



743 W. Michigan Ave., Jackson, MI 49201
jacksonfirstpres.org

142nd Annual Report 2025

Sunday, February 22, 2026



Welcome Statement

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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SESSION/DEACONS 2026

Moderator, Reverend David Schell
Clerk of Session, Russell Jacobson

SESSION – ELDERS

2027

Jane Jones

2028

Jennifer Blackwell
Meredith Harvey
John Vanderpool

2029

Greg Marsh
Kevin Rule

DEACONS

2027

Florence Guidinger
Sue Leonard
Lisa Rudolph

2028

Russ Jacobson
Carole Loll
Ellen Hicks

2029

Erleen Clark

2026 Staff:

Bookkeeper	Melissa Curtis
Director of Faith Formation	Jennifer Blackwell
Director of Music	Wendy Treacher
Office Administrator	Katie Meyers
Pastor	Reverend David Schell

Treasurer: Ken Rudolph

Assistant Treasurer: Sue Wrzesinski

Docket
The 141st Annual Meeting
of the Congregation/Corporation of
The First Presbyterian Church of Jackson, Michigan
February 22, 2026

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	
Approval of Minutes	
Recognition of Outgoing Elders	Moderator, Reverend David Schell
Committee Reports	
Staff Reports	
2026 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 **Shelley Hirsch, Chris Prokos, Kurt Rudolph, John Williams, Jack Pickett, and Carlene Walz**, 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 **Shelley Hirsch, Chris Prokos, Kurt Rudolph, John Williams, Jack Pickett, and Carlene Walz**, 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
First Presbyterian Church
Jackson, Michigan
February 16, 2025

The 141st Annual Meeting of the Congregational/Corporation of the First Presbyterian Church of Jackson, Michigan was held in the Sanctuary on February 16, 2025.

The meeting was Called to Order at 11:05 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.

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 4, 2024, August 11, 2024, September 15, 2024, and November 24, 2024. The motion passed.

Recognition of Outgoing Elders. Randy Herrick, Doug Meyers, and Karen Meyers, were recognized and thanked for their faithful service to the church.

Elder Kurt Rudolph gave a Finance Committee Report. A motion was made and was seconded to accept the 2025 Budget. The motion passed.

A motion was made and seconded, to accept the Staff Reports. 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

Special Congregational Meeting

First Presbyterian Church

Jackson, Michigan

March 23, 2025

A Special Congregation Meeting of the First Presbyterian Church of Jackson, Michigan was held in the sanctuary on March 23, 2025. The purpose of the meeting was to elect a nominating committee to elect Elders to the Session.

The meeting was Called to Order at 11:00 a.m. by Reverend David Schell.

The Opening Prayer was given by Reverend David Schell.

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

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

There were no nominations from the floor.

A motion was made and seconded to close the nomination. The motion passed.

A motion was made and seconded to elect the candidates to the Nominating Committee. The motion passed.

A motion was made and seconded to adjourn the meeting at 11:10 a.m. The motion passed.

The Closing Prayer was given by Reverend David Schell.

Russell Jacobson
Clerk of Session

Reverend David Schell
Moderator

Congregational Meeting
First Presbyterian Church
Jackson, Michigan
December 21, 2025

A Congregational Meeting of the First Presbyterian Church of Jackson, Michigan was held in the Sanctuary on December 21, 2025, 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 11:08 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 Personnel Committee, presented the Pastor's Terms of Call for 2026. The Cash Salary is \$20,000.00. Housing/Utilities/Furnishing Allowance of \$40,000.00. Total Effective Salary \$60,000.00. Matching contributions to the 403(b) (9) plan of \$2,400.00. SECA Offset (50%) is \$1,530.00. PC USA Full Benefit Plan is \$28,200.00. 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. Total Effective Salary is \$94,830.00. The non-monetary terms of call include 30 days of paid vacation in include 4 Sundays 14 days of professional development time to include 2 Sundays, cumulative for 3 years, Spiritual Direction retreat of 1 week in include 1 Sunday, Time off for federal and state holidays, one day per week may be designed 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 reason 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 2026. The motion passed.

Elder John Williams, Chairman of the Nominating Committee gave his report. He thanked those Elders who going off the Session. They included Chris Prokos, Shelley Hirsch, Kurt Rudolph, and John Williams. The Nominating Committee is nominating the following members for a three-year term as Ruling Elders. They are Greg Marsh, and Kevin Rule. 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, thanked those Deacons who going off the Deacon Board. They included Jack Pickett, and Carlene Walz. The Nominating Committee nominates Earleen Clark for a three-year term as a Deacon. There were no nominations from the

floor. A motion was made and seconded to close the nominations, and cast a unanimous ballot for Erleen Clark. The motion passed.

