

Medina UCC, Congregational

206th Annual Team Reports

May 18, 2025

We are called

to

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&

Serve



United Church of Christ, Congregational

217 East Liberty St.

Medina, Ohio 44256

330-725-4559

ANNUAL TEAM REPORTS

2024 / 25

206th ANNUAL MEETING

Church Staff

Rev. Dr. Luke Lindon, Senior Pastor

Rev. Meghan Malone, Associate Pastor of Youth & Mission

Karen Brocco-Kish, Visitation Pastor

Cindy Korecky, Office Manager

Pete Metzloff, Financial Manager

Stacie Yates, Director of Youth Ministries

Jennifer Vilimonovic, Director of Hobby Horse Preschool

Cathy Fafrak, Organist and Office Assistant

Jack Sharpe, Maintenance & Interim Custodian

THE 206th ANNUAL TEAM MEETING MAY 18, 2025
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST, CONGREGATIONAL

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CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE

"God Be With You"

**God be with you 'til we meet again; By His counsels guide, uphold you;
With His sheep securely fold you; God be with you 'til we meet again.**

United Church of Christ, Congregational Medina
Minutes from the 206th Annual Team Meeting
January 26, 2025

Call to Order: Moderator Scott Ockunzzi called the meeting to order at 11:20 am with 126 members in attendance. Therefore, a quorum was established. The Rev. Dr. Luke Lindon offered a prayer of invocation.

Minutes from May 19th, 2024: Scott asked for a motion to approve the minutes from the May 19th Annual Team Meeting. Colleen Rice so moved and Beth Hari seconded the motion. No discussion was shared regarding the minutes and the motion passed.

Report of the Church Clerk: Carl Skorepa shared a quick summary of the report noting that on page seven the names of 46 inactive members were removed from our membership rolls. He shared that four or five years ago we went through a similar process of updating inactive members for removal. Scott asked for a motion to accept the report as printed on pages six and seven. Alice Metzloff so moved and Mary Ann Blosser seconded the motion. No discussion was shared regarding the report and the motion passed.

Report of the Church Treasurer and Narrative Budget for 2025: Pete Metzloff explained various aspects of our finances and explained his narrative budget insights. With regards to the listing of the individual salaries that were printed in previous years, Pete share that Ohio law prohibits these personal salaries be printed. He shared that salaried staff will receive a 5% increase this coming year (i.e. 2025) compared to an increase of 3% in 2024. Scott asked for motion to approve the Report of the Treasurer on pages eight and nine. Dan Daubner so moved and Katy Medley seconded the motion. During the discussion, Kate Lindon asked about the pledge drive and Pete shared that a follow up will be instituted for those members who “may have forgotten to use the forms that were *hanging on the refrigerator.*” Motion passed.

Pete shared we will be operating with a deficit budget for 2025. However, our staff and various teams are very resourceful and over many years we have avoided actual deficits. The negative \$17,748.00 deficit budget could be covered by our “Reserved Funds.” When asked by Julie Gilliland about him not taking any salary for his position, Pete responded that he is enjoying this unique experience and will continue. The issue of Capital Improvement Funds was raised. Pete shared we have \$78,000.00 in this fund. However, a soon to be renovation of kitchen equipment will proceed with funds from Endowment and recent memorial gifts earmarked for the kitchen. Pete stated that Luke recently addressed this issue and that the Property and Grounds Team will begin creating a Capital Improvement Finance Campaign in the near future. Scott asked for a motion to accept the Narrative Budget for 2025 as printed on pages 12-27. Brad Rice so moved and Nick North seconded the motion. During the discussion part of this motion, John Kavouras questioned the date of “2023” in the title of Financial Overview of Flows on page 10. Pete acknowledge the typo and will change it to “2024.” The motion passed.

Proposed WISE Draft Covenant: The Welcoming Inclusive Supportive Engaged (i.e. WISE) committee placed a two page (pages 29 and 30) report in the handout that outlined their work since August of 2022. WISE focuses on activities for learning and understanding mental health needs in our community. Additionally, the report indicates yet to be completed goals for WISE and a proposed covenant. Scott asked for a motion from the congregation to approve the covenant printed on page 30. Ann Nagy so moved and Melanie Kasten-Krause seconded the motion. Motion passed.

Other Business:

Updating Various By-Laws in our Constitution: Scott shared that various teams adjusted and updated their by-laws and additionally clarified their missions and ministry focus. Over the past year, a small team of dedicated staff and team members have reviewed our Constitution and Bylaws to update them to more closely reflect how the Church currently operates. The updated Constitution and Bylaws are many, many pages long, and in the interest of being good stewards of this Earth that God has blessed us with, we've printed several copies of the updated documents for review in the East Room, rather than printing them for every copy of the Annual Budget Report. Scott asked for a motion to accept the revised by-laws. Matt Yates so moved and Alice Metzloff seconded the motion. Motion passed.

Safety Team: Ken Zuehlke, head of the Safety Team, shared that team was inspired and conceived by a prompting from Pastor Luke. Ken shared the team is working on security issues, an evacuation process, and active shooter preparations. The safety team is working in conjunction with the Property and Grounds Team for security upgrades. On Saturday, May 3rd, a training session will be held focusing on active shooter scenarios.

Closing Comments and Adjournment: Scott asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting and for Pastor Luke to say a closing prayer. Leon Coard so moved and Sharon Poole seconded the motion. Motion passed and Luke shared a prayer including the blessing of the Chili Cook-off. Cathy Fafrak played *God Be With You* on the organ as the congregation held hands and sang.

MEETING ENDED at 11:54 am

Respectfully submitted and prayerfully edited,

Carl D. Skorepa

Church Clerk

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MODERATOR 2024-25

I am happy to report that our church celebrated another great year of welcoming, loving and serving.

With Pastor Luke on his much-anticipated sabbatical, we still had a summer filled with an ice cream social and Alive on the Square as Pastor Meghan did a wonderful job leading us.

We celebrated the wonderful contributions of Nick North by awarding him the Tom Evans award.

