

Messiah Church



2025 Annual Report

Annual Congregational Meeting: January 25, 2026

Our Mission:

Live in a way that our neighbors will see, mercy and truth are met in Jesus.

MESSIAH CHURCH

ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

Location: Messiah Church Sanctuary

Date: Jan 25, 2026

Time: 12:30 Meeting (following Sunday Service)

MEETING AGENDA

- I. **Call to Order**
- II. **Opening Song**
- III. **Scripture Reading**
- IV. **Opening Prayer**
- V. **Church Ministry Reports**
 - Summaries/ Questions and Answers
- VI. **Other Messiah Ministries**
 - Summaries/ Questions and Answers
- VII. **Sponsored Ministries and Missions**
 - Summaries/Questions and Answers
- VIII. **Proposed Budget for 2026**
- IX. **Vote on Proposed Budget** (quorum needed)
- X. **Vote on filling 3 open Council seats and changes to wording in the church constitution*.**

Expiring Terms: Janis Barnhart and Steve Schow

Candidates: Joe Corso, Alex Goldsmith, Mrs. Eddy Martinez, Anne Rivard (2nd term), Mike Rogers

- XI. **Closing Song**
- XII. **Adjournment**

*Proposal: The Messiah Church Council recommends that Article II, Section 1 of the Bylaws of the Messiah Constitution be amended to reflect the current composition of the Council and to clarify that the Senior Pastor serves as a non-voting member. Therefore,

The current wording: Article II, Section 1. Composition. **The Church Council shall be comprised of not less than 5 nor more than 9 members, one of whom shall be the Senior Pastor (ex officio), but most commonly 7 plus the Senior Pastor.**

Shall be changed to, The proposed wording (changes in ALL CAPS):

Article II, Section 1. Composition. The Church Council shall be comprised of not less than 5 nor more than 9 VOTING members. **WHEN POSSIBLE, AN ODD NUMBER OF VOTING MEMBERS IS PREFERRED. ADDITIONALLY, THE SENIOR PASTOR SHALL SERVE AS AN EX OFFICIO, NON-VOTING MEMBER OF THE COUNCIL**

Church Ministry Reports

2025 Pastoral Report

“THE WORLD IS A REALITY; ONLY BY A REALITY CAN IT BE OVERCOME.

“JESUS MAKES ALL THINGS NEW! THAT IS OUR LIGHT. AND WITH IT WE CAN LOOK INTO THE GREATEST DEPRAVITIES, INTO THE DARKEST PLACES OF HUMANITY, AND STILL HAVE CONFIDENCE IN THE GOD WHO MAKES ALL THINGS NEW IN HEAVEN AND ON EARTH. WE ARE NOT CALLED TO ESTABLISH NEW HELLS, BUT TO DECLARE WAR ON SIN AND DEATH IN THE STRENGTH OF GOD, WHO IS LOVE.”

- **Now Is Eternity: *Comfort and Wisdom for Difficult Hours***
By Christoph Friedrich Blumhardt & Johann Christoph Blumhardt

This has been a great year! Much has happened in our church body. We added members; celebrated births and mourned deaths; seen sickness and healing; experienced spiritual growth especially in the realm of compassion and hospitality; exhibited faithfulness in ministry and love; and fallen deeper in love with Jesus. God keeps showing how good he is. We keep proving we need him, now as much as ever. I am grateful that I get to be your pastor. Living the life of the Spirit along with you is the richest life I can imagine. I pray we continue to “spur each other on to love and good works” in 2026.

MESSIAH YOUTH GROUP

Eddie and Eddy Martinez began a Youth Group for 7th-12th graders. We are so thankful for their leadership and desire to minister to the young people in our community and look forward to it becoming more established in the New Year.

ASFP PARTNERSHIP

We continue to partner with All Saints Food Pantry to provide groceries for anyone in need. Bill Zeigler continues supervise Messiah's pantry and to gather food from the local distribution centers. This partnership with the faithful long-term volunteers from ASFP continues to grow in love as our community ministers alongside theirs to express God's love towards all who enter our space.

HOMELESS OUTREACH

Our team of regulars has grown this year. Rashid Shakhmayev and his team (Steve, Bob, and Jim) from Port Huron drive to Detroit every Tuesday, bringing hot dogs, chips, oatmeal pies, and the love of Jesus to share with our friends on the street. Brad Bauer and Spencer Powell from Wonderful Counselor, have joined Steve Schow, Kim Jones, Delilah and Pastor Jeff as we engage the dark forces of hopelessness with the freedom and light of the Gospel of Jesus. Our group also partners with the medical ministry of Stanley Stinson and Street Outreach Teams, who are a huge blessing to those living on the margins of our society. In the coming year I hope to see this ministry continue to grow as we strive to find more ways for our congregation to be able to stand in the Judgment that Jesus describes in Matthew 25:

³¹ “The son of man will come in all his glory. All the angels will come with him. Then he will sit on his throne in the glory of heaven. ³² All the nations will be gathered in front of him. He will separate the people into two groups. He will be like a shepherd who separates the sheep from the goats. ³³ He will put the sheep to his right and the goats to his left.

³⁴ “Then the king will speak to those on his right. He will say, ‘my father has blessed you. Come and take what is yours. It is the kingdom prepared for you since the world was created. ³⁵ I was hungry. And you gave me something to eat. I was thirsty. And you gave me something to drink. I was a stranger. And you invited me in. ³⁶ I needed clothes. And you gave them to me. I was sick. And you took care of me. I was in prison. And you came to visit me.’

³⁷ “Then the people who have done what is right will answer him. ‘Lord,’ they will ask, ‘When did we see you hungry and feed you? ...

⁴⁰ “The king will reply, ‘What I’m about to tell you is true. Anything you did for one of the least important of these brothers of mine, you did for me.’

⁴¹ “Then he will say to those on his left, ‘You are cursed! Go away from me into the fire that burns forever. It has been prepared for the devil and his angels. ⁴² i was hungry. But you gave me nothing to eat. I was thirsty...⁴³ I was a stranger...I needed clothes... I was sick and in prison. But you did not take care of me.’

⁴⁴ “they also will answer, ‘lord, when...?’

⁴⁵ “He will reply, ‘What I’m about to tell you is true. Anything you didn’t do for one of the least important of these, you didn’t do for me.’

⁴⁶ “Then they will go away to be punished forever. But those who have done what is right will receive eternal life.”

MENS BREAKFAST/BOOK STUDY

Every other Saturday at 9am, a portion of the Men of Messiah meet in the Parsonage to eat some bacon & eggs and fellowship together around a different book. We are currently enjoying Love Does by Bob Goff. Our next book will be The Prodigal God, by Tim Keller. We end our time with sharing and prayer. I am always encouraged by these brothers in Christ.

