



743 W. Michigan Ave., Jackson, MI 49201

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## 141<sup>st</sup> Annual Report 2024

Sunday, February 16, 2025



### **The Welcome Statement of Jackson's First Presbyterian Church:**

*Welcome... No matter who you are or where you are on life's journey, you are welcome in our church. If you are young or old, you are welcome here. If you have brown skin, black skin, white skin, people of all races are welcome here. If you are married or single, you are welcome here. If you are gay or straight, or both or neither, you are welcome here. If you are a man or a woman, transgender or non-binary, you are welcome here. If you are sick or well, you are welcome here. If you are rich or poor, powerful or weak, you are welcome here. If you believe in God, or if you don't, you are welcome here.*

*YOU are welcome here, and WE will strive to love you, as God does, just the way you are...*

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February 16, 2025

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## SESSION/DEACONS 2025

Moderator, Reverend David Schell  
Clerk of Session, Russell Jacobson

## SESSION – ELDERS

### 2026

Chris Prokos  
Kurt Rudolph  
John Williams  
Shelley Hirsch

### 2027

Jane Jones

### 2028

Jennifer Blackwell  
Meredith Harvey  
Jim Roberts  
John Vanderpool

### 2026

Carlene Walz  
Jack Pickett

### 2027

Florence Guidinger  
Sue Leonard  
Lisa Rudolph

### 2028

Russ Jacobson  
Carole Loll  
Ellen Hicks

### 2025 Staff:

Bookkeeper  
Director of Music  
Office Administrator  
Pastor  
Web Administrator

Melissa Curtis  
Wendy Treacher  
Natalie Schroeder  
Reverend David Schell  
Katie Meyers

### Treasurer

Ken Rudolph

### Assistant Treasurer

Sue Wrzesinski

Docket  
The 141<sup>st</sup> Annual Meeting  
of the Congregation/Corporation of  
The First Presbyterian Church of Jackson, Michigan  
February 16, 2025

Call to Order	Moderator, Reverend David Schell
Opening Prayer	Moderator, Reverend David Schell
Determination of a Quorum	Clerk of Session, Russell Jacobson
Approval of the Docket	The Congregation
Approval of Minutes	The Congregation
Recognition of Outgoing Elders	Moderator, Reverend David Schell
Committee Reports	
Staff Reports	
2025 Budget	
Adjournment	Moderator, Reverend David Schell
Closing Prayer	Moderator, Reverend David Schell

## **Recognition and Thanksgiving for Faithful Service**



**We remember with joy our common calling to serve Christ.  
We celebrate God's call to all who minister among us.**

As we recognize the particular service of **Randy Herrick, Doug Meyers,** and **Karen Meyers**, will you continue to share in ministry and service with them as you reaffirm your commitment to your Lord and Savior Jesus Christ?

**We will.**

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

Eternal God, look mercifully upon this church, and upon your servants **Randy Herrick, Doug Meyers,** and **Karen Meyers**, whose particular service we recognize today. We praise you for joys and accomplishments and your grace which has nurtured and sustained us. Bind us ever closer to one another and draw us nearer to our Lord Jesus Christ, that we may continue to minister in this community with patience and love, with wisdom and joy, until we come at last with all the saints to the place you have prepared; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

**ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING MINUTES**  
**FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**  
**JACKSON, MICHIGAN**  
**FEBRUARY 4, 2024**

The 140<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting of the Congregational/Corporation of the First Presbyterian Church of Jackson, Michigan was held in the Sanctuary on February 4, 2024.

The meeting was called to order at 11:20 a.m. by the Moderator, Reverend Ruthanne Herrington.

The Opening Prayer was given by Reverend Ruthanne Herrington.

The Clerk of Session stated that a quorum was present.

A motion was made and seconded, to accept the Docket. The motion passed.

A motion was made and seconded, to accept the minutes of February 12, 2023, May 21, 2023, July 23, 2023, and November 12, 2023. The motion passed.

Elder Kurt Rudolph gave a Finance Committee Report.

Elder John Williams gave a report on the Pastor Nominating Committee progress.

Reverend Ruthanne Herrington highlighted and summarized the Committee Reports, Staff Reports, and the 2023 Budget in the Annual Report.

Recognition of the outgoing Deacons and Elders. Bonnie otto, Charlene Roberts, Linda Taylor, and Phil Wilcox, were recognized and thanked for their faithful service to the church.

A motion was made and seconded, to adjourn the meeting at 11:32 a.m. The motion passed.

The Closing Prayer was given by Reverend Ruthanne Herrington.

Respectfully submitted,

Russell Jacobson  
Clerk of Session

Reverend Ruthanne Herrington  
Moderator

# **SPECIAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING MINUTES**

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

JACKSON, MICHIGAN

AUGUST 11, 2024

A Special Congregational Meeting of the First Presbyterian Church of Jackson, Michigan was held in the Sanctuary on August 11, 2024, for the purpose of hearing and acting upon the report of the Pastor Nominating Committee, and to elect Reverend David Schell as pastor.

The meeting was called to order at 11:10 a.m. by The Moderator, Reverend Ruthanne Herrington.

The Opening Prayer was given by Reverend Ruthanne Herrington.

The Clerk of Session stated that a quorum was present.

A motion was made and seconded, to appoint two tellers, Ken Rudolph, and Kurt Rudolph, to count the ballots. The motion passed.

A motion was made and seconded, to appoint Russell Jacobson to read the minutes of the meeting. The motion passed.

Elder John Williams, Chairman of the Pastor Nominating Committee gave his report. He discussed the three-year long search for a candidate, the Terms of Call, and introduced the selected candidate, Reverend David Schell.

A motion was made by Tom Leffler, and was seconded by Carole Loll, that the congregation, under the will of God, shall Call Reverend David Schell, to be nominated pastor of the First Presbyterian Church of Jackson, Michigan.