A motion was made and seconded to adjourn the meeting at 11:15 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

Jackson First Presbyterian Pastor's Terms of Call for 2026

The following terms of call are recommended for 2026:

Cash Salary	\$20,000.00
Housing/Utilities/Furnishing Allowance	<u>\$40,000.00</u>
Total Effective Salary	\$60,000.00
SECA Offset (50%)	\$1,530.00
PC USA Full Benefit Plan	\$28,200.00
Matching contributions to 403(b) (9) plan	2,400.00
Vouchered Reimbursable expenses	
Travel	\$1,000.00
Professional Development	\$1,000.00
Books and other professional expenses	\$300.00
Miscellaneous professional expenses	<u>\$400.00</u>
Other	
Total Cost to Congregation	\$94,830.00

Non-monetary terms of call:

- 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 emergency.
- Family and Medical Leave and Sabbatical Leave per PLM policy.

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.

Statistical Report

ACTIVE MEMBERS, December 31, 2024	144
GAINS DURING 2025:	
Reaffirmation of Faith	+1
Letter of Transfer	+0
Profession of Faith	+1
Restore to the Active Roll	+0
TOTAL GAINS	+2
LOSSES DURING 2025:	
Letter of Transfer	-0
Deaths	-4
Other	-15
TOTAL LOSSES	-19
ACTIVE MEMBERS, December 31, 2025	127

NEW MEMBERS

Leslie Cernilli
Ashley Rodriguez

BAPTISMS

Demir Peterson
Dionte Peterson
Audri Power
Ashley Rodriguez
Elijah Rodriguez

DEATHS

Mary Bair 3/21/2023
Colleen Kirkland 1/19 2025
Janice Kloostra 1/21/2025
Charles Wrzesinski 1/25/2025
Elizabeth "Liz" Earle 7/5/2025

Rev. David Schell Annual Report 2025

Dear Friends,

February 2026

Last year was my first full year as your pastor at Jackson's First Presbyterian Church, and what a year, and what an honor it has been. I encourage you to read through the other reports in this packet so you can get just a small picture of the big things your church is doing here and in our community. **You are a small church with a huge footprint**, and I am not just talking about the building.

Read the reports to learn about

- All the people our deacons are keeping connected to the church;
- The ways we have regularly been out in our community, whether with Café Connection, Northeast Elementary, making food for Interfaith Shelter, supporting local mission through Reverse Advent and Lenten Journey giving, answering phones for Love INC, tables at Jackson Pride and various rallies and protests;
- The ways our community has been in our building, including the youth theater group, the boy scouts, A.A., Al-Anon, N.A., Love INC board meetings, Red Cross blood drives, and so much more;
- The learning we've done through all the Faith Formation classes like Revelation and Confirmation;
- The fellowship we've enjoyed through events like our Maundy Thursday dinner and church picnic;
- The work of the Nominating and Personnel Committee identifying and hiring two *phenomenal* new staff members, Katie and Jennifer, to say nothing of Natalie graciously staying on a few months longer while we continued to search for a new office administrator;
- The work done by our Marketing Committee to clarify for our neighbors what kind of church we are to make it easier for folks looking for a church like us to find us;
- The phenomenal music that fills our sanctuary every single Sunday thanks to the hard, joyful work of Wendy Treacher, both in playing for us and recruiting some of the best musicians in Jackson to participate in our worship and our choir and handbell choir.
- The generous combined giving you all did that keeps our lights on, our building warm and maintained, and our incredible staff members paid as fairly as we can afford.

There are also things you won't find in the attached reports, because they're done quietly and faithfully out of the spotlight, like the church member who appears in the driveway with a snow shovel every time snow falls to make sure folks can make it inside safely; the folks who attend to leaks and things that break in the building; three people from the tech team faithfully showing up every Sunday so our service can be more

accessible to people both here in the building and in town, and as far away as Detroit and Texas. Regular volunteers generously and faithfully count offerings, handle bookkeeping, and help answer phones and doors and donate and hand out diapers. The food donations – donated not just by us, but by guests to our building – are counted and find their way to Immanuel Lutheran's food pantry in the hands of volunteers who never asked for credit. People who stepped up to join the church, or to lead in new ways.

Thanks to the great and hard work of our Administrative Committee and new Administrative Assistant, we have transitioned to Church Management software called Realm, which will allow us to print our own church directory and track attendance more easily, and do so many other things better.

Honestly, one of the challenges of leading a church this active and doing this much good is the nagging worry that, in a list of amazing volunteers and staff doing amazing things, I'm sure I have unintentionally left someone out who did something just as amazing just as faithfully, and if you're reading this and it's you, know that we all so appreciate what you do too but it just didn't come to my mind one snowy morning in early February when I was writing this report.