We hosted a truly unique event in January, called "The Promise of Christmas", where we, along with Castle Noel, Keller Meats, St. Paul's Episcopal Church, and many others hosted families from western North Carolina who were devastated by Hurricane Helene the previous fall. It was a huge success thanks to many volunteers in the church and Cindy for her coordination of the event.

At the Annual Budget Meeting in January, we adopted the WISE designation (Welcoming, Inclusive, Supportive, and Engaged) to support neurodiverse mental health experiences in our congregation and community.

We also spent a lot of time this year doing the tedious but important work of cleaning up our Constitution and Bylaws as well as our church membership roles so that our records accurately reflect who we are and what we do.

Thank you's are due to so many for this wonderful year in the life of the church.

To Reverend Dr. Luke and Pastor Meghan for your amazing leadership, teaching and service to the community through sermons, bible studies, and service projects.

To the staff for your dedication. To Cindy for continuing to provide guidance and experience; Cathy for taking on whatever is thrown your way; Pete for stepping in to keep the books in order (again); Jenny for her energetic music leadership and Tracy for stepping in beautifully when she stepped aside. To Stacie for continuing to captivate our youth with your warmth and kindness; and Jen Vilimonovic for the creative and joyful leadership you provide to Hobby Horse and taking over the children's choir.

To my fellow Moderators Alyson Alber and Ellen Nolan, for the abundance of compassionate wisdom you provided for our church this year.

And finally, to the many members and friends who do the work of this church through our teams and as individuals. Your enthusiastic service to the church is inspiring. The more I get to know all of you, the more in awe of you I become.

Blessings,
Scott Ockunzzi

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE SENIOR PASTOR 2024-25

My three goals from last year were:

Help Us Become a WISE Congregation: Welcoming, Inclusive, Supportive, and Engaged (WISE) is a UCC denominational designation around areas of mental health.

-We voted on this at our January 2025 annual meeting. Thank you, church!

Help Us Become an A2A Congregation: Accessible to All (A2A) is a UCC denominational designation around areas of accessibility.

-We have taken the survey and P&G is working on some of the goals we set forth in this work.

Take a Sabbatical: Get a grant for Scotland and Ireland or travel the US.

-A sabbatical happened but the grant didn't. So, we adjusted and had a great time on the Pacific Coast Highway.

Sabbatical was a gift. Thank you. The period of rest ran from Memorial Day to Labor Day 2024 and helped wring things out for me. It was restorative. We reconnected as a family—and got a dog! Pastor Meghan did an amazing job in my absence, and I'm so thankful for her ministry.

While I was on sabbatical, season two of our podcast *REV'D UP! With Meghan and Luke* came out on Spotify. We covered atonement theories, extra-canonical texts, and some short stories. You can visit and revisit these here: <https://open.spotify.com/show/7idVHZlsjg1NAGfFP5tPVW?si=6e2f4249874149b6>

I'm looking forward to season three which is in the works!

We picked back up in the fall with a visit from Colby Martin. Colby is a wonderful author and speaker who talked about *The Shift* at the end of September. I met Colby at Wild Goose; special thanks to the Endowment for making that happen. They have also funded two more speakers: Dr. Greg Carey, who was scheduled to preach on Palm Sunday (but car trouble prevented that—he'll be rescheduled for the fall), and the Rev. Dr. Sarah Lund, who will be with us on May 18—the day most of you are reading this.

In October, we had the pet blessing where we blessed 25 dogs and 6 cats. Then WATOTO! African Children's Choir visited us for a concert on November 8. It was an amazing night and a great way to celebrate our decades of support for Innocent. Thank you to Stacie for her continued support and updates from Innocent as well as her general giftedness in all things.

I completed my role as Vice President of the Medina Interfaith Coalition for Affordable Housing (MICAH). We launched a website (micahmedina.org) and connected with area businesses and local government about the need for workforce housing. I'm still on the committee, meeting monthly with other member churches.

In 2024, I officiated 11 funerals and one wedding. I'm thankful for our relationship with Waite Funeral Home. When they have folks who want a religious service without the guilt, they give me a call, and I'm honored to walk these families through a celebration of life.

This past year was also a remarkable one as we participated in *The Promise of Christmas*. We served the Saturday meal to folks who were affected by the hurricane in North Carolina and came up for a "second

Christmas” in January 2025. We were proud partners with Castle Noel, St. Paul’s, and other area businesses. Special thanks to our volunteers who cooked soups and hosted for five hours. I especially want to thank Jeff and Melissa Miller, who provided the salads, as well as Cindy Korecky, who organized much of this event. It was amazing! You can revisit the event through Miles Reed’s documentary: <https://www.facebook.com/share/v/16aYsSijxN/>

In January and February we took a journey through the Books of Samuel both in worship and in the accompanying bible study for The Prophet and King. Jim Birce printed out large prints and our worship team decorated the church with scrolls and crowns. I really enjoyed that series.

Our music director, Jenny Cochran, resigned in February, and we are discerning who will be our next leader for the choir and bells. I’m so thankful for the interim team of Tracy Gabrielsen, Jerry Mason, and Jen Vilimonovic. The Gathering Band has been excellent as have all of our special music soloists. During my sabbatical, Kate and I encountered Beer and Hymns, a holy moment of worship. I have gathered a small group of strummers and pickers to bring that to our city sometime in fall of 2025. We sure do a good job making a joyful noise!

During Lent we partnered again with St Paul Episcopal and St Matthew Lutheran for AJ Levine’s *Entering the Passion of Jesus: A Beginners Guide to Holy Week*. We did our Wednesday night ecumenical DVD bible studies and AJ even joined us for a Zoom Q&A session!

I’m involved in faith formation at the association level through my work with the SPIRE Center (livingwaterone.org/spirecenter). I’m also planning a clergy retreat for January 2026 with the Rev. Dr. Kelly Brill and the Rev. Brian Shields.

