



**Northminster Presbyterian Church**  
*Engaging with Neighbors Near and Far in Christ's Love*

# 2025 ANNUAL REPORT

TO THE CONGREGATION OF NORTHMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Presented at the Annual Meeting of the Congregation on February 1, 2026

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## **This is an interactive digital version of the 2025 Annual Report**

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# Meeting Agenda

- Welcome
- Opening Prayer
- Quorum
- Approval of Minutes of Previous Meeting
- Statistical Report
- Nominating Committee Report
- Election of Congregational Nominating Committee
- Necrology Report and Prayer
- Financial Report
- Foundation Report
- Review of Annual Reports
- Personnel Committee
- Report of Pastors
- New Business
- Closing Prayer
- Adjournment



# Report of Pastors

*Brian Shivers & Karen Herbst-Kim*

As we end one year together full of joy, sorrow, accomplishment, and challenge, and begin yet another year full of promise, possibility, anxiety, hopes, and dreams, it is important for us to hold space and time together to think back on what was. From the offices down at the end of the hall, three themes seem to have risen to the surface that capture a portion of our work together in 2025 – sacred space, community building, and faithful service.

In 2025, the physical space that we all hold sacred and that we call Northminster Presbyterian Church has gone through some changes that have enhanced its beauty, accessibility, and welcome. In the spring, we saw the completion of a wonderful new glass balcony railing that allowed better sight lines for those who worship or attend Sound and Spirit concerts or visit the church and choose to sit there. It also enhanced the entire sanctuary, making it feel lighter and more open. In the fall, just before Advent, the Gathering Place saw the opening of a new coffee area. This beautiful space is open and airy, more spacious, and welcoming. It is one of the first places people notice when they enter the church from the Gathering Place entrance. These two projects were made possible through special gifts to the church. In addition, there have been other smaller changes that have also impacted and enhanced this thin place where heaven and earth seem to meet – outdoor plants, new closet doors, coats of paint, lighting, etc.

Community building and community outreach are two of the hallmarks of Northminster Presbyterian Church. The congregation's commitment to internal connection and deep involvement in our neighborhood is inspiring. In 2025, we have seen a growth in the number of ways members, participants, and friends can engage in the communal life of the congregation through educational opportunities, spiritual growth classes and groups, as well as fun neighborhood events.

Together we...

- Learned more about the housing crisis in Indianapolis
- Dug deeper into the history of Christianity and Christian witness
- Trick or treated in the parking lot with all of our friends
- Ate good food and celebrated Youth Ministries during Italian Night
- Hosted a Covenant Conversation with Covenant Network of Presbyterians
- Welcomed a wide variety of community organizations
- Worked with our neighbors through our annual Clothe-a-Child day with School 55 and with neighborhood organizations during Day of Caring

Hundreds of people participated and were challenged and changed through these important moments in our year together.

Additionally, the myriad of ways Northminster engages with our neighbors near and far in Christ's love through faithful service continues to be a wonder to behold. Members and friends work at Westminster Neighborhood Services Food Pantry, providing support to neighbors in need every week.

Donations of food, clothing, hygiene items, and toiletries are collected each month and are distributed to our neighbors. Cooks and dishwashers prepare, serve, and clean up after delicious community meals each Wednesday. There are tutors, advisors, and counselors working with families from faraway places as they find employment, go to school, and navigate complex systems in an unfamiliar setting. Northminster has been an active part of Streets to Home Indy (STHI), which is working to house hundreds of our unhoused neighbors. We have also been growing in our commitment to the long work of advocacy through our partnership with Indy Action Coalition to change the systems, structures, and laws that disadvantage marginalized people. Additionally, we have deepened our connection and support to over 15 mission partners throughout the city and state. Service to others is an important way in which we embody our faith together.

This letter could go on and on with the hundreds of ways this incredible community of faith continues to engage with neighbors near and far in Christ's love, and the way she embodies her commitments to being a Matthew 25 congregation as well as a place where everyone feels safe, honored, and included in the fullness of their humanity.

Thank you for an amazing year together, and friends, it feels like we are only getting started.

# Session Statistical and Necrology

*Cheryl Plunkett*

Membership as of January 1, 2025 560

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## Gains:

Profession of Faith	2
Reaffirmation of Faith	2
Letter of Transfer	8
Restored to Membership	0

**Total Gains** 12

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## Losses:

Transfer	1
Removal	1
Deaths	15

**Total Losses** 17

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Membership Total as of December 31, 2025 555

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## Other Totals

Baptisms (Infant)	2
Baptisms (Adult)	0
Weddings	1

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## Northminster Members - Deceased

Suzy Steger  
John Coleman  
Carol Freeman  
Joanne S. Murphy  
Bill Koriath

Nancy Wynne  
Alexander Rearick  
Rebecca Snider  
Betty Kniptash  
Robert Bork

Douglas Sherow  
Carolyn Swisher  
Weimer Hicks  
Minnie Chinn  
John Litel

# Building and Grounds

*Craig Hittle and Blaine Dinwiddie*

Our Team Mission: Maintain, oversee, and improve our beautiful building and grounds. Provide a safe, functional, and peaceful space for worship, fellowship, and engaging neighbors near and far in Christ's love.

Our Team: Jim Arend, Bob Bowers, Don Craft, Blaine Dinwiddie, Linda Furness, Bob Gudgel, Craig Hittle, Bill Lord, Sam Banks, Emma Moore (Staff Liaison); Chairs in 2026 will be Bo Walker and Blaine Dinwiddie.

## Our Work Achievements in 2025:

- Spring and Fall Work Days: General cleaning of the sanctuary with help from the Chancel Care Team, installed doors in the Gathering Place and north entrance hallway, maintained garden/beds/landscaping/mulch maintenance, gutter repairs, power washing, window cleaning, other minor exterior repairs; patched and painted, and replaced light bulbs in the sanctuary.
- Grayson Auer did a service project in the playroom upstairs during the Spring Work Days, including the replacement of the flooring and new painting.
- Improved the sight and experience from the balcony by adding a glass railing and replacing the old wooden structure.
- Bill Lord successfully completed the move of the audio/visual booth with the assistance of Jim Arend, Don Craft, and Jeff Schmahl. This move provides better viewing/visibility for in-person balcony members, better visibility and communications for the audio/sound operators and pastors/staff, and enhanced audio/visual for online worshipers.







- With the help of a generous donor, we replaced the old coffee bar with an updated new coffee bar with completely new cabinetry, countertops, and a high-capacity coffee system. This created more storage for volunteers serving, more space, and better overall aesthetics for the entire area.
- Replaced and provided asbestos remediation for both the tile and mastic in the pre-school. This included a replacement of the flooring tiles to a new vinyl composite tile.
- Repurposed existing space and created a Sensory Room and Mothers Room in the Narthex: The old closet and coat rooms provided an area to create a more functional and soothing space for young children, mothers, and people who need a lower sensory space.

#### Our Focus and Projects List Planned in 2026:

- Continue to monitor and maintain our boiler and HVAC system, and begin investigating alternative options to the current system.
- Apply for the Sacred Places of Indiana grant in hopes of using the funds to fix the floor separation in the Art Room. Utilizing welding, specialty bolts and fasteners, and steel beams, we will reinforce the east wall and stabilize the building for years to come.
- Once completed, the Art Room will be updated and transformed to help both adults and children get into their spirit through art.
- Use Spring and Fall work days for special projects, power washing, cleaning, painting, and general outdoor maintenance.
- Matthew 25 Space – Ryan Kim, as part of an Eagle Scout Project, will create an area to help inform, educate, and provide drop-off accessibility for mission items and other purpose-driven activities. Use this space to communicate our initiatives revolving around being a Matthew 25 congregation.

- We are deeply grateful for the opportunity to serve NPC and are sincerely thankful for the dedication of our committee members, volunteers, staff, and congregation. Your shared vision, generosity, and willingness to give your time, talents, and treasure have been essential in caring for and enhancing our cherished building and the grounds for which it sits. A special note of appreciation goes to our outstanding Operations Administrator, Emma Moore, along with our devoted custodial staff—Tim McElroy, Jonathan McGee, and Valerie Boak—whose tireless efforts ensure our space remains clean, welcoming, and well cared for. Thank you all for everything you do.

Respectfully Submitted,

Craig Hittle and Blaine Dinwiddie, Co-Chairs 2025



# Communications

*Elizabeth Brandes*

## Team Members:

Jill de las Alas

Elizabeth Brandes (chair)

Debbie Everett

Jennifer Dzwonar

Timothy Foster (NPC staff liaison)

Roslynn Lancaster

## Key Goals

1. Refine internal & external communications and vehicles that promote our mission, vision, values, and impact to neighborhood & community. (Status: Regularly evolves via more focused coordination between event owners and Timothy on external promotion efforts.)
2. Work with NPC's mission & community outreach teams on a plan to effectively communicate the annual outcomes of NPC's various teams' work. (Status: Met with Session team leads to think through and develop plans to improve communications. Efforts are anticipated to ramp up in 2026.)
3. Refresh NPC's website to reflect our current state and improve transparency & navigation for visitors, augmenting digital awareness. (Status: Worked with staff members/liaisons to better represent their areas on our website with content updates. Website navigation is under review, with recommendations coming in 2026.)