CELEBRATE RECOVERY

Mitch Parent, along with Jerry Greenfelder, began a weekly recovery group this year that meets on Saturday mornings at 11am. It is for all who struggle with hurts, habits and hang-ups. There has been a variety of participants, from within and outside our congregation.

WOMENS RETREAT

For the second year in a row, a group of women journeyed three hours north into the Huron National Forest to Camp Cedar Ridge for a relaxing time of being in nature and connecting with other women. Sara Hunt describes it as a “choose your own adventure” kind of weekend. You can choose your own activities - swimming, hiking, crafting, archery, hiking, horseback riding, riflery -and do as much or as little as you like. There is self-directed quiet time, and also group Bible study. And the stars are incredible!

GFAGC CHRISTMAS EXTRAVAGANZA

Gifts for All Gods Children is a Lutheran ministry that connects Christmas presents with kids whose families can use them. Grace Zeigler said “Yes!” to whomever expressed a need and over 250 kids received gifts this year! On Dec. 21 our church was full with over 200 people, including 58 children, many of whom participated in the Nativity play during the worship service. Afterwards, everyone enjoyed a delicious meal together and the kids destroyed a piñata. While the candy was being scooped up in the gym, the parents received the gift bags as well as laundry baskets filled with useful household supplies. Many, many people contributed their time and energy to make this day a joyous expression of the gracious generosity of God that we celebrate with the birth of Jesus. We look forward to exploring more of the resources offered to our community through the ministry of GFAGC in 2026.

NURSERY, BABIES!

In 2025 we had to clear out the room for nursing mothers because we have babies in our midst! The Goldsmiths and Manders had babies and there have been other infants as well. We praise God and rejoice in his goodness to these families and in the hope that these new lives have brought into our church family.

AFTER SCHOOL TUTORING PROGRAM

When New City Kids dissolved over the summer, it left a void in what was being offered to kids after school at Messiah. Therese Racklyeft, Grace Zeigler, and Alex Goldsmith desired to offer a place for kids to improve academically while being nurtured in their faith. They had an after school program on Tuesdays for approximately two months at the end of 2025. We look forward to what God will bring about in 2026 as we reevaluate and listen to the Lord’s leading in this area of ministry.

SMALL GROUP BIBLE STUDIES

There are several small groups that fellowship and study the Bible or Christian books, and invite their neighbors, and care and pray for one another. One group meets at the Rivards; one meets at the Schows; a third meets at the Barreras. I am encouraged by the ministry being done through these brothers and sisters. I pray for more home groups to spring up and grow as we continue to go deeper into the things of Jesus together.

COMMUNITY NIGHT MEALS → WEDNESDAY NIGHT GATHERING

For the first half of 2025 we had Community Night Meals every other Wednesday. This was a way to bless and fellowship with the New City Kids families as well as our unaffiliated neighbors. On the other Wednesdays we gathered together to read and reflect on “Practicing the Way” by Jon Mark Comer. The meals continued until the school year was over, and when NCK didn’t start up again in the Fall, the meals didn’t start either. I hope we are able to re-start Community Night Meals this year. In the meantime, we began gathering on Wednesdays the past few months for encouragement and spiritual growth. We are currently reading the book, “Be Not Afraid: Overcoming the Fear of Death” by Johann Christoph Blumhardt. This book fosters meaningful sharing and conversation about how being prepared to die allows us to live with joy and gives peace to those who we leave behind.

God bless you, Messiah Church family. Keep finding Jesus in unlikely places.

In Christ’s love,

Pastor Jeff

MESSIAH COUNCIL REPORT 2025

2025 was a year that saw a new season of life for some church staff members, a ministry, and services provided to our church. Both Gerard Braswell and Al Hutchenreuther experienced health issues which affected their roles. Although Gerard had to retire from his role as Custodian, he has been and still is a walking miracle and a testimony of God's healing power and help. Al's health challenges meant that he needed to step down from being the Church Treasurer, Building Ministry, and New Projects Ministry. Thank you Gerard and Al for all the years of faithful and willing service you have provided for Messiah Church and the Lord.

George Goines has stepped in for Gerard and has done an excellent job. Gerard has been sharing his knowledge about the running of the building and his many duties with George and Xander Buckingham and they have been making a wonderful document of the Custodian's job description with pictures. Thank you both! It has taken many of us pitching in together to fill the shoes of Al and all he did. We are especially thankful to Dave Racklyeft and Tom All for their help with the financial duties. We need to keep praying for a person with financial skills and a heart to serve, to become our next Church Treasurer.

We sadly said goodbye to the New City Kids ministry this fall. Due to a shortage of funding for projects they had ministry wide, they unfortunately had to close their doors at Messiah and are praying for new direction and new structuring. We have been so honored and blessed to partner with NCK these last 5 years! Our prayers are with Alex Goldsmith and his family as they look forward to serving God in their new chapter of life.

In other news, we are very happy to have found a new local lawn/snowplowing company, Hernandez Services Inc. They have been doing an excellent job. Also, we were very blessed to have the finances to finally take down the frosted Plexiglas over the stained-glass windows and replace them with a clear Plexiglas. You can now see the original beauty of the windows, and it also helps preserve them. Another wonderful addition is the new wooden privacy fence around the parking lot which was a needed safety feature. Church income was down this year due to several factors. However, Praise God since October the Lord has provided, and we are in a much better position in December. The Council looks forward to another year of Gods faithfulness to Messiah.

Steve Schow / Church Council Chair

CONGREGATIONAL BUSINESS AND FINANCES 2025

2025 was a year of progress and challenges for Messiah Church. Actual total receipts for the year met the budgeted income of \$205,000. Because of careful fiscal management and close monitoring of general fund expenditures during 2025, we were able to end the year with a small surplus.

While we continue to have many positive activities going on in the Church facilities (bible studies, food pantry, Saturday men's bible study and recovery group, hymn sings, etc.) we also are creating new opportunities for gathering and worshipping. 2025 saw the launching of the Messiah coffee house, and we will soon see progress on a new youth group. These are signs of a growing and vibrant Church, and we are thankful to have these opportunities for growth.

A major challenge that we faced in 2025 was the unfortunate end of our partnership with New City Kids. We were all sorry to see that end. In addition to the significant benefits it brought to our kids, this partnership was a source of monthly revenue from renting out the second floor of the Parsonage. We will now have to pursue new opportunities that can help replace that important source of income. In spite of that, in 2026 it is expected that our general fund reserves will be adequate to meet our financial obligations. It will continue to be necessary, however, to keep a close eye on our costs. As usual, adjustments to expenses can be made throughout the year as our financial picture becomes more clear.