Here’s the space where I usually set three goals to work on. Here’s what I’m looking at:

- **Fall Capital Campaign:** We pledged to be on the square for another 200 years. Ten years ago, we built a new addition. Now it’s time to refresh the old section with HVAC upgrades, a new roof, and sanctuary renovations. I’ll work with both Property & Grounds and Stewardship & Finance to launch this in fall 2025.
- **Website Refresh:** Having worked on the MICA website, it’s clear that it’s time to refresh our own. It’s been on my to-do list too long—so I need y’all to hold me accountable.
- **Planning the 2025–2026 Worship Year:** With Pastor Meghan going on maternity leave sometime in late fall, it’s important to get our worship series locked in. We also want the DELTS programming to align with what the adults are learning upstairs.

We are a vibrant faith community based on welcoming, loving, and serving all God’s people. And we’re living into that call! We’re seeing exciting Sunday worships, lots of visitors, and new members. God is doing something in our midst.

Let’s keep at it, church. We got this.

The Rev. Dr. Luke Lindon

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE ASSOCIATE PASTOR OF YOUTH AND MISSION 2024-25

What a wild ride this year has been! After last year's annual meeting, y'all put me in charge for a few months while Luke was on sabbatical. We talked about growing in fierce love and decorated the church with house plants. Thank you for your support for that series! In June, our youth traveled to Virginia with Hudson UCC to serve the Appalachia Service Project. It wasn't a perfect trip, but we did some really good work together, and we got to have a lot of fun along the way!

We kicked off the fall with a great Alive on the Square service, and lunch served by Medina Creative Housing for the first time (delicious). Once Luke was back in the office, I turned my attention to our youth and we went mini golfing, ate ice cream, took the confirmands duck-pin bowling, had a bonfire, and went on a hike during the fall. Teen church on the last Sunday of the month has continued through this year and has been a lot of fun to lead. I think we'll keep that around!

November came and went with conversations about mental health and a visit from SPARK Medina. In Advent, there was family fun night and the Christmas party. In January, I tried some new things by taking the youth group snow tubing (so fun) and planning a women's retreat (really needed). I hope to do those things again in the future! In February, I had the opportunity to go to Costa Rica and build a house with church members. That trip was an experience I will never forget!

The spring has gone by in a blur. Our confirmands have gone on field trips and a weekend retreat together. We had family board game night and did service projects at youth group like making blankets, cooking for Cups Café, and spring cleaning at the church. In April, I've stayed busy with our annual Junk Drive, and a wonderful Easter season that was full of surprises! I know this year has been overwhelming at times, beloveds. When I look back at how much good we've done despite all that, I'm so proud of who we are together. Thank you for being here with me for another year!

Submitted with so much love - Pastor Meghan

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE VISITATION PASTOR 2024 - 2025

CIRCLE OF CARING

VISITATION shows God's love by keeping in touch regularly and continually via in-person visits, phone calls, letters, and various other forms of communication. The visitation team also delivers crafts made by CRAFT MAKERS and flowers and plants to people receiving our care.

Currently, fifteen (15) people on our VISITATION LIST receive care. Over the calendar year of September 2024 - April 2025, many visits were made by the VISITATION TEAM, which included Visitation Pastor Karen Brocco-Kish, Frank Kish, Syd/Pete Benson, Rita Anderson, Joyce Komjati, Elise Simons, Brad & Colleen Rice, Alan Parkhurst, Deb Waldron, Dorie Christy, Diane Stoll, Chris & Jeannette Fagan, Sherry Croyle, Becky Bauer, Carol Rhodes, Amos Armbrust, Joyce Halter, Julie Gilliland, Teri Fodor, Lois Tampuson, Lori Price, and Alice Metzloff.

We made flower deliveries to show God's love by providing small Christmas Poinsettia plants to assisted living/nursing home residents in December. We also delivered unclaimed altar flowers to church members going through tough times to show that we care about them.

Thank you to all who helped with Circle of Caring. You are greatly appreciated.

This report has been respectfully submitted by
Circle of Caring:
Visitation Pastor Karen Brocco-Kish

CIRCLE OF CARING OUTREACH:

Comprised of three (3) teams...each has its own aspect of outreach but is of one mind and purpose:

GREETING CARDS OUTREACH:

In January to April...many greeting cards of Get Well, Thinking of You and Sympathy were sent to say you are in our thoughts and prayers. Special Happy Birthday cards were sent to our Senior Adult (80+) church members. A very special Happy Birthday greeting was sent to church members who turned 100 years old this year. Many more greeting cards will be sent in the upcoming months of May - December. Thanks to everyone who volunteered to serve each month. You are greatly appreciated!

SEASONAL CRAFTS TEAM:

In September 2024, December 2024, and in January - May 2025...handmade crafts with the themes of Fall, Winter and Spring seasons, and for St. Valentine's Day in February were delivered to our Senior Adult church members who are residents of care facilities, are homebound, and shut in. This year, 2025 Craft Makers adopted a few residents of Brookdale North Assisted Living Care Center who have little to no family in Medina or who do not receive many visits, or any at all.

PRAYER QUILT PILLOWS:

New this year, this craft is a small handheld "pillow" made with prayerful intent to bring comfort and solace in times of trouble, fear, or bereavement. The pillow is adorned with a printed prayer and has a small cross tucked inside to touch. A prayer quilt pillow is a tangible way to acknowledge that God is always by your side.

Thank you to everyone who crafted this year 2025. You are greatly appreciated!

Report respectfully submitted by
Alice Metzloff, Coordinator of Circle of Caring Outreach

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR OF CHRISTIAN EDUCATION 2024-25

It has been a great year for the children and youth of Medina UCC.

In the fall Jesus Vibes once again created a video to be shown to the congregation. The youth wrote a script, prepared props and costumes, and performed the skit. The skit, *The Empty Tomb*, was shown the week after Easter. They also made bulletin covers for their skit. A huge thanks to Deanna Ockunzzi (and Sammy and Max) for doing the editing of the video. After much discussion with the DELT'S it was decided that we would take on a more traditional approach to Sunday for the second half of the year as the videos just became too much to manage. Thank you to Katy Medley, Jenny Wolff, Deanna Ockunzzi, and Melissa Bilikam for stepping in and leading the Jesus Vibes class. I met with the middle school youth on Sunday mornings to discuss current events and their faith. Starting in the fall of 2025 I will be having a video club (I have to come up with a fun name) for those youth who would like to continue to produce videos to be used in worship. The plan for now is to meet on Sundays before youth group, but that could change.