The Comms team is made up of hard-working individuals with a servant-first mindset. Each has a background and/or sincere interest in improving our internal communications and our outreach to our neighboring community. We align ourselves with Session priorities, and by setting team goals, we can keep tabs on our progress while also staying up to date with developing communication needs at Northminster that may require our support. Some 2025 accomplishments:

## Spring

- Completed new "big visioning" team exercise for the Session and created annual team goals with metrics.
- Continued to collect member headshots and populate ShelbyNext; added Session headshots to the website.
- Created a new mechanism to capture and catalogue photos of 2025 NPC events.
- Began adding in and/or updating new pages on the website to represent the various active teams at NPC in alignment with NPC's revised Session structure.
- Developed an insert for the February report to the congregation explaining the new Session team structure.

- Developed a new Session members' headshot banner for 2025 with a QR code in the gathering space.
- Marked 80 years of NPC: Edited the 75th anniversary history slide deck to celebrate our 80th anniversary via the gathering space monitor; designed "80 Years" ribbon banners for Proclaim and the bulletin cover. Produced a flag banner for the gathering space. Included photos and narratives highlighting moments in our history in each Proclaim.
- Met with several new NPC staff member liaisons to discuss better amplification of their efforts.

### Summer

- Developed a new plan to solicit and provide used tablets/devices and training to shut-in members for easy online viewing of NPC's worship services.
- Promoted summer/fall events to the neighborhood via a targeted mailer.
- Repurposed hallway bulletin boards to focus on community and on our mission partners
- Timothy provided a new site map to support website navigation study and recommendations.
- Developed and printed new NPC t-shirts for sale to members.
- Provided support to the Presbytery for NPC content to populate its new site.
- Ensured we made regular use of the event planning form with the Session for proactive comms support.
- Met with the mission team lead to discuss future promotional needs.

### Fall/Winter

- Helped select and provided budget funds for 1) a new online portal for volunteers to sign up for events, and 2) a new app that will replace Shelby Next in 2026. Started pre-roll-out plans for both technology updates.
- Discussed plans for possible exterior signage changes.
- Discussed ways to better promote the Session's work to our members and beyond.
- Created a revised team budget for 2026 to include an increase for neighborhood mailers and t-shirt reprints.
- Continued to make periodic website content updates.
- In conjunction with recommendations provided by the M25 team, developed a plan to work on a new NPC member handbook in 2026. Will be a guide for new members and explain the ins and outs of membership, the building, "how to" information, and more. Will be available online, too.
- Reviewed a list of items requested by M25 and Spiritual Growth for the Comms team's attention in 2026.



## 2025 Digital Communication Statistics

Facebook | (Takeaway: ads are successful, more social media posts needed)

- Ads
  - Average impressions (views) = 20,365; Average reach (people) = 10,356
- Live Videos
  - Total watch time: 7d 14h (down 11.6%); Interactions = 321 (down 12.7%)
    - Top videos: Sunday worship on 12/28, 12/21, and 12/14.
- Content
  - Posts down 31.7%; Interactions down 33.5%
    - Top interactions: Beatles yoga block party, trunk or treat, ashes to go

Livestream | (Takeaway: viewership is consistent)

- Average online attendance = 55 (+27%, consistent trendline)
- Average online & in-person attendance = 212 (+6.6%)

Google SEO | (Takeaway: consistent engagement, consider boosting Google Ads)

- Total website clicks = 10.1K; Impressions = 292K
- Average click-through rate = 3.5%
- Top queries (clicks & impressions): “northminster presbyterian church” (2,628 & 15,680), “northminster presbyterian church indianapolis” (762 & 1,207), “northminster preschool” (99 & 977)

The team thanks Timothy Foster for his efforts this year. As NPC’s staff liaison, he managed multiple promotional and outreach campaigns at our request, and he ramped up significant support of individual Session teams/members and the individual events that they spearhead. It is a pleasure to work with Timothy; he works hard to promote NPC both internally and externally in our local community and beyond. In 2026, Monica Brase joins as the new Session team lead, and we look to further refine NPC’s communications and outreach work. We’ll also work on a plan to elevate our website and develop a new handbook. We appreciate the guidance and support provided by Pastor Brian, Pastor Karen, and Pastor Carol. The team looks forward to ever-improved communications efforts and welcomes input and suggestions.

Respectfully submitted,

Elizabeth Brandes



**NOTE:** Haven’t started using NPC’s QR codes yet (provided in our weekly worship bulletins?) Or just need a refresher?

To use a QR code, open your smartphone's camera, point it at the code without taking a picture, wait for the pop-up notification (often a banner with a link), and then tap the notification/link to access the embedded content, like a website, menu, or app. If that doesn't work, try using a dedicated QR scanner app or Google Lens on Android, and ensure you're in a well-lit area for a clear scan.

# Community Outreach and Engagement

*Emily Plunkett*

**Where we started:** In 2024, Northminster's Session adopted a new structure to better reflect the existing and future initiatives of our church. It was from those conversations that the Community Outreach and Engagement (COE) Team was created, supporting the ways our church embraces our neighbors beyond our Mission work. While the Team was created in 2025, its work is (thankfully) not new! Northminster's vision statement is, after all, all about reaching out and engaging with the community in Christ's love – whether in our own backyard or across the world.

## **What we did:**

*Spring:* Turns out that starting a new Team takes time and patience! Thoughtful conversations helped us refine the goals and focus of this Team, and helped us recruit members to join us. We planned for the months to come, supported the Easter Egg Hunt, and built foundations for the work ahead.

*Summer:* Northminster marched with other Whitewater Valley Presbytery churches in Indy's Pride Parade to kick off the summer, celebrating our LGBTQIA+ siblings and reminding them of God's love. To close the summer, the Beatles Yoga Block Party brought live music by Fab Too to Ralston Commons, along with a guided yoga flow, coffee from Roomi Coffee (a local Muslim, female-owned business), and tricked-out lemonade from Norah Ellington. This Block Party was just one of the ways that Northminster's Yoga program grew this year.



Northminster's crew at the Pride Parade



Yoga flow at the Beatles Block Party

*Fall:* As the leaves changed, we turned our focus to two events that have been a part of Northminster for years – Trunk or Treat and serving as a warming station for the Drumstick Dash. We welcomed costumed families from all over Indianapolis for fun, games, and, of course, sweet treats. Thanksgiving may have been chilly, but Northminster was warm – our volunteers welcomed over 500 participants from the Drumstick Dash and served 375 cups of hot chocolate. We were especially thankful for the upgraded Coffee Bar!

*Winter:* As the year drew to a close, winter brought a time to reflect and celebrate the first year as a Team, and begin planning for the year to come. Northminster's Yoga class offerings have grown to eight classes each week with three regular 500-hour registered yoga teachers and five vetted and registered substitute teachers. On the longest night of the year, Comfort and Joy created a space for reflection and pause for our neighbors, including a sound bath with live music, a self-guided liturgy, and a labyrinth walk.

**Where We're Going:** In the year to come, we plan on building on the lessons learned in 2025 to continue to bring our neighbors together in Christ's love. Rather than reinventing the wheel, we're planning on strengthening the strong foundations laid this year.

### Who We Are:

Jon and Lucy Boyd  
Emily Plunkett, Chair

Elaine and Jordan Purdue  
Krista Wright, Staff Liaison



*Trunk or Treat*



*Drumstick Dash*



*Comfort and Joy*



# Connections

*John Purcell and Donna Schmahl*

The Connections Team (formerly known as Congregational Life) had something of a weather-encumbered year, but persevered and had a varied and productive 2025:

- **Coffee Bar Upgrade.** In tandem with Building & Grounds, the Connections Team gave special attention in 2025 to planning and implementing the Gathering Place coffee bar upgrade that opened for business in the fall. The project, financed through the generosity of an anonymous NPC member, included new cabinets, countertops, and lighting in an enlarged space, a high-capacity brewing machine and dispensers, and additional equipment (ice machine, bottle-filler/water fountain, enlarged sink and garbage disposal, and pullout trash/recycling bins).
- **Sunday Coffee and Donuts.** Before, during, and after construction of the new facilities, the Team continued to provide donut holes, coffee, and other drinks (hot tea, cold water, lemonade, and the occasional hot chocolate) in three iterations of the coffee bar. Rick Campbell, Linda and Dale Theobald, and Scott Cavins transported donut cargo each Sunday from the Pana bakery on West 86th Street.
- **Lenten Soup Supper.** On March 5, the Team hosted the Lenten Soup Supper in Calvin Hall before the Ash Wednesday worship service. Around 75 diners attended and sampled 14 crockpots of homemade soups (plus one of mac & cheese), as well as homemade breads, cornbread, and crackers--all concocted and contributed by 18 Northminster volunteer chefs.
- **Outdoor Worship Service.** Connections joined with the Worship Team to present outdoor worship services and fellowship refreshments for the congregation and neighborhood guests on June 1.
- **Church Picnic.** Although the Connections and Worship Teams had planned to have the August 17 worship service and church/neighbor picnic outdoors on Ralston Commons and a closed-off Ralston Avenue, local meteorologists had different ideas. Waking up to Sunday morning storm warnings, event planners switched to Plan B (right after developing a Plan B), relocated planned activities, and managed to present a hybrid indoor/outdoor event for the congregation and immediate neighbors. Ralston Avenue stayed open, worship moved indoors for the downpour, picnic tables migrated from street to tents on the lawn, and picnic activity resumed outdoors as the rain ended. In changes from previous years, the Team rented two large tents (intended for sun-protected worship but repurposed for rain-protected picnicking) and financed the no-charge event through Team budget and goodwill offerings.



