the world beyond our doors, and this past year was no exception.

Our Stephen Ministry program continues to be a thriving and vital part of our pastoral care. We have nine active Stephen Ministers, five Stephen Leaders, and are currently training eight new folks to join our ranks in the coming months. Our current training class represents three congregations - four folks from PRCC, three from Redeemer Church in Park Ridge, and one from Glenview Community Church. These individuals will spend around 45 hours in training to become Stephen Ministers and we are grateful for their time and dedication to this ministry.

Stephen Ministry provides one-on-one care for individuals who are experiencing difficult times in their lives, with a focus on listening and prayer. We are currently engaged in caring for six individuals, but that number is always shifting as we wrap up relationships that have reached their conclusion and begin new ones.

This year we were thrilled to have Naomi Siebert join our ranks as a Stephen Leader. Stephen Leaders are responsible for guiding our twice-monthly Supervision sessions and for teaching our training, so it has been a busy year! In addition, Stephen Leaders and Ministers have also been engaged in providing monthly prayer sessions open to the entire congregation through our Faithful First Sunday series. We explored different ways to approach prayer, cultural influences and practices around our conversations with God. We also created Lenten Prayer Stations to provide the congregation with opportunities to engage with the season in a multi-sensory, reflective manner. I am grateful for the ongoing commitment of our Stephen Ministry team and the many ways they provide care for this community.

Kindred Spirits Cafe continues to meet each Tuesday and provide a warm and welcoming opportunity for fellowship. We average around thirteen participants most weeks, but have had 36 unique visitors this past year. Kindred Spirits truly embodies the PRCC ethos of Learn, Grow, Serve, and Play through presentations on topics as varied as composting, Active Isolated Stretching, and world travel recaps; visits from the Park Ridge Library and our Youth Mission Trip participants; preparation of materials for our Easter Egg Hunt and the Memorial Day Parade; and ongoing fun with monthly Bingo games, trivia, and our annual Halloween and Christmas parties. This group is open to all, so if you're free on Tuesdays from noon to 1:00 pm, join us!

Our calling to share God's love reaches far beyond the doors of the church, and ministries like the Senior Contact Committee and Medical Lending Closet continue to embody that commitment through faithful, hands-on service.

## PRCC 2026A ANNUAL REPORT

The Senior Contact Committee, chaired by Julie Bruno offers ongoing care to members who are homebound or unable to join us in person. Through regular deliveries, visits, cards, and compassionate connection, they help ensure that those who call PRCC home remain an important and cherished part of our church family.

For more than three decades, the Medical Lending Closet has been a vital and enduring expression of PRCC's care for the wider community. Guided by Barbara Scharringhausen, Sandy Bowen, and Karen Nelson, this volunteer-led ministry continues to provide needed medical equipment and support during times of illness, recovery, grief, and transition. Whether helping someone through a difficult season or celebrating renewed health, this ministry reflects the generosity and dedication of those who faithfully sustain it year after year. You can read more about both Senior Contact and the Medical Lending Closet in their individual reports, but I am grateful for the excellent leadership and dedication of both teams.

Just as we join in celebrating with one another during joyous times, we mourn together our losses and times of trial. Throughout the year our pastoral team responds to numerous prayer requests, some shared publicly and others remaining confidential. As a congregation, we share an average of 38 prayer requests each month. In November, we honored 46 individuals at our Service of Remembrance, a time of somber reflection and communal grief. On the longest night of the year, Dec. 21, we held our Blue Christmas service, providing space for reflection and difficult emotions during the Christmas season. And in February, Pastor Mollie and I joined with 13 participants in our Gathering Warmth workshop, which examined our approach to winter and grief. Our hope is that this community is one in which we can share openly and honestly and support one another through our faith during difficult times.

I am deeply grateful to be part of a community that places such a high value on caring for one another. Every program and event shared above is made possible by your generous spirits, compassionate hearts, and your readiness to show up for each other time and again. It is a true gift to witness God's love made visible through your daily acts of kindness and service, and I am thankful for the privilege of continuing this ministry alongside you.