During 2025 we continued to be blessed with one-time gifts to our General, Designated and Benevolence funds. These gifts allowed us to continue to meet our commitments for church operations, missions and local relief efforts.

In 2025, due to budget limitations, we were unable to make a contribution to the Capital Projects fund. This situation will continue in 2026. In spite of this, we were able to make progress on two projects that were long overdue including long-needed work on the stained-glass windows. We were also able to take care of on-going needed building maintenance, repairs and improvements.

With careful oversight, it is expected that Messiah Church will be able to meet its financial obligations in 2026. Never ending, rising costs will continue to impose limitations on our expenditures. Given that reality, however, we continue to be blessed and thank the Lord for providing the means needed to do his work.

The Finance Committee

(Alan Hutchenreuther, Tom All, Paul Newman, Dave Racklyeft and Bettie Wilkinson)

2025 TRUSTEE REPORT

TRUSTEE THOUGHTS

God Whose Giving Knows No Ending

*God, whose giving knows no ending, from your rich and endless store:
Nature's wonder, Jesus' wisdom, costly cross, grave's shattered door.
Gifted by you, we turn to you, offering up ourselves in praise;
Thankful songs shall rise forever, gracious donor, of our days.
Skills and time are ours for pressing toward the goal of Christ your Son:
All at peace in health and freedom, races joined, the Church made one.
Now direct our daily labor, lest we strive for self alone;
Born with talents, make us servants fit to answer at your throne.
Treasures too, you have entrusted, gain through powers your grace conferred;
Ours to use for home and kindred, and to spread the gospel word.
Open wide our hand in sharing, as we heed Christ's sacred call,
Healing, teaching, and reclaiming, serving You by loving all.*

We shall be forever praising God for giving us these days. Gracious donor, blessing us with one another to encourage, pray for, and sharpen one another. Hopefully, we will answer Him ahead of time by our labors, by our resources, and by our talents.

What about the bills?

What about the upkeep of a building that's over 120 years old?

What about the economic turmoil that Messiah has encountered this last calendar year?

We have been blessed by some steady hands who count the beans, supply us with a considerable amount of what we need.

Think communion cups and coffee cups.

Think table covers, rubber gloves, aluminum pans.

Think seasonal banners and weekly bulletins (and other essential paper products).

Not to mention water and electricity.

We're glad when doors are locked (or unlocked), walkways shoveled, the building warmed and lighted.

We don't think a lot about the boiler being maintained, the organ being maintained, or website maintenance, but we all contribute toward these things whether we keep them in the forefront of our minds or not.

Our generous giving is like loaves and fishes. Think and pray about what God wants from your collection of fish and bread.

This next year and beyond, with our minds focused on budget cuts, the brick and mortar issues of our aging building, and the times we are living in (and challenges yet unseen), please pray that we would steward our resources well. We have a faithful God whose giving knows no ending.

2025 ANNUAL CHILDREN'S CHURCH REPORT

The teaching of the wise is a fountain of life...

Our goal in Children's Church is always to bring the Living Word to children, not just to babysit them or keep them out of the service. We want them to be taught by teachers who love Jesus and desire to bring them to Him, and "not hinder them." Some children do not go to the class willingly, and that has meant some struggles for the teachers as they attempt to fulfill the command to "Let the children come to Me".

This year has brought some changes to Children's Church. We thank God, as every year, for faithful teachers and workers who want to impart love and knowledge to the children. Joshua Blanchard joined the teaching team. We are thankful for his commitment and his openness to teaching the children to think about big ideas. He and Julie Adams teach one Sunday. We appreciate Julie's commitment and her calm demeanor.

We saw Claire Manders step back, as she expected the birth of their first child. What a joy to have Jill Corso step up to teach in her place, along with Sharon LeDuc's thoughtful help. They bring a creative spirit to the teaching. Bonnie Schow always brings joy to the lessons, as well as well-thought-out activities. We know that Janis Barnhart, her helper and co-teacher, has been through a lot this year, so we are grateful for her continued support. Glenna Schleusner continues to be a support person and occasional teacher, and we are thankful for her. Trena Canales is my faithful partner once a month, and is also a faithful prayer partner.

We welcomed the five year olds to our class this September, and it has presented a new challenge to teachers, as they try to tailor lessons for a wide age span.

Thinking that New City Kids was continuing, we moved our class to the parsonage, but in the fall, we moved back to our upstairs classrooms. Many thanks to Magnus Hunt for helping to steam clean the carpet in the front classroom, and for all those who helped move materials to that room.

This fall, we also saw an influx of new students, some of whom are older than fifth grade, so we are praying for a teacher who is willing to work with these older children, many of whom do not have much foundation in bible teaching.

We prepared a short Christmas program for December 21, which included congregational participation. We continue to persevere in the work which the Lord has given us to do.

Respectfully submitted, Therese Racklyeft

NURSERY MINISTRY 2025

What a blessing to serve the youngest people in the congregation!

This year we added two infants to our roster, so we upgraded the baby nursery with infant toys, bassinets, and a Pack-N-Play. It is now a lovely space for babies and moms.

Our Nursery Team has been faithful to show up every Sunday and fill in for each other whenever needed. The team members often show up with snacks and books and other resources to bless the children. They also showed up and gave the nursery a thorough cleaning on Church clean-up day. These are beautiful, dedicated people.

Please pray for the children that come to the nursery. Some children we see every week, and some children are there just once in a while.

Pray also for our dedicated workers Meaghan Buckingham, Bethany Blanchard, Anne Rivard, Sara Hunt, Jill and Joe Corso, Elise Kirby, Rosie Hudson, and Steve Schow. And me, Bonnie Schow, who works to keep the whole thing running!

Bonnie Schow

WORSHIP REPORT 2025

Sing and make music from your heart to the Lord, always giving thanks to God the Father for everything in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Ephesians 5:19-20

It has been my pleasure and privilege to serve another year as Worship Director at Messiah Church.

Music remains an integral part of our worship together church. The word of God encourages us to sing praises to the Lord, and so our worship service begins and ends with music. Every week, the congregation sings four songs, selected from a variety of musical styles but all chosen with the purpose of drawing our hearts and minds closer to the Lord.

The adult choir is an important part of the musical heritage at Messiah Church and helps to draw the congregation into deeper prayer. In 2025, the choir presented two anthems a month from January through June. A special Christmas Eve Choir prepared an anthem for our Candlelight service on December 24th.