- **Bake Sale.** The weather also complicated things for the All-Church Bake Sale on December 14. Snow and bitter cold kept many folks at home on Sunday morning, but NPC bakers still filled six long tables with homemade holiday goods in grab-and-go packaging. Following worship, congregants browsed the table displays, chose baked goods to take home, and left free-will offerings, raising about \$1,500 to help defray expenses for our refugee families.
- **Worship Tablets.** And we are bringing tablets to Northminster worship! Our tablets are not made of stone, and they're not coming down from the mountain, but they should improve the worship experience for some of our homebound members. With help from Communications, the Connections Team has started a pilot program to purchase refurbished iPads and convert them to single-use tablets, preprogrammed for use by at-home Northminster members to participate virtually in Sunday worship.

Team members: Norma Arend, Nan Diehl, Janet Ingram, Mari Ann Jackson, Dorothy Moos, John Purcell (co-chair), Donna Schmahl (co-chair), and Susie Scott, plus staff liaison Elisabeth Kleinsmith. Special friends of the Team: donut drivers Rick Campbell, Scott Cavins, and Linda and Dale Theobald; regular coffee/donut and other event help from Christie Call and Amy Johnson; and expert office support from Emma Moore and Cheryl Plunkett.

### Stephen Minister Program

Offering valuable care to NPC members who are facing difficult life challenges, our Stephen Minister program is linked administratively to the Connections Team, but does its work independently. And very confidentially.

When Northminster members seek help bearing special burdens, they are paired one-on-one with trained Stephen Ministers, who meet regularly with their care recipients and provide “active listening,” referral assistance, and other support in a confidential, faith-based setting.

Our program started 2025 with ten Stephen Ministers - Marilyn Baumgardt, Bill Dynes, Tony Dzwonar (co-chair), Nancy Flamme, Jerry Gray, Dick Kraege, Rod Mail (co-chair), Joanna Morse, Girtha Perkins, and Mary Walker, as well as pastor liaison Karen Herbst-Kim. From January through May, Tony, Rod, and Karen led a new class of six Stephen Ministers through 50 hours of training and installation--Heather Banks, Allison Gritton, Anne Kenley, Jeff Lewis, Carol Mann, and John Purcell.

# Deacons

*Jeffrey Lewis*

The Board of Deacons had a very successful and productive year in providing services, opportunities, and resources/goods to Northminster Presbyterian Church, its members, and to the community-at-large. In the process, our deacons experienced pride, joy, and, in some cases, sadness.

The COVID-19 years disconnected our committee's relationship with School 55, Eliza Baker School, to some degree. Using the restored foundation from 2024, our team members enhanced the relationship with the school by continuing support to the teachers with monthly celebrations, including meals and treats. Efforts were made to assist with volunteers at School 55 and to attend several of the school activities.

In 2024, as IPS redistricted and moved some of the grade levels originally at School 55 to Broad Ripple Middle School, questions arose regarding the extent to which supporting both schools would be feasible. In that first year, our board wrestled with how to take care of the grade levels that were now at Broad Ripple Middle School and also be supportive of School 55. In 2025, with multiple discussions with school personnel, the decision was to donate a specific dollar amount to the middle school's parent support organization. The school provided grants to teachers for requested items. By supporting that effort, more of the requests would be funded.

Discussions and procedural safeguards are being considered to enhance the ability of Northminster members to assist with volunteerism at the school within the security parameters of IPS.

Along with the assistance to School 55, the deacons funded "turkey baskets" and "Clothe a Child" for those identified with need by the school. Our board donated 24 large turkeys that were the centerpiece of full dinner baskets. Because of generous financial support from members of Northminster and fundraising (60% was generated by fundraising), approximately 47 children were "clothed".

Electronics recycling returned to the board's initiatives in 2025 and was very successful. 3,000 pounds of recycled items were processed. A consideration in 2026 is to add "shredding" to the process.

In the spring, an annual plant sale garnered interest and was the primary fundraiser for 2025. In place of a fall plant sale, the decision was to sell Butter Braids; that effort was successful, too.

The Board of Deacons remained faithful to caring for and supporting the church's refugee family in as many ways as possible. As the family became more acclimated to life in Indianapolis and as the children became older, the caring measured differed, yet the support was unwavering.

In October, "Trunk or Treat" was very well attended and a yearly staple for community outreach.

Immunization was afforded to all church members for flu and pneumonia.

Flowers were delivered to homebound members at Easter and Christmas.

Cards of joy and sorrow were sent to congregation members throughout 2025.

As needed, deacon members provided food to their members and families.

Finally, the Board of Deacons focused upon a more clear budgetary process that allowed for more clarity and autonomy in planning and spending.

# Finance

*Rob Rothrock and Chris Baker*

From a financial perspective, 2025 was another good year for Northminster Presbyterian Church (NPC). Pledge contributions exceeded the amount budgeted, and total support and revenue also exceeded the budgeted amount. The 2025 budget estimated a deficit of \$31,000. In an early Session meeting, it designated funds to cover the amount of the deficit, if needed. The projected deficit of \$31,000 was reduced to \$11,143, so all the Session Designated Funds were not needed and are being carried over to the 2026 budget.

2025 saw the final payment from the Employee Retention Credit (ERC) program. Amended payroll tax returns were filed claiming refunds of \$249,317. The ERC was a federal program designed to assist businesses (including nonprofits such as churches) that continued to pay employees while they were shut down due to the COVID -19 pandemic. All the amended returns were approved and paid with interest. NPC received the total sum of \$246,562.84, and after payment to our consultant, who assisted in the program, NPC netted \$193,245.94. All the net funds received were transferred to the Foundation. This helps NPC because as the Foundation's corpus increases, its income increases, and NPC gets additional funds from the Foundation. We get funds from the Foundation on an annual basis.

The budget for 2026 has been approved by Session. The budget calls for an increase in pledge contributions and from the Foundation's contribution. The increase is also reflected in the total support and revenue projection, which is also greater than in 2025. Although the budget reflects a deficit, the Finance Team is confident that the projections made for 2026 are conservative. Further, the proposed deficit is less than 5% of total support and revenues.

Kudos go to our Fractional CFO, Steve Williams, for his work in gathering information from each of the Teams and for the Teams in being judicious in their budget requests. We are looking forward to another strong financial year for NPC.

Finance Team Members:

Rob Rothrock  
Don Craft  
Wes Lancaster

Chris Baker  
Brad Ronco  
Brian Shivers

David Neitzel  
Lori Schlabach



# Northminster Presbyterian Church Stewardship 2021-2026

Annual Stewardship Campaign	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026*
Number of Pledges	157	148	152	164	168	168
Budget - Pledges	\$ 780,000	\$ 789,000	\$ 840,000	\$ 868,224	\$ 935,000	\$ 950,000
Amount Pledged	\$ 720,705	\$ 760,853	\$ 825,736	\$ 886,839	\$ 926,000	\$ 950,000
Pledges Received	\$ 709,770	\$ 750,102	\$ 831,314	\$ 869,843	\$ 897,010	\$ 110,844
% of Pledges Received	98%	99%	101%	98%	97%	
Total Contributions (less Foundation)	\$ 879,159	\$ 890,389	\$ 927,690	\$ 1,019,715	\$ 1,053,429	n/a

\* - As of January 21, 2026

## 2025 Donor Designated Gifts

Kenya Trip	30,000
Relief	27,398
Sound & Spirit	25,968
Youth	21,143
Streets to Indy	20,595
Mission Benevolence	9,454
Clothe A Child	8,242
Building Fund	6,615
Disaster Relief	5,400
Mission Projects	5,008
Scholarship	5,000
Wednesday Nights	4,207
Westside	4,000
Worship Seasonal Decorations	3,700
Small Project Gift	2,410
Christmas Joy	1,590
Post High School Support	1,500
One Great Hour of Sharing	1,021
Heifer Project	977
Pentecost Offering	970
Montreat	823
Memorial	550
Fortune Family Fund	324
World Communion Sunday	265