Respectfully submitted,



Director of Pastoral Services

# Senior Contact Report



The Senior Contact Team serves as a connection between PRCC and our senior members who are not able to join us in person. Our dedicated volunteers provide outreach throughout the year with visits and cards. Each summer, the team hosts an ice cream social before one of the concerts in the park for our mobile seniors. Efforts this year have included attention to providing gifts that are eco-friendly.

The Senior Contact Team of volunteers includes Penny Chlebicki, Kathy Erlandson, Julie Hanson, Amanda Hogle, Susie Hollingsworth, Janet Johnson, Lisa Irwin, Carrie Plach, Karen Nelson, Michael Proue, Rich Roecker, and Luan Zoellner.

2025-26 activities included:

July: Ice Cream Social

September: Ministry Fair, VISIT to deliver mums

October: VISIT to deliver pumpkins decorated by Sunday School kids (a favorite for our seniors!)

November: Mailed Thanksgiving cards.

December: VISIT to deliver cookies baked by our team and others.

February: Mailed special valentine gifts made by Sunday School kids

March: VISIT to deliver daffodils with Easter cards

May: VISIT planned to deliver a gift associated with "Just Love," the ministry theme for the year and this season.

In addition, the monthly newsletters are mailed to our seniors to keep them connected to the congregation. The team also hosts coffee hour at least twice each year.

Senior Contact is successful due to the efforts of our generous team of volunteers, support and creativity from Sarah McCarty, enthusiastic support of Morgan Tone and the Sunday School kids and teachers, and the gifts and talents of Knitting Knights. Special thanks to Janet Johnson who sends birthday cards throughout the year to each of our seniors.

Respectfully submitted,

*Julie Bruno*

Chair, Senior Contact Committee

# Social Justice Team Report

**THE SOCIAL JUSTICE TEAM IS GRATEFUL TO SERVE IN A CHURCH THAT BELIEVES IN:  
*BEING A BEACON OF GOD'S GRACE IN THE COMMUNITY\* AND  
WELCOMING ALL, LOVING ALL, AND SEEKING JUSTICE FOR ALL\****

In the desire to live out this belief, we have applied our efforts to the following pursuits in 2025 and 2026:

## **CELEBRATION AND PROMOTION of Pride Month.**

Last Spring, SJT participated in the Chicago Coalition of Welcoming Churches (CCWC) Chicago Pride Parade planning meetings. Four PRCC members, two adults, and two youth, represented PRCC in the Chicago Pride Parade. Marching in 90+ degree weather last June, with approximately 30 other churches and faith-based groups from the Chicago area to demonstrate the depth of support for LGBTQ+ people in communities of faith.

In addition to providing volunteers for the second annual **Pride in Park Ridge**, we hosted a table to promote and raise awareness of CCWC.

**EDUCATION** SJT offered “Coffee Hour Info Tables” on various topics throughout the year, including Indigenous Peoples, Food Insecurity, Creation Care, Mental Health Sensitivity, and Transgender People (in relation to the Bible Study series on Transgender references and support in Scripture).

We hosted a field trip to Gichigamiin Indigenous Nations Museum in Evanston, (previously known as the Mitchell Indian Museum) to experience the works of both historical and contemporary Indigenous artists and to learn about the Museum’s recent changes in how Indigenous cultures are represented.

We also provided information regarding local opportunities for concerned citizen social action.

And we welcomed Pastor Gilbert Martinez of Des Plaines UCC to share his church’s journey of becoming a WISE congregation (See Just World Covenants below).

**EXPLORATION OF UCC JUST WORLD COVENANTS** Last Spring and Summer, SJT surveyed the Congregation to identify areas of deep concern in our church family. Weighing the results of the survey and studying the various Covenants offered through the UCC, we proposed to the Board of Directors that we move forward on two of the Covenants that have overlapping processes. The Board approved the formation of two task forces, to further explore the following UCC Just Covenants:

**WISE** is an acronym that stands for **Welcoming, Inclusive, Supportive, and Engaged**. A WISE congregation, synagogue, or organization is one that has covenanted to being WISE for mental health in their community and the wider world through their welcome, inclusion, and support of those with mental health experiences, as well as through their engagement with mental health advocacy and justice work.

