



Orchard Park
Wesleyan Church

Mission Statement

*Ordinary people
seeking and sharing
extraordinary life in
Christ.*

OPWC Core Values

Bible

We believe the Bible is the active revelation of God's love and grace; to guide, equip, and protect us. This belief underscores every aspect of our identity and purpose.

Key verse: 2 Timothy 3:16 *"All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, so that the servant of God may be throughout equipped for every good work."*

Supporting Scriptures:

Psalm 119:105 – God's word guides our direction in life
Hebrews 4:12 – God's word is our standard of truth internally and externally
Matthew 4:4 – God's word describes God's will for our lives
John 1:4 – Jesus embodied God's Word perfectly for us

Worship

We believe worship is an authentic Christ-centered lifestyle that daily celebrates God.

Key verse: Romans 12:1 *"Therefore, I urge you brothers and sisters, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God – this is your true and proper worship."*

Supporting Scriptures:

1 Chronicles 16:23 – Worship is a daily celebration of God's love
Psalm 100:2 – Worship is an expression of joy
John 4:24 – Worship is the honest connection of our spirit with God's Spirit
1 Corinthians 10:31 – Worship encompasses every aspect of our lives

Community

Caring for one another in love, we strive to build a diverse and accepting community of believers growing together in Christ.

Key Verse: Psalm 133:1 *"How good and pleasant it is when God's people live together in unity!"*

Supporting Scriptures:

Acts 2:43-47 – God's people share their possessions to meet the needs of others
Galatians 3:28-29 – All people are valued and loved
Hebrews 10:24-25 – Building relationships provides support and encouragement
Matthew 18:20 – God inhabits the community of believers

Sharing

We eagerly take the life of Christ to everyone we meet, through God's love.

Key verse: Matthew 28:19 *“Therefore go and make disciples of all nations baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.”*

Supporting verses:

Matthew 4:19 – Jesus sends us to love people

Isaiah 6:8 – We willingly respond to God’s invitation to share His love

John 20:21 – We share God’s love the same way Jesus did

Acts 1:8 – The message of God’s love is the Gospel of Jesus for all people

Serving

We use our gifts and resources to tangibly meet the needs of others in our church, community and world.

Key Verse: 1 Peter 4:10 *“Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others, as faithful stewards of God’s grace in its various forms.”*

Supporting Scriptures:

Matthew 25:35 – Serving others expresses our love for Jesus

Matthew 5:16 – Doing good helps people see God’s goodness

Acts 2:44-45 – Sharing our resources builds a stronger community

Matthew 25:40 – Serving others is to serve Jesus

Senior Pastor Annual Report 2024

“So, between the death of Christ and the Last Day it is only by gracious anticipation of the last things that Christians are privileged to live in invisible fellowship with other Christians. It is by the grace of God that a congregation is permitted to gather visibly in this world to share God’s word and sacrament. Not all Christians receive this blessing. The imprisoned, the sick, the scattered lonely, the proclaimers of the Gospel in heathen lands stand alone. They know that visible fellowship is a blessing.”

-Life Together by Dietrich Bonhoeffer

I began last year’s report with this quote by Dietrich Bonhoeffer. It is as important to me today as it was last year. For my family and I, we are blessed to be a part of this fellowship. For the first year, our primary focus was to begin investing in meaningful relationships with you. What a privilege this has been. In our second year here, while we continued to invest in these relationships, I also began to assess the church and its influence both within the walls of the church and without.

I am glad to say that life together happens here at Orchard Park Wesleyan Church! This is a praying church, committed to building committed followers of Jesus Christ. We desire to have a greater influence for Christ in our families, within the communities in which we live, and throughout all of God’s creation. We desire to be a missional church for Jesus Christ. The board and the staff have been a blessing to me as we are closing in on another year of serving together.

Serving alongside Pastor Andrew Sherman and Lauren Ruhl makes each week enjoyable and life giving. I am extremely excited about our family ministries for the upcoming year. As always, Kellee Ruhl has gone beyond in her office duties! John Lilley continues to be a rockstar in serving as our treasurer, an especially important and often overlooked ministry.

For yet another year, both Jim Szczodrowski and Jill Norvilitis have faithfully served the boys (CSB) and girls (Pioneer Girls) on Wednesday night. Both should be celebrated for their commitment and their love to so many throughout their years of service. Thank you, Jim and Jill, for your service. So many have shared their admiration and appreciation to me about you both.

Though some people may not consider this a ministry, pickleball has certainly become a terrific opportunity to fellowship, while also getting some healthy exercise in! John and Kathy Lilley continue to lead a group of people who appreciate the use of our facilities. What a significant influence this has had for those individuals who participate in that program. We also have Ryan DeFries coordinating pickleball once a month for those

interested. I love to see these kinds of events pop up by individuals interested in getting together. Keep up the great work!

Ron and Elaine Sheldon have continued to be an anchor to which the Friday Crew and Buildings and Grounds Committee depend on. I am in awe of their dedication and love for the work at hand.