Discussion about the Motion. Jane Jones asked what was the length of time on the Terms of Call. The answer was indefinite, but the financial part can change every year. Christine Lake asked where can we learn more about Reverend David Schell. Carole Loll said you can go on-line to learn more about Reverend David Schell.

A motion was made and seconded, to call the question, and vote. The motion passed.

Paper Ballots were passed out, and counted. The motion passed.

The motion to Call Reverend David Schell passed. Candidate Reverend David Schell was advised of the vote. He accepted the Call.

A motion was made and seconded, to adjourn the meeting at 12:25 p.m. The motion passed.

Reading of the Minutes by Russell Jacobson. A motion was made, and seconded, to accept the minutes. The motion passed.

The Closing Prayer was given by Reverend Ruthanne Herrington.

Respectfully submitted,

Russell Jacobson  
Clerk of Session

Reverend Ruthanne Herrington  
Moderator

# SPECIAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING MINUTES

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

JACKSON, MICHIGAN

SEPTEMBER 15, 2024

A special meeting of the Congregation of the First Presbyterian Church of Jackson, Michigan, was held in the sanctuary on September 15, 2024. The purpose of the meeting was to elect a nominating committee and consider a home loan for JFPC's new pastor, the Reverend David Schell.

The meeting was Called to Order at 11:10 am, by Reverend Ruthanne Herrington.

The Opening Prayer was given by Reverend Ruthanne Herrington.

The Clerk of Session, Russell Jacobson, stated that a quorum was present.

A motion to approve the Docket was made by Sue Wrzesinski and seconded by Sharon Vanderpool. No changes to the docket. The motion passed.

Elder John Williams, chair of the Nominating Committee presented the candidates to be elected to the 2024 Nominating Committee. They were Jan Hestwood, Sharon Vanderpool, Mary Swan, and Dorothy Graham.

Rev. Herrington asked for any nominations from the floor. There were no nominations from the floor.

A motion was made and seconded to close the nominations and elect the candidates as presented. The motion passed.

**Elder Kurt Rudolph, chair of the Administrative Committee (formerly the finance committee), gave a verbal report. Motion for the congregation to approve a 30 year Home Mortgage of up to \$270,000 under terms approved by the Presbytery Board of Trustees and a bridge loan up to \$80,000 to be repaid in full with interest upon 30 days of the sale of David's current home in Benton Harbor. All funds would be taken from and returned to the Griffith fund. Since the motion comes from committee no second is needed.** The motion passed.

A motion to adjourn the meeting after the approval of minutes and closing prayer, was made at 11:20 a.m. by Doug Meyers and seconded by Kevin Rule. The motion passed.

**Minutes were read to the congregation by the Clerk of Session, Russell Jacobson.**

**A motion was made to approve the minutes by Phil Wrzesinski and was 2<sup>nd</sup> by Tom Laffler .** The motion passed.

The Closing Prayer was given by Reverend Ruthanne Herrington.  
Respectfully submitted,

Russell Jacobson  
Clerk of Session

Reverend Ruthanne Herrington  
Moderator



# **SPECIAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING MINUTES**

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

JACKSON, MICHIGAN

NOVEMBER 24, 2024

A Special Congregational Meeting of the First Presbyterian Church of Jackson, Michigan was held in the Sanctuary on November 24, 2024, for the purpose of electing Elders, Deacons, and presenting the Pastor's Terms of Call for Reverend David Schell.

The meeting was Called to Order at 11:10 a.m. by the Moderator, Reverend David Schell.

The Opening Prayer was given by Reverend David Schell.

The Clerk of Session stated that a quorum was present.

Elder John Williams, Chairman of the Nominating Committee gave his report. The Nominating Committee selected the following nominees for Elder for 2025. They were Jenifer Blackwell, Meredith Harvey, James Roberts, and John Vanderpool. For Deacon, they selected Ellen Hicks, Russ Jacobson, and Carole Loll. There were no nominations from the floor. A motion was made, and seconded to close the nominations, and cast a unanimous ballot for these candidates. The motion passed.

Elder John Williams, presented the Pastor's Terms of Call for 2025. The Cash Salary of \$20,000.00. Housing/Utilities/Furnishing Allowance of \$40,000.00. Matching contributions to the 403(b) (9) plan of \$2,400.00. Total Effective Salary is \$60,000.00. SECA Offset (50%) is \$4,590.00. PC USA Full Benefit Plan is \$25,800.00. Vouchered Reimbursable Expenses include Travel \$1,000.00, Professional Development \$1,000.00, Books and other professional expenses \$300.00, and Miscellaneous professional expenses \$400.00. The non-monetary terms of call include 30 days of paid vacation to include 4 Sundays, 14 days of professional development time to include 2 Sundays, cumulative for 3 years, Spiritual Direction retreat of 1 week to include 1 Sunday, Time off for federal and state holidays, One day per week may be designated as the pastor's Sabbath day, during which he will not be available except in an emergency, Family and Medical Leave and Sabbatical Leave per PLM policy, and the pastor will confer with the JFPC Personnel Committee on the need for days off or flexible scheduling due to sickness or for reasons other than those listed above. There were no questions from the congregation. A motion was made, and seconded to approve the Pastor's Terms of Call for 2025. The motion passed.

A motion was made and seconded to adjourn the meeting at 11:20 a.m. The motion passed.

The Closing Prayer was given by Reverend David Schell.