**Northminster Presbyterian Church**  
**Statement of Activities**  
**December 31, 2025 and 2026 Budget**

	2025 Actual	2025 Budget	Variance Better (Worse)	2026 Budget
<b>Contributions</b>				
Pledge Contributions	\$ 897,010	\$ 935,000	\$ (37,990)	\$ 950,000
Non-Pledge	81,092	65,000	16,092	80,000
Cont. for Denomination Support	11,995	8,000	3,995	10,000
Previous Year Pledge Payments	12,128	5,000	7,128	7,500
Foundation Contribution	100,728	100,750	(22)	107,500
Special Gifts	51,204	30,000	21,204	31,500
<b>Total Contributions</b>	<b>1,154,157</b>	<b>1,143,750</b>	<b>10,407</b>	<b>1,186,500</b>
<b>Revenue</b>				
Interest and Misc Income	29,151	24,000	5,151	24,000
Life Event and Facility Use	4,725	7,000	(2,275)	7,000
Worship and Music	8,975	20,000	(11,025)	10,000
Spiritual Growth	26,115	13,975	12,140	14,275
Congregational Life	3,253	350	2,903	1,200
Community Outreach & Engagement	26,405	17,100	9,305	24,996
Communications	555	-	555	-
<b>Total Revenue</b>	<b>99,179</b>	<b>82,425</b>	<b>16,754</b>	<b>81,471</b>
<b>Total Support and Revenues</b>	<b>1,253,336</b>	<b>1,226,175</b>	<b>27,161</b>	<b>1,267,971</b>
<b>Personnel Expense</b>				
Program Staff	531,218	541,011	9,793	550,869
Office and Support Staff	274,034	279,493	5,459	291,791
<b>Total Personnel Expense</b>	<b>805,252</b>	<b>820,504</b>	<b>15,252</b>	<b>842,660</b>
<b>Benevolence and Expense</b>				
Spiritual Growth	29,835	14,250	(15,585)	16,950
Congregational Life	14,295	13,300	(995)	14,100
Community Outreach & Engagement	12,246	-	(12,246)	12,654
Communications	12,049	18,564	6,515	18,564
Mission Team	99,805	93,500	(6,305)	95,000
Worship & Music	38,048	45,300	7,252	45,300
<b>Total Team Expenses</b>	<b>206,279</b>	<b>184,914</b>	<b>(21,365)</b>	<b>202,568</b>
<b>Administrative and Facility</b>	<b>218,719</b>	<b>205,357</b>	<b>(13,362)</b>	<b>227,995</b>
<b>Benevolence &amp; Denomination Support</b>				
Mission Benevolence Giving	-	-	-	-
Denomination Support	25,070	25,000	(70)	25,000
<b>Total Benevolence &amp; Denomination Support</b>	<b>25,070</b>	<b>25,000</b>	<b>(70)</b>	<b>25,000</b>
<b>Other Expenses</b>				
Life Event/Facility Use Exp.	3,400	1,500	(1,900)	3,000
Music Academy Expense	5,762	20,000	14,238	6,000
<b>Total Other Expenses</b>	<b>9,162</b>	<b>21,500</b>	<b>12,338</b>	<b>9,000</b>
<b>Total Benevolence and Expense</b>	<b>1,264,481</b>	<b>1,257,275</b>	<b>(7,207)</b>	<b>1,307,223</b>
<b>Surplus/(Deficit)</b>	<b>\$ (11,145)</b>	<b>\$ (31,100)</b>	<b>\$ 19,954</b>	<b>\$ (39,252)</b>

# Northminster Presbyterian Church

## Statement of Financial Positions - All Funds

### December 31, 2025 and 2024

Assets:	2025	2024
Cash and cash equivalents	\$ 831,252	\$ 1,091,045
Other current assets	71,985	46,732
Investments	946,910	836,194
Current Assets and Investments	<u>1,850,146</u>	<u>1,973,970</u>
Property and Equipment	<u>5,038,777</u>	<u>5,038,777</u>
Total Assets	<u><u>\$ 6,888,924</u></u>	<u><u>\$ 7,012,748</u></u>
Liabilities and Net Assets		
Accounts payable	\$ 26,428	\$ 9,415
Other current liabilities	57,767	112,217
Total Liabilities	<u>84,194</u>	<u>121,632</u>
Net Assets		
Without Restrictions - Undesignated	5,055,387	5,093,887
Without Restrictions - Session Designated	534,553	570,401
Restricted	1,214,790	1,226,828
Total Net Assets	<u>6,804,730</u>	<u>6,891,116</u>
Total Liabilities and Net Assets	<u><u>\$ 6,888,924</u></u>	<u><u>\$ 7,012,748</u></u>

**Northminster Presbyterian Church**  
**Total Assets by Fund**  
**December 31, 2025**

<b>GENERAL FUND</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>5,129,247</b>	<b>**</b>
<b>RESTRICTED FUNDS</b>		<b>300,727</b>	
<b>SESSION DESIGNATED</b>		<b>534,961</b>	
<b>McGAUGHEY</b>		<b>365,691</b>	<b>##</b>
<b>MISSION</b>		<b>460,711</b>	
<b>COLUMBARIUM</b>		<b>61,730</b>	
<b>DEACONS</b>		<b>12,378</b>	
<b>PRESCHOOL</b>		<b>23,480</b>	
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>6,888,924</b>	

**\*\* - General Fund Assets include \$54,000 of Unrestricted Cash and \$4,412,000 of Buildings.**

**## - Bequest to support special programs, guest speakers and training for church leaders.**

# Foundation

*Jerry Gray*

At the end of the third quarter\*, the Northminster Presbyterian Church Foundation increased to \$4,540,142 from the previous year's high of \$4,031,140 in total assets. These assets were \$3,068,128 in unrestricted funds and \$1,472,013 in restricted funds. These monies are invested in a mix of equities (mutual funds), fixed income instruments (corporate bonds and notes), and money market funds. These funds are managed by our long-time investment advisor, Mark Durham, with Investment Advisors of Indianapolis.

During 2025, the Foundation:

- Provided \$75,546 in ongoing support to the Church's operating expenses with an anticipated total of \$100,458 by year's end through unrestricted General Fund Distribution.
- The Church received \$241,779 from an estate contribution.
- Distributed \$14,934 from the restricted Mission Fund created by the 2016 capital campaign.
- Distributed \$27,398 from the restricted General Relief Fund.
- Distributed \$0 from the restricted McGaughey Fund.\*

One of the primary functions of the board is to provide monetary support on an annual basis of the general operating budget to provide greater services to our church and our community. Because of the Northminster Foundation, we have been able to provide \$1,524,372 in annual operating support and emergency payments to the Church's expenses. The Foundation was not called on to make any emergency expenses during 2025.

Directors for 2025 were:

Dale Theobald, Joyce Mallette, Barb Angotti, Kristen Keltner, Brad Ronco, Andrea Newsom, Jennifer Skeels, Mike Keppler, and Jerry Gray.

Officers for 2025 were:

President – Jerry Gray

Vice President – Dale Theobald

Secretary – Barb Angotti

Treasurer – Andrea Newsom

\* **NOTE:** Numbers above reflect the end of the third quarter for 2025. The fourth quarter saw more growth and the annual distribution from the McGaughey Fund.



Northminster Presbyterian Church Foundation  
Statement of Financial Poistion  
December 31, 2025

Account	1 General Fund Unrestricted	2 General Relief Fund	4 Mathias	5 McGaughey Fund	6 Mission Fund	Total all Fund Name
Assets						
Current Assets						
10100 Fidelity Main Core Account	\$52,395.38	\$9,126.73	\$1,803.79	\$8,212.78	\$9,348.54	\$80,887.22
10300 Chase Checking	\$543.65	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$543.65
Total Current Assets	\$52,939.03	\$9,126.73	\$1,803.79	\$8,212.78	\$9,348.54	\$81,430.87
Investments						
14100 Fidelity Mutual Funds at	\$2,703,876.53	\$470,987.03	\$93,085.07	\$407,370.04	\$477,455.87	\$4,152,774.54
14200 PILP Note	\$339,702.14	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$339,702.14
Total Investments	\$3,043,578.67	\$470,987.03	\$93,085.07	\$407,370.04	\$477,455.87	\$4,492,476.68
Net Fixed Assets						
Total Net Fixed Assets	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Total Assets	\$3,096,517.70	\$480,113.76	\$94,888.86	\$415,582.82	\$486,804.41	\$4,573,907.55
Liabilities & Net Assets						
Liabilities						
21100 Accounts Payable (accrual	\$10,000.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$10,000.00
Total Liabilities	\$10,000.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$10,000.00
Net Assets						
30000 Unrestricted	\$2,656,425.75	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$2,656,425.75
Unrestricted-Current Year	\$430,091.95	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$430,091.95
Unrestricted-Current Year-Total	\$3,086,517.70	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$3,086,517.70
31000 Restricted	\$0.00	\$451,448.59	\$88,012.46	\$383,843.97	\$451,408.78	\$1,374,713.80
Restricted-Current Year	\$0.00	\$28,665.17	\$6,876.40	\$31,738.85	\$35,395.63	\$102,676.05
Restricted-Current Year-Total	\$0.00	\$480,113.76	\$94,888.86	\$415,582.82	\$486,804.41	\$1,477,389.85
Total Net Assets	\$3,086,517.70	\$480,113.76	\$94,888.86	\$415,582.82	\$486,804.41	\$4,563,907.55
Total Liabilities & Net Assets	\$3,096,517.70	\$480,113.76	\$94,888.86	\$415,582.82	\$486,804.41	\$4,573,907.55