The worship team, led by Pastor Andrew, has seen significant growth over this past year. Thank you for ushering us into an atmosphere of worship every Sunday morning. We are looking forward to what this ministry continues to grow into! Tami Feldman and Tim Roberts stepped up and continued our tradition of having a choir as part of our music ministry. Thank you for doing this and adding to our worship experience!

As is always the case, I fear I have left someone out. So many people are involved in God's work. To all the volunteers, prayer warriors, and church family members who do so much, thank you! May you continue to serve with a Christ-derived joy as we continue to strive to be an influence *with* Christ in this church, within the community at large, and beyond!

Over this past year, we have seen our attendance stabilize. Thanks to a great Budget Committee we were able to hammer out a very practical budget for this past year which will set us up nicely for the coming fiscal year. Though we by no means would characterize this past year as a season of numerical growth, we did see spiritual growth in people. We added to our membership ranks while also having baptized several people, with more to be baptized this coming month. We continued our tradition of mission's support with another fantastic year of supporting missions, both locally and nationally, through finances, prayer, and action. We look forward to adding to this endeavor in the coming year.

Last summer, we added opportunities for fellowship and relationship building by hosting Friday campfires once a month in our clearing by the cell phone tower. These were well received, and we already have bonfires scheduled for this summer. We also continued our tradition of a summer camping weekend at Sprague Brook Park. Another one is scheduled for this summer. I would like to encourage you to participate in at least one of these this summer, to meet new people, or build upon the relationships you already have with others.

PIVOT - That is the word, the theme for this year. For many, this is a fright-filled word. Enable to pivot, it means we are changing; moving away from something to recalibrate so that we are better in tune with what we believe God is leading us toward. As I mentioned

previously, this past year has been in part a season of assessment. And while there are many good things happening here at OPWC, we know that we need to pivot to be the greatest influence we can be *with* Christ.

Our Sunday morning worship experience will continue to be important. Over this past year we have tried to emphasize the importance of family through our fifth Sunday service. We will continue to try new things. While we certainly have not arrived in this regard, I applaud our desire to be inclusive and to explore the variety of ways that we can worship God on Sunday morning.

Discipleship will continue to be particularly important to us. We are so thankful for Ron Wright, as he has faithfully taught our Sunday morning class. We are also thankful for all who continue to meet in their small groups. Moving forward, we will look to add more small groups and other opportunities for both fellowship and discipleship. You will hear more regarding this emphasis as we hammer out the coordination details.

It has been my great honor to visit with many of you at your homes, when you are sick, or when you simply need encouragement and prayer. However, I am but one person and I see the value in encouraging others to take up this ministry with me. I am so glad that Mary Roberts has answered the call, to coordinate with me so that we can better serve our church community. We are calling this ministry Inside Outreach. You will hear more about this as we continue to not only share what this is about, but to encourage others to join in on this ministry.

One of the biggest changes for this coming year will be in restructuring of our midweek family ministries program. Our desire is to have a midweek program that works together, sharing our limited resources, while also keeping each ministry distinct. Let me make this clear that we will continue to have a specific boys' and girls' program, respectively. Our goal is to create a Wednesday evening program that the entire family can come to on the same day. We believe that as relationships are built, because each ministry will be present and working together, that this will increase the possibility of these families becoming connected to other church events/ministries. Our family ministry's primary goal will always be to be an influence for Christ's kingdom. We understand that there will always be those who come who have little interest in Jesus and that they are more interested in the events, games, and crafts. However, as a church we want to always give that opportunity for them to go deeper in their relationship with Jesus Christ. That is our mission. More on this matter at the local church conference June 2...

During my candidating weekend one year, 8 months ago, the board strongly emphasized their desire to be a greater presence in the Orchard Park community. One of the ways we

are going to be accomplishing this in the coming year is through our very new and exciting relationship with the Orchard Park School District. Many of you were at the service where Ann Linder from Family Solutions Center came and spoke. There is such a great need in our community and often we are unaware of those needs. The schools are at the forefront of those needs. It is amazing that we have already established a trust relationship with FSC. In addition to partnering with FSC, other churches and local organizations are joining in on the effort. This partnership will employ the concept that not one church/organization has to do everything. We will do our part, and together, we will be able to serve our community more fully. More on this matter during the local church conference...

I am excited to speak with all of you in person, in the direction we are heading for this coming year, but I do not want to overpromise or to become a car salesperson. I do believe we as a staff and board are following the promptings of our Lord and Savior. I do believe wonderful things lie ahead! Yet I do not want you for a minute hear me say that everything is figured out. We, as a group of believers, are going to do this together. It must be together. I leave you for now, with this quote:

"A Christian fellowship lives and exists by the intercession of its members for one another or it collapses." **Life Together** by Dietrich Bonhoeffer

Please join me in praying for this year; that God will continue to guide our steps and that we may be unified and actively engaged in His kingdom work! -Pastor Robert Engler

Assistant Pastors Report 2024

Youth Ministry

It has been encouraging to reflect back on a really wonderful year of youth ministry at OPWC. Early in the ministry year we took several students to Never The Same Camp at Houghton University where 3 students committed their lives to Jesus for the first time. It is the greatest joy in ministry, bar none, to see students respond to the Gospel and find hope and healing in it.