Respectfully submitted,

Russell Jacobson  
Clerk of Session

Reverend David Schell  
Moderator

## STATISTICAL REPORT

ACTIVE MEMBERS, December 31, 2023	141
GAINS DURING 2024:	
Reaffirmation of Faith	+3
Letter of Transfer	+10
Profession of Faith	+0
Restore to the Active Roll	<u>+0</u>
TOTAL GAINS	+13
LOSSES DURING 2024:	
Letter of Transfer	-0
Deaths	-6
Resigned Their Membership	-0
TOTAL LOSSES	<u>-10</u>
ACTIVE MEMBERS, December 31, 2024	148

### NEW MEMBERS

Jennifer Blackwell  
Riley Blackwell  
Russell "Rusty" Blackwell  
Judy Camp  
Erleen Clark  
Sue Ellen Condino  
Sarah Hashimoto  
Ellen Hicks  
Precious Power  
James Seitz  
Janet Seitz  
Laura Short  
Diane Zuchowski

### BAPTISMS

Liam Micheal Kampf  
Ryan Alexander Sneller Schell  
Micah Taylor Sneller Schell

### DEATHS

Dorris Rea 3/22/2024  
Gerald R. Kloostra 4/13/2024  
Bob Kiple 7/13/2024  
Pat Eckleberry Westerhof 10/24/2024  
Carroll Lutz 4/26/2024  
Phyllis Hunt 12/20/2024

## **Pastor Report 2024**

Dear friends,

I want to start this year's report by saying just how honored I am that you all chose to call me as your new pastor last year. I told some of you that when I first saw your posting, I thought you were a cool church, but I worried that I did not have the qualifications you were looking for. I'm honored to have been wrong, and that you chose to call me anyway.

I officially started with study leave at the end of September, when I attended Stewardship Kaleidoscope. One single workshop I attended at that event was worth the full cost of admission for how it reshaped my thinking about church and finance, and I look forward to continuing to live what I learned there.

Kristen and I closed on our new home here in Jackson on October 3. We started the move, in earnest with an amazing amount of help from so many of you on October 4, and I preached my first sermon here on October 6. My family and I have been made to feel so welcomed in so many ways. The Presbytery of Lake Michigan installed me as your pastor on November 17, the six-year anniversary of my ordination.

Since my very first interview here, I have enjoyed getting to know those of you I have had the chance to get to know, at pastoral visits, at coffee hour, after worship, at hospital and care home visits, and at personal meetings you've asked for, committee meetings, and activities here at the church building, including the men's breakfast and Coffee and Conversation at Vista Grand Villa, and choir practice, led by the talented Wendy Treacher.

I have been honored to help you welcome 7 new members and be involved in five baptisms so far, and, sadly, led several funerals and attended at the time of death for several dear friends we lost since I arrived.

I have enjoyed meeting leaders from several of our community partners, including Love INC, Immanuel Lutheran Church's Food Pantry, Cafe Connection, and others. I've also enjoyed meeting other area pastors, including the former interim at Westminster Presbyterian Church; the former pastor of JaxNaz; and your retired former pastor, the Rev. Jim Hegedus. I met many other area pastors at Election Day Communion, hosted by First Baptist. We partnered with two of those pastors and their three churches to offer a Blue Christmas service for those who didn't feel especially jolly and needed a safe space to feel that way at Christmas.

It has been my honor to participate in committee meetings of all kinds to try to get my finger on the pulse of Jackson's First Presbyterian Church, and to help partner in discerning how God is calling us to love our community and serve our church together, from Administrative to Worship to Spiritual Formation, to attending a regional gathering with our new Peace and Justice Committee.

And, of course, I've enjoyed getting to share in worship with you all, and to dig in to scripture and bring back sermons that you have received kindly, and that I hope are making you more and more aware of the inevitability of the expansive love, grace, and goodness of God, and challenging you to grow in love for God and our neighbors.

I would describe my time here thus far in two ways: "joy" and "hard work." The transition from a small church to a big church that is learning to be a small church has been a joyful challenge, and I am grateful for it.

With what little space I have left, I wanted to share a few – and only a few - other things I have noticed as your pastor that have brought me joy and delight.

- Your Christlike welcome, as rainbow flags appearing on all our doors to show our commitment to our statement of welcome
- The diaper ministry, and the back seat of a truck *filled* with every single coat Sam's Club had in the sizes they needed at Northeast Elementary, paid for with money you donated, and (as Rev. Ruthanne Herrington told me) your clothing donations are often so much that they have enough to share with other schools, and the First Sunday Food Drive, and on and on and on... Your generosity almost brings me to tears every time I think about it, and I talk about it all the time.
- The way you've come alongside each other, both in times of joy and times of pain, as a church family
- The amount of folks volunteering to serve your church family
- The way you share space with our community - with Jackson Pride; with the Boy Scouts, with AA and NA, and Samaritas and the Red Cross for blood drives, and Jackson Youth Theater, and with so many others I don't even know where to begin.

If I mentioned all of the things this church does that I so appreciate and respect and value, this letter would be much, much longer, because you have been fantastic. Friends, I am so grateful that you called me to be your pastor. I have enjoyed my first few months, and I am so excited to begin my first full year with you.

Blessings,

Rev. David Schell



**Annual Report of the Music Ministry Program 2024**  
**1<sup>st</sup> Presbyterian Church, Jackson, Michigan**  
**Wendy Treacher, Director of Music**

The Music Ministry at 1<sup>st</sup> Presbyterian Church is a vibrant part of the church life. In addition to music from the Chancel Choir, the Presby Ringers and our children, we also had wonderful preludes, postludes, and offertories offered from our church and community members. When the Chancel Choir did not sing on a Sunday, hymns were led by individuals from the Chancel Choir. Our young children provided music for a few worship services also, thanks to the work of Jackie Livesay with help from Lori Tate. They **all** added such beauty and grace to our worship.

Our Chancel Choir is slowly growing and is up to twenty members. We appreciate our long-time members and also our new members: sopranos Erleen Clark and Riley Blackwell, altos Jen Blackwell and Josie Blackwell. In the fall, a new baritone joined the Chancel Choir– Rev. David Schell.

The Choir rehearses weekly and sings two to three Sundays a month between September and June for a total of 28 services. They also presented a Tenebrae Service for Good Friday, a hymn service in the fall, and sang beautiful music for Christmas Eve. These singers are dedicated musicians seeking to always serve their church.

The Presby Ringers provided music for worship four times in the church year and also played by Pastor David Schell's installation service. This dedicated group of Christian musicians rehearsed weekly and also did the set up and tear down when they provided the music for worship– no small task! We added a terrific new member in the fall to the Presby Ringers– Rusty Blackwell. In the fall, the Ringers cleaned and reorganized the bells room with new tables.