**Northminster Presbyterian Church Foundation**  
**YTD Revenues and Expenses by Fund**  
**December 31, 2025**

	<u>General Fund</u>	<u>General Relief</u>	<u>Mathias</u>	<u>McGaughy</u>	<u>Mission</u>	<u>Total</u>
<b>Revenue</b>						
<b>Contributions</b>						
Legacies and Bequests	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	-
Other Contributions	233,779	-				233,779
<b>Total Contributions</b>	233,779	-	-	-	-	233,779
<b>Investment Revenue</b>						
Dividends	34,108	6,331	1,215	5,525	6,351	53,530
Interest	21,517	2,493	475	2,151	2,485	29,121
Short-Term Gain(Loss) - Realized	-	-	-	-	-	-
Long-Term Gain(Loss) - Realized	83,328	14,840	2,899	13,200	15,056	129,324
Unrealized Gain (Loss)	160,746	32,402	6,064	27,319	31,419	257,951
<b>Total Investment Revenue</b>	299,699	56,067	10,653	48,195	55,311	469,925
<b>Total Revenue</b>	533,478	56,067	10,653	48,195	55,311	703,704
<b>Expenses</b>						
Church Support	100,728	27,398	-	-	19,912	148,038
Insurance	-	-	-	-	-	-
Postage & Delivery	11	-	-	-	-	11
Printing	419	-	-	-	-	419
Admin Support Personnel	2,195	-	-	-	-	2,195
Business Fees and Licenses	-	-	-	-	-	-
Program Expense	-	-	3,776	16,453	-	20,229
Transaction Fees	34	4	1	3	4	45
Development Expense	-	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Total Expenses</b>	103,386	27,402	3,777	16,456	19,916	170,936
<b>Total Change in Net Assets</b>	\$ 430,092	\$ 28,665	\$ 6,876	\$ 31,739	\$ 35,396	\$ 532,768

**Northminster Presbyterian Church Foundation**  
**Comparative Statement of Financial Position**  
**December 31, 2025**

Account	Q4 2024	Q1 2025	Q2 2025	Q3 2025	Q4 2025
<b>Assets</b>					
<b>Current Assets</b>					
10100 Fidelity Main Core Account	\$ 99,727	\$ 45,955	\$ 15,795	\$ 75,715	\$ 80,887
10300 Chase Checking Account	\$ 15,641	\$ 9,671	\$ 9,671	\$ 23,752	\$ 544
13100 Accoutns Receivable	\$ 100,000				
<b>Total Current Assets</b>	<b>215,368</b>	<b>55,626</b>	<b>25,465</b>	<b>99,466</b>	<b>81,431</b>
<b>Investments</b>					
14100 Fidelity Mutual Funds at Market	3,484,357	3,555,409	3,780,646	4,103,081	4,152,775
14200 PILP Note	331,415	333,484	335,499	337,594	339,702
<b>Total Investments</b>	<b>3,815,772</b>	<b>3,888,893</b>	<b>4,116,145</b>	<b>4,440,675</b>	<b>4,492,477</b>
<b>Assets</b>	<b>4,031,140</b>	<b>3,944,519</b>	<b>4,141,610</b>	<b>4,540,142</b>	<b>4,573,908</b>
<b>Liabilities &amp; Net Assets</b>					
<b>Liabilities</b>					
	2,195				10,000
<b>Total Liabilities</b>	<b>2,195</b>		-	-	<b>10,000</b>
<b>Net Assets</b>					
Unrestricted Net Assets	2,654,231	2,597,671	2,715,163	3,068,128	3,086,518
Restricted Net Assets	1,374,714	1,346,847	1,426,448	1,472,013	1,477,390
<b>Total Net Assets</b>	<b>4,028,945</b>	<b>3,944,518</b>	<b>4,141,610</b>	<b>4,540,142</b>	<b>4,563,908</b>
<b>Liabilities &amp; Net Assets</b>	<b>\$ 4,031,140</b>	<b>\$ 3,944,518</b>	<b>\$ 4,141,610</b>	<b>\$ 4,540,142</b>	<b>\$ 4,573,908</b>

# Generosity

*Mike Shannon and Jim Mann*

This year, we formed the new Generosity team. We developed goals and a mission for our team. The purpose of the Generosity Team is to provide visioning, education, transparency, and accountability for faith-based giving that sustains the mission of NPC. The team works in collaboration with the Session, Foundation, and Finance Team and other related teams, committees, and ministry areas at NPC to bring to bear the annual giving, Foundation, and other giving campaigns, be it through time, talent, or treasure.

Team members include Jim Mann, Mike Shannon, Loui Lord Nelson, Kristin Keltner, Andy Longo, and Chris Baker. We continue to develop our team and understand our mission focus and goals. We addressed the following matters:

- **Annual Appeal** – A rubric plan was put together last year for an annual appeal sub-committee to follow each year. Brian Shivers recruited this group for the 2025 campaign. Team made up of Russell Wareham, Mary Holtgrave, Dawn Dinwiddie, and Lauren Rowe. Current pledges as of mid-December are in the 94% range already for the number of pledges and the total amount pledged.
- **Worship Speakers** - The Generosity Team met with other church teams and asked them to speak during a worship service with a “Generosity” spin to highlight what they are working on and inform the congregation.

This year, we had the following speakers –

*January* – Jim Mann spoke to provide an introduction.

*March* - Matt with the Mission Team spoke about current and upcoming volunteer / donation events.

*September* - Melissa Hopkins, Elisabeth Kleinsmith, and Katie Ray – Children’s Ministries - Summer Fun at NPC.

*October* – Blaine Dinwiddie, B&G team spoke to the congregation about recent and future projects with a generosity focus.

- **Hidden Gems** - We developed “Hidden Gems” - a way to highlight members who quietly demonstrate generosity in service to the church in all its forms (time, talent, and treasure). Loui Lord Nelson completed our first interview with Barb Angotti. The next article by Mike Shannon will be about Bill Lord. More to come!
- **Web Page** - A new web page for the Hidden Gem profiles ([northminster.church/generosity](http://northminster.church/generosity)). The web page will have links to video presentations about generosity and the hidden gem articles.

# Mission

*Matt Kroeger*

The Mission Team of NPC engages with neighbors near and far through service partnerships with Presbyterian, hunger, housing, health, inclusion, and education missions. Through the generosity of NPC members, the Mission Team distributed \$148,611 to mission organizations and those in the community demonstrating need.

## Our 2025 Mission Partners

Presbyterian Missions	Hunger	Housing	Health	Inclusion	Education
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• General Assembly</li> <li>• Synod of Lincoln Trails</li> <li>• Whitewater Valley Presbytery</li> <li>• Pyoca Camp and Retreat Center</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Westminster Neighborhood Services</li> <li>• Gleaners</li> <li>• Bread for the World</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Family Promise</li> <li>• Greater Indianapolis Habitat for Humanity</li> <li>• GIMA</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Raphael Health</li> <li>• Little Timmy Project</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• IYG</li> <li>• Exodus Refugee</li> <li>• Covenant Network of Presbyterians</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Washington Township Foundation</li> <li>• Umoja Partnership</li> <li>• Butler Lab 55, Broad Ripple Middle School (with Deacons)</li> </ul>

## Support for Presbyterian Missions

35% of the Mission Team General Budget supports the **PCUSA General Assembly, Synod of Lincoln Trails, and Whitewater Valley Presbytery.**

### Hunger

In addition to grant funds, Northminster supported hunger initiatives in a variety of ways. The Mission team sponsored the PB&J shelf at the Westminster pantry, and over the course of the entire year, NPC members donated 456 boxes of pasta, 410 toothbrushes, 205 tubes of toothpaste, 169 bottles of dish soap, 478 cans of vegetables, 30 cans of fruit, 129 cans of beans, 25 cans of soup, 18 can openers, 108 boxes of rice, and lastly, 426 bottles of shampoo and 804 sticks of deodorant for the Westminster Christmas Basket Program.

NPC members wrote over 150 letters as part of Bread for the World's ongoing advocacy to Congress for policy change around food insecurity. Additionally, Pastor Karen Herbst-Kim and Mission team member Carrie Savage-Zimmerman attended the Bread for the World Summit in June to receive advocacy training to bring back to Northminster.



## Housing

In partnership with Family Promise, Northminster sponsored the cost of an apartment for the entire year. NPC members also donated 16 packages of paper towels, 26 boxes of Brillo pads, 35 packages of napkins, and 248 sponges as part of Family Promise's housewares drive.

In partnership with Habitat for Humanity, 10 NPC members participated in the Multifaith Panel Build on October 31st at Second Presbyterian.

In partnership with GIMA, NPC members donated 366 pairs of socks for School 68's Winter Contingency shelter.

Lastly, Northminster members dug into housing advocacy in 2025. NPC expanded its involvement with the Indy Action Coalition, specifically with Live Free Indiana's efforts around the Streets To Home Indy initiative to house 300-350 individuals living on Indianapolis' streets and close encampments across the city.

## Health

The funds delivered to Raphael Health Center were used to fund their last resort fund that can be used to cover the cost of medications for patients who have been identified as having no other resources to purchase the medication.

The Mission donation to The Little Timmy Project helped 15 new families receive a Pak'n'Play, stroller, and car seat.

## Inclusion

In 2025, Northminster added IYG as a new mission partner whose services directly impact the lives of young LGBTQ+ individuals in our community. NPC's grant helped fund IYG's food pantry in 2025.

Northminster also continued to support Exodus Refugee's emergency assistance program as well as the Covenant Network of Presbyterians to expand its Covenant Conversations and Covenant Fellows initiatives.

## Education

NPC purchased, organized, and packed 57,000 school supplies for over 6000 students in 13 Washington Township schools during the Back-to-School Extravaganza event. Over 25 NPC members volunteered during the event, which helped reduce the cost of these supplies from what would cost \$140 for each family to \$30. NPC members also donated 147 pairs of underwear and 292 pairs of socks for the WTSF Back-to-School Bash event.

