



2024 ANNUAL REPORT

JANUARY 26, 2025

PURPOSE STATEMENT

Our purpose is to be a worshipping community who makes disciples by gathering
In the name of God, gifting by the Holy Spirit, and going into the world to share
the love of Jesus Christ.

STAFF

Ministers – All the people of Faith
Pastor – The Rev. Dr. David Bender
Directory of Programs – Edye Bender
Music Worship Leader – Carol Edmonds
Financial Administrator – Beth Young
Director of Choirs – Baha Lee

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The Session

Moderator Rev. Dr. David M. Bender

Clerk of Session..... Jane Stein

Treasurer Dick Reif

Class of 2024

Sharon Archer

Ted Tozer

Elly Weiss

Class of 2025

Glenda Bonner

Rick Lambert

Melissa Wellman

Class of 2026

Glen Affonso

Greg Hammill

Osmond Simm

Sally Smith *Resigned 08/18/2024

Mary Jane Carr

Class of 2027

Lois Briggs

Brenda Thomas

Ted Tozer



January 2025

Greetings Faith family!

As we say “goodbye” to 2024 and “hello” to 2025, we take time to remember and reflect. The reports, stories, and numbers found in the documents below are a part of that reflection for Faith church. The Session and all our ministry teams are humbled and delighted to present to you our annual church report.

2024 was an unusual year for the church for several reasons. First, the congregation graciously granted me an 8-week sabbatical during the spring and into the summer. That time of rest, reflection, study, and travel was so special and important to me, and I will ever be grateful. Our family made memories that will last a lifetime. Second, the year will be remembered for Hurricane Helene and the destruction she caused, particularly for our neighbors up in the NC mountains. Many folks know people or places that were destroyed, and that has been and remains a painful saga. Third, 2024 was the year in which our church took mighty strides towards our building extension, and we ended the year with a building permit on our window.

We are grateful that God continues to call good folks into membership at Faith, and we always celebrate them. We celebrate the call of three new elders, and we pray God’s strength and guidance for Lois Briggs, Brenda Thomas, Mary Jane Carr, and Ted Tozer. We also thank God for the wisdom and talents of our elders who rotated off Session—Sharon Archer, Elly Weiss, and Ted Tozer (who quickly rotated back on), and the session lost Sally Smith, whose health did not allow her to complete her term. “Well done, good and faithful servants.”

We also lost some of our dear ones this year. Sandy Monahan was such a delightful person who made everyone smile. Nancy Senatro was a wonderful partner and mother, and she was adaptive enough to transition from a “non-camper” to sleeping over many feet of snow. Hank Howland was a true Patriot and servant who made a difference in this world. Donna Hammill was a ray of sunshine, and she simply would not allow her illnesses to keep her from what was important. Donna Harmon will be missed, for she was a great friend and neighbor to so many. We also lost other beloved children of God who were close to Faith church: George Bruton, Don Hubbard, Lynn Gunlicks and Bill Affonso. May they all rest in the peace of God’s care.

I always thank God for this wonderful church, for her session and congregation who gives of themselves in so many ways. I’m also so grateful for our talented staff, Edye, Beth, Carol, and Baha.

May God continue to bless you all!

Peace,

David

Faith Presbyterian Church

Annual Congregational Meeting

January 28, 2024

Following the worship service on January 28, 2024, Rev. Dr. David Bender called the Annual Congregational Meeting to order at 11:07 AM and opened with prayer. A quorum was present.

Rev. Bender announced that Jane Stein would serve as secretary.

Rev. Bender stated that the purpose of the meeting was:

To elect three members from the congregation to serve on the 2024 Elder Nominating Team

To receive the 2023 Annual Report

To hear a report of the 2023 Finances and receive the 2024 Operating Budget

2023 Annual Report

The 2023 Annual Report was made available to the congregation in print and online. The report summarizes the mission and financial activities of the church.

Election of the 2024 Elder Nominating Team

After explaining the purpose of the role, Rev. Bender opened the floor for nominations. The following members from the congregation were nominated:

1. Krysia McCurdy
2. Lois Briggs
3. Rob Smith

A motion was made by Rick Lambert and seconded from the floor to close the nominations and approve the nominees. The motion was **APPROVED by acclamation**.

Financial Review

Ted Tozer, Finance Team Elder, presented the following Financial Highlights and thanked the congregation for their continued generous support.