In the month of December, we hosted our Divine Artist Concert series performance. The Capital City Bell Ringers from Lansing (Mark Loring, conductor) presented their Christmas Concert in our sanctuary. One of their members, Rev. Kristin Stroble, was an intern in our church many years ago. There was a medium-sized and appreciative crowd. No admittance was charged, but a free will offering was collected. \$250 was added back into the Divine Artist Fund.

As we continued to stream our services every week, we are thankful for a wonderful tech team. Many thanks to Randy Herrick, Jay Ford, Mary Swan, Katie Meyers, and Brian Soltis and to our sound technicians: Doug Meyers, Chad Melton, John Wilcox, Wayne Leja, and Bill Loll. Many members and non-members watch us online on a regular basis.

Our deepest thanks go to the musicians who helped us worship through music during the year. They include:

David Koch, trumpet  
Sarah Hashimoto, violin  
Megan Borgeling, flute and violin  
Clyde McKaney, violin and viola  
Phil Wrzenski, guitar and vocals  
Ben Warriner, student organist  
The John Finton Brass Quintet for Easter  
Hailey Cunningham, guest director  
Jackie Livesay & Wendy Treacher, duo pianos

Carole Loll, hymn leader  
Phil Wilcox, hymn leader  
Jackie Livesay, hymn leader  
Shelley Hirsch, hymn leader  
Sara Lang and Jane Jones, hymn leaders  
Tim Wilson, guest organist  
Jackie Livesay, organist  
Brian Kettner, piano

We are fortunate to have as a member of our church a composer, a guitarist and singer. We regularly see the depths of Phil's faith through his compositions, playing, and singing.

Deidreanna Potter played beautiful harp music for our Ash Wednesday service.

We were fortunate to be supported by a strong and active Music and Worship Committee chaired by Doug Meyers. They helped us so much to lead our congregation in worship.

I attended staff meetings, Session Meetings, Worship Committee meetings, and worship planning meetings monthly. Some were in person and some were zoom meetings.

The Jackson Chorale sang in three concerts in the winter and spring of the year and this is my 18<sup>th</sup> year as the director. They presented a fall concert in 2024 and also a Christmas concert that included the Christmas section of Handel's Messiah with orchestra.

It is wonderful to praise God with gusto (and no masks!) in singing our hymns each week, to have the Choir once again leading worship, and also the Presby Ringers, and the children.

In the service of praising God through music,

Wendy Treacher,  
Director of Music





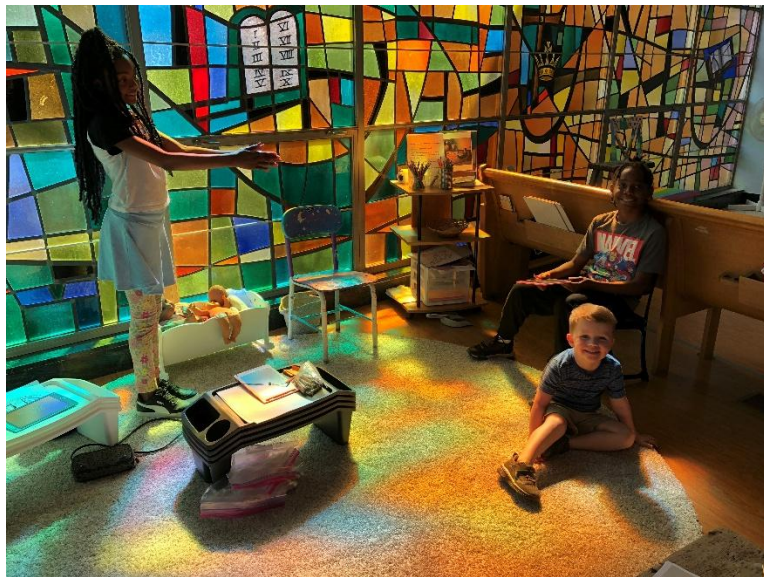
## Spiritual Formation Committee Annual Report 2024

The Spiritual Formation Committee organized many activities and classes in 2024. The Committee was led by Lori Tate (Spiritual Formation Director) from January through July and by Karen Meyers (Ruling Elder for Spiritual Formation) July through December. Committee members include Meredith Harvey, Natalie Schroeder and Jen Blackwell. Ruthanne Herrington, Interim Pastor and David Schell, Lead Pastor also attended and contributed to meetings.

Lori Tate led a book discussion on January 13, 2024 on the book “The Last Child in the Woods” by Richard Louv. Only one person attended, but they had a great discussion!

Lori Tate also led a two class series titled Create a Rule/Rhythm of Life for the New Year on January 22 and February 5. Several members attended online along with 10 people from Ohio, Michigan, and Newfoundland.

In January 2024, we brought back our Food and Fellowship Dinners on Thursday nights from 5:30-6:15, along with the Young Children in Worship and Music from 6:15-7:30. Many adults contributed dinners each week and between 8 and 13 people regularly attended. Jackie Livesay provided Music instruction and Lori Tate and Natalie Schroeder taught the “Young Children In Worship” curriculum. The children sang in church in February and again in April. Thank you to the wonderful volunteers who provided dinners and helped with set up and clean up! We were able to provide dinners from January through April.



Focusing on these family-friendly Thursdays, we continued using the “KiDS Worship Centers,” in the sanctuary on Sundays through September. These spaces allow a flexible plan for children on Sunday mornings when there are not enough volunteers to manage Sunday school. The spaces allow children to stay in worship where the congregation can get to know them and the quiet activities for young and

older youth allow them to do something while listening and engaging in the service.

We conducted a survey with the parents to find out what they needed/wanted for Christian Education. As a result of the survey responses and the lack of a Christian Educator, the decision was made to pause the Thursday night program.