I would like to thank everyone whose time, dedication, and effort make worship possible every week, whether through planning, technical assistance, administrative tasks, and/or musical abilities, including: Xander Buckingham, Michael Carlson, Joe Corso, Mark Domm, Mary Duran, Alex Goldsmith, Heidi Goldsmith, Jasper Hunt, Sarah Hunt, Alan Hutchenreuther, Lenore Hutchenreuther, Gloria Kneller, Sharon LeDuc, Paul Neumann, Jennifer Hunt, Art Peschke, Dave Racklyeft, Mia Ruiz, Glenna Schleusener, Steve Schow, and Bettie Wilkinson.

Moving into 2026, it is my continued hope and prayer that music will remain an integral part of worship at Messiah; that the words of the songs we sing will help us to better know and understand the goodness and greatness of our God; and in doing so, love and serve Him better every day. I also pray and invite you to join me in prayer, that if the Lord has gifted anyone in the church with the call to serve His people through music, they will hear that call and follow it.

Juliegha Barsenas

Worship Director

OTHER MINISTRIES 2025

STREET TEAM/HOMELESS OUTREACH

Each Tuesday from 10:30-2:30 a group of people from Messiah heads to the streets partnering with Detroit Street Teams to bring the love of Jesus to the homeless on the streets of our community. See Pastor's Report.

HOME BIBLE STUDIES/SMALL GROUPS/BOOK STUDIES

Our Messiah family hosts a number of Bible Studies, small groups, and book studies.

Sunday- 8:30 AM The Ladies of the Loft meet in the Upper Room off of the Fellowship Hall.

Monday- 6:30 PM The Rivard's host a group at their house in Royal Oak.

Wednesday- 10:30 AM The Schow's host a group at their house in Dearborn.

Wednesday- 6:30 PM Wednesday night gathering.... Bible or book study at Messiah in the Fellowship Hall.

Thursday- 6:30 PM A group of men meet at Tino & Debby Barrera's in Westland.

Thursday- 1:00 PM A virtual Bible Study/Prayer & encouragement time for women via Zoom.

Every other Saturday- 9:00 AM Breakfast with the Boys (with a study) in Messiah's Parsonage.

COMMUNITY NIGHT DINNER/MONTHLY POTLUCK/COMMON GROUNDS COFFEE CORNER

The community night dinners have been suspended with the disbandment of the New City Kids program. But a new opportunity for food and fellowship is emerging in the form of a monthly church potluck after 3rd Sunday services. The Common Ground coffee corner continues to offer our Messiah family an opportunity to still fellowship after church each Sunday. Coffee and snacks are available in the Common Grounds corner after each service. We are thankful to Gracie Bentley for getting the coffee brewing and Jeanetta Harris Lamb for faithfully and energetically keeping the coffee corner stocked, moving, and clean. Donations of healthy snacks/finger foods are especially appreciated.

CELEBRATE RECOVERY



A safe place to share hurts, habits, and hang ups. "Celebrate Recovery is for EVERYONE! No one should have to face their pain alone. We are a grace-filled community of strugglers who courageously enter this safe and beautiful space to get honest about our pain, and the negative ways we may see ourselves, God, and others. In this process, we come to accept that some of the habits we have developed to escape our pain may have hurt us and those close to us. It is a biblically based approach to help us achieve long lasting recovery by healing our hurts, guiding us toward new healthy truths, and developing life-giving habits". Meets every Saturday from 10:45-12:00 in the parsonage. See Mitch Parent or Jerry Greenfelder for details or just show up.

MESSIAH FOOD PANTRY

Bill Zeigler and team keep the food pantry well stocked at Messiah. Jeanetta Harris Lamb works hard and does an amazing job keeping it organized. The food includes canned goods, dry goods, fresh fruits and vegetables, dairy, and meat and is a blessing to those in need. The food is available whenever the church is open, on an on-need basis, and can be delivered to those who are unable to make it to church. We are very thankful for God's provision in keeping it so well stocked.

ALL SAINTS FOOD PANTRY

All Saints Catholic Church runs a food pantry out of Messiah's Fellowship Hall on Thursdays from 11:30-1:30. They are using space at Messiah since their church was torn down. They serve around 35 families each week. They graciously donate any leftover food to Messiah's food pantry.

YOUTH GROUP

Eddie and Eddy Martinez have begun leading a much-needed youth group at Messiah. They meet Friday evenings.

PEACE GARDEN

The Peace Garden continues to be a beautiful corner of the world providing food and shelter for many pollinators and bringing a little balance to our Detroit ecosystem. This year, thanks to Joshua Blanchard, the Peace Garden got a QR code! It sends people to a list of the Peace Garden native plants and links them to a UofM website which gives details on each plant.

Winter sowing has helped us add several new plants to the garden. It is a simple way to grow native plants, and we worked this year to plan a winter sowing workshop for the beginning of 2026. News about that will be in our 2026 report! A dead hedge is a barrier constructed from cut branches. It is a way to manage gardens and provides winter shelter for pollinators. As the branches decompose, they put nutrients back into the soil. So, we gave it a try this year and used the plant stalks that were cut in the spring to create a dead hedge along the Toledo St. side of the garden.

We had our annual tea party in June. Lots of people brought snacks and many people visited. The garden always looks so lovely in June. We were blessed this summer with several donations and added a bench, decorative garden items, and bags of gravel to lay under bricks. We are still working on putting gravel under some of the bricks of the labyrinth. Hopefully that can be finished this summer.

As always, whomever would like to stop by in the spring and summer for watering or weeding is very welcome. Time spent in the garden is always a blessing. You can touch base with me if you want to before you do garden work or just stop by on your own and pull a few weeds or dump a bucket of water out of the rain barrels onto your favorite plants.
Bonnie Schow

GIFTS FOR ALL GOD'S CHILDREN

GFAGC provides generous Christmas gifts to children in need who attend sponsored churches and ministries. Messiah has been a sponsored church since 1987. GFAGC has helped us to serve and connect in deeper ways with the families in need in our congregation. Gifts and baskets of supplies were distributed to families during a Christmas dinner. Many members of the congregation contributed their time, money, and labor to make this happen including Megan & Xander Buckingham, Annette McAdoo, Jackie Nash, and Mitch Parent. Our hope and prayer is that the families who received gifts were touched by the love that the congregation poured into making their Christmas a little better.



THE CENTER COFFEE HOUSE

Free live concerts at Messiah. Music, coffee, and fellowship the 3rd Saturday every month. Doors open at 5:45 PM. Anton & Mary Beals (Duran) coordinate this.