A2A Stands For Accessible to All. A2A is the terminology used within the United Church to refer to congregations that have completed the Accessible to All process and thereby made the commitment to be physically and attitudinally welcoming of people with disabilities. The A2A process has for many years been defined by the A2A resource “Any Body, Everybody, Christ’s Body”; the “process” is completed by completing the check list in the back of the A2A resource and sending this checklist to UCC Disabilities Ministries.

IN THE COMING YEAR Task force leaders for the two Covenants have been identified. They are already at work forming teams. The Task Forces will work throughout the year to educate themselves and the Congregation on the purpose and pursuit of the Covenant certifications, collaborating with stakeholders in various Committees and Teams throughout the Congregation, and in the Community at large, where appropriate. We will continue the Coffee Hour Info Sessions, keep the Congregation aware of opportunities to further Justice, and plan future field trips. We are welcoming Dr. Bob Campbell, psychologist and ordained clergy, to preach on Mental health Awareness Sunday. Many thanks to the SJT members, to Pastor Carol, for her active participation and consultation, and to Elizabeth for technical support.

Respectfully submitted,

*Rick Graham & Katie Reboletti*

Rick Graham and Katie Reboletti, Co-Chairs

# Staff Parish Relations Committee Report



The purpose of the Staff Parish Relations Committee is to provide support for the staffing needs in our church - this includes revising job descriptions, posting job ads when needed, reviewing resumes, participating in annual evaluations, providing guidance on salary norms and recommendations, and helping resolve any issues that may arise between the congregation, our ministers and staff. This is holy work and held in strict confidence.

I am pleased to report that this year has not required any conflict resolution interventions. We recommended and the Executive Committee approved a slight cost of living increase for the 2026 Budget. We organized and distributed a Christmas Staff Gift at Christmas time, which was responded to with great generosity. We helped interview and hire a new nursery supervisor, however, Lisa's time among us will conclude at the end of May. We are currently scheduling the annual reviews of each staff person, and SPRC members have been involved checking in on their assigned staff member regularly.

The previous Co-Chairs, Luan and Therese, as well as SPRC committee members, handed off a complete personnel policy manual, which we reviewed with our new members before forwarding that to the Board of Directors. The Board is currently studying this for review. Our committee has worked well together. We are of one mind that the staff and ministers who serve this congregation are truly excellent, and we are blessed by their ministry week after week. We are committed to providing support, accountability, and encouragement in the years ahead.

Many thanks to those SPRC members concluding their terms this year: Jaclyn Weir, Grace Curtis and Tim Lapp. Many thanks to those who remain: Mark Holihan, Dave Swanson, Kathy Erlandson, Laurie McClenaghan, and Bob Mack. We look forward to welcoming our new committee members to this great ministry!

Respectfully submitted,

*Ryan McGuffey*

Chair of Staff Parish Relations Committee

# Trustee Report



The past year has been an extraordinary one for PRCC, marked by major capital improvements and remarkable financial support that enabled us to complete work far beyond our typical annual scope. The extensive scaffolding and the installation of new copper on the steeple made our church a visible presence in uptown Park Ridge throughout much of the year. In total, approximately \$1.6 million in capital projects were undertaken—nearly twenty times the size of a typical Trustee project year. These projects were made possible through a combination of: Insurance proceeds for the roof and steeple, a grant supporting the new fire alarm and access systems, Estate gifts and generous member donations funding air conditioning and window replacement.