February 13, 2024 a traditional Shrove Tuesday Pancake Dinner was held in the Fellowship Hall. About 30 people enjoyed pancakes, sausages, and fruit-prepared and served by members of the congregation.

Lent was kicked off with a Taize service and receiving of ashes on Ash Wednesday. Lori Tate led a Lenten luncheon series from

February 21 - March 27. On these Wednesdays, members gathered to eat lunch (Soup prepared by many volunteers!) and then held a Lenten Bible Study afterwards.

In July Lori Tate resigned to spend more time on her Soul Dig company, where she provides Spiritual Guidance, classes, and retreats.



In preparation for restarting Christian Education, many people volunteered to be the “second adult” in attendance during each Sunday morning lesson. Each of these members completed a background check. We updated the Child and Youth Protection Policy using the PCUSA policy as our guide. As part of this,

photo release waivers were filled out by parents to allow for photography for sharing our youth’s activities in print and online.



In September, we began again offering Sunday School for the children ages K-5th grade. Volunteers taught the classes until Kesslyn Cay and Bree Daly, Education students from Spring Arbor

University, were hired in October to teach the Sunday School classes. Eight children participate in the weekly classes. The teachers used the “Fruit of the Spirit” curriculum and the children really enjoyed the lessons and activities.



Youth grades 6-12 met every other week from January-May. The classes were led by volunteers from the congregation and Lori Tate, using the book, “Imaginative Prayer.” From September to December, the youth met once a month during church and for a mission activity. In September, the youth met to create a Welcome Banner for the Congregation to sign and hang up to welcome Pastor David to our church.



In October, the Youth participated in activities about water consumption and conservation during church and walked in the Crop Walk after church on October 13th. Five youth walked and raised \$250 towards the church total. On November 24<sup>th</sup>, the Youth set up and manned an Advent Workshop after church for eight children in the congregation. The Youth also helped Usher on this day and helped the adults decorate the church for Advent. A very fun Pizza Party was held at the end. On December 15<sup>th</sup>, the Youth, along with the younger children decorated cookies for the shut-ins at Vista Grande Villa. The next day, two youth and 6 adults delivered the cookies to the shut-ins and sang carols in the dining room for the residents at Vista Grande Villa.



In October, we started a new series called “Food for Thought.” On select Tuesday nights we invited a representative from a Non-Profit group in the Community to give a presentation with information about their history, the impact in the community and what their plans are for the future. We held a potluck each night with the presentation afterwards and a question and answer time at the end.

On October 15<sup>th</sup>. Logan Dodge and Rev. Dallas Flippin spoke about the Cafe Connection dinner held at the First Baptist Church on Wednesday evenings. On November 12<sup>th</sup>, Susan Gahagan from the Immanuel Lutheran Food Pantry spoke about their program and the 300 families they serve each week! On December 10<sup>th</sup>, Pastor Shaunta Patton spoke about Love, INC. Between 10-13 people attended these informative dinners.

Members of the First Presbyterian Church continue to generously support Northeast Elementary School with a collection of Markers, Colored Pencils and Crayons (one each for each of the 400+ students). This year we also provided electric pencil sharpeners for each of the teachers. Three to five members volunteered each week at the school library helping students pick out books, check them out, and return books to the shelves. The school is very appreciative of this support! In May, twelve members volunteered for the True Community Credit Union Reality Fair. Volunteers interacted with fifth grade students to help them fill out a ledger and stick to a monthly budget. The volunteers had as much fun as the students!



**Men's breakfast** meets every first and third Saturday for breakfast, Bible Study and fellowship. In 2024, we finished the book "Spiritual Classics – selected readings on the Twelve Spiritual Disciplines." Each meeting had different reading and study elements with insights and could stand alone. Since April, we have

studied the Richard Rohr book "Things Hidden – Scripture as Spirituality." This book was read and discussed with new insights shared by the group.

In February 2025, we are starting the Henri Nouwen book "The Return Of The Prodigal Son – A Story of Homecoming". It is "A chance encounter with a reproduction of Rembrandt's *The Return of the Prodigal Son* that catapulted Henri Nouwen on an unforgettable spiritual adventure. The group currently consists about 9 men with 4-7 coming on any Saturday meeting the 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Saturdays of each month with a rotating leadership. We are always looking for new men seekers to share and contribute.

As we look to 2025, Karen Meyers is finished with her term on Session and Meredith Harvey will become Ruling Elder for Spiritual Formation. As with every committee in the church, this committee could not function without the many fabulous volunteers who put in many hours in planning and implementing the many programs. THANK YOU!!!! We are grateful for a giving and inspiring congregation!

Many thanks to Lori Tate and Jackie Livesay for their many years of working with our youth. They both resigned this spring.

Karen Meyers  
Ruling Elder, Spiritual Formation Committee

## **Annual Report from the Deacons 2024**

Our current Deacon List is as follows:

Lisa Rudolph , scrivener

Russ Jacobson, Jack Pickett, Carole Loll, Florence Guidinger, and our newest volunteer, Ellen Hicks. Welcome Ellen! Carlene Walz, Moderator

Our 2023 Annual Report said that Lisa Rudolph had come to the end of her service as a Deacon. In truth we learned that she had agreed to stay until 2027. What a blessing Lisa is in our group.

Another busy year has gone by, it seems faster than ever! The Church appears to be thriving with new members and lots of enthusiasm for our Missions. The Deacons are totally engaged in doing what we can to bring along those in our congregation that for various reasons are no longer able to be present in action or at Sunday services. To be totally effective we need all members of the congregation to identify those who may have gone unnoticed and report the names of those people to the deacons. In this past year the congregation stepped up and reported to us on issues they thought needed to be addressed. So, thanks to everyone who helped.

The Deacons have continued with their assignment of flower delivery; the altar flowers, the Easter Lillies, and the poinsettias. The responses we get from the recipients is more than enough to let us know that our efforts are much appreciated.