We followed that exciting experience with a strong and healthy year of youth ministry. Our regular Sunday night program is an environment that any student can walk into and feel welcome and start thinking about Jesus. It is a fun environment with times and space for teens to just hang out, but they will also hear Scripture read followed by a devotional. We also added a senior high Bible study this year for our high school students that wanted to go deeper in their walk with Jesus. Unfortunately this group had to end early this year due to scheduling issues, but it was a very meaningful ministry and it will be back.

Other big wins for the youth ministry this year include the baptism of four of our teens in October, and the District Winter Retreat which was a very powerful weekend of worship and learning together. I'm very grateful for my leaders this year, Sean Campbell and Austin Beutler, for making what we do possible; and I'm thankful for the support of the church and parents and guardians that trust us with their kids every week. It is a privilege. I'm thankful for the ways God has been working and trusting that greater things are ahead.

Worship Ministry

At the start of the ministry year the worship ministry was still in limbo. We had an “all hands on deck” approach to everything with Tim Ruhl, Josette Dice, Josh Ruhl, and myself taking turns planning and leading worship each week. While we loved the collaborative spirit of that, it was clear that it was not sustainable long term, and with much prayer and discernment I agreed to take leadership as interim worship leader in September.

As worship leader there has definitely been a learning curve, but I am very confident in the abilities of my team but more importantly I am confident that their hearts are in the right place to be worship leaders. Who the worship team is on stage on Sunday morning is who they are. What you are seeing is a genuine offering of faith from people who love God and love their church. And it's the cherry on top that they happen to be excellent musicians.

So I'm of course thankful for everybody that participated in the music ministry at OPWC, but I do need to give an extra shoutout to Bob Tharnish and Tim Ruhl for being so consistent and faithful on the AV side to make what we do possible. And thank you to everybody that has sung along with us throughout the year whether on stage, in the pew, or in your living room watching the live stream. Singing together is such a powerful way that we build one another up in the faith and I'm thankful to be a part of this special ministry.

In Christ,

Pastor Andrew Sherman

Sunday Morning Welcome Ministry



The purpose of the Sunday Morning Welcome Ministry is to make an encouraging connection with each person who walks through the doors of OPWC on a Sunday morning.

Our Welcome Ministry volunteers warmly greet our congregation and visitors by answering any questions, handing out bulletins, providing coffee and refreshments, assisting folks with physical needs, guiding visitors to the different ministries available on a Sunday morning, and by encouraging and facilitating relationships with other members of the congregation.

Wins

*Thank you to our Usher Team and Greeters who serve so faithfully. Thank you to Kellee Ruhl who coordinates the schedule from the office.

Ushers – Dave Norman, Ron Sheldon, Anthony Crowden, Dave Feldman, Mary Roberts, Kathy Lilley, Loren Crowden, Chuck Campbell, Mark McAllister, Tim Kasper, Peter Reukauf and Mark Belter

Greeters – June Haas, Debbie Preston, and Mary Roberts

*Our Connect Time is a wonderful opportunity for the congregation to meet, greet, share, pray and fellowship together after service. Thank you to our volunteers who continue to prepare the coffee and refreshments on a monthly basis.

Connect Time Team – Lou Tharnish, Ari Almquist and Domenika Bryant, Sally Bojan, John and Kathy Lilley

*It is so encouraging to see so many people in our congregation identify newcomers to our services and take the time to not only introduce themselves, but to have a meaningful conversation with our guests.

Needs

*We are in need of 2 Ushers and 2 Greeters who would be willing to serve once a month or even as substitutes.

Prayer Requests

*Please pray that our team would continue to have a servant's heart for the needs of our visitors and congregation and a vision for making meaningful connections with people each week.

*Please pray that our congregation will continue to share the extraordinary life in Christ with those who pass through our doors each Sunday morning.



In His Service,
Mark Ruhl

Sunday Morning Children's Ministries 2023-2024

This year marked some exciting changes in our Sunday morning children's ministries. Thanks to a flexible team of volunteers who have generously given their time and gifts to our ministry this year, we successfully maintained a ministry for children in the toddler room and Kid City during my time away on maternity leave and throughout the entire ministry year! This year we have welcomed an average of 3-4 children a week in our toddler/infant ministry and 6-8 children in Kid City.

Our toddler/infant room is staffed by three volunteers each week to care for the infants and toddlers of our congregation. These volunteers lovingly share God's love and word with the children who attend each week. We have seen these children grow tremendously throughout this year and are so thankful their families have allowed us to minister to them this year!