MARANATHA MIRROR MESSAGES

Maranatha Mirror is a publication ministry that originated at Messiah Church as an outreach ministry to publish and share short messages, sermons, and books written by Richard Bieber (1927-2021), a former pastor at Messiah. Maranatha Mirror prints these messages in tract, pamphlet, and booklet formats, sends out email postings to subscribers, maintains a website, and posts messages on Facebook and Instagram. Art from Christian artists around the world is also featured with each posting/publication. The digital ministry continues to grow, averaging about 600 downloads and 16,000 views per week. Print demand is shrinking and is mainly distributed via the racks at Messiah Church and to current and former members upon request.

We thank Messiah Church for including us in their prayers and providing space for the print publications to be displayed and distributed. We also thank the people at Messiah who faithfully read, distribute, and/or share the messages. We appreciate your prayers for God's anointing and the continued spread of these beautiful, spiritually moving messages. Valerie and Eddie Pettovello



website mmirror.net



Facebook- MM



for bi-weekly posts

Sponsored Ministries and Missionary Updates

Some missionary reports have been combined and/or condensed for this report.



Unfortunately, New City Kids disbanded mid-2025. We truly appreciated the positive impact they had on this church and the community. We pray that the impact they had on the young people they lovingly nurtured reverberates through our church, Southwest Detroit, and the world for many years to come.

Joseph Ratcliff **Intern at Mack Avenue Community Church**



We are a family of four that loves to explore this beautiful world that God made! We enjoy going on adventures, big and small, and sharing our discoveries with anyone who'll listen. Finding joy in every day is at the core of our little family nucleus and we'd love for you to join us in our quest to live to the fullest while loving and honoring God, others, and ourselves.

During the month of October, I had one of the best ministry opportunities yet. The lord blessed me to preach to men who are breaking free from the clutches of addiction to alcohol and drugs. These men are in a 12 month Christian recovery and residential program called Life Challenge. The word was well received by the brothers...

CCDA

In November, our church sponsored the staff to go to a conference Christian Community Development Association (CCDA). CCDA are a network of Christian non-profit organizations that are all about being the hands and feet of Jesus, particularly in poverty-stricken neighborhoods.

874 Pingree St. Detroit MI 48202 www.thefamilyratcliff.com/ministry

MISSIONARY UPDATES

ABOUT DETROIT CRU

Cru is an international ministry committed to winning, building and sending Christ-centered multiplying disciples into the world. Founded in 1951 as Campus Crusade for Christ, we help people all over the world on high school and college campuses to connect with a mentor, discover their purpose and live that out in community. Our movement in Detroit achieves these goals through small group bible studies on campuses, large group meetings, and personal mentorship.

Janice and Terry Robinson (CRU)



Janice and Terri Robinson have been on the staff of Cru for over 40 years. For the last twenty-one years, they have been serving with Inner City Ministry of Cru (formerly Here's Life Inner City) in Detroit, Michigan. The Inner City Ministry of Cru is the urban compassionate ministry of Cru. Their mission is to serve and mobilize the church to live out God's heart for the poor so all can grow in Christ and build spiritual movements everywhere.

Boxes of Love 2025

Our Boxes of Love® Packing Party and distribution was on Saturday, November 22nd. We are thankful for Fair Haven Assembly for hosting us and for the many volunteers who helped us pack 700 boxes. These boxes were added to 308 donated boxes for which we are thankful! These 1,008 boxes were given to 53 of our church and ministry partners. So far, from the stories and reports that we have received, 568 families heard a clear presentation of the gospel, 169 people received Christ, and 283 people are actively being engaged in follow up discipleship!! It has been encouraging to our team that many of our partners are continuing that connection with the families who received a Box of Love! We would like to share a story from Pastor, Kevin Casillas at First Latin American Baptist Church.

"If I counted correctly this is our fifteenth year with Boxes of Love! This year was a year of unusual blessing by our Lord in that 12 people made a profession of faith and asked Christ to save them. We are grateful to the Lord for His work and continue to follow up with these families by phone call, letter, and church invites. We have had three families visit our church. With the 20 boxes you gave, we were able to leverage donations from others to expand them to 24 and provide additional groceries for the week with each box. Of those contacts which included needy families from our neighboring public school, a local head start program, and families we have been following up from previous activities,

22 families heard the gospel. There were many more individuals that heard the gospel. Such was the case of one of the contacts, a child recommended from the public school. Dad, mom and siblings were there to receive the box. Dad had the whole family sit down on the couch to hear the gospel presentation. The Spirit gave attentive hearts and mind. It was a Lydia moment. They seemed riveted to what was presented. At the end of the gospel plan and diagnostic questions about their state, the whole family accepted Christ as their Lord and Savior! Jason, the dad, later commented on how he wished he had done something like this before. He desires to lead his family in spiritual matters. The brother from our church who led them to Christ has now begun a follow-up Bible study with this family. Please pray for Jason and his family that they may continue and grow in the Lord and attend the church. As we say in Spanish, Mil Gracias! A thousand thanks for all that you do to make this outreach possible

J.A.M. CAMP

Sharing Jesus through athletics while modeling manhood is the overall theme for J.A.M. CAMP, a partnership with Cru Inner City and Athletes in Action®, a Cru Ministry. The week of June 22nd - June 28th was a week of incredible opportunities of seeking Jesus, athletic competition, and learning about manhood for 25 high school aged male athletes, 11 coaches/ mentors, and trainers. The Lord met us in a special way at the Athletes in Action Sports Complex in Xenia, OH. From the surveys that were filled out at the end of the camp, one of the young men indicated that he received Christ! In answer to the question, "What was the most important thing you learned during camp?", here are two of the answers: "Teamwork and accountability" and "We can call on Jesus whenever we feel low or when we are falling short."

Cru25

Cru25 was Cru's National Staff Conference in Milwaukee, WI July 12th-18th. Over 4,000 staff from across the U.S. as well as some staff from other countries were there. On July 13th and 14th, our Cru Inner City Staff met together. Terry was asked to speak on the topic of Discipleship. It was a great time in the word as he spoke from Matthew 28:18-20 (The Course), John 6:60-66 (The Concern), Luke 9:23-25 (The Challenge).

During the General Sessions, which began on the 15th, we were encouraged and challenged by many speakers including the new president of Cru, David Robbins, to continue our mission for the last 74 years of helping to fulfill the Great Commission by winning, building, and sending in the power of the Holy Spirit and to assist the body of Christ in evangelism and discipleship!