Another project we have added to what we do is to assist in the annual report of the Mission work that is accomplished in our Church. Although we got a late start the Deacons have been figuring out how to keep track of the time invested in their work and report it at our regular meetings. For the year 2024 it is necessary to do some estimating but in 2025 we will commence by creating a form to use to record the time as we are going about our work. We track the time spent on calls and visits, time in our regular meetings in alternate months, time spent in flower deliveries, and time spent in the monthly coffee hour at Vista Grand Villa with our retired congregants. Our estimates show that we collectively spent approximately 65 hours working as Deacons in the various aspects of the missions of First Presbyterian Church.

As I mentioned in the foregoing paragraph, the Deacons are still going to Vista on a regular schedule. Liz Schwartzel is our contact/ honorary Deacon at Vista. We try to get there every month on the first Thursday of each month at 10:00 AM for coffee and conversation and if we are lucky fresh doughnuts. The Pastor joins us and lets these retirees know first-hand what is happening at the Church. Now that the decorating at Vista is finished our gathering is much less complicated and our surroundings are impressive.

The Deacons stay busy and try our best to do things that make a difference. We are always open to suggestions and assistance!! And your prayers!



It is my plan to remind the Deacons of the bible quote in Micah 6;8 and make it our guiding light.

‘He has told you O Mortal what is good and what does the Lord require of you but to do Justice and to Love kindness and to walk humbly with your God’

Respectfully submitted, Carlene Walz

## **Faith Community Nurse Annual Report for 2024**

Faith Community Nurses provided blood pressure screenings for members on a monthly basis. We also restocked the First Aid kits throughout the church.

We continued our May and June “Walking the Path to Health” program, where the congregation was encouraged to increase physical activity for two months in the spring, using calendars to track the goal of 30 minutes of exercise on 5 or more days per week. Thirty-one members participated, and at least 12 members met that exercise goal for the entire two months! Marcia Leffler won the gift card drawing from that pool of goal achievers.

Our Faith Community Nurses are Shelley Hirsch, Tina Ozukwe, Lisa Rudolph, and Heather Williams.

— Lisa Rudolph



## **Mission Committee Report 2024**

Jackson First Presbyterian Church's mission comes in two categories. They are building use and community support.

The community groups that use our building for little or no rent are:

City Elections, City of Jackson 4<sup>th</sup> Ward Neighborhood Community Meetings, Boy Scout Troop 312, Al-Anon (twice a week), AA nightly, NA 3 days a week, Tuesday Musicale, State Employee Retirement Association, Red Cross Blood Drives, Samaritas, Community Action Agency, PEO Meetings, Mary Rose Stein Piano Recitals, Jackie Livesay Piano Recital, Center Stage Jackson, Center Stage Youth Theater of Jackson, Renew Breast Cancer Support Group, La Leche League, Love INC, Relay for Life.

Our community outreach programs include:

1. Support for the Jackson Personal Care Ministry with \$360 worth of items to be dispersed at First Baptist Church on Thursdays.
2. Jackson Public Schools clothing closets. This effort is coordinated through Northeast Elementary which shares their abundance with John R. Lewis and Cascades Elementary Schools.
3. First Sunday Foods or First Fruits. The congregation donated \$1458 worth of food that was delivered to the Emmanuel Lutheran Food Pantry. Thank you, Chris Lake, for delivering all this food.
4. Diaper Pantry for Love INC passes out diapers to Love INC clients. Thank you, Wayne and Karen Leja, for leading this effort. One of the side missions of the Diaper Ministry is that several of the families getting diapers also take a look at the Personal Care Products, First Sunday Foods and JPS clothing and are encouraged to take a few items they may need.
5. The Reverse Advent resulted in over \$2000 in clothing (including 18 coats) and personal care items going to Northeast Elementary. Just over \$500 of food items were delivered to Immanuel Lutheran church. About 500 diapers were donated to the diaper ministry.
6. The monthly supper for the Interfaith Shelter has continued with members preparing and delivering a meal for residents of the Interfaith Shelter. Thank you, Sharon Vanderpool, for leading this effort.
7. We went back to the crop walk this year raising \$1395. Most of the money stays in Jackson to support food efforts including Immanuel Lutheran Church. Thank you, Jean Ross and the youth group, for leading this effort.

Your generosity in supporting the church with your offering allows us to open our doors to the community and provide support to all the organizations who use it. Your generosity of food for First Sunday Foods allows us to help support many people who

are experiencing food shortages in the community. Your generosity of personal care items allows us to support people who may not be able to afford basic things like shampoo, soap, toilet paper, etc. Your generosity to the children at Northeast Elementary allows them to have better clothing, coats, shoes, shampoo, toothpaste, toothbrushes, etc. than their parents may be able to afford.

Thank you for your generosity.

Yours in Christ,

Randy Herrick



**Thank you  
to all who  
donated!**



**Reverse Advent  
Calendar  
Donations**

# **Worship, Music, and Sacraments Committee**

## **Annual Report 2024**

2024 in Worship marked the transition from interim pastor Rev. Ruthanne Herrington to new pastor Rev. David Schell at the end of September. We wished Rev. Ruthanne well and thanked her for her tireless and inspired service over the last two plus years and welcomed Pastor David and his family to our Congregation.