The Mission team donated funds to the Umoja Partnership to sponsor the Uradi school, which will fund every program the Umoja offers to primary school students, as well as scholarships for students to go to secondary and post-secondary school.

### Mission Events

The Mission team organized the Day of Caring in September and 100+ members participated in a variety of service activities: visiting homebound members; planting 40 mums and doing outdoor cleanup at Dayspring shelter; volunteering and donating over 2,400 diapers to the Indiana Diaper Bank; donating over 1,000 diapers to Raphael Health Center; packing 100 welcome kits for Wheeler Mission; packing 100 snack bags for Brightlane Learning; packing 15 bathroom kits for Exodus Refugee; packing 15 baby kits for the Little Timmy Project; writing over 60 birthday cards for new homeowners for Habitat for Humanity as well as many other encouraging notes for families at Wheeler Mission; and picking up trash for our Broad Ripple neighbors.

The Mission Team is grateful for the opportunity to use our gifts to serve members of the church and our community.

Katie Bulloff, Connie Coleman, Beth Cornelius, Dolly Craft, Nancy Flamme, Carol Frohlich, Amber Gilman, Debbie Grush, Karen Herbst-Kim, Brenda Reed, Carrie Savage-Zimmerman, Bo Walker, Matt Kroeger (chair).

# Music

*John Wright*

Our instrumentalists, soloists, and choirs enliven congregational singing, serve as small groups for faith formation, and provide music that glorifies God and edifies the congregation. The children's and adult choirs pray and praise with and on behalf of the congregation. Additionally, our adult choirs can be seen in concert on Northminster's arts series, *Sound & Spirit*. This past year, we offered "Eternal Light," a concert featuring choirs and orchestra in works by Tye, Trotta, and Hogan, and featuring Faure's *Requiem*.

*Sound & Spirit* seeks to provide spiritual nourishment through music of various genres. This past year, we offered free Celtic, bluegrass, organ, and classical choral concerts. Attendance at these events was at an all-time high.

Many thanks to the children, their parents, and adult singers who were so faithful to the music program during my sabbatical in the fall. And thank you to the excellent and pleasant leadership of Katie Ray, Peace Choir Director; Marko Petričić, Organist; Carol McDonald, Liturgist; and Amy Hughley, Chancel Choir Director.

One of the reasons we have a healthy music ministry at Northminster is the support of our members, for which we are very appreciative. Your presence, prayers, and financial gifts help sustain everything from pencils in the choir room to section leaders to collaborations with the orchestra. This shared music ministry has a profound impact on the overall health of the church.

We look forward to 2026 as we continue to develop a culture of singing, aspire for excellence, and most importantly, sing the gospel story as we move through our daily lives.

# Nominating Committee

*Donna Schmahl and Emily Plunkett*

The task of the 2025 Nominating Committee was to recommend members of the congregation for the offices of Elder, Deacon, and Foundation Director. The church officers were nominated and elected on Sunday, November 2, 2025, to serve three-year terms except for those noted with single or 2-year terms.

## Elders:

Monica Brase  
Todd Ellington  
Don Knebel  
MaryAnn Ruegger  
Bo Walker  
Eva Ellington (*Single Year Term*)

## Foundation Board:

John Carr  
Allison Gritton  
Hitch Learned

## Board of Deacons:

Bryan Fisher  
Kairi Kanda  
Dotsie Longworth  
Jacob Mann  
Patti Martin  
Rosalee Mulligan  
Gail Rothrock  
Sara Sarno  
Mary Smith  
Diane Thompson  
Carol Euliss (*2-Year Term*)  
Karalea Mulvey (*2-Year Term*)  
Mason King (*Single-Year Term*)  
Jameson Hittle (*Single-Year Term*)

## Nominating Committee Members:

Emily Plunkett & Donna Schmahl, Co-Chairs  
Heather Banks, Cy Donnelly, Todd Ellington, Emi Johnson, Andy Longo,  
Maureen Purcell, Tony Ricchiuto, Linda Theobald

# Personnel

## *Christie Call*

**Stability** – that is a great way to describe the NPC staff for 2025. All of the staff have now been here for at least a year, with several having been here for longer. That stability has allowed the staff to grow and thrive. Brian frequently tells us what a joy it is to work with this amazing team of people. Our newest members, Krista, Elisabeth, and Finn, have brought their amazing talents and vision to NPC.

While our staff is stable at this point, they are not static. They flex and adapt as their roles grow and change. They look for new ways to do what they do and find more ways to support our congregation. Our congregation's generosity allows us to compensate our staff fairly, which truly helps us keep our staff.

The Personnel team will continue to work with Brian and Karen and support the staff as we move forward in 2026. Northminster is a growing and living place, and the staff is a critical part of that.

The current Personnel Team includes Christie Call, Deb Ronco, Charlie Scheuermann, Nancy Dynes, MaryAnn Ruegger, and Chris Holewinski.

Thank you to everyone at Northminster.



# Preschool

*Shiloh O'Rourke*

Northminster Community Preschool was organized in 1972 and has since provided a safe, nurturing, and play-based educational environment for families of the church and community. Our play-based philosophy encourages our students to explore through play-our teachers engage students in activities that are developmentally appropriate and stimulate multiple senses, while incorporating social and cooperative skills.

We offer 3 different programs at Northminster Community Preschool (NCP): 2/3's, a 3/4's preschool class, and a 4/5's preschool class. Our school week operates Tuesday through Thursday from 9 am to 2 pm.

Our staff is trained and certified in CPR/Pediatric CPR and Emergency First Aid for Infants and Children.

Our 2/3's class is co-directed by Patti Griffey, co-teachers are Amy Kidwell and Emily Glanders, along with subs Peggy Johnson and Laura Sniadecki. This class is designed for children between 18 months and three years of age and meets three days a week (most children attend 1 day a week, but several attend 2-3 days). Children are encouraged to socialize, create age- appropriate artwork, increase their gross/fine motor skills, and are given opportunities to grow socially and emotionally.

Sarah Froehlke is our lead teacher in the 3/4's classroom with Patti Griffey as her assistant. The students in 3/4's follow a themed lesson plan that promotes letter/number recognition, multi-sensory activities, gross motor play, and fine motor development with an emphasis on playing to learn. This class meets on Tuesday and Thursday.

Our 4/5's class is taught by Shiloh O'Rourke with Camille Corbin as assistant. Our 4/5 students spend their day writing, painting, cutting, creating, and exploring. Thematic lessons provide students with opportunities to ask questions, focus on age-appropriate development in literacy and phonics, as well as project-based learning. This class meets on Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday.

Our optimal enrollment in all classes is as follows: 2/3's- 10 students per day, 30 students total. 3/4 and 4/5's classes- 14 students per class, 28 students total. Our 2/3's class enrollment is 10 students on Tuesday, 6 students on Wednesday, and 10 on Thursday. The 3/4's class has 13 students, and currently the 4/5's class has 14 students. We have a total of 39 students.

Registration for the 2026-2027 school year will begin in late January, early February. Church and current families may register two weeks before community registration will open, we will be hosting an Open House in February this year. Parents may schedule a tour outside of school hours, also.

Thank you to Northminster Presbyterian Church for allowing us to provide an educational environment where children can learn, play, and grow. We are beyond blessed to spend our days with these incredible children and their families. We appreciate all the support from NPC and are thankful to serve the community along with them.

Many thanks,

Shiloh O'Rourke, Director- Northminster Community Preschool

# Spiritual Growth

*Jennifer Dzwonar and Liz Higgins*

## **Circle 3 – Dolly Craft**

Circle 3 continues to seek out and participate in “Do in a Day” projects. During 2025, we sorted diapers at the Indiana Diaper Bank, assembled art kits for Arts for Learning, provided Meals in a Bag for Family Promise, “adopted” a Family Promise family of 4 for Christmas gifts, served as hostesses for a city-wide Court Watchers gathering, and cleaned up the storeroom at Family Promise Day Center. In addition, teams of Circle 3 ladies have cooked and served Wednesday night dinners at Northminster in the Spring and Fall. We continue to enjoy our social gatherings in May, September, and December.

## **Men’s Prayer and Study Group – Jerry Gray and John Purcell**

The group continued meeting throughout the year on the first and third Wednesdays of the month in the Board Room in our Church. It is especially important to announce a meeting time change for our group. The time has been changed to 9:00 am on the first and third Wednesdays of each month.

Our group continued with our usual activities of social interaction, sharing of a modest breakfast, theological studies, concerns for our fellow congregants and friends, distribution of sympathy cards, and prayer. Study this year was centered around the book “Contemplative Vision” by Juliet Benner.

The group reviewed the artwork of many of the great classical artists and their interpretation of events and scripture from the Bible. In-depth study of these works included an art appreciation analysis of the various works as well as a biographical understanding of the artist. The year was concluded with a presentation by Jerry Gray and John Purcell on the life of the famous artist Caravaggio for the entire congregation.

Future study for 2026 begins with an in-depth study of Dietrich Bonhoeffer and how his theological work relates to today’s society.

## **Sarah's Circle – Sandy Corbito**

Sarah Circle meets on the 4th Tuesday of each month at 2:00 pm in the Knox room. We are using the Presbyterian Women Bible study “Finding Resilience, Joy and Our Identity in Jesus Christ.” We collect a coin donation each month. Our 2025 money went to the Streets to Home Indy project. We would love to have new members.