Prayer Requests

1. Please pray that our church and ministry partners will continue to connect with the families who received Boxes of Love, watering the seeds that have been planted.
2. Our next disciple Makers Training will be January 20th-March 10th, 2026. Please pray for the preparation for it and for more men to participate in the training!
3. We would like to host a Spring Break Urban Immersion Conference in March. We need housing for the week for the students. Please pray that the Lord will provide this need for us.
4. Pray that the mentors from J.A.M. Camp will be able to connect consistently with the young men to encourage them to continue seeking God and study His Word!
5. Pray that our church and ministry partners will continue to connect with the families of the children who received PowerPacks®

We are grateful for your faithful financial gifts and your prayers which make our ministry possible!

Terry and Janice Robinson; 14221 Artesian St; Detroit, MI 48223; Telephone: 313-689-1522 or 313-613-1158 Email: terry.robinson@cru.org; janice.robinson@cru.org

Voland family in Germany (ECC) Zeal for Kiel



Ministry Overview: We partner with two churches, the Free Evangelical Church of Germany in Kiel (FeG Kiel) and the International Kiel Church (IKC), as pastoral team members. Stephanie is involved at FeG Kiel in the ministries of preaching, teaching, and pastoral care. Phillip is involved at IKC, where he organizes and directs his church's small group ministry, Bible study groups, and ministry to refugees and foreigners. We seek to build bridges and strengthen relationships between refugees, Germans, and the surrounding community.

January 2026 Update (portion): ...there are light workers in every culture, time and place. People, who despite difficult circumstances, find great joy in serving others. These light workers literally illuminate the darkness in the culture and world around us. In a world often fraught with greed, fear, anxiety and hopelessness; light workers remind us to LOOK UP! Look up to Jesus-- the light of the world. We are all called to be seers, bearers and doers of light. This is a dark time of year in Germany. People walk around with long faces, heads down, longing for sunshine and warmth. And longing for more than that, too. People in Germany are longing to be connected to God, to others, and to themselves-- to be reminded of who they are and WHOSE they are. We seem to understand this intuitively as small children. But at some point, our family, culture, experiences or skepticism causes us to forget. Light workers help us to remember. To remember that we are children of light, called to live in a place of light and hope and not in darkness and despair. Together with you, we have the privilege of being light workers in Kiel. This elderly woman was absolutely the presence of Christ to the kids and I that day. On a day filled with the normal stress of family life, grocery shopping, diaper changes and holiday planning--this woman's simple yet profound actions stopped me in my tracks and reminded me of the reason we are here. It's all about Jesus and letting our light shine for this little corner of the world to see. A wise person once told me that when we moved to Germany, we wouldn't be "bringing Christ" to this country. That instead of bringing Christ to people, our task would be to bear witness the person of Christ already at work in the culture around us. And it is. In so many beautiful ways. I am grateful for the kindness of a complete stranger who encouraged me in my faith and made a profound impact on our family at Christmastime. I'm grateful to know there are good people everywhere--sharing light and love with others to make the world a better place. May God bless this woman, and each of us, as we seek to be ordinary vessels who carry the priceless treasure of Christ into the world.

With prayer and thanksgiving...

- Praise for joyful times of connecting with friends and ministry partners in December! And also for the chance to connect with family during the holidays via Zoom.
- Pray for us as we facilitate a mediation between 2 IKC church members on 1/4. Pray for healing, forgiveness and mutual understanding.
- Pray for German couple C and J as their youngest daughter moves to New Zealand in January to begin her ministry studies.
- Pray for a new opportunity for Phillip and Stephanie with ECC Merge Ministries. We are training to become coaches/facilitators for American short-term mission trips to Europe.
- Pray for the new women's group at IKC! They are discussing the female prophets, teachers and friends of Jesus! Pray for joyful gatherings and fruitful discussions.

Evangelical Covenant Church, P.O. Box 773420, Chicago, IL 60677. Please indicate "Voland mission" on your check or online gift.



Christy Patterson-Hamilton: InterVarsity

Change the university. Change the world.

For over 75 years, InterVarsity has had a vital presence on hundreds of college campuses, courageously proclaiming Jesus as Lord and Savior, engaging in discipleship around Scripture, and loving people of every ethnicity and culture.

Assistant Regional Director of Training & Development serving staff and students all across the Michigan Lower Peninsula Region.

Ministry partnership update

Greek ministry growing at MSU

"We're seeing students talk about Jesus at fraternity parties (what?!), start their own prayer meetings, find community after feeling deeply alone, break addictions, share the gospel in class presentations, get baptized, and plug into local churches. God is breathing new life into this generation". Brad, MSU-Staff

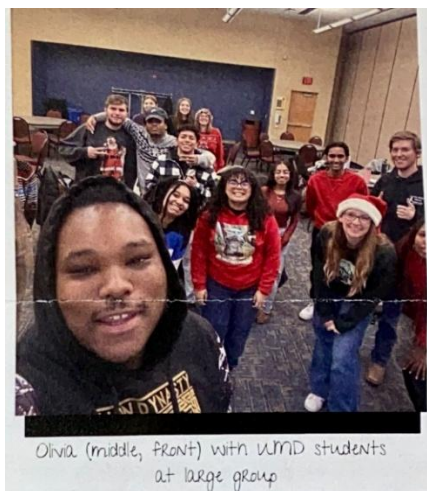
Saying yes to following Jesus at Converge

Four students chose to follow Jesus for the first time and 26 other took ownership of their faith at Inter Varsities fall conference, Converge, November 7 – 9. Through worship, exposition, tracts, and prayer. Students grew in confidence in prayer, fell in love with Scripture, courageously learned how to share their faith, and stepped into missional leadership. Thank you for making this work possible

Thank you for the ways you continue to invest in students and staff. As I continue to invite new partners to join my ministry team I will be entering a focus time of fundraising this January. If you've given to my work at UMD over the years and would like to transition with me or continue giving to UMD staff but also support me in my regional role I am looking for new monthly ministry partners to join my team. I'd love to have an appointment zoom or in person to share more about my work in this season. Thank you to those who have already joined I've been so encouraged as I work to raise the rest of my budget. I am so grateful for those of you who choose to give a special year end gift each year as it constitutes a significant portion of my yearly budget.

Thank you for your partnership in the gospel.