This past year was a busy one for me as well. In February I attended the Calvin Seminary Symposium on Worship to get new ideas so that our worship can help us connect with God better. In March I participated in the KALEO Clergy Group's annual retreat to be inspired and encouraged and grow with friends in ministry.

Over the course of 2025, I had the solemn and terrible honor of sitting with several of you in the **aftermath of the loss of loved ones**, and leading **funerals** to honor their lives and look to their resurrection.

I went to more **meetings** than I can count. I moderated **session meetings** and enjoyed **preaching** and **leading worship** and **collaborated** to co-lead **special services with other churches**, like Ash Wednesday and Blue Christmas and a Service for Peace and Justice, and. I led my first Easter service here, and I got to lead my first Church in the Park and Church in the Parking Lot.

Over the summer, we rebooted Rev. Ruthanne Herrington's popular "**Hot Dogma Summer**" series. I admit, I thought it would be easy, but you all had some terrific and challenging questions, and I ended up working much harder on responding faithfully to your questions than I expected I would – and I enjoyed every minute of it.

In July I went as an adult volunteer / leader to the **Presbyterian Youth Triennium** in Louisville. Youth from JFPC were not in attendance, but that opened a door to another **youth event in Hastings** where Jennifer and I made and renewed some connections that will help us as we work to build strategies to revitalize youth group activities here.

In 2024 in Benton Harbor, I committed that that would be the last year I went to Pride without my church, but due to a death in my family, **2025** was ironically the **first year my church went to Pride without me!**

The Presbytery elected me to their **Commission on Preparation for Ministry**, where I help people discerning a call to pastoral ministry use our discernment process.

Looking ahead, I am investigating educational opportunities to **improve my leadership skills**, including beginning clergy coaching this month.

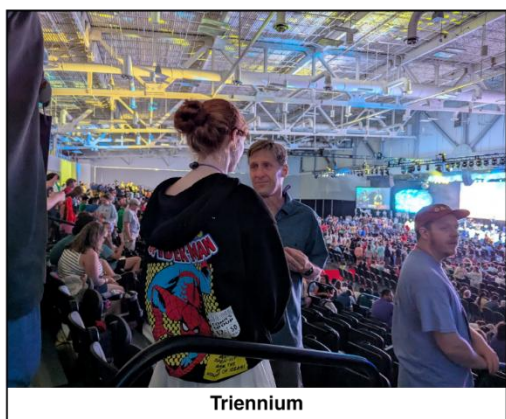
The Worship and Music committee and I are planning the usual services for Ash Wednesday and Maundy Thursday and/or Good Friday, and Wendy has recruited an entire brass quartet for a spectacular Easter Sunday celebration! We're also looking forward to Church in the Park and Parking Lot, Blessing of the Animals, and I'm planning to expand on last year's World Communion Sunday by "visiting" churches from around the world in the Sundays leading up to it.

I am also looking forward to meeting with as many of you as I can so I may get to know you better.

Friends, I am overwhelmed with gratitude for the year that was 2025 in the life of Jackson's First Presbyterian Church, and for the honor of having been your pastor in that year, and terribly excited for what 2026 will bring in the life of this church, and for what we will bring to it together.

Blessings,

Rev. David Schell



Director of Faith Formation Annual Report 2025

It was a great pleasure to join the staff of Jackson's First Presbyterian Church in October 2025. Following a very active fourth quarter, I sought to create spaces within our Faith Formation ministries where members of every age could explore their faith with curiosity and a sense of belonging.

The Confirmation program remained a cornerstone of my work with our youth, balancing rigorous theological study with the essential work of building community. I guided students as they explored the depths of church history and the foundational truths of the Nicene Creed. These lessons were not merely academic; they served as the building blocks for the students' own "Jesus Creed," a project that will be completed collectively to help them articulate their understanding of faith. I made it a priority for every session to begin with a shared meal, a simple yet profound practice that fosters friendship among the confirmands and their mentors. I also ensured the youth had the opportunity to participate in the life of the congregation; they decorated the sanctuary for Advent and led scripture readings during the Christmas Eve service.

For our youngest members, this was a year of transition and intentionality. I introduced the "Follow Me" curriculum, which allowed the children to study themes that mirrored the adult Advent series, "Do Not Fear." This synchronization created a shared language for families to discuss their faith at home. To ensure that children had more time to experience the main worship service with their families, I moved to a biweekly Sunday School schedule. Research suggests that children who do not participate in worship during their youth are less likely to engage in communal worship as adults.