Children in Kindergarten through fifth grade have begun joining the congregation at the beginning of our Sunday morning services for the worship set and prayer before heading back to Kid City for a children's lesson. This has given our children the opportunity to worship alongside other generations and develop relationships with those outside of children's ministry. I am encouraged by the connections I see growing amongst families of all ages in the church and look forward to how these will continue to grow in the upcoming year!

I am so grateful to all of those who have contributed to the spiritual development of these children this year! I was blessed to be able to take time out on maternity leave this year as we welcomed our son, Asher, knowing that the Sunday morning ministries would continue under the Godly instruction of many members of our congregation. A special thanks to Amy Engler, Dawn Houghton, and Mark Ruhl who led several weeks in Kid City during this time! We have also been able to continue sending letters and sponsoring our Compassion child Desita, in Ethiopia, through our partnership with the missions committee. We look forward to continuing this form of missions in the upcoming ministry year!

As we plan for the upcoming ministry year, please join me in praising God and praying in the following ways.

- Praise God for the work that he is doing in the hearts of the children we minister to each week!
- Praise God for the relationships that are being built between families across generations in our church!
- Praise God for those who give of their time and gifts to minister to these children!
- Pray for unity amongst the various ministries within our church.
- Pray for wisdom in how to use our gifts and resources to minister to families in the church and community.
- Pray for those serving in children's ministry to be filled with the Holy Spirit's leading.

Faithfully Serving,
Lauren Ruhl



Women's Ministry Report 2023 – 2024

Submitted by Debra Wright

We had three events over the past year.

In July, Karen Zielinski graciously hosted an evening at her house. Thirty ladies and teens participated by bringing a dessert/salad to share while swimming in the pool and/or lounging under the covered porch. Karen shared with the group a devotional and fun was had by all.

In the fall, Tammy DeFries hosted a Soup and Bread Night. Twenty-five ladies and teens brought a pot of their favorite soup to share. Some of the leftover soup was packed up and given to Pastor Andrew and Pastor Rob for Pastor Appreciation Month. An evening of fellowship and hot soup was a welcome event.

In December, a cookie exchange was conducted in the East Room. Thirty ladies and teens attended the event where cookies, hot chocolate, and coffee were consumed by all. The remaining cookies were divided among the participants to enjoy at home. Debra Wright did some festive Christmas trivia games and led a devotional. Karen McAllister prepared, donated the supplies, and led an ornament craft in the gym. No two ornaments were alike, and they turned out beautiful.

We are always looking for ladies to share their ideas, crafts, talents, and time. If you would like to help host a Women's Event please speak with Debra Wright: billsfan55@roadrunner.com.



D

OPWC Men's Ministry Report 2023-2024

I would like to thank those men and women who volunteered this past year. Even though our men's ministry didn't get to do the number of events that I expected we would, we did jointly participate with the children's ministry to make the 2024 Easter Egg Hunt the best yet! Thank you to all!

Our Focus... Is to reach out and serve others with Christ's love.

We will continue to serve those outside of our church as well as those within. The more we support each other with Christ's love, the stronger and more effective we will be while serving others in the same manner. The Men's Ministry continues to participate in crossover cooperation between our other church ministries. To date, this has been a successful approach. The idea is to serve in a way that uplifts and supports our other ministries. We will continue to partner with other ministries in a way that helps all of us become a better outreach to our community. As I previously mentioned, the Men's Ministry worked closely with the Children's Ministry to help put on a five church Easter Egg Hunt at Green Lake! It was a very successful event.

Our men, along with some of our significant others helped set up, serve beverages and snacks to the volunteers and attendees. We also did whatever our Childrens Ministry Leader needed us to do. That included donating funds, hauling equipment, set up, being crossing guards, parking lot attendants, flagmen, manning the prayer walk, help placing eggs, clean up the fields after the hunt, as well as providing relief for others that needed a short break.

Looking Forward (2024-2025):

- We would like to continue to reach out to others to join our Men's Ministry.
- We will continue to come alongside and serve with other OPWC Ministries.
- We would like to have at least one Men's outreach effort directly with the community.
- We will continue with our goal to hold two Men's and Boy's Breakfasts.

I will be stepping down at the end of May 2024 to make room for someone with fresh ideas, more energy, and a rekindled passion for this ministry. If you would like to help with any of these activities, or are interested in becoming the leader of this ministry, please contact the church office.

In HIS Service
Chuck Campbell



Outreach Events 2023-2024

Pickleball

In case you haven't noticed, our church gym has 2 pickleball courts that are used regularly both by people from the community and those who attend our church.

Ryan DeFries organizes pickleball every other Thursday for OPWC folks and friends. 12-16 players turn out regularly between the ages of about 14 to 75. It's open to beginners or more experienced, like the DeFries guys. It's tons of fun, whether you're playing or just watching and hanging out.

Forty people from the community, mostly retirees, are part of a group that play on Monday, Wednesday and Saturday mornings (during the summer they move outside). We average approx. 16 players each time and have had to limit the number so as not to be too crowded. John Lilley leads this group and very recently organized a friendly tournament followed by a potluck lunch. This group is very thankful to our church for allowing pickleball in our gym and contributes weekly towards utilities.