## Major Accomplishments

Since our last annual report, the Trustees have overseen a wide range of improvements across the property. Highlights include:

- Installation of air conditioning throughout all buildings
- Replacement of all aging windows
- New copper flashing, steeple cladding, downspouts, and gutters
- New sanctuary roof
- Design and installation of a new fire alarm system (currently in testing)
- New intercom and access control system
- Replacement of the main water heater and refrigerator
- Installation of localized water heaters in the narthex and nursery bathrooms; repair of the Great Hall kitchen water heater
- Hand-cleaning of the bas-reliefs
- Eco-friendly weed-abatement trial around the sanctuary
- Repairs to metal railings and concrete stoops
- Numbering of all exterior doors with clear interior and exterior signage
- New screen door for the Carriage House
- Pavement repairs across the property
- Garden area “adoption” and weeding by members
- Numerous punch-list items, including leak repairs, safety treads, exit lights, and other essential maintenance

These improvements collectively enhance the safety, comfort, beauty, and long-term preservation of our church.

## Acknowledgments

The Trustees extend our deepest gratitude to the entire Greater Trustee group for their dedication and countless hours of service. This year’s Trustees were: Bill Barsanti, Chris Chandler, Dick Collentine, Dave Figgins, Sharon Kemerer, Paula Mack, Lonn Naudzius, Bruce Nelson, and Rich Sivertsen. We also recognize our Trustees Emeritus: Bill Williams and Tom Klimmeck.

We are especially grateful for the partnership and support of Church Leadership—Dan Smith, Pastor Carol, Collen Moriarty, Pastor Mollie—and for Elizabeth, whose coordination with contractors and staff was essential to the success of this year’s work.

# Trustee Report



## Looking Ahead

The coming year will serve as a period of consolidation and scheduled maintenance. With many major projects now complete, the Trustees will focus on bi-annual maintenance tasks, mid-sized projects, and the new procedures required to support our upgraded systems.

We will also support the WISE / A2A accessibility initiative, reviewing recommendations to ensure our church continues to become more welcoming and accessible to all.

The primary capital project for the upcoming year will be addressing water damage discovered inside the steeple. Originally planned for 2031, this restoration has been accelerated to 2026 to prevent further deterioration.

Given the significant changes to the 15-year capital plan resulting from this year's work, ongoing review will be essential to balance future funding needs. The Trustees will continue to assess the condition of the property and make prudent decisions regarding maintenance, repair, and deferral where appropriate.

Respectfully submitted,

*Chris Chandler*

Chair of the Board of Trustees

# Usher Report

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On any given Sunday, you can expect to be greeted by an usher when you enter Church. The usher will hand you a bulletin and answer any questions you may have. Before you enter Church, the ushers would have unlocked doors as needed, lit candles and made sure that there were bulletins available for all who wanted them. There is also mathematics involved in being an usher since the ushers count the congregants that attend each Church service. In addition, the ushers serve the Church by ushering at memorial and funeral services that take place at the Church.

The ushers are always on the look out for new people to recruit to be new ushers. Serving as an usher is a great way to get to meet new people and do an important job for the Church.

Our ushers are organized into 4 teams, each with approximately 6-7 members. Each team has a captain who is responsible for assuring adequate coverage on the Sundays for which their team is responsible. The usher teams each serve on a monthly basis, rotating responsibility every four months. Our current roster is:

USHER TEAM #1 - (JANUARY, MAY, SEPTEMBER) - Bill Barsanti (captain), Tom Brunet, Lorel Brunet, Cindy Klimmeck, Sharon Kemerer and Rich Roecker.

USHER TEAM #2 - (FEBRUARY, JUNE, OCTOBER) - Tim Lapp (captain), Adrian Hill, Laura Sissman, Bruce Nelson, Fred Siebert, Anita Rifkind and Lon Naudzius.

USHER TEAM #3 - (MARCH, JULY, NOVEMBER) - Scott Nelson (captain), Dan Smith, Michael Laginess, Haukur Gudmundsson, Bud Shinn and Kent Ulery.