Sunday School

Adult education flourished through a commitment to flexibility and practical application. The "Do Not Fear" Advent series saw good participation, offering a meaningful space for reflection during a hectic season. To better accommodate the congregation's Sunday mornings, I worked with the Spiritual Formation Committee to move our meetings to a biweekly format, beginning fifteen minutes after worship. This small change significantly reduced scheduling conflicts and allowed for more focused participation.

Beyond the doors of JFPC, my reach extended into the wider Presbytery. My service on the PLM Youth Strategy Committee provided an opportunity to help shape gatherings for youth across our region.

As I look toward 2026, I do so with a sense of momentum. I remain committed to providing adaptable educational series for adults and creating even more connection points for our youth within the local community. I also look forward to completing "housekeeping" projects in the Resource Room, Chapel, and my office. These physical preparations will reflect a heart for hospitality and readiness for the growth the new year may bring.

Respectfully Submitted,

Jennifer Blackwell
Director of Faith Formation

Director of Music Annual Report 2025

The Music Ministry at 1st Presbyterian Church is an important part of the church life and worship. In addition to music from the Chancel Choir, and the Presby Ringers, 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 Chancel Choir and Presby Ringers are maintaining their approximate membership numbers and continue to lead music for worship from September to June. We appreciate our long time members and also our new members. The Choir rehearses weekly and sings two to three Sundays a month between September and June. These singers are dedicated musicians seeking to always serve their church.

The Presby Ringers provide music for worship four times in the church year. This dedicated group of Christian musicians rehearses weekly and also does the set up and tear down of all the chairs, tables, racks, bells, and skirts when they provided the music for worship -- no small task! We added a terrific new member in the fall to the Presby Ringers – our favorite violinist, Sarah Hashimoto.

This year has been different than other years. I had a very bad fall in July which injured my right shoulder and arm and my knee besides having a concussion. I was not able to play either the piano or organ for three months. Steve Flick, a Jackson organist, played three weeks for worship. And then Jon Krueger took over on the piano and played the rest of the year.

In September, I developed sepsis from an infected kidney stone and spent two weeks in the hospital and then three months receiving IV antibiotics from the PICC Center. It was during this time that I learned what a wonderful church family we have. For two months church members brought my husband Randy and I wonderful meals three times a week. My husband broke his ankle and had to have surgery to repair it. Those meals, their visits, and all the cards sustained us during this very difficult time. Although I planned the music from September to January, I could not play until November. Choir and bells started in October and Carole Loll led the bells. Jon Krueger was our support on the keyboard.

As we continue to stream our services every week, we are thankful for a wonderful tech team. Many thanks to Randy Herrick, Doug Meyers, Katie Meyers, Bill Loll, Chad Melton, and Brian Soltis. 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
The Jackson Brass Quintet
Clyde McKaney, violin and viola
Phil Wrzenski, guitar and vocals
The John Finton Brass Quintet for Easter
Hailey Cunningham, guest director
Jackie Livesay & Wendy Treacher, duo
pianos
Jen Blackwell, hymn leader

Carole Loll, hymn leader
Phil Wilcox, hymn leader
Jackie Livesay, hymn leader
Shelley Hirsch, hymn leader
Jane Jones, hymn leader
Steve Flick, guest organist
Jackie Livesay, organist
Brian Ketner, piano
Greg Marsh, hymn leader

We are fortunate to have as a member of our church a composer, a guitarist and a singer. We regularly see the depths of Phil Wrzesinski's faith through his compositions, playing and singing in worship. He plays and sings once every 4-6 weeks.

We were fortunate to be supported by a strong and active Worship, Music, and Sacraments Committee chaired by Jen Blackwell. They helped plan meaningful worship for our congregation.

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 presented four concerts this year and this is my 19th year as the director. They presented a fall concert (when I was not able to do so) under the leadership of Matt Snell. I am gradually going to retire from the Chorale next year. Matt will direct two of the concerts and I will direct the other two. In the 2028-2029 season Matt will direct three concerts and I will direct one. The following year, he will direct the entire season.

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.

In the service of praising God through music,

Wendy Treacher
Director of Music



Faith Formation Committee Annual Report 2025

- Updated the Youth Protection Policy
- Hired several Spring Arbor University Education students to work with our kids on Thursday nights and Sunday mornings.
- VBS nights for kids in the summer
- Hired Jen Blackwell as Faith Formation Director
- Began Confirmants class taught by Jen Blackwell. There are currently four teens participating.
- Held one movie night for the youth
- Participated/supported: Easter Sunday, Graduation Sunday, Rally Day, Blessing of the Backpacks, Advent events

Meredith Harvey
Committee Chair



Prayground



Deacons Annual Report 2025

Our list of Deacons who are now serving in 2026: Russ Jacobson, Carole Loll, Florence Guidinger, Ellen Hicks, Lisa Rudolph, and Sue Leonard. The newly appointed Deacon is Erleen Clark. The Pastor is always in attendance at the Deacon meetings.