Our Jr. Viber's (3 yrs-2nd grade) continue to have fun learning all kinds of stories and lessons, creating crafts and of course there are the snacks! Thank you to Kenzie Armbrust, Quinn Behler, Melissa Miller, and Michelle Colon for loving our littles, teaching them, and making Jr. Vibes fun.

This year we had six lovely young ladies participate and complete the Bible Class. It was a new curriculum this year, and the girls liked it. They received their Bible on April 27th and presented their bible projects during the children's sermon. A special coffee hour was held in their honor.

In June we had 90 children attend Just Like Me, Digging In and Growing Deep Vacation Bible School where we celebrated who we are, learned how to use our voice, and shared our gifts with our community! It was a week of stories, games, snacks, music, crafts, and fun! We concluded the week with a concert in the sanctuary where the kids shared their songs from the week and of course our tradition of ice cream sundaes. The highlight of our last day was a visit from the Ohio Bird Sanctuary. Abby Yates came and did a presentation with several birds of prey, including Blaze, the Peregrine Falcon, who the children adopted by raising money during the week of VBS. It was a fun week!

The children and youth, with help from our church family, are continuing to sponsor Innocent, a young man from Uganda, Africa. We have developed a wonderful relationship with Innocent, and we always look forward to hearing from him.

On December 8th, the children and youth performed the annual Christmas Pageant. "Manger Tales" was the Christmas story told from the viewpoint of the animals. The children did an amazing job, and it was a wonderful gift for our church family.

I could not do what I do without the continuous help, support, and guidance of the Discipleship and Education Leadership Team. Thank you, ladies. Thank you to all the people who teach our children and youth. You are an important part of their faith journey. And lastly, thank you to the amazing children and youth that I have the privilege to work with. I am blessed to work with such incredible children and families.

Blessings,
Stacie Yates

ANNUAL REPORT OF HOBBY HORSE PRESCHOOL 2024-25

The mission of Hobby Horse Preschool is to provide an age-appropriate, child-centered education in a loving Christian environment. We seek to foster the development of the whole child by facilitating growth—socially, physically, emotionally, spiritually, and intellectually.

Hobby Horse Preschool was purchased by Medina UCCC in 2006, serving a total of 165 children and their families in the 2006-2007 school year. God continues to bless the preschool in 2024-2025 with an enrollment of 127 children and their families. Our service to these children and their families this past school year includes the following highlights.

- Mrs. Jennifer Vilimonovic will complete her 5th year as Director of Hobby Horse Preschool and Mrs. Michele Grubbs will complete her 4th year as Administrative Assistant of Hobby Horse Preschool on June 30, 2025. Mr. Pete Metzloff served as the Finance Director. The teaching staff currently includes Mrs. Vanessa Butsko, Mrs. Krista Carpenter, Mrs. Michele Grubbs, Mrs. Megan Hatala, Mrs. Stephanie Jordan, Mrs. Danielle Kay, Mrs. Yvonne (Bonnie) Kluth, Mrs. Kayla Liebenguth, Mrs. Melissa Miller, Mrs. Adrienne Owens, Mrs. Heather Resan, Mrs. Nicole Schachinger, Mrs. Holly Schwamel, Mrs. Elisha Vitou, and Mrs. Stacie Yates. Our list of substitute teachers includes Mrs. Jodi Robbins, and Mrs. Kelly Monroe (starting April 2025).
- Hobby Horse Preschool started on Thursday, September 5, 2024 with 123 students enrolled. By January 2025, 2 students withdrew and 4 new students were added, ending the year with 127 students. This is slightly lower than last year. This is because we have less spaces available with full-day classes options, and our afternoon 3s and 4s classes are pulling less students. We are not sure why this is happening, but afternoons have never been the same since Covid. We are always looking for ways to remedy the issue.
- The teaching staff continues to work wonderfully together! Individual teacher evaluations will be completed for Mrs. Megan Hatala and Mrs. Danielle Kay as they are completing their first year. Mrs. Kayla Liebenguth and Mrs. Nicole Schachinger will not be joining us for the 2025-2026 school year due to personal circumstances. They will be missed! We will also hold a staff meeting at the end of the year to review the 24-25 school year, and to create our 25-26 school year curriculum and calendar. The preschool's full-day programming is doing very well and we are offering TT, MWF, and TWTF options.
- Hobby Horse Preschool held 2 different charity drives during the holiday season. In November, we collected 227 lbs. of food for Feeding Medina County. In December, we collected gently used electronic/battery operated toys for Replay for Kids.
- Hobby Horse Preschool held its stable themed Nativity Story program in December. We've decided to rotate the theme through a 3-theme cycle to keep our repeat audience members entertained. The theme for 25-26 will be Polar Express. The children will wear their best Christmas pajamas for the performance and we will share chocolate chip cookies and hot chocolate in Fellowship Hall with our guests before going home.
- Mr. Jack Stoll continued for the 12th year as Hobby Horse Preschool's Santa Claus. We love Santa Jack!!