Worship Services at Orchard Heights

Once a month, OPWC leads a church service for the residents of Orchard Heights. An average of 25 residents and 5 members of OPWC gather for a time of worship through singing, communion, scripture reading and a sermon from Pastor Rob. Fellowship Wesleyan has joined us in this ministry over the past year with providing a pianist for the service. The residents are so appreciative of the opportunity to gather for a worship service. We also were able to bless many of the residents who have participated in these services with a small gift during the holiday season.



Operation Christmas Child

This year our church served as a drop-off center for Operation Christmas Child shoeboxes for the 10th year in a row! We were awarded a 10-year plaque by Samaritan's Purse in gratitude for this accomplishment. In total, we collected 2,180 boxes (147 cartons) which is about 700 boxes more than the previous year. We are so thankful to Karen Zielinski who coordinated this and the 28 volunteers who put in many hours to bless those impacted by this ministry!

Trunk or Treat

Thanks to Pastor Rob and Amy Engler as well as many volunteers from our church who helped host our annual Trunk or Treat event this year despite Lauren Ruhl being on maternity leave. Many families from the community came to enjoy games, and trunk or treating put on by the congregation. We are so thankful for the time and hard work that was put into maintaining this event this year!

Easter Egg Hunt

This year we partnered with the Recreation Department of Orchard Park and other churches in the Orchard Park area to host an Easter Egg Hunt at Green Lake Park. Several other churches donated eggs and candy as well as some offered additional help the day of the event! Approximately 677 individuals from the surrounding communities attended the event where they had the opportunity to participate in egg hunts, face painting, prize drawings, bubble activities, and a story walk. Many families in attendance participated in our story walk which shared the message of Easter through the picture book "'Twas the Morning of Easter" by Glenys Nellist. The Men's ministry also partnered with us to provide refreshments for those who helped staff the event as well as providing us with many extra hands that helped make the morning a success. Thank you to all who helped contribute to this event!



Pioneer Girls



Pioneer Girls is a Wednesday night, school-year ministry to girls from kindergarten through high school. Pioneer Girls' motto is "Christ in every aspect of life" and it is the goal of the ministry to model that for the girls. Girls participate in Bible study, singing, crafts, games, missions, and special events. The theme verse for the ministry is Psalm 119:105, "Thy Word is a lamp unto my feet and a light unto my path."

Pioneer Girls continues to live out the church's purpose statement of "Ordinary people seeking and sharing extraordinary life in Christ" through Bible study and worship, serving others, and sharing the Word.

This year, there were 39 girls in the club, including 2 high school assistant leaders (a very slight decrease from 42 last year), 93 % of whom do not attend our church. This is in keeping with the rate from recent years. Our numbers were very strong in the youngest groups, but our middle and high school group remains small. For the first time in many years, we had two high school girls, Bella Johnston and Miranda Radder serve as assistant leaders.

Every week, we start with worship in the sanctuary as the girls sing praise songs. After singing, girls divide into age-group meetings with badge work, Bible study, and crafts.

Highlights of the entire group year included the Pinewood Derby (29 cars racing, up from 27 last year), pajama night, a surprise baby shower for Lauren Ruhl, and our date night at Strikers Bowling. We continued to emphasize service and we made fleece blankets to donate. For the 14th year, we collected and distributed Christmas cards for the shut-ins and nearly shut-ins of our church. Our offerings went to the Noah's Ark Shelter in Uganda, through World Hope. We truly loved caroling for members of our congregation at their homes as part of our Christmas party.

Looking ahead:

Our prayer request for the coming year is that girls would be excited to come and to bring their friends so that our numbers would increase!

If you are interested in joining us to serve in this ministry, please talk to Lauren Ruhl.

Special thanks to:

Pioneer Girls is blessed by a wonderful team of leaders and helpers who teach about Christ, plan crafts, and play games. Thanks to Linda McDade, Beth Arnold, Lou Tharnish, Loran Ruhl, Mindy Collins, Karen McAllister, Linda Haas, Kathy Lilley, Madeline Lock, Debbie Preston, Michelle Faltisko, and Sharon Struebel.



Building and Grounds Ministry Report 2024

I would like to thank our committee members, Chuck Campbell, Lou Tharnish, Mark Belter, Loren Crowden, Anthony Crowden. Scott Hunt and Pastor Rob for all of their input and ideas for our facility.

First, a quick quiz:

What has 6 buildings, 40 rooms, 11 bathrooms, 14 toilets, 4 urinals, 30 wastebaskets and 4 drinking fountains? You guessed it: our Orchard Park Wesleyan Church campus. This is all taken care of by a handful of volunteers and the Friday Crew.

A special thank you to the Friday Crew: Fred Nieman, John and Kathy Lilley, Kevin Worral, Mark Belter, Jim Preston, Lou Tharnish, Harvey DeFries, Kingsley Haas and Elaine Sheldon. Without these volunteers the expense to the church would be unbelievable.