Jack Pickett has completed his term as have I, Carlene Walz. A new Moderator will likely be chosen at the next meeting in February.

The congregation should note the names of the Serving Deacons and make sure that any needs in the Congregation not currently being met should be reported to one of the Deacons as soon as possible. Even if the needs do not come under the purview of the Deacons, it will be discussed at the meeting, and a solution will come out of the discussion.

During the year the Deacons fulfilled their principle mission which is to check in with those members, or sometimes nonmembers of our Congregation who are no longer able to come to the church. A part of that mission is fulfilled at the monthly Coffee & Conversation at Vista. The Pastor attends the coffee hour and comes prepared to bring those in attendance up to date on what is currently happening at the church.

The individual visits are very helpful in getting to know the care receiver. The Deacon can have conversations they might have had at coffee hour after services on Sunday morning, topics covered being the same as any friendly conversation. These interactions are beneficial to the Deacon and the Care receiver. The Deacons may also deliver Communion, offer time for prayer, and provide time to listen to what is on the care receivers' mind.

I am sorry to report that we have not made much progress on our hope to assist in developing a report to the community about the Mission work being accomplished at First Presbyterian. Hopefully in the coming year we will make a better connection with the Session and the Marketing Committee and succeed in our goal.

Flower delivery continued throughout the year. First the altar flowers and at Easter the lilies and the poinsettias at Christmas. I would say that many people, members and nonmembers, benefitted from these offerings. A fun part of the work!

The Deacons stay busy trying to make a difference. Micah 6:8 still guides us. As always, bring the Deacons your suggestions and, of course, give us your prayers.

Respectfully submitted,

Carlene Walz
2025 Committee Chair

Faith Community Nurses Annual Report 2025

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-four members participated, and 12 members met that exercise goal for the entire two months! Jacob Jabkiewicz 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
Committee Chair

Peace, Justice, & Mission Annual Report 2025

The year 2025 marked a season of intentional alignment for our congregation's outreach. Recognizing that our passion for social advocacy and our commitment to hands-on service are two sides of the same coin, we officially merged the Peace and Justice Committee with the Missions Committee in the latter part of the year. This transition was born out of a realization that there was a profound overlap in our goals; by joining forces, we have streamlined our efforts to better address the systemic issues and immediate needs facing our community as a single, unified Peace, Justice, & Mission (PJM) team.

Throughout the year, much of our internal work focused on deep discernment regarding our identity as a sanctuary congregation. Alongside this, we found ways to support the work of the Jackson Immigration Coalition, including having "Know Your Rights" red cards available and working on ways to make our building a safer space for our marginalized neighbors.

One of our most impactful and dignifying efforts this year was the launch of our Menstrual Ministry. By providing free menstrual products in our restrooms, we transformed the concept of "extravagant welcome" into a tangible resource. Recognizing that hygiene is a matter of basic justice, the committee also worked to expand access by adding shelving and supplies to all restrooms, including the men's and all-gender facilities.

Prior to the union of our two committees, the Mission Committee was very active in its own right. Their activities included the Relay for Life team, the Lenton journey, the Northwest Elementary closet, as well as the First Sunday's Food. All of which will continue under the committee structure.

Our mission truly came to life when we stepped beyond the walls of the church. In August, we joined in celebration at Jackson Pride, building inclusive connections and reinforcing that our church is a place where diversity is celebrated. Just a few weeks later, on Labor Day, we showed up downtown in solidarity with local workers, advocating for the dignity and rights of all laborers in our city.

As the seasons changed, our focus turned toward the "Reverse Advent" and "Angel Tree" programs. By following our Reverse Advent calendar, we provided essential supplies to the Immanuel Lutheran Food Pantry, Jackson Personal Care Ministry, Northeast Elementary, and our own Diaper Ministry. Additionally, through the Angel Tree program, we were able to provide Christmas gifts to children of incarcerated parents, ensuring that the light of the holiday reached families often forgotten by society.

As we look back on 2025, we are reminded of the prophet's words in Micah 6:8:

"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?"

This requirement calls us to move beyond our pews and into the heart of our community. Thank you to our committee members Natalie Schroeder, Riley Blackwell, Jean Herrick, Randy Herrick, and Pastor David Schell. Each member of the committee worked to keep us informed about specific community needs and found ways for us to take the extravagant welcome we proclaim each Sunday outside into the world. Through our presence at Pride, our support for labor, and our commitment to our neighbors in need, we continue to strive toward a world where justice and kindness are known by all.