- Hobby Horse Preschool was not awarded any grants this year. Mrs. Teri Fodor, a Hobby Horse Team member, is helping the preschool look for grant options. Our focus is to find a grant that will allow us to repair and update the preschool entrance. The Church did receive Employee Retention Tax Credits and the Stewardship Team awarded us a “rent free” 2025. The Preschool Team voted to place those funds back into payroll and teacher support. Thank you, Stewardship Team!
- In place of what would have been our 4th Annual Trike-A-Thon, we held a 12 basket raffle to raise funds for the preschool during our 17th Annual Art Show, “A Night at the Auction.” Each class offered a themed basket to the raffle with the help of our parents, and the Preschool Team created a “Parents Night Out” basket with the help of local businesses. The event took place April 10-11, 2025 and we raised \$1,874.00. These funds and funds raised from our Stoller Butter Braids fundraiser held November 2024 (\$1,997.70) will go toward purchasing new air conditioning units for the classrooms.
- The Endowment Team awarded the preschool funds to help purchase a double-door swinging gate for the East Liberty entrance. This gate was requested by licensing during our annual inspection to secure our outdoor play space for the children while outside. The gate will be installed over the Summer in preparation for the 2025-2026 school year. Thank you, Endowment Team!
- We did not ask for donations from the Church for our Scholarship Fund this year as we still have a significant amount available due to past donations and fundraising. This year, we helped 8 families with their tuition.
- Once again, we focused on the Nativity story (November/December), the teachings of the Fruits of the Spirit (February), and Mrs. Stacie Yates shared the Easter Story with her basket of eggs (April). Mrs. Vilimonovic also led a Day of the Dead lesson (October/November) where the children read a story, created decorations, gathered photos of deceased loved ones, and then decorated the Chapel and Sanctuary for All Saints Day. She would like to visit more Bible stories during her music time with the children next school year. Those stories are still under consideration but will most likely be the story of Loaves and Fishes (January), the story of Creation (February), and Jesus Walks on Water (March).
- Graduation will be held in the Sanctuary on May 15 and 16, 2025. There are 71 children graduating this year!
- Thank you to all who have and continue to support our beloved preschool including Pastor Luke Lindon, Pastor Meghan Malone, Mr. Pete Metzloff, Mrs. Cindy Korecky, Mrs. Cathy Fafrak, Mr. Jack Sharpe, and the Property & Grounds Team.
- Thank you to the Hobby Horse Preschool Team for your ongoing dedication and support. We will say goodbye to Mrs. Kristin Zabrosky on June 30, 2025 as this will be her last year on the team.

In closing, parents and grandparents come from all over mentioning the good things they hear and praising the great work we are doing. Staff morale is wonderful, and our children are excited to be at school. Hobby Horse Preschool is more than a school, it is a family where all are supported and loved.

Submitted with much faith and gratitude,

Jennifer R. Vilimonovic
 Director of Hobby Horse Preschool

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE WORSHIP TEAM 2024-25

Following Easter in 2024 we started a sermon series titled "Miracle of the Moment" where for seven weeks we considered the different types of miracles that take place in our lives. Then we entered new territory. Pastor Luke started his first sabbatical in our church. Associate Pastor Meghan Malone filled the pulpit for that duration, with a little help from a couple of visiting speakers. She brought us some very memorable sermons in a series she completely crafted called "Time to Grow" based on a book called "Fierce Love" by Rev. Dr. Jacqui Lewis. We all found out what an organized and smart woman she was as she challenged us to step out in love.

The church worship areas were decorated with green plants, and one very memorable one spread its branches and leaves across and down the altar. Luke came back refreshed and ready to lead us through a series he titled "Being 101" that focused on the walk of life with our fellow humanity. We then moved into our Harvest series for stewardship and then into Advent, "The Weary World Rejoices" with the cute little houses scattered about. Coming out of Christmas, we turned our attention to a powerful "Prophet and King" series, where we looked at the unique relationship of God's word and our responsibility to our national leadership. To bring us up to date, we then went into Lent and followed the lead of Jewish scriptural scholar A.J. Levine to examine the traditional Jewish understanding of the events that led to Easter.

Submitted by,

Brad Rice

Worship Team Liaison

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT TEAM 2024-25

The Community Engagement Team strives to engage and welcome all who choose to learn about our church in celebration, worship, and/or service. Our team has hosted two Coffee Hours and provided food twice to Cups Café. Welcoming everyone to church services is important. We provide Visitor Bags, containing information about the church, and also organize the sign-up for Sunday morning greeters. When visitors become members, we reach out to them with notes of welcome. Likewise, we write notes to the confirmands welcoming them to church membership. We also provide for the flowers and photos on Confirmation Sunday. Our team members are often seen out in the community. On Memorial Day we set up along the parade route on E. Liberty Street providing popcorn, lemonade and water to those attending the parade. We had a table at Pride on the Square in June. At the September Medina Fall Fest we hosted a craft table where children could string colorful cereal onto yarn to make necklaces. Also, last Fall we provided support, pet bandanas, and dog treats when Pastor Luke and Pastor Meghan blessed the many pets who brought their owners to our very own corner of the square. It is our team that is responsible for ordering the ice sculpture sponsored by our church for the Medina Ice Festival. We also take care of our church sponsorship of Juneteenth and the Candlelight Walk.

We are eager to have new members join our team. You may join us at our meetings, held most months on the first Wednesday of the month at 7:00 p.m. in the church library. Please contact any of the Community Engagement Team members if you have an interest.

Team Members: Patrick Acurio, Mallory Bergstresser, Mary Bessick (Chair and Council Rep), Cori Collier, Blake Stepsis, Stephanie Stepsis (Secretary).

Respectfully submitted,
Mary Bessick

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE HOSPITALITY TEAM 2024-25

The Hospitality Team supports ministries that focus on Christ's care and love for members and friends of the UCCC of Medina.

Members:

- Kathi Kavouras - Co-chair
- Jane Watt - Co-chair
- Myra Fabian - Leaving the committee May 2025
- Mary Gresco
- Sari Allen
- Liz Wolff
- Vicki Birce
- Jeanette Fagan
- Cindy Rickly
- Diane Howard

Events organized and hosted by the committee:

- Ice Cream Social on 6-7-2024 at Medina Square
- Hosted Coffee Hour for Rev. Luke's first Sunday back from sabbatical 9-8-2024
- Hosted 50+ Member Lunch on 10-26-2024
- Cooked for Cups Cafe on 12-2-2024
- Chili Cookoff at church on 1-26-2025

Upcoming Events:

- Ice Cream Social at Medina Square on 6-6-2025
- Member Sari Allen continues to update the Committee's Bylaws

Other Activities:

- Group meets monthly—more often as needed—to plan events and assess progress
- Maintain supplies in the kitchen: paper cups, plates, napkins, coffee, creamer, and table covers
- Support—as needed—parishioners who hosted coffee hour after the 10:30 service

Thanks to all who have donated their time to make our church welcoming. The entire team thanks the congregation for their donations of time and money to make these events successful.