<http://givetoiv.org/Christy>



2025 Financial Report & 2026 Budget

Messiah Church Detroit

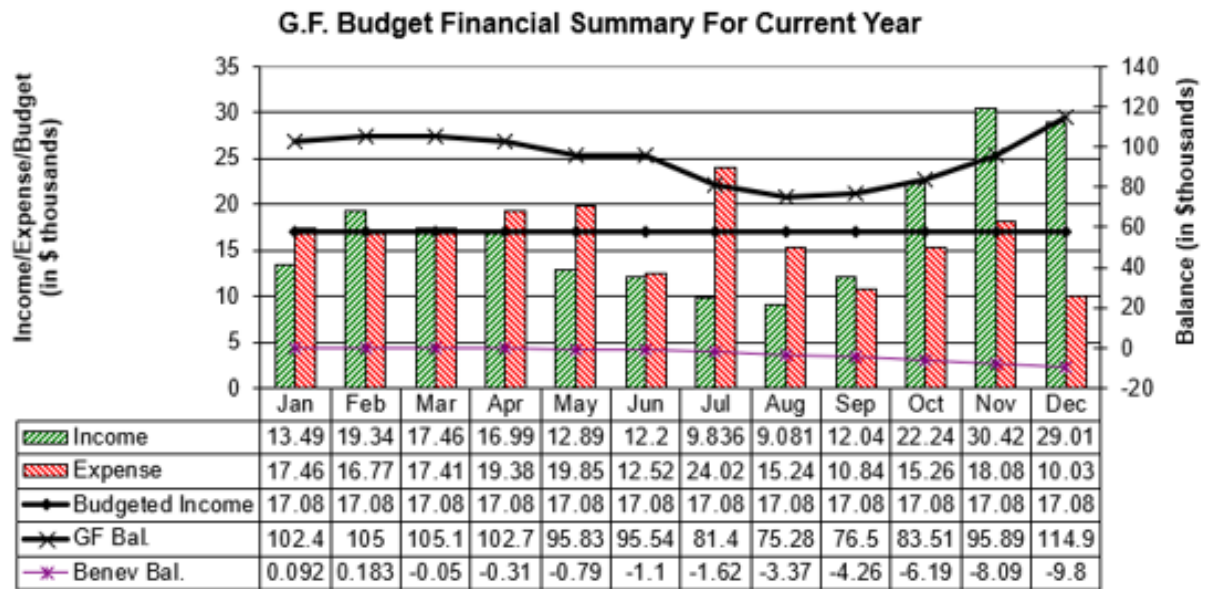
2025 Budget, 2025 Actual & 2026 Budget

			2025 Budget	2025 Actual	Budget	
2	GENERAL FUND BUDGET SUMMARY					
3	General Fund Beginning Balance		\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	
4	+Receipts to General Fund (Offerings)		190,000	197,390	190,000	
5	+ Bank Interest		552	470	450	
5	+ Building Use Reimbursement		14,400	7,200	-	
6	+ Memorials		-	400	-	
7	+ Support by DG-Special Projects		-	-	-	
8	- Disbursements		194,571	185,031	181,850	
9	- Transfers (Cap. Proj. + Benevolence)		19,902	11,610	16,000	
10	Sum of income - expense for the year.		\$ (10,073)	\$ 8,819	\$ (7,400)	
11	General Fund Final Balance		\$ (10,073)	\$ 8,819	\$ (7,400)	
12						
13	ITEMIZED EXPENSES TO GENERAL FUND					
14	GENERAL FUND DISBURSEMENTS					
15	Pastor Compensation					
16	Salary + FICA	*	\$ 36,816	\$ 36,815	\$ 37,000	
	Housing Allowance		9,323	9,324	9,325	
17	Health & Life Insurance		10,000	7,068	8,000	
18	Car & other expenses	*	1,200	935	1,200	
19	Pension	*	5,633	5,772	5,750	
20	Continuing Education	*	2,000	-	-	
21	Book Allowance	*	1,000	316	300	
22	Sub-total		\$ 65,972	60,230	\$ 61,575	
23	Employee Payroll					
24	Worship Leader - Juliegha B.		\$ 10,300	\$ 10,490	\$ 7,725	\$2,575
25	Organist		-	-	-	
26	Secretary		-	-	-	
26	Streaming Service Technician		3,480	-	-	
27	Caretaker - GB/KB/WZ/JHL		18,000	18,000	18,000	
	Childcare		450	-	-	
28	Parking Lot Guards- GB/KB		7,062	5,158	5,200	
29	Employer's FICA & Medicare		2,400	2,041	2,100	
30	Sub-total		41,692	35,689	\$ 33,025	
31	Total Salaries & Benefits		\$ 107,664	\$ 95,919	\$ 94,600	
32	Insurance & Fees					
33	Workers compensation		\$ 620	\$ 549	\$ 600	
34	Property		24,008	29,914	30,000	
	Vehicle		1,200	1,720	1,700	
35	City & State Taxes		1,895	-	-	
36	Sub-total		\$ 27,723	\$ 32,183	\$ 32,300	
37	Assistants					
38	Financial Secretary (Carol Snodgrass)		\$ 3,600	\$ 2,100	\$ 3,600	
39	Guards - (Special events)		-	-	-	
40	Substitutes (Organist, Preacher, Caretaker)		800	1,400	-	\$1,400
41	Sub-total		\$ 4,400	\$ 3,500	\$ 3,600	
42	Utilities					
43	Church					
44	Heating & Electric		\$ 12,500	\$ 12,732	\$ 12,750	
45	Electric - Parking Lot		823	793	800	
46	Water & Drainage		5,180	5,713	5,700	
47	Business Office Phones & Internet		4,476	3,839	3,500	Budget reduction of \$500
47	Streaming Video Internet		-	-	-	
48	Parsonage					
49	Heating		1,300	1,569	1,300	
50	Electricity		1,200	979	1,000	
51	Water		300	25	100	
52	Phones & Internet		-	-	-	
53	Sub-total		\$ 25,779	\$ 25,650	\$ 25,150	