Respectfully submitted,

Jen Blackwell
Committee Chair



Northeast Elementary school supply drive



Pride Fest, August 16, 2025



Labor Day Rally



Pride Fest, August 16, 2025

Worship, Music, & Sacraments Committee Annual Report 2025

In 2025, the life of our congregation was marked by a deep sense of community and a commitment to worship that reached both within and beyond our sanctuary walls. The year began with a spirit of fellowship during our Shrove Tuesday pancake dinner, transitioning into a meaningful Lenten season that culminated in a powerful Holy Week. From the intimate gatherings in the Westminster Room for Maundy Thursday and Good Friday to the triumphant Easter morning, complete with a brass quintet and a sanctuary filled with lilies.

As spring turned to summer, we embraced moments of joy and unique celebration. Holy Humor Sunday brought a wonderful energy to our worship, while our annual Church in the Park service on June 22nd served as a beautiful reminder of our connection to the outdoors, despite the challenges of the weather. We also took time to honor the milestones of our members, celebrating our choir, our graduates, and the dedicated service of Nancy Kinch, Skye Hirsch, Karen Leja, and Wayne Leja.

Our commitment to outreach and inclusion remained a central theme throughout the fall. Through special services like Disability and Inclusion Sunday and our Peace and Justice service, we challenged ourselves to live out our faith in tangible ways. This spirit extended into the community as we stood in solidarity during the Labor Day Rally and walked for global hunger in the CROP Walk.

The end of the year brought a renewed focus on the future of our church. We were thrilled to launch the iConfirm program in October, welcoming a new class of confirmands who would later play a vital role in our Christmas Eve Lessons & Carols service. As we moved through Advent and gathered for our Blue Christmas service to support those in grief, we closed the year grounded in hope. With a full calendar already in place for 2026, we look forward to another year of growing together in faith and service.

Many thanks to our committee members Doug Meyers, Jan Hestwood, Wendy Treacher, and Pastor David Schell. We also extend our gratitude to Nancy Kinch, who completed her service on the committee this year.

Thank you to Sharon Vanderpool and Carolyn Hiliker for their faithful service in preparing Holy Communion in 2025. We also give thanks for our communion servers: Natalie Schroeder, Kurt Rudolph, Lisa Rudolph, Jan Hestwood, Sue Wrzesinski, and Jacob Jabkiewicz.

Lectors: Doug Meyers, Sharon Vanderpool, Sue Wrzesinski, Sky Hirsch, Jean Herrick, Charlene Roberts, Wayne Leja, Carole Loll, and Carlene Walz.

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

We are so blessed by all the musicians who served and worshiped with us in 2025. An enormous thank you to Wendy Treacher for her musical leadership and all the guest musicians she scheduled for us in the past year. We are especially thankful to all of those who filled in while Wendy recovered from her injuries and illness in 2025: Steve Flick, Jackie Livesay, and Jon Krueger.

Respectfully Submitted,

Jen Blackwell
Committee Chair



Children's Message



Church in the Park

Personnel & Nominating Committee Annual Report 2025

Personnel:

Two new staff members were hired in 2025:

1. Pastor David Schell and Elder John Williams interviewed Katie Meyers for the office administrator position. She accepted the position and she agreed to start on September 8. The position had been filled on an interim basis by Natalie Schroeder. The hire was announced in church, and Natalie was thanked for her valuable assistance in doing the job until a permanent hire was made.
2. Elder Jennifer Blackwell was interviewed and offered the Director of Faith Formation (Christian Education) position, which had been vacant since the resignation of Lori Tate.

Terms of Call for the pastor were prepared and coordinated with Pastor David Schell, the chair of the Administrative Committee, and the JFPC Session, and approved at the congregational meeting on December 21, 2025.

Pastor Schell completed and shared a self-evaluation and shared it with the Session. Members of the Session completed an evaluation of the pastor, and the Chair of the Personnel Committee shared consolidated results with Pastor Schell.

Nominating Committee:

The 2025 Nominating Committee was elected and consisted of John Williams, Russ Jacobson, Dorothy Graham, Jan Hestwood, Mary Swan, and Sharon Vanderpool. Mary Swan later resigned and left the church. The committee asked numerous members to consider serving as elder or deacon, and the following members agreed to serve and were nominated and approved by the congregation for installation in 2026:

Elders: Greg Marsh and Kevin Rule

Deacon: Erleen Clark

John Williams
Committee Chair

Marketing Committee Annual Report 2025

Members: Katie Meyers, Chris Prokos, Pastor David Schell

Note: We are indebted to Katie Meyers, who has spot-on ideas and language to match. She began the year as a volunteer, creating slides for Facebook, the website, screens, Experience Jackson, The Source, and other apps as part of the Marketing Committee. Now she fills the Church Secretary role, where this work comes as part of the job and she can carry it out more efficiently. When I refer to “we” in this report, 9/10ths of the time, you can bet Katie has been involved up to her eyeballs!