Respectfully submitted,
Kathi Kavouras

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE DISCIPLESHIP AND EDUCATION LEADERSHIP TEAM 2024-2025

The Discipleship and Education Leadership Team (DELT) is responsible for planning and facilitating ministries that nurture the Christian education, faith development, spiritual growth, and biblical understanding of our children, youth, and adults.

Over the past year, the Discipleship and Education Team worked together to sustain a strong Sunday School program, including Jesus Vibes for children in grades 3-7 and Junior Vibes for children age 3-grade 2. The Jesus Vibes group engaged in project-based learning both in the video production room and maker space from August through December. Beginning in January, due to increasing attendance numbers, we opted to divide the Jesus Vibes group into two separate groups: grades 3-5 and grades 6-7. We also decided to shift the 3rd-5th grade group to a more structured Sunday school lesson format, and we introduced a new model for the middle school group, allowing them to connect real-world issues with Christian principles through discussion and activities.

Teens in grades 8-12 met with Pastor Meghan on the last Sunday of each month for Teen Church during the entire 10:30 service to spend quality time together and share snacks and conversation.

The Discipleship and Education Team also coordinated or supported the following programs and events: VBS, Alive on the Square, Youth Group, fall family bonfire, Candlelight Walk bake sale, Advent family fun night, Christmas pageant, youth mission trip fundraisers, board game night, 3rd grade Bible class, and Easter egg hunt.

A sub-committee of DELT has been meeting since October 2024 to assess all current programming for children and youth and to write a proposal for a plan to sustain the strengths and fine-tune areas where growth and improvement can be made. The committee's hope is for a final product that is clear and concise but also comprehensive, so that any future staff and volunteers working with children will be able to step in and get started on Day 1, using the plan as a resource.

Goals for 2025-2026:

- Establish a check-in system for Sunday school attendees to enhance safety
- Develop a year-long calendar available for families at the beginning of the school year to allow for planning and to increase the ease of volunteering
- Increase support for children with additional needs

Respectfully submitted,

Katy Medley

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MISSION TEAM 2024-25

In May 2024, the Mission Team welcomed new leadership: Patrick Acurio succeeded longtime chairperson Maureen Walker, and Jennifer Acurio took over as secretary from Leon Coard, who remains active as Council Representative and alternate secretary. We deeply appreciate Maureen's years of leadership and faithful service and Leon's continued commitment.

We work to extend God's Realm by supporting our Church's outreach. Medina UCC, Congregational is a community of generosity and action, and this year, the Mission Team—on your behalf—has supported numerous initiatives and partner organizations, including:

Donation of the Month: laundry detergent, Halloween candy, hygiene products, period products, hats and gloves, snacks, and cleaning supplies.

Mission and Partner Support: the annual Costa Rica Mission Trip, Marion's Closet, Meals for Blake Families, Claggett Snacks, Cup's Café, Val's Crew, the Juneteenth Celebration, Operation Homes, Hope Recovery and Farm, SPARK Medina, Prospect Pantry, Presbyterian We Care, The Medina Children's Center (donations, Pinwheel Walk, and seasonal cleanup), Shop with a Cop, Feeding Medina County, Hope and Healing Survivor Resource Center, The Society for Handicapped Children, United Church Homes, Project Linus, The Giving Tree, Easter Bags for children of incarcerated parents, and The Next Step Up Emergency Housing Shelter.

We've distributed collections for local church and denominational needs: Amanda Fund, Blanket Sunday, Veterans of the Cross, Church's Wider Mission, Easter Offering, Friends in Need, Neighbors in Need, One Great Hour of Sharing, Jackie's Jars collection for Medina County Senior Center Meals, and Shepherd's Fund.

We also hosted two *Coffee Hours*, fostering fellowship among members.

Looking ahead to 2025-26, we are excited for:

- A handcrafted **mission donations table** by youth member *Josh Swantek* as his Eagle Scout project.
- More **hands-on service opportunities** in our community.
- A quarterly **Mission Spotlight** highlighting our local partners' work.

In 2024-25, alongside your countless hours of volunteer service, donated goods, and effort, the Mission Team distributed **\$47,837** to support mission work.

Thank you for your generosity and commitment to serving others in Christ's name!

Respectfully submitted,
Patrick Acurio, Chairperson

Mission Team Members:

Jennifer Acurio, Patrick Acurio, Becky Bauer, Madeline Bauer, Leon Coard, Michelle Doyle, Barry Jones, Rev. Meghan Malone (ex-officio), Pete Metzloff, Jan Simmons, and Chris Wheeler.

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE PROPERTY & GROUNDS TEAM 2024-25

The Property and Grounds team has worked hard this year to keep roof leaks at bay and our HVAC systems functioning efficiently. Several repairs have been made to the roof above Fellowship Hall, and our air conditioning systems have received several repairs. The steam boiler system has also received many repairs in order to keep the building warm through a very cold winter. We've also completed a full conditions assessment of the church, evaluating the age and condition of the parking lot, grounds, the buildings and the finishes and systems within the buildings. We updated our church rental form to include language recommended by our insurance carrier, and we also updated our fee structure for renting various spaces within the church. Finally, through the generosity of several memorial gifts and a contribution from our Endowment Fund we were able to replace the oven, cooktop, and dishwasher in the church kitchen. We look forward to an upcoming capital campaign to address the aging roof and HVAC systems that have been problematic this year.

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE STAFFING TEAM 2024-25

The following are the highlights of the Staffing Team for the year:

Pastor Luke Lindon's sabbatical coverage was provided mostly by our Associate Pastor, Rev. Meghan Malone. A temporary increase in salary was given to Rev. Meghan for these increased duties.

The Staffing Team reorganized and began meeting more frequently to match our responsibilities to the Church Bylaws. This includes looking at our Annual Review Policies, The Church's Constitution, The By-laws, and Personnel Policies. We anticipate having these documents completed by the winter annual meeting. We are also working on establishing a Sabbatical Policy.