This year we replaced two doors on the white parsonage and painted the gym building hall and added new window treatments. We also contracted a white fence to border the brick parsonage yard. A special thanks to Elaine Sheldon who arranged to have the bushes planted along the fence as well as all of the gardening on the campus. She does an amazing job.

We had a very rainy Saturday spring clean up/ work day with many volunteers that helped us get the list completed very quickly! We enjoyed a nice lunch provided by Pastor Rob. Thank you to all those who came.

We always welcome volunteers, we are in great need of help with the Friday Crew including women who are willing to help clean. If you would like to know more, please contact Ron Sheldon.

Submitted by Ron Sheldon

Missions Committee Report June 2024

And do not forget to do good and to share with others, for with such sacrifices God is pleased. Hebrews 13:16.

Members: Pastor Rob, Beth Arnold, Mindy Collins, Donna Darrell, Ryan DeFries, Bill Dice, Kathy Lilley, Dianne Hayes.

Activity Highlights:

- Garage sale, money raised (\$4754) went as a gift to Good Works, Athens, Ohio and supplies for the fall work retreat.
- 8 Days of Hope, Serving the Buffalo Lovejoy district this year.
- Home Again/ Journeys End, setting up and furnishing an apartment for a refugee family.
- Food Drive for Bread of Life Outreach. Colden, NY
- Christ Chapel Wesleyan Church work day. Silver Creek, NY
- Hickory Hill Camp work day.
- Compass Care Walk
- Fall work weekend at Good Works, Athens, Ohio, serving and sharing with the homeless and those in poverty in rural Appalachia.
- Continued community groups, knit group, bike group and yoga.

Financial Giving Highlights:

\$1000 to 8 Days of Hope Safe Harbor Fund
\$1000 to Dan Schmidt family, missionary in North Africa
\$1000 to Impacto/ Guatemala Building Fund
\$1000 to Christ Chapel Wesleyan Church, Silver Creek work day improvement supplies.
\$600 to Bethany Witkowski, Youth With a Mission
\$700 to Bread of Life, Christmas Hams
\$319 OPWC Easter Egg Hunt
\$500 OPWC Operation Christmas Child, Home Again

At the End of our Budget year (May 2024) we were also able to bless additional outreach organizations with one time gifts:

\$2000 to PATH, People Against Trafficking Humans
\$2000 to Bread of Life
\$2000 to 8 Days of Hope
\$2000 Hickory Hill
\$2000 Camp Cherith
\$1000 Compass Care

Future Plans:

- Visit with Conrad H. Missionary serving in North Africa
- June Potluck Dinner and Visit from Pastor Luis, Guatemala/ Impacto.
- June Garage sale to fund and bless Good Works.
- Partner again with 8 Days of Hope serving this year in the Buffalo Ellicott District.
- Return fall work trip to Good Works in Athens, Ohio.
- Food Drive.
- Set up apartment with Home Again for new refugee family.
- Visit from Keith Wasserman from Good Works.
- Community work days.
- Short term mission travel.

Serving and Sharing,
Dianne Hayes

Missions Annual Budget 2024-2025

GLOBAL PARTNERS

Steve and Rebecca Scott- Central Asia.	\$5500
Chris and Wendy England- Croatia.	\$5500

OTHER GLOBAL MISSIONS

Impacto/ Pastor Luis- Guatemala.	\$7000
World Hope Haiti.	\$5500
World Hope Sierra Leone.	\$5500
SIM/ Conrad and Andrea H. North Africa.	\$5500
AIM INT /Dan and Courtney Schmidt. North Africa.	\$5500

LOCAL MISSIONS

City Mission.	\$2500
Jericho Road.	\$4500
People Against Trafficking Humans.	\$2500
Bread of Life Outreach.	\$2500