We began the year by developing the Invisible Giving card that is in the pew racks now. Rather than be empty-handed when the collection plate passes by, an individual can use a “My Giving is Invisible” card to indicate they contribute in many ways.

After Pastor David received a query asking whether we were part of the PCUSA or not, we added the Welcome Statement and the LGBTQIA+ flag to the web site Home Page.

During spring and summer, we partnered with the Peace and Justice Committee for a very effective presence at the Pride Fest, August 16. We created and sold over 40 T-shirts with the logo “JUST the way YOU Are” against a rainbow of colors on black. The back has our Welcome Statement, logo, and name. We created stickers with the same logo and our e-mail address against an LGBTQIA+ flag. We spoke at worship about going together as a group and what it meant to the Pride community that we had a supportive presence. (You will read more about this in the Peace and Justice report.)

During July and August, we bartered with Allie Tate, an advertising senior at Michigan State, for Marketing support. She brought alongside her advertising mentor Carrie Joers, and the five of us created the sticker mentioned above and brainstormed many other advertising ideas for the future, several based on the sticker design.

In December alone, Katie created the following:

- Facebook event page for the Blue Christmas service and submitted the event to the Experience Jackson events calendar.
- Promotional materials (posters, graphics for The Source, announcement slides for the bulletin, on screens, on the livestream and the website for:
 - o The Do Not Fear class
 - o Men’s Breakfast Book Study
 - o Blue Christmas
 - o Christmas Eve
 - o Poinsettia orders
 - o The Reverse Advent Calendar
 - o The Angel Tree Initiative

o The Christmas Cookie Class and Cookie Walk

We also decided to switch from doing The Force every week and The Source once a month to doing The Source twice a month and sending notices of important things that come up between mailings via e-mail.

Christine Prokos
Committee Chair



Pride shirts

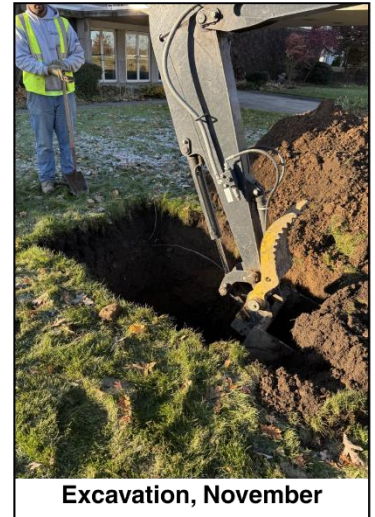
Property Committee Annual Report 2025

Several important events took place with property in 2025:

- Two additional lights for the parking lot were installed on the building
- The carpets and upholstered furniture were cleaned in the Westminster Room/Chapel. The AA Freedom Group contributed to the cost.
- The kitchen refrigerator was repaired with some key parts. The compressor was okay.
- Minor problems were corrected with the HVAC equipment.
- We had several instances of drain backup in the Westminster kitchenette. After several trials at cleanout, we eventually did some drainage repair with required excavating and replaced some drainpipes underground.
- Choir room AC issues with condensation leaks were repaired
- The Hive lower west AC unit was repaired and is now running successfully
- We repaired several toilet flush valves.
- The ceiling leak in the handicap restroom was identified by Kurt R. The source is a cracked roof drainpipe that comes through the building. The actual repair solution has not been decided at this time.
- We continued support for Red Cross monthly blood drives at the church and The Hive during summer.
- Annual and other required inspections and were kept up to date (e.g. fire, elevator, water backflow, boiler etc.).
- Our building is used every day by community and recovery groups. Most days there are several groups simultaneously or at different times.

None of this could happen with the support of many “friends of property.” If you have any skills in property and would like to share your experience/ talents, please contact me.

John Vanderpool
Committee Chair



Kitchen Committee Annual Report 2025

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: Erleen Clark, The Blackwell Family, Terri Jo and Kevin Rule, Ashley Rodriguez, Kristen, Ryan, and Micah Schell, my husband, Dean Jones, plus everyone else who has lent a hand at one of our many functions this year! I also need to give a shout out to my kitchen mentor Sharon Vanderpool for continuing to answer my many, many, MANY questions! I'm so grateful for you!