Activities by the Worship Committee in 2024:

- Pulpit Supply
  - January 21 – Rev. Andrew Kring
  - February 18 – Dr. Lori Tate
  - February 25 – Elizabeth Vredevelt (Alma College student)
  - March 3 – Rev. Dr. Fran Lane Lawrence (Presbytery of Lake Michigan)
  - June 16 – Dr. Lori Tate
  - September 29- Rev. Barb Swartzel
  - December 29 – Rev. Alissa Davis (Alma College)
- Created Lector and Communion Server Schedules.
- Completed update of Holy Communion Procedure Document.
- Completed update of Worship Process Document.
- Coordinated with Scout Troop 4312 to plan Scout Sunday on February 4.
- Facilitated Shrove Tuesday pancake supper on February 13.
- Facilitated Ash Wednesday service on February 14.
- Worked with Kitchen Committee to host Maundy Thursday potluck on March 28.
- Facilitated Good Friday (Tenebrae) and Easter Sunday worship services.
- Planned and executed Holy Humor Sunday on April 7.
  - Special thank you to Skye Hirsch for her flawless reading and timing from the Lectern.
- Coordinated and hosted Church in the Park at the Cascades on June 14.
  - Special thanks to the Media Team for facilitating the on-line streaming of the service.
- Facilitated Hot Dogma lunch on August 4.
- Facilitated Church in the Parking Lot and Blessing of the Animals on August 25.
  - Special thanks again to the Media Team for facilitating the on-line streaming of the service.
- Created committee tri-fold display for Fall Kickoff on September 8.
- Facilitated All Saints Sunday on November 3.
- Helped facilitate Pastor Installation service with Presbytery on November 17.
- Facilitated Advent and Christmas Eve services and church decorating.



Thanks to Nancy Kinch and Jan Hestwood for serving on the Worship, Music and Sacraments committee during 2023, dressing the church with banners and paraments each week as well as ordering lilies, palm fronds, bulbs and poinsettias and to Rev. Ruthanne and Pastor David for helping to guide the committee through another year.

Special thanks to Sharon Vanderpool and Carolyn Hilliker for the wonderful work they do in preparing Holy Communion every month.

Thanks to Sue Wrzesinski, Jan Hestwood, Kurt and Lisa Rudolph, and Natalie Schroeder for their work as Communion Servers and to John Vanderpool, Natalie Schroeder, Chris Prokos, Jean Herrick, Sharon Vanderpool, Lori Tate, Carol Loll and Sue Wrzesinski, who served as Lectors in 2024.

Thank you to the volunteers that make up the tech team every Sunday (and for other special services) on sound, screens, streaming and prayer requests: Bill Loll, Randy Herrick, Katie Meyers, Mary Swan, Jay Ford, Chad Melton, Jean Herrick and Wayne Leja.

And lastly, many, many thanks to Wendy Treacher for her tireless efforts every week to bring us the joy of music through her selection of music, playing the organ and piano, recruiting and accompanying guest musicians, leading the Choir and the Bell Choir and so much more. Thank you, Wendy!

Respectfully submitted,

Doug Meyers

January 11, 2025







# **JFPC Personnel and Nominating Committee**

## **Annual Report 2024**

**Pastor Nominating Committee** (John Williams, Meredith Harvey, Shelley Hirsch, Nancy Kinch, Tom Leffler):

The JFPC Ministry Discernment Profile (MDP) was approved by the Lake Michigan Presbytery and entered online into the PCUSA Church Leadership Connection (CLC) portal. The JFPC Pastor Nominating Committee (PNC) began reviewing matching personal discernment profiles of pastors seeking calls, and referrals in February 2024.

The PNC invited several candidates to apply with additional information and after review, invited four candidates (2 women and two men) to interview. The two female candidates declined, and the PNC and Presbytery Committee on Ministry interviewed the two male candidates via Zoom, and checked references. The PNC Chair met the top candidate at the Presbytery meeting in Holt, and the PNC invited him and his spouse to visit Jackson, tour the church building. and interview over dinner. In the meantime, a self-referral from another denomination had been received and the PNC completed a Zoom interview with him before finalizing a call. After the interview, the PNC believed they had done their due diligence and authorized the PNC Chair (John Williams) to negotiate terms of call with Reverend David Schell as their chosen candidate.

Reverend Schell was presented to the congregation and they voted to call him as pastor. Terms of Call were approved.

### **JFPC Nominating Committee for 2025:**

The JFPC Nominating Committee (John Williams, Dorothy Graham, Jan Hestwood, Mary Swan, and Russell Jacobson) met in November and nominated the following candidates for 2025:

Elders:	Jennifer Blackwell	Deacons:	Ellen Hicks
	Jim Roberts		Russell Jacobson
	John Vanderpool		Carole Loll
	Shelley Hirsch* (agreed to serve one year -2025)		

### **Personnel:**

Interim Pastor Ruthanne Herrington was contracted to serve as Interim Pastor until the installation of Called Pastor David Schell.

Resignation of Director of Spiritual Formation, Lori Tate, was accepted.

Respectfully submitted by John Williams, Chair

## Property Committee Annual Report 2024

Several important events took place with property in 2024.

Parking lot repairs for paving and hole-filling took place in the fall in combination with a new shared driveway with Nelson Towers and Samaritas (The Hive).

Lighting in the parking lot and church attached units have been upgraded to LED, which brings much more reliable light to the lot. The timer was also replaced.



We had a major setback with the main air conditioning unit failure. After several attempted work-arounds, it was clear that two compressors had to be replaced. Also, there was a several-month delay in the arrival and installation of the replacements. I am trusting that the AC will be ready to go when needed this year. We “dodged a bullet” with a break in the weather and the kind, understanding response of the congregation and other building users.

The new AC for the choir room was installed in the spring.

The sillcock water supply was replaced near door #3 and a shutoff valve installed with the irrigation being dismantled.

Fire Exit maps have been posted in all the church rooms. Thank you, Phil Wilcox, for making the signs and Laura Short for putting them into the rooms.

We assisted the Kitchen committee in replacing the old (heavy) tables in the fellowship hall.

We continued to serve the Red Cross with monthly blood drives. During May through September “The Hive” was used because that space has air conditioning. There were two drives in each month of May, June & July.





We did some deep cleaning on the pews and window areas.

Annual and other required inspections are kept up-to-date (e.g. fire, elevator, water backflow, boiler, etc.).

None of this could happen without the support of many “friends of property”. If you have any skills in property, related to organizing, working with vendors, mechanical, electrical, etc. and would like to share your experience and talents, please contact me.