USHER TEAM #4 - (APRIL, AUGUST, DECEMBER) - Barb Madro (captain), Ace Steele, Dave Figgins, Chris Browning, Dave Kapolnek, Gretchen Kapolnek and Mike Proue.

8:30 am SERVICE USHERS - John Weber

I would like to thank the ushers and commend them for a job well done. If you would like information about or would like to join our team, please contact the church office or myself.

Respectfully submitted,

*Tim Lapp*

Head Usher

# Welcome & Membership Committee Report



We are delighted to report we received 26 adult members and their families into our congregation this year.

Throughout the year, the Welcome and Membership Committee continues to focus on the following:

- Greeting visitors, newcomers, and members at PRCC worship services and events
- Developing and implementing ways to reach newcomers to the church
- Inviting people to join us in membership
- Welcoming new members through informational sessions and New Member Sundays
- Finding ways to connect new members with church events and committees

This year the committee:

- Received 24 new members into the life of PRCC. We welcomed 16 adults in October 2025 and 10 adults in April 2026. We also welcomed 10 children as preparatory members.
- Offered new member informational sessions in October 2025, January 2026, and April 2026 with invitations going out to over 40 individuals across all 3 sessions.
- Worked together to welcome visitors and helped them begin a connection with PRCC
- Followed up with visitors to answer questions and encouraged future participation within the life of the church
- Coordinated sign-ups for weekly coffee hour to be run by our church committees
- Helped design a new banner for the front of the church lawn
- Created pamphlets about PRCC that will be distributed to individuals utilizing the Medical Lending Closet

Respectfully submitted,

*Kate Joyce & Susie Hollingsworth*

Co-Chairs of Welcome and Membership Committee

# Worship Committee Report



I am so grateful for the many teams and individuals who contribute to the worship services at PRCC. We continue to welcome members and guests at the 8:30 and 10:00 am Sunday morning services. Sasha does a beautiful job bringing in guest musicians to enrich the worship experience, including world-renowned violinists to string quartets, guest organists, and phenomenal singers. Our chancel choir almost overflows the altar! We have welcomed guests to preach and the sermon series over the last year have encouraged, uplifted, challenged, and given hope to all!

Behind the scenes of worship, we have active lay participation. Thank you to the Altar Guild, who ensures the paraments, altar flowers, banner and visuals are ready. Thank you Deacons, who prepare and serve the sacraments. Thank you Ushers, who greet members and guests, hand bulletins, receive prayer requests and offerings, and problem solve in case of surprises in worship - sometimes even throwing out confetti! Thank you to the livestream team, who places cameras and runs our online broadcast. Thank you Children's Ministry Team, who coordinates Children's Messages and worship bags for children who remain in worship. Thank you Music Ministry team, who align and prepare music that elevates worship and amplifies the day's theme. Thank you to our ministers who prepare powerful messages that we need to hear. And thank you, worship attendees - as you sing, pray, pass the peace, and show up - our worship experience is shared and all are blessed!

There's room for additional folks to join our worship committee. Our committee consists of Siri Nelson , Chair of Deacons; Sasha Gerritson, Director of Music Ministry; Sue Douglass; Morgan Tone, Director of Children's Ministry; Ann Swindell, Altar Guild; Tim Lapp, Chair of Ushers; Gretchen Kapolnek; Pastor Carol; and me. If you'd like to join our team, reach out and let me know!

Respectfully submitted,

*Rachel Lapp*

Chair of Worship Committee



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[parkridgecommunitychurch.org](http://parkridgecommunitychurch.org)

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**Our Staff:**

Rev. Carol Hill, Senior Minister

Pastor Mollie Foster, Associate Minister

Sasha Gerritson, Director of Music Ministries

Morgan Tone, Director of Children's Ministries

Sarah McCarty, Director of Pastoral Services

Elizabeth Khwaja, Parish Coordinator

[pastorcarol@parkridgecommunitychurch.org](mailto:pastorcarol@parkridgecommunitychurch.org)

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[office@parkridgecommunitychurch.org](mailto:office@parkridgecommunitychurch.org)