We worked with Pastor Luke to make sure that all of the employees had their Annual Review and that someone from the Staffing Team was present as a neutral party. The Staffing Team also oversaw the Annual Review for Pastor Luke.

The Staffing Team, along with the Finance/Stewardship Team, recommended an increase in salaries for our Staff. The work hours of the Director of Christian Education were reduced to be more in line with the current job.

We received the resignation of our Director of Music, Jennifer Cochran. We are grateful for her 2 ½ years of working with our church in our music program. Tracy Gabrielsen, Jerry Mason, and Jennifer Vilimonovic graciously agreed to be our Interim Choir Directors to get us through the program year. We greatly appreciate their willingness to help us during this transition time.

The Staffing Team, along with the rest of the Congregation, is very grateful for the dedicated work of all of our employees. They each inspire all of us to continue to be 'The Church' as we Welcome, Love, and Serve.

With gratitude,
Vicki Marty on behalf of the Staffing Team

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MEMORIAL GIFTS COMMITTEE 2024-25

The Memorial Gifts committee, Becky Weber, Kellie Johns and Alan Parkhurst, meet as required to review gifts sent to the church and make sure any designated request for the funds is noted. We send a thank you note to each donor as well as acknowledgement of the gift to the family of the deceased.

If no designation is noted, we contact the donor to see if they have any requests specifically. Sometimes the family has previously decided where funds should be directed.

We have received Memorial Gifts in Honor / Memory of the following with specific funding requests noted:

- Elizabeth Mason Music
- Ruth Dunn MG*
- Helen Deuring MG*
- Joan Gibson MG*
- Mary Ann Andrews Capital Improvements - Kitchen
- Betty Einhart MG*
- Sally Bauer Capital Improvements - Kitchen
- Betty Zarney MG*

MG* Notation means that the monies were allocated: 1/3 operating funds, 1/3 mission, 1/3 endowment.

Due to the diligence of Pete Metzloff, the designated funds for each person was distributed in a timely fashion to each of the appropriate accounts so the monies could be spent or allocated.

In addition, as a member of Property and Grounds and Memorial Gifts, Alan Parkhurst is working between the two committees and Council to deal with answers for requests to donate trees on church property. P&G has decided we can no longer plant any additional trees. The solution will be presented to Council so that Cindy and the office staff have alternate avenues to those wishing to make new donations that had previously wanted a planted tree. This is actually a very exciting new solution that will be shared when finishing touches are complete.

The committee is proud to put the time and effort into making wise decisions and follow requests as well as thank those making donations.

Sincerely,

Alan Parkhurst & The Memorial Gifts Committee

Church Leadership/Teams May 2025 - May 2026

Team	Person	Year Term Started	Initial Term Expiring	Term	Actual Term Expiring	Second Term	Ex-Oficio	Team Leader	Council Rep
Council									
Moderator	Ellen Nolan (Current)	2024	2027	First	2027				X
Moderator	Mike Sferro (Elect)	2025	2028	First	2028				
Moderator	Scott Ockunzzi (IPM)	2023	2026	First	2026				
Clerk	Vicki Marty (non-voting)	2025	2027	First	2027		X		
Treasurer	Todd Bauer	2025	2027	First	2027				
Hospitality	Sari Allen	2024	2027	First	2027				X
DELTS	Katy Medley	2021	2024	Second	2027	X			X
Endowment	Kelly Charnley	2023	2026	First	2026				X
Community Engagement	Mary Bessick	2022	2025	Second	2028	X			X
Finance/Stewardship	Nicci Avalon	2020	2023	Second	2026	X			X
Hobby Horse	Jen Villimonovic	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A				X
Mission	Leon Coard	2021	2024	Second	2027	X			X
Property & Grounds	Ryan Bilikam	2023	2026	First	2026				X
Staffing	Vicki Marty	2020	2023	Second	2026	X			X
Worship	Brad Rice	2021	2024	Second	2027	X			X
A2A	Patrick Acurio	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A				
A2A	Jen Cockrell	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A				
A2A	Hannah Magrum	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A			X	
A2A	Pam Branscome	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A				
A2A	Luke Lindon	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A		X		
Hospitality	Myra Fabian	2020	2023	Second	2026	X			
Hospitality	Kathi Kavouras	2023	2026	First	2026			X	
Hospitality	Sari Allen	2024	2027	First	2027				X
Hospitality	Mary Gresco	2024	2027	First	2027				
Hospitality	Jane Watt	2024	2027	First	2027				
Hospitality	Liz Wolff	2024	2027	First	2027				
Hospitality	Cindy Talbert	2024	2027	First	2027				
Hospitality	Nancy Peacock	2024	2027	First	2027				

Church Leadership/Teams May 2025 - May 2026

Team	Person	Year Term Started	Initial Term Expiring	Term	Actual Term Expiring	Second Term	Ex-Oficio	Team Leader	Council Rep
Hospitality	Vicki Birce	2024	2027	First	2027				
Hospitality	Jeanette Fagan	2024	2027	First	2027				
Hospitality	Cynthia Rickly	2025	2028	First	2028				
Hospitality	Diane Howard	2025	2028	First	2028				
DELTS	Katy Medley	2021	2024	Second	2027	X		X	X
DELTS	Tammy Daubner	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A		X		
DELTS	Melissa Bilikam	2021	2024	Second	2027	X			
DELTS	Deanna Ockunzzi	2021	2024	Second	2027	X			
DELTS	Jenny Wolff	2024	2027	First	2027				
DELTS	Allison Lehman	2024	2027	First	2027				
DELTS	Kenzie Armbrust	2023	2026	First	2026				
DELTS	Quinn Behler	2023	2026	First	2026				
DELTS	Julie Gilliland	2023	2026	First	2026				
DELTS	Eve Lindon	2023	2026	First	2026				
DELTS	Stacie Yates	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A		X		
DELTS	Meghan Malone	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A		X		
Endowment	Jane Langol	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A			X	
Endowment	Bonnie Shuman	2024	2027	First	2027				
Endowment	Kelly Charnley	2023	2026	First	2026				X
Endowment	Alan Parkhurst	2024	2027	First	2027				
Endowment	Kent Daugherty	2023	2026	First	2026				
Endowment	Matt Yates	2023	2026	First	2026				
Community Engagement	Mary Bessick	2022	2025	Second	2028	X		X	X
Community Engagement	Stephanie Stepsis	2022	2025	Second	2028	X			
Community Engagement	Mallory Bergstresser	2023	2026	First	2026				
Community Engagement	Patrick Acurio	2024	2027	First	2027				
Community Engagement	Cori Colier	2024	2027	First	2027				
Community Engagement	Blake Stepsis	2024	2027	First	2027				
Finance/Stewardship	Nicci Avalon	2020	2023	Second	2026	X			X
Finance/Stewardship	John Gorsek	2022	2025	Second	2028	X		X	