**Striders – Barb Angotti**

The Spiritual Striders meet twice a month to study, pray, and then walk. The purpose of the group is to encourage, support, and equip one another to live Christ-centered lives. We have 24 members who help with leading discussions, planning our schedule, and arranging outings. During the cold months, we meet at church; in the warmer months, we meet in homes and in various parks around the city.

This year, we read and discussed two books: *Relentless* by Michele Cushatt and *Mostly What God Does* by Savannah Guthrie. We walked in the neighborhood around the church and at Ft. Ben, Holcomb Gardens, Holliday Park, Lawton Loop, and Flower Alley. We also enjoyed tours of the Benjamin Harrison Home, the “Raven and the Box of Daylight” exhibit at the Eiteljorg Museum, and an Art History lecture by our own Jerry Gray.

**Family Engagement – Elisabeth Kleinsmith**

Over the past year, our family engagement ministry focused on creating meaningful and intentional get-togethers for mothers of young children. Our first event of the year was a Galentine’s Day brunch, designed to honor these mothers while also fostering fellowship among women in our congregation. The brunch provided a relaxed space for devotion and conversation, allowing participants to meet and mingle and simply celebrate motherhood! Homemade tea sandwiches were served along with a build-your-own bouquet station for everyone to take home and enjoy.

We also hosted Northminster’s first Family Movie Night featuring *The Wild Robot*, which offered a simple, welcoming environment for families to gather (complete with freshly popped popcorn and other movie snacks!). The film tells the story of Roz, a robot who unexpectedly becomes a caregiver and learns how to live in a community with those around her despite being different and perceived as a ‘monster’ to those around her. Themes of compassion, belonging, and resilience resonated strongly with our church’s ongoing commitment to inclusivity.

In November, our Fall Festival served as a community event, bringing together church members and local families for a fun afternoon. With activities for all ages, the festival strengthened relationships, welcomed new faces, and reinforced Northminster as a place of joy, generosity, and belonging. This festival was also made possible by the generosity of our Whitewater Valley Presbytery, to whom we are incredibly grateful. Another huge thank you to everyone who supplied help and support, along with delicious chili and cornbread – your time and preparation were instrumental in making this event possible. Lastly, a special thank you to The Porchmen for providing incredible live music for all to enjoy!

As our congregation continues to grow with young families, this ministry has focused on introducing and testing out new event offerings designed to support connection and belonging. These first-time events have helped us discern sustainable ways to engage families now and in the future.

## Children's Christian Education - *Melissa Hopkins*

Melissa Hopkins, Director of Children's Ministry, with help from volunteers and paid childcare workers, runs the Nursery and Church School. We are grateful for all the help and support we receive. We offer Nursery care for children under 3 years old every week. We have play-based care with soothing music and some optional educational videos. We also have several faith-based story resources, including the Frolic Nursery Curriculum by Sparkhouse. In 2025 Nursery attendance varied, with a high of 6 children, averaging around 2 per week. After the Time with Children in worship, older kids are released to church school or our Summer Playtime, depending on the time of year. We offer Preschool Church School every week during the school year for 3- to 5-year-olds. Attendance varied in Preschool during 2025, with a high of 10 children, averaging between 3 and 4 per week. We offer Children's Church for kids through 5th Grade every week during the school year, except for when Communion is served in church. In 2025 Children's Church attendance varied with a high of 13 a few weeks, averaging around 4 kids per week. We are continuing our use of the Whirl Lectionary Curriculum from Sparkhouse, as the children like the videos and respond well to the questions that help us discuss what the scripture means to us and how we can apply Bible lessons to our everyday lives.

Our Summer Fun Program, an alternative to the traditional weeklong Vacation Bible School, is celebrated on Wednesday nights in June. It was very successful in 2025, with attendance varying between 20 and 35 children each week. In 2025, we used the Bible School Curriculum from Living Waters of the World, through Bible lessons and stories from countries LWW works in, we learned about the importance of clean accessible water. Through food, crafts, songs, and stories, we learned about Guatemala, Mexico, Cuba, Haiti, and Ghana. We had speakers who grew up in Mexico and Haiti, and they spoke about their personal experiences. We learned about the Water Filtration Systems LWW provides, as well as raising \$300 to donate to Living Waters for the World. We're very thankful for all those who volunteered to help make this a success, cooking, teaching, helping with the kids, heading up crafts, and handling registration.

We ended 2025 with a successful Advent Season. On December 6<sup>th</sup>, 2025, we celebrated the beginning of the season with our Intergenerational Advent Event. Melissa Hopkins and Elisabeth Kleinsmith worked with the Spiritual Growth Team to provide a Hot Chocolate Bar with multiple mix-ins and toppings, as well as multiple crafts and cookie decorating. There was fun and fellowship for all. Our Advent season ended on a high note with the 4 PM Christmas Eve Service organized by Melissa, Elisabeth, and Emma Moore. All children and youth who wanted to participate helped us celebrate Immanuel coming to us. We had wonderful speakers and sang fun carols telling of Jesus' birth. We included special music with performances from the Peace Choir and a beautiful cello performance by Ryan Kim. The service ended with everyone singing Joy to the World by electric candlelight, celebrating that the Lord had come.



## Youth Christian Education - Emma Moore

2025 was Emma Moore's first full calendar year as the Youth Ministry Coordinator and brought the beginning of her second program year in September 2025. With these months of experience under her belt, there has been a familiarity established for our weekly gatherings and annual schedule, continued relationship building between Emma and the youth and the youth with each other and new faith formation opportunities.

### Winter 2025

- Italian Night
  - Our every-other-year youth fundraiser, Italian Night, took place on February 22, 2025! Thank you to everyone who contributed by attending, donating, cooking, serving, greeting, baking, and beyond! It was truly an amazing evening celebrating our youth program and providing financial support that subsidizes the cost of youth faith formation trips over the summer.
  - The evening was planned by youth volunteers Keane Ricchiuto, Kate Ronco, and Ryan Kim who were supported by Andy and Lisa Longo, Cheryl and John Plunkett, Megan Hochbein, Molly Winkler, Jordan Purdue, and Kathryn Goncalves.
  - Andy and Lisa Longo and Cheryl and John Plunkett have been carrying the large weight of the silent and live auctions and the food for Italian Night for at least a decade, when their now adult children were last involved in the youth group. This year, we trained up some new volunteers so that these folks can have a much-needed retirement from Italian Night in future years, but don't worry, John will still make his beloved homemade bread!
  - \$15,482 was raised, which subsidized summer trips in 2025 and will subsidize youth trips in 2026.

### Spring 2025

- Graduation Sunday
  - In May of 2025, we celebrated Kate Ronco and Jane Dinwiddie's graduation from high school by having them lead us in worship.
- End-of-the-Year Pool Party
  - The Crook family hosted us on a cold day in May for the end-of-the-year pool party! The pool was kept at a very warm temperature, meaning the majority of the youth still went swimming!

Summer 2025

- Montreat Youth Conference
  - Four youth and one adult from Northminster joined a group of 34 from the Presbytery of Whitewater Valley to attend Montreat Youth Conference in June 2025. This was our first time traveling as a Presbytery to Montreat, and it was great to be part of such a large group. We had the privilege of having Rev. Cece Anderson, Co-Moderator of the PCUSA, as our preacher for the week, and we had a great time building connections with one another and the great youth community among the Presbytery.
- Massanetta Springs Middle School Conference
  - Four youth and one adult from Northminster traveled to the Massanetta Springs Middle School Conference for the first time in a while with a group of middle schoolers and their leader from First Meridian Heights Presbyterian Church. We ate well, had a loooong drive with lots of laughter, participated in some great workshops, built community in small groups, and heard amazing keynotes. One thing that stood out was our youth's love of 9 Square, which prompted Emma to order one for Northminster!
- Presbyterian Youth Triennium
  - Three youth and one adult from Northminster, and two other Presbytery participants, traveled to Louisville, KY, for the first Presbyterian Youth Triennium (PYT) since the COVID pandemic. This was the first year PYT has taken place outside of Purdue University in decades, which meant we stayed in a hotel instead of dorms and had air conditioning everywhere we went! The denomination goes all out for PYT, so it was some of the best programming we've experienced with amazing preachers, music leaders, choir leadership, and beyond. We also had the joy of sharing back-home group time with youth and leaders from Ohio Valley and Wabash Valley Presbyteries.

Fall 2025

- Bible Stories
  - For the 2025-2026 program year, we are focused on learning our Bibles through the exploration of key books of the bible and bible stories with a different story each week.
- Confirmation Class
  - There are twelve youth participating in Confirmation, working together with our pastors and with mentors to explore topics like Faith, God, Jesus, the Holy Spirit, and membership in the PCUSA.
- Fall Family Night
  - Youth and their families all joined together at Top Golf Fishers for dinner and lots of golf games!

- Pyoca Youth Retreat
  - 14 youth and two adults attended Pyoca's Fall Youth Retreat led by Pastor Tyler Brinks of First Presbyterian Church, Bloomington. His messages and our small groups focused on the writings of Howard Thurman. We also hiked, ate s'mores, took a spooky hayride, and just had fun being together in nature!