ADMINISTRATION

Short term missions fund.	\$5000
Working Fund.	\$3000

\$60,000

WESLEYAN CHURCH OF ORCHARD PARK - ORCHARD PARK NY

Balance Sheet as of May 31, 2024

Tuesday, May 14, 2024 9:00 AM

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Account #	Account Name	Previous Period Balance	Period Activity	YTD Balance
Assets				
Current Assets				
1000.040	PETTY CASH	300	0	300
1000.041	CSB Working Fund	750	0	750
1000.042	Petty Cash - Pioneer Girls	70	0	70
1000.060	WIF SAVINGS	209,077	1,500	210,577
1000.100	COMMUNITY BANK CHECKING	66,385	(8,459)	57,926
	Total Current Assets	\$276,582	(\$6,959)	\$269,623
Fixed Assets				
1500.101	NEW SANCTUARY	2,300,000	0	2,300,000
	Total Fixed Assets	\$2,300,000	\$0	\$2,300,000
	Total Assets	\$2,576,582	(\$6,959)	\$2,569,623
Liabilities				
2160.960	STATE TAX PAYABLE	393	181	575
2160.970	FICA & FEDERAL PAYABLE	0	643	643
2160.980	NYDB-FMLA PAYABLE	43	7	50
2200.010	WIF MORTGAGE	126,819	(3,500)	123,319
	Total Liabilities	\$127,255	(\$2,667)	\$124,588
Fund Balance				
3500.101	EQUITY - NEW SANCTUARY Balance	2,173,180	3,500	2,176,680
	Total Equity	\$2,173,180	\$3,500	\$2,176,680
3000.010	GENERAL FUND	175,000	(6,610)	168,389
3000.170	HOLIDAY FLOWERS FUND	162	0	162
3000.180	PASTOR\STAFF GIFT FUND	50	0	50
3000.290	MAJOR IMPRVMT SAVINGS FUND	24,109	0	24,109
3000.900	EXCHANGE FUND Balance			
3000.914	EUCC Attorney Fees Balance	10,000	0	10,000
	Total EXCHANGE FUND Balance	10,000	\$0	\$10,000
3000.905	AV Savings Fund Balance	3,360	0	3,360
	Total Unrestricted Funds	\$212,682	(\$6,610)	\$206,071
3000.050	MISSIONS FUND	11,767	1,544	13,311
3000.060	BUILDING FUND Balance	11,365	(2,650)	8,715
3000.100	YOUTH FUND Balance	5,862	0	5,862
3000.160	PC EXCHANGE FUND	2,719	(75)	2,644
3000.220	FUNERAL FUND Balance	2,778	0	2,778
3000.240	MATCH SCHOLARSHIP FUND	13,810	0	13,810
3000.250	SPECIAL NEEDS FUND	7,189	0	7,189
3000.260	MEMORIAL FUND	7,744	0	7,744
3000.410	WOMEN'S MINISTRY FUND Balance	223	0	223
	Total Restricted Funds	\$63,463	(\$1,180)	\$62,282
	Total Fund Balance	\$2,449,326	(\$4,291)	\$2,445,034
	Total Liabilities and Fund Balance	\$2,576,582	(\$6,959)	\$2,569,623

Wesleyan Church of Orchard Park Proposed General Budget

WESLEYAN CHURCH OF ORCHARD PARK
Budget Worksheet for June 2024 to May 2025

		2023-24		
ACC'T	NAME	Approved Budget	Actual Spending	2024-25 Approved Budget
	GENERAL			
	WORSHIP/FELLOWSHIP			
5110.02	Fellowship	2500	2300	2000
5110.03	Music	500	0	500
5110.04	Children's Outreach	3500	3835	5500
5110.05	Guest Speakers	500	235	500
5110.09	Worship Team	500	256	500
5110.10	Church Decorations	500	0	500
	Total Worship/Fellowship	8000	6626	9500
	EDUCATION			
5120.01	Christian Ed - Adult	500	319	500
5120.02	Library	100	46	100
5120.03	Boys Program	4500	4500	4500
5120.04	Pioneer Clubs	4500	4030	4500
5120.05	Youth	3500	1425	3500
5120.06	Nursery	200	83	200
5120.07	Vac Bible School	1000	376	0
5120.08	Children's Ministry	3500	1508	2500
5120.09	Leadership Development	500	517	1000
5120.12	Keenagers	500	130	300
5120.13	College Ministry	500	300	300
5120.14	Women's Ministry	500	105	500
5120.15	Men's Ministry	500	0	500
5120.16	Toddler Room	150	0	150
	Total Education	20450	13338	18550
	COMMUNICATION			
5130.01	Office Supplies	1500	1358	1500
5130.03	Postage	1300	632	1300
5130.04	Telephone/Internet	5500	5124	5500
5130.05	Liturgical Resources	500	137	300
5130.06	Av Equipment/Supplies	1000	59	1000
5130.07	Promotion	500	49	500
5130.08	Copyright License	1400	1400	1500
	Total Communication	11700	8759	11600
	FACILITIES			
5140.01	Custodial Supplies	1500	1368	1600
5140.02	Lawn Care/Snow Removal	9000	8700	10000
5140.03	Utilities	23000	19300	23000