54	Office Supplies & Postage				
56	Payroll Service (PaySystems.net/ ADP)	\$ 1,600	\$ 1,857	\$ 1,900	
	Online Church				
	Domain name	-	-	-	
60	Clover Web Pages	-	-	-	
60	Zoom	-	-	-	
	Constant Contact/ Bridge Element	1,453	1,565	1,600	
60	Miscellaneous (iCloud + Carbonite)	-	-	-	
57	Bank Fees				
57	Comerica	-	135	150	
	FDC Financial	-	-	-	
	Clover Give	1,810	2,073	2,100	
58	Postage & Mailings	250	433	400	
59	Computer, Copier & Printer supplies	409	370	400	
61	Miscellaneous Office Supplies	207	102	200	
62	<i>Sub-total</i>	\$ 5,729	\$ 6,535	\$ 6,750	
63	Sanctuary Supplies & Music				
64	Communion Supplies & Candles	\$ 658	\$ 959	\$ 900	
65	Altar Flowers	-	92	-	
66	Music	490	507	500	
67	Booklets, Subscriptions & Other Pub	400	129	200	
69	<i>Sub-total</i>	\$ 1,548	\$ 1,687	\$ 1,600	
70	Christian Education				
71	Youth ministry	\$ -	\$ 37	\$ 500	
72	Children's Ministries (SS, Jr.Ch.) & Nursery	100	-	-	
73	Retreats, Conferences	-	1,015	500	
74	Music Continuing Education	-	-	-	
75	Men's Bible Study	240	455	400	
76	<i>Sub-total</i>	\$ 340	\$ 1,507	\$ 1,400	
77	Breakfasts, Dinners, etc.				
78	Breakfasts	\$ -	\$ 49	\$ 50	
79	Congregational Gatherings	250	908	400	
80	Pantry Supplies	3,400	3,051	3,000	
81	<i>Sub-total</i>	\$ 3,650	\$ 4,008	\$ 3,450	
82	Building & Maintenance				
83	Termites, pests	\$ 1,000	\$ 775	\$ 800	
84	Snow Removal	5,935	4,925	4,650	Budget reduction of \$350
85	Landscaping Service	2,100	3,170	1,050	\$1,050
86	General Hardware/Cleaning Supp.	2,700	2,088	2,000	
87	Work Day	-	-	-	
88	Furnace Maintenance	400	-	400	
89	Organ & Piano Maintenance	350	-	350	
90	Maintenance On Donated Vehicle	1,000	-	500	
91	Fire System Maintenance	2,153	1,533	1,600	
92	Plumbing Repairs	1,000	678	700	
93	Painting & Patching	500	-	200	
94	Electrical Repairs	300	111	250	
95	Miscellaneous	300	762	500	
96	<i>Sub-total</i>	\$ 17,738	\$ 14,042	\$ 13,000	
97	GENERAL FUND DISBURSEMENTS TOTAL	\$ 194,571	\$ 185,031	\$ 181,850	
98	TRANSFERS TO CAPITAL PROJECTS	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	
99	TRANSFERS TO BENEVOLENCE	\$ 19,902	\$ 11,610	\$ 16,000	
100	END OF GENERAL FUND EXPENSES				
101					
102	CAPITAL PROJECTS SUMMARY				
103	Initial Balance	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	
104	+ Transfer from General Fund	-	-	-	
105	+ Transfer from Designated Gifts	25,750	-	-	
106	- Disbursements	25,750	19,550	-	
107	<i>Sum of income - expense for the year.</i>	-	(19,550)	-	
108	Ending Balance	\$ -	\$ (19,550)	\$ -	

109	Capital Projects				
110	Stained Glass	\$ 8,750	\$ 8,750	\$ -	
111	Parsonage Restoration	-	-	-	
112	Fellowship hall flooring	-	-	-	
113	Replace galvanized water pipes (insurance)	-	-	-	
114	Electrical projects	-	-	-	
115	Exterior Work (window painting)	15,000	10,800	-	
116	Gutter repairs and tuckpointing	-	-	-	
	Flood Recovery	-	-	-	
117	Discretionary	2,000	-	-	
119	Laundry Installation (Gym men's room)	-	-	-	
120	Total Capital Projects	\$ 25,750	\$ 19,550	\$ -	
121	BENEVOLENCE SUMMARY				
122	Benevolence Beginning Balance	\$ -	\$ -	\$ (4,722)	
123	+ Transfer from General Fund	16,292	11,610	16,000	
124	+ Transfer from Designated Gifts	7,110	5,080	-	
125	- Benevolence Disbursements	23,402	21,412	16,000	
126	<i>Sum of income & expense for the year.</i>	\$ -	\$ (4,722)	-	
127	Benevolence Ending Balance	\$ -	(4,722)	\$ (4,722)	
128	Benevolence Disbursements				
129	Worldwide				
130	ECC-Central Organization	\$ 3,700	\$ 3,702	\$ 3,700	
131	Carol Schenk - Turkey	3,000	3,000	-	\$3,000
132	Robert Young (Gap Creek)	-	-	-	
133	Mission Eurasia (Shakhmayevs)	1,602	1,602	-	\$1,600
134	<i>Sub-total</i>	\$ 8,302	\$ 8,304	\$ 3,700	
135	Local Ministries				
136	ECC - Great Lakes Conference	\$ 3,250	\$ 3,000	\$ 3,000	
137	Cru (T. Robinson)	900	900	900	
138	Intervarsity (Christy Hamilton)	600	600	600	
139	Mack Ave Community Church	-	2,500	2,500	
140	Team Expansion (Larry & Mary Francis)	2,400	1,400	-	
141	Mothers-of-Preschoolers (MOPS)	-	-	-	
142	Community Nights	1,200	-	-	
143	Community Night Childcare	-	-	-	
144	<i>Sub-total</i>	\$ 8,350	\$ 8,400	\$ 7,000	
145	Uncommitted Benevolence	\$ 500	\$ -	\$ 500	
146	Local Relief				
147	Christmas/ Thanksgiving Baskets	\$ 250	\$ -	\$ 200	
148	Gifts to individuals				
149	Checks to individuals	1,000	547	600	
150	Mercy & Relief	5,000	4,161	4,000	
151	<i>Sub-total</i>	\$ 6,250	\$ 4,708	\$ 4,800	
152	Benevolence Disbursements Total	\$ 23,402	\$ 21,412	\$ 16,000	
153					
154	DESIGNATED GIFTS SUMMARY (These unbudgeted items are reported for information purposes only.)				
155	Note: Gifts that are recommended for specific ministries are forwarded subject to Council approval.				
156	On occasion, Council may redirect designated gifts to another area of need.				
157					
158		Initial Balance	Receipts	Disbursed	Balance
159	Capital Projects	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
160	Carol Schenk, Turkey	-	-	-	-
161	Charlotte Mason Community School	-	-	-	-
162	Covenant Clinic 'Street Team'	-	-	-	-
163	Gifts For Local Relief	-	-	-	-
164	Total	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
166					
167	2025 SUMMARY		Balance		
168	Fund Balances	General Fund	\$ 125,428.22		
169		Benevolence	(4,722)		
170		Capital Projects	(19,550)		
171		Designated Gifts	-		
172		Suspense	-		
173		Total	\$ 101,156.45		
174					
175	Bank Balances	Savings	\$ 74,922.13		
176		Checking	\$ 143,819.95		
177		Total	\$ 218,742.08		

2025 Financial Summaries



**YTD GF Budget Total
(in \$ thousands)**