Church Leadership/Teams May 2025 - May 2026

Team	Person	Year Term Started	Initial Term Expiring	Term	Actual Term Expiring	Second Term	Ex-Oficio	Team Leader	Council Rep
Finance/Stewardship	Cory Raub	2024	2027	First	2027				
Finance/Stewardship	Aaron Collier	2024	2027	First	2027				
Finance/Stewardship	Chet Simmons	2023	2026	First	2026				
Finance/Stewardship	Hannah Magrum	2023	2026	First	2026				
Finance/Stewardship	Todd Bauer	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A		X		
Finance/Stewardship	Pete Metzloff	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A		X		
Hobby Horse	Kaiti Rader	2024	2027	First	2027				
Hobby Horse	Teri Fodor	2024	2027	First	2027				
Hobby Horse	Samantha Harper	2024	2027	First	2027				
Hobby Horse	Heather Elrod	2023	2026	First	2026				
Hobby Horse	Jen Villimonovic	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A			X	X
Library	Tammy Daubner	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A			X	
Memorial Gifts	Alan Parkhurst	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A			X	
Memorial Gifts	Jill Linek	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A				
Memorial Gifts	Becky Weber	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A				
Memorial Gifts	Dick Christy	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A				
Memorial Gifts	Kellie Johns	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A				
Mission	Leon Coard	2021	2024	Second	2027	X			X
Mission	Pete Metzloff	2022	2025	Second	2028	X			
Mission	Becky Bauer	2022	2025	Second	2028	X			
Mission	Patrick Acurio	2023	2026	First	2026			X	
Mission	Jennifer Acurio	2023	2026	First	2026				
Mission	Michelle Doyle	2024	2027	First	2027				
Mission	Chris Wheeler	2023	2026	First	2026				
Mission	Jan Simmons	2023	2026	First	2026				
Mission	Barry Jones	2020	2023	Second	2026	X			
Mission	Madeline Bauer	2025	2028	First	2028				
Mission	Alison Oswald	2025	2028	First	2028				
Mission	Meghan Malone	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A		X		
Moderator	Mike Sferro	2025	2028	First	2028				

Church Leadership/Teams May 2025 - May 2026

Team	Person	Year Term Started	Initial Term Expiring	Term	Actual Term Expiring	Second Term	Ex-Oficio	Team Leader	Council Rep
Moderator	Scott Ockunzzi	2023	2026	First	2026				
Moderator	Ellen Nolan	2024	2027	First	2027			X	X
Pastoral Relations	Pam Branscome	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A				
Pastoral Relations	Deb Waldron	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A				
Pastoral Relations	Whitney Bixler	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A				
Property & Grounds	John Sandora	2022	2025	Second	2028	X			
Property & Grounds	Ken Dean	2022	2025	Second	2028	X			
Property & Grounds	Ryan Bilikam	2023	2026	First	2026			X	X
Property & Grounds	Ken Wolff	2023	2026	First	2026				
Property & Grounds	Tom Avalon	2023	2026	First	2026				
Property & Grounds	Carl Skorepa	2023	2026	First	2026				
Property & Grounds	Logan Malone	2024	2027	First	2027				
Property & Grounds	Mark Woodling	2025	2028	First	2028				
Property & Grounds	Price Bilikam	2024	2027	First	2027				
Property & Grounds	Rex Rickly	2025	2028	First	2028				
Staffing	Luke Lindon	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A		X		
Staffing	Vicki Marty	2020	2023	Second	2026	X		X	X
Staffing	Andy Bixler	2022	2025	Second	2028	X			
Staffing	Josh Nolan	2020	2023	Second	2026	X			
Staffing	Sandy Behler	2024	2027	First	2027				
Staffing	Paul DeSario	2024	2027	First	2027				
WISE	Ann Nagy	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A				
WISE	Nicole Davis	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A			X	
WISE	Stephanie Manhoff	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A				
WISE	Kevin Swantek	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A				
Worship	Brad Rice	2021	2024	Second	2027	X			X
Worship	Dan Marty	2023	2026	First	2026				
Worship	Amos Armbrust	2024	2027	First	2027				
Worship	Bennett Petersen	2020	2023	Second	2026	X			
Worship	Elaine Taylor	2024	2027	First	2027				
Worship	Kimberly Gallagher	2024	2027	First	2027				

Church Leadership/Teams May 2025 - May 2026

Team	Person	Year Term Started	Initial Term Expiring	Term	Actual Term Expiring	Second Term	Ex-Oficio	Team Leader	Council Rep
Worship	Lily Wolff	2023	2026	First	2026				
Worship	Tracy Gabrielsen	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A		X		
Worship	Cathy Fafrak	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A		X		
Worship	Cheri Ingraham	2021	2024	Second	2027	X			
Worship	Luke Linton	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A		X	X	
Safety	Julie Gilliland	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A				
Safety	Ken Zuehike	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A			X	
Safety	Kevin Swantek	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A				
Safety	Dick Christy	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A				
Safety	Jen Cockrell	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A				
Safety	Jen Villimonovic	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A				
Safety	Chet Simmons	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A				
Safety	Meghan Malone	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A				
****Names in BOLD print are Team Leaders									