2023 Financial Highlights Balance Sheet December 31, 2023

		Assets
Operating Funds	331,415.00	331,415.00
Less: Restricted Funds	(208,261.00)	
Available fund Church operations	123,054.00	
Endowment Fund		70,629.00
Building Fund		369,903.00
Land and Building		1,000,000.00
Other Assets		1,374.00
Total Assets		1,773,321.00

	Liabilities and Equity
PILP Mortgage	58,760.00
Restricted Funds	208,361.00
Endowment Fund	70,628.00
Total Liabilities	337,749.00
Equity	1,435,572.00
Total Liabilities and Equity	1,773,321.00

Income Statement as of December 31, 2023

	Revenue	
	<u>2023 Actual</u>	<u>2024 budget</u>
Pledged offering	319,075.00	323,500.00
Non-Pledged Offering	63,951.00	64,132.00
money Market interest	13,186.00	12,000.00
other income	1,985.00	2,100.00
Total Revenue	398,197.00	401,732.00
	Expenses	
	<u>2023 actual</u>	<u>2024 Budget</u>
Personnel Salary Expenses	183,384.00	240,052.00
Personnel non-salary expense	3,502.00	5,200.00
Total personnel expense	186,886.00	245,252.00
Worship/music Program	1,768.00	6,630.00
Christian Education	6,581.00	9,000.00
Outreach	2,963.00	3,500.00
Congregational care	60.00	200.00
Fellowship	3,585.00	8,950.00
Building and grounds	154,343.00	83,100.00
Administrative expenses	18,200.00	19,000.00
Missions	1,197.00	3,600.00
General assembly and Presbytery	22,125.00	22,500.00
Total Expenses	397,708.00	401,732.00
Over/shortage	489.00	-

Change in the Pastor's Terms of Call

The meeting was turned over to Rick Lambert, Elder for Administration/Personnel Team.

The Bender family was excused from the meeting for the discussion on the changes in the Pastor's Terms of Call.

Rick made a motion from the Administration/ Personnel Team that the Pastor's salary be increased by 3.5%. In addition Rev. Bender will be provided with a two-month sabbatical. Rick explained that the 3.5% increase follows the recommendations from the Providence Presbytery salary studies. Rev. Bender's sabbatical will take place from April 15-June 15, 2024. During that time, the Worship Team will secure pulpit supply and the Congregational Care Team will be looking at ways to provide care to the congregation as the need arises.

Following a request for questions, Rick called for a vote from the congregation on the motion to increase the Pastor's salary by 3.5% and to provide a two-month sabbatical. The motion was **APPROVED by acclamation**.

Rev. Bender returned and announced that there was no further business for discussion. The meeting was closed with prayer at 11:25 AM.

Rev. Dr. David Bender

Jane Stein, Clerk of Session/Secretary

Date Approved _____

Faith Presbyterian Church

Congregational Meeting

August 18, 2024

Following worship service on August 18, 2024, Rev. Dr. David Bender called the congregational meeting to order at 11:00 AM and opened the meeting with prayer. A quorum was present. The meeting was also available on Zoom.

Rev. Bender announced that Jane Stein would serve as secretary.

The purpose of the meeting was to vote on a motion from Session to approve mortgaging our church property to finance the construction of the building expansion. Since the motion came from Session, a second was not needed.

Rev. Bender explained that a presentation was held last week following worship service to provide more specific information regarding the size and scope of the project.

Rev. Bender opened the floor for questions and discussion. Several members offered their opinions and thoughts on the positive and negative aspects of the project.

Following this discussion, Jim Northrup made a motion that we move to vote. The motion was seconded, and Rev. Bender asked for a voice vote for those in favor, those opposed, and those who wished to abstain.

The motion from Session to approve mortgaging our church property to finance the construction of the building expansion was approved by the majority.

There being no further business, the meeting was closed with prayer at 11:10 AM.

Rev. Dr. David Bender

Jane Stein, Clerk of Session/Secretary

Date Approved _____

Faith Presbyterian Church

Congregational Meeting

November 3, 2024

Following worship service on November 3, 2024, Rev. Dr. David Bender called the congregational meeting to order at 11:19 AM and opened the meeting with prayer. A quorum was present. The meeting was also available on Zoom.

Rev. Bender announced that Jane Stein, Clerk of Session, would serve as secretary for the meeting.

The purpose of the meeting was to elect four elders. The meeting was turned over to Rob Smith who represented the Elder Nomination