Wesleyan Church of Orchard Park Proposed General Budget

**WESLEYAN CHURCH OF ORCHARD PARK
Budget Worksheet for June 2024 to May 2025**

		2023-24		
ACC'T	NAME	Approved Budget	Actual Spending	2024-25 Approved Budget
5140.21	Insurance	11000	14087	15000
5140.22	Maintenance/Repairs	15000	8837	15350
5140.24	Sewer/Trash Collection	3500	3500	3500
5140.25	Copier Lease/Maintenance	3750	2700	3750
5140.26	Computer/Software	3000	1900	3000
5140.28	Facilities Improvmnt To Savings	0	0	5000
5140.40	Contracted Cleaning	0	0	0
	Total Facilities/Operational	69750	60392	80200
	MISCELLANEOUS			
5150.01	Miscellaneous	1000	953	1000
5150.03	Online and Banking fees	2500	3020	3300
5150.04	Financial Audit	0	0	0
5200.02	Community Support	500	0	0
	Total Miscellaneous	4000	3973	4300
	SALARIES/REIMBURSABLE EXPENSES/BENEFITS			
	Total Senior Pastor (Incl housing & pension)	62229	62230	61569
	Total Ass't Pastor (Incl housing & pension)	46471	46471	46370
5160.81	Substitute Secretary	800	550	800
5160.83	Treasurer	7500	7500	7500
5160.84	Custodial/Maintenance	19031	17769	19793
5160.85	Worship Leader	3600	0	0
5160.87	Choir Director	3600	0	0
5160.88	Financial Secretary	19278	15678	20049
5160.89	Children's Ministry Director	14016	14923	14577
	Total Other Salaries	67826	56419	62719
5160.92	Workers Compensation	2500	2500	2500
5160.93	FICA/Employer	5189	4072	4798
5160.94	NYSD/Employer	800	800	800
	Total Employer Compensation	8489	7372	8098
5160.12	Sr Pastor-Expense	3500	1864	3500
5160.22	Ass't Pastor-Expense	1500	0	1000
5160.42	The Gathering	0	0	0
5160.70	Health Insurance Premiums and HSA	12100	12280	12100
	Total Pastoral Ministries Expense	17100	14144	16600
	Total Salaries and Benefits	202115	186637	195356

Wesleyan Church of Orchard Park Proposed General Budget

WESLEYAN CHURCH OF ORCHARD PARK
Budget Worksheet for June 2024 to May 2025

		2023-24		
ACC'T	NAME	Approved Budget	Actual Spending	2024-25 Approved Budget
	TOTAL GENERAL FUND	316015	279726	319506
	MISSIONS			
5200.01	Missions Giving	45574	38484	40264
	TOTAL MISSIONS	45574	38484	40264
	BENEVOLENCES			
5250.01	FLOWERS	500	296	500
	Total Benevolences	500	296	500
	ASSESSMENTS			
5300.01	Denominational Assessments	45304	36816	40264
5300.05	District Group Life	400	352	400
	Total Assessments	45704	37168	40664
	BLDGS/PROPERTY/OPERATIONAL			
	GRAND TOTAL EXPENSES	407792	355673	400935
	Weekly Offering	389992	385601	383135
	Bldg. Use/Cell Tower Proceeds	17800	17043	17800
	TOTAL INCOME	407792	402644	400935
	Projected Over/(Short)		46971	

2024 Ballot

1. LBA members at large/Trustees (Our LBA also serves as Trustees)

Current members (1 Year remaining in term)

Chuck Campbell

Kim Hamm

Mary Roberts

Karen Zielinski

2024 Nomination (2 year term)

Jill Norvilitis

Debbie Preston

Tim Ruhl

2. LBA Secretary (clerk)

Ron Wright

3. 2024 Conference Delegate

Conrad Bush

Joyce Bush

Amy Engler

Alternate:

Elaine Sheldon

4. 2024 Nominating Committee (LBA will appoint 2 additional LBA members)

Josh Ruhl

Beth Campbell

Scott Hunt

Current Members 2024

Agro, Anna
Agro, Jim
Agro, Vince
Agro, Vince
Agro, Toni
Arnold, Beth
Barnett, Betty
Barnett, Bob
Bentley, Michael
Bentley, Mindy
Bentley, Trevor
Bojan, Sally
Browka, Carol
Bush, Conrad
Bush, Joyce
Campbell, Beth
Campbell, Charles
Canaski, Kelly
Canaski, Shaun
Cooke, Charlotte
Darrell, Donna
Deeks, C. William
Deeks, Nola
Desautels, Nadia
Desautels, Seth
Engler, Amy
Engler, Rob
Feldman, Dave
Feldman, Tami
Field, Rick
Haas, Linda
Haas, Kingsley
Hamm, Adam
Hamm, Kimberly
Houghton, Dan
Houghton, Dawn
Hull, Jennifer
Hunt, Janet
Hunt, Scott
Jones, Dan

Jones, Karen
Kasper, Amy
Kelley, Linda
Lilley, John
Lilley, Kathy
Maciejewski, Julian
McDade, Linda
Morris, Annette
Nieman, Fred
Norvilitis, Bret
Norvilitis, Jill
O'Connor, Dimitie
Payne, Cathie
Preston, Debbie
Rapalje, Charles
Reynolds, Caron
Reynolds, John
Roberts, Mary
Roberts, Timothy
Ruhl, Joshua
Ruhl, Kellee
Ruhl, Lauren
Ruhl, Mark
Ruhl, Timothy
Sheldon, Elaine
Sheldon, Ron
Sherman, Andrew
Skinner, Jennifer
Struebel, Sharon
Szczodrowski, Jim
Trzyna, Cynthia
Wright, Debra
Wright, Ron
Zeigler, Jolene
Zielinski, Karen

*Highlights indicate inactive members