Cookie Decorating

The following is a list of all we have done in the kitchen together in community and celebration here at Jackson First Pres:

- Cookie Walk in March – a HUGE success!
- Shrove Tuesday Pancake Dinner in late March
- Maundy Thursday Potluck in April
- Pop cans/Bottle Returns Kitchen Fund – thanks to all who have donated their cans
- Pretzels in June – oh, what fun we had!
- Hot Dogma Summer/Rally Day Fall Kickoff on the front lawn
- The Building Use Policy was reviewed and updated
- Confirmation Class began in October. They meet twice a month and dinner is provided.

- Pretzels again in October – fun, fun, fun again!
- Church Family Thanksgiving Potluck in November
- Christmas Cookie decorating in December -- so COOL and fun to learn!
- Christmas Cookie Walk in December – another HUGE success!

A super fun year of “Fun & Fellowship,” right?! I am so grateful to all the folks, both named and unnamed in this report, who participated in these activities throughout the year! There were SO MANY of you who volunteered to do the work that needed to be done behind the scenes so that our wonderful time of fellowship and community was made possible! Our theme, “Many hands make light work!” was so true! Thank you, thank you, THANK YOU!

Respectfully submitted,

Jane Jones
Committee Chair

Administrative Committee Annual Report 2025

Stewardship

Thank you for your generosity to the Church during 2025!

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 a high-risk city school by supporting NE Elementary with clothing, school supplies and Library volunteers,
- provide human needs support with food and diaper donations for our community, and
- provide a space for the Spiritual development of youth and adults, as well as a space to socially connect with one another.

We finished the year strong! Our Envelope Income finished \$14,000 ahead of our target of \$214,000. We also raised \$8,000 in in-kind gifts of food, clothing and personal care needs! This smashed our target of \$5,000 (based upon 2024 collections)! You are an amazingly generous community! You offer a bright ray of hope to others in a time that can seem rather bleak.

Please remember, 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 2025. We look forward to your continued generosity in 2026.

Finance

The Committee attempts to keep a balanced budget. This can be difficult as giving trends continue to fluctuate. We are projecting a decline in Envelop Giving, due to the loss of a few significant giving units. We are hopeful that we might attract some new members and that some may considering giving a little more than what has been pledged and what we have projected.

The Budget/Actual Comparison sheet that follows indicates the contribution that we see from the rent paid by Samaritas for their use of the Hive. However, Samaritas' financial status is stressed by both federal and State policies. We are continuing to look for other non-profit rental opportunities that benefit both the Church and the renters. If you have ideas for the Hive's use, please let us know.

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 and fiscally responsible manner. We have also begun utilizing CDs at the Credit Union to improve our return on our more liquid funds.

Looking Forward

We are projecting a negative budget for this coming year, because we have filled the vacant Director of Faith Formation position. We are hopeful that our growth last year will continue this year and, in the years to come. We are also hoping that we will see the generosity of our membership continue to grow. We had significant growth in our investments last year and are hoping to see that continue. We are thankful for the resources provided by those who came before us, and we are thankful for your continued support.

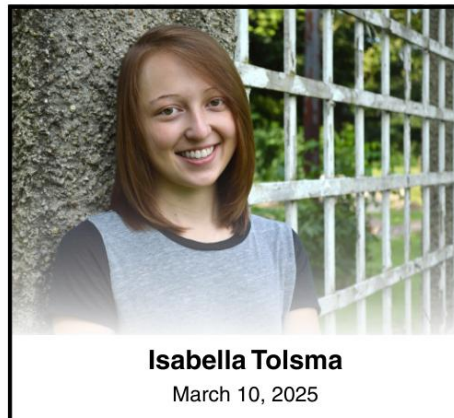
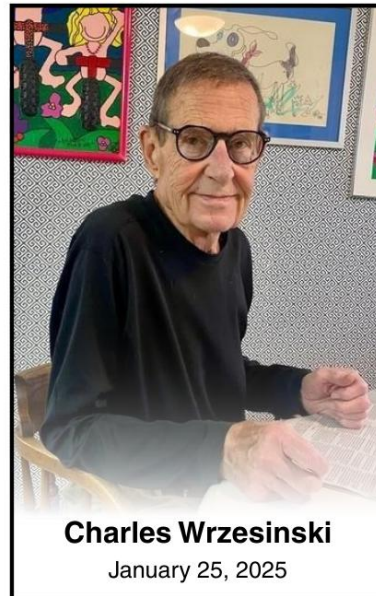
Thank You – to Those Guiding the Stewardship of our Financial Resources

The Administrative 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. Administrative 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 areas of technology, accounting, and other office needs. Please feel free to contact a committee member, if you have interest.

Committee Members:

Kurt Rudolph, Chair
Kenneth Rudolph, Treasurer
Sue Wrzesinski
Pastor David Schell

In loving memory...



Mary Bair
March 21, 2023

Elizabeth "Liz" Earle
July 5, 2025