### Radical Support

- In-Kind Donations
  - We thank the Ronco family for hosting us at their lake house in July 2025 for a great day of bonding, eating, tubing, swimming, jumping, and jet skiing!
  - We thank the Crook family for hosting us at their home for our end-of-the year pool party in May 2025!
  - We thank the Hochbeins for hosting our most recent Christmas Party!
  - We thank the Ricchiotos for letting us borrow their van for our trip to Louisville for PYT!
- Financial Gift
  - Pat Freije once again generously donated to our youth program, making it possible for us to offer activities like the State Fair and Top Golf at no cost to youth and families.
- Volunteers
  - In 2025, we had regular support from Daniel Polak, Lyndsey Polak, Nancy Fortenberry, Hadley Moore Vlahogorge, Patti Martin, and Kairi Kanda on Sunday nights at youth group. We could not safely have a youth group without these generous and dedicated volunteers!
  - Andy Longo served as our second adult for the Pyoca Youth Retreat in November of 2025! He even drove himself because we ran out of room in the van!

### Upcoming in 2026

- Confirmation
  - We will honor and celebrate our confirmation class and high school graduates during worship on Sunday, May 17.
- Montreat Youth
  - Current 8th-12th-grade students will attend Montreat Youth Conference June 7-13.
- Montreat Music and Worship
  - Northminster youth will attend the Montreat Music and Worship Conference from June 28 to July 3
- Massanetta Springs
  - Middle school students will travel back to Harrisonburg, VA, for the Massanetta Springs Middle School Conference July 9-12. Emma will serve as a Workshop Director for both July conferences.

**Wellness - Krista Wright**

- CPR non-certifying refresher class – February 2025
- Women's Wellness Symposium – May 2025
- Dude's Mind Body Spirit Series – July-August 2025
- Menopause Panel Discussion – November 2025

The Menopause Panel is available on our YouTube channel. It will soon be available as a podcast, along with a follow-up interview with Kathryn Gonçalves on Pelvic Floor Health.

A conversation with Barbara Dahl on the History and Usage of the Labyrinth will also be posted online.

**Adult Education - Jennifer Young Dzwonar**

2025 Adult Education theme: Becoming Better Neighbors

Number of individuals who attended at least one Adult Education session this year: 119

2025 Topics

- January
  - Becoming Better Neighbors – Rev. Karen Herbst-Kim
  - Greater Indianapolis Multifaith Alliance (GIMA) – Rabbi Aaron Spiegel (Mission partner)
  - Broad Ripple Village Association (BRVA) – Jordan Dillon
- February
  - Exodus Refugee – Kristopher George (Mission partner)
  - Indiana Youth Group – Chris Paulsen & Shelly Fitzgerald (Mission partner)
  - What lessons can we learn from Dietrich Bonhoeffer's opposition to Nazism - Rev. Jim Higginbotham
- March
  - Planning your Celebration of Life – Rev. Carol McDonald, Emi Johnson
  - Contemplative Prayer and Practice Circle (CPPC) – Mary Beth Riner
  - Lent: Writing Our Faith Legacy Stories – Mary Beth Riner, Emi Johnson
  - Prayers & Priorities: The Changing Landscape of Religion in the U.S. – Rev. Brian Shivers & Rabbi Jordana Chernow
  - Mirror Indy Chat & Chews event with feedback on what the community wants media to cover
- April
  - New Indy Action Coalition – Josh Riddick
  - Bread for the World film: The Food Insecure - Dave Miner
  - Q&A Time – Rev. Brian Shivers

- August
  - Pastors' Bible Study – Rev. Brian Shivers & Rev. Karen Herbst-Kim
- September
  - The Homelessness response system broadly – Elliot Zans, Coalition on Homelessness Intervention & Prevention (CHIP)
  - The City County Council's work for Streets to Home – City-County Councilors, Andy Nielsen & John Barth
  - Outreach and interaction with unhoused neighbors – Niki Wattson, CHIP
  - Covenant Network on “How Welcoming are We?” – Rev. Brian Ellison
- October
  - The Point-In-Time count and data collection (State of Homelessness Recap) – Abe Roll, CHIP
  - Finding your personal WHY for social activism – with Josh Riddick & Jennifer Shivers
  - Art project – Lisa Longo
- November
  - Umoja speaker – Kenyan staff member, Jerry Owaka
  - Christian Nationalism: Barmen and Bonhoeffer – Rev. John Franke
  - Three lessons from Evictions Court – Fran Quigley, IU McKinney School of Law
  - Caravaggio: A Life of Contradiction – Jerry Gray
  - Christians You May Not Know: The Simpler the Better – Mennonites and Amish – Don Knebel
- December
  - Christians You May Not Know: Thy Kingdom Come - Seventh Day Adventists and Jehovah's Witnesses
  - Christians You May Not Know: Visions of God - Latter Day Saints (Mormons)
  - Advent Bible Study



# Worship and Arts

*Lisa Longo and Mary Beth Riner*

## Worship Team

On the first Tuesday evening of the month, we gather with other teams for a short devotional. Our team then meets to consider ways to contribute to upcoming services that will serve to create rich, vibrant, weekly, and seasonal worship. We work several weeks or months out so as to coordinate pastoral, music, and art themes. Our discussions focus on coordination, identifying specific needs and resources, and considering new ways of doing a sacred practice, like how communion is served to those who remain seated.

Members of the team include Barb Angotti, Cy Donnelly, Mary Holland, Gayle Sue Murphy, Rebekah Ryan, Jeff Schmahl, John Wright, and Brian Shivers.

## Communion and Chancel Care Guild

For the women of the Communion and Chancel Care Guild, preparations for Sunday worship begin on the previous Monday morning at 9:00. Our responsibilities include dusting the sanctuary, straightening the pew racks, vacuuming the pew cushions, refilling attendance pads, washing and putting away communion ware, emptying the baptismal font, filling the Christ Candle with oil, polishing the piano, and changing the candles.

When Communion is being served, Chancel Care members prepare the elements, place them on the table, and clean up afterwards. We have 18 members, most of whom have served for many years. Our co-chairman, Elle Keppler, is stepping down after 17 years to concentrate on her role as chairman of Wednesday night dinners. She will be missed.

## H.O.S.T.

HOST stands for Hospitality-Offered-Serving-Together. That is what 20+ regular and 11 subs do for NM each Sunday. They are the smiling, helpful people who greet you at the doors of NM, handing out bulletins, greetings, and answering questions. They are also the first smiling faces greeting our visitors. We also collect the offering, the pew pads, and take the count. We have many long-time hosts who have served for years. This is a great "first" volunteer job for new members. A weekly reminder is sent out by the lead HOST, who also serves on the Worship committee.

## Stream Team

Every Sunday, the NPC Stream Team broadcasts our worship service to an ever-growing audience via our website, Facebook Live, and YouTube, where recordings remain available indefinitely. In addition to Sunday services, the team also streams Celebrations of Life, Congregational Meetings, special events, and other important gatherings. The Stream Team is made up of eight dedicated volunteers with expertise in audio or video production.

Together, they operate and maintain the equipment that allows NPC to connect with neighbors near and far.

The team also manages the PA system during Sunday services, as well as the audio loop system that provides enhanced sound for those who are hearing impaired. Special thanks to Timothy Foster for creating the screen graphics used in every broadcast! Want to learn more? If so, reach out to Jeff Schmahl.

### Communion Servers

The Worship Team recruits volunteers to serve communion during worship on the first Sunday of each month, as well as on other special occasions. The recruitment process is straightforward. Using the “mass contact” feature in Shelby Next, an email is sent to all currently serving Elders and Deacons during the week prior to the service, requesting six volunteers. The email includes a link to a SignUpGenius page for easy sign-up. On the rare occasion that the initial email does not yield enough volunteers, a follow-up message is sent to Elders who are not currently serving. The Worship Team is deeply grateful to those who help share this meaningful sacrament with our congregation.

### Worship Art Crew

There are 8-10 regular members and another 10 who assist occasionally with designing and assembling the variety of worship art installations placed in the gathering place and the sanctuary throughout the year. This group of volunteers, some of whom are very creative and some of whom are great executors, works with the worship staff and worship team to coordinate visual displays that relate to the overall themes of the worship services.

For example, we first met in Spring 2025 to discuss the Advent art. Jerry Gray had a vision for the mobile in the gathering place and took the lead in the design and creation of the piece with the help of Anne Kenley. In the fall, we met again and decided on other pieces to be used at Advent, adding the streamers in the windows and using some pieces from previous seasons. This team handles the two main seasons of Advent and Lent and also plans for special celebrations such as Pentecost and World Communion Sunday. We often have one person who will lead a project, and others will support in getting the piece created and installed.

	2025		2024		2023	
Sunday AM Services	In Person	Online	In Person	Online	In Person	Online
January	145	63	142	111	140	53
February	158	63	167	87	143	63
March	168	55	203	63	159	57
April	231	59	173	31	198	63
May	155	45	156	37	156	36
June	139	46	133	40	126	43
July	131	57	131	43	129	42
August	127	44	159	38	159	47
September	156	40	151	36	139	43
October	163	40	168	41	174	62
November	177	54	186	42	185	45
December	184	69	189	42	167	99

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Seek | Serve | Embrace

Cover Art by Jerry Gray