Respectfully Submitted,

John M. Vanderpool

Elder- Property Committee

## Kitchen Committee Annual Report 2024

Oh, what a year we've had! I am so grateful to all who have generously donated their time and effort to work with me on all things Kitchen related!! There were so many of you--but I especially need to thank my Kitchen Warriors: The Blackwell Family, Florence Guidinger, Randy and Jean Herrick, Nancy Kinch, Karen and Wayne Leja, Carole and Bill Loll, Doug and Karen Meyers, Laura Short, and my husband, Dean Jones! I also need to thank my mentor, Sharon Vanderpool, for 'showing me the ropes' and answering all my many, MANY questions! What a Godsend you are!!

The following is a list of all we have done together in community and celebration here at Jackson's First Pres this year:

- **Maundy Thursday Potluck**
- **Pop cans/Bottle Returns Kitchen Fund Project**
- **Fellowship Hall Banquet Table Project** – 16 new tables were purchased as well as 1 round table for the Westminster Room!
- **Hot Dogma of Summer Cookout**
- **Ice Cream Social Reception** - meet and greet for Pastor David and his family
- **Fall Kickoff - Ice Cream Social**
- **Pastor Ruthann's Appreciation Potluck**
- **Pastor David's 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday Reception**
- **Operation Deep Clean: KITCHEN**
- **Food for Thought Potluck** – 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesdays in October, November and December
- **Installation Reception for Pastor David**
- **Operation Deep Clean: SANCTUARY**
- **Angel Tree Gift Giving** – 17 kids this year
- **Kitchen Fund Free Will Offerings** – Thank you so much for your generosity!

I am so grateful to **ALL** the folks, both named and unnamed in this report, who had a hand in these projects throughout the year! There were **SO MANY** of you who helped and participated! Yay!! Our theme “**Many hands make light work**” was so true!!

**Thank you, thank you,  
THANK YOU!!!**

Respectfully submitted,

Jane Jones

Kitchen Elder







# **Administrative Committee Annual Report 2024**

## **Stewardship**

Thank you for your generosity to the Church during 2024!

We value your gifts. Thanks to you and your financial support we have been able to:

- provide a space for recovery groups, Red Cross blood drives, the scouts, Community Action Agency, Center Stage Jackson, elections, musicians, and much more,
- provide a space for inclusive worship,
- provide outreach to our community with our support of NE Elementary with clothing, school supplies and Library aids,
- provide human needs support with food and diaper donations, and
- provide a space for the Spiritual development of young and old, as well as a space to socially connect with one another.

We finished the year in the black despite a major air conditioning expense. The energy is building within the congregation with the reception of 13 new members this year and a positive Stewardship campaign. We look forward to adding staff to continue the growth.

Rev. Ruthanne Harrington provided the necessary guidance to allow us to call the Rev. David Schell to be our new pastor. We are blessed to add David and his family (Kristen, Ryan, and Micah) to our community.

Please remember that giving benefits the giver and the recipient. Generosity is an intentional choice to create a community that we want to live in. It is an outward demonstration of the values that each of us hold inside. When we give, we feel good about our actions. When the Church receives your gift, we understand how much you value your church.

Thank you again for supporting Jackson First Presbyterian in 2024. We look forward to your continued generosity in 2025.

## **Finance**

The Committee attempts to keep a balanced budget. This can be difficult as giving trends have been fluctuating. This year we identified more of our Mission activities in our financials. Your gifts of food, clothes, and NE Elementary supplies is now reflected in our financials on both the income and expense side. The dividend and interest on the Endowment Fund flows to the Operations Reserve Fund to cover unplanned expenses.

We continue to see a good return on our funds at the Presbyterian Foundation in a socially responsible manner. We have also begun utilizing “laddered” CDs at the Credit Union to improve our return on our more liquid funds.



## Looking Forward

As we look forward to 2025, we are hoping to see even more fellowship activities involving education, fun and work. We hope this will continue to create energy, a sense of family and an extension into our community.

Sadly, our tenant, Samaritas, has been seriously affected by recent federal actions and will likely have difficulty making payments, which will affect our budget. We ask that you keep them in your prayers. We will be working with them and looking at new options at the Hive. This could involve a new major Non-profit tenant or even the sale of the building. Please let us know if you can be of assistance.

## Thank You – to Those Guiding the Stewardship of our Financial Resources

The Finance Committee monitors the financial situation of the Church with the help of Melissa Curtis, our bookkeeper, and Knox Accounting. We are indebted to Ken Rudolph, Treasurer, who continues to spend numerous hours at the church watching over the books and ensuring the donations are properly accounted, signing checks, reviewing the balance sheet & expenditures, and providing other accounting assistance. Finance Committee members assist with not only a review of church finances, but the Hive budget, endowment funds, designated gifts and financial controls. We are always looking for assistance in the areas of technology, accounting, and other office needs. Please feel free to contact a committee member, if you are interested.

### Committee Members:

Kurt Rudolph, Chair  
Kenneth Rudolph, Treasurer  
Randy Tate (resigned Nov 2024),  
Sue Wrzesinski  
Pastors Ruthanne Herrington & David Schell

**Celebrate Jackie Livesay's music ministry at JFPC**  
APRIL 28

**JULY 21**  
Celebrate Lori's ministry at JFPC together!

**Wish Ruthanne the best! September 15**  
Immediately following the Congregational Meeting there will be a potluck lunch! Sign up for a passing dish in the Narthex  
To help, talk to Jane

**Welcome Rev. David Schell on his first Sunday preaching October 6**



## *In Loving Memory of...*



**Phyllis Ruth Hunt**  
October 1, 1932 to  
December 20, 2024



**Robert Merven Kiple**  
December 17, 1935 to  
July 13, 2024



**Gerald R. Kloostra**  
March 31, 1936 to  
April 13, 2024

**Jan Kloostra**  
September 7, 1938 to  
January 21, 2025



**Dorris Marjorie Rea**  
April 19, 1923 to  
March 22, 2024



**Patricia Louise  
(Eckleberry)  
Westerhof**  
July 16, 1935 to  
October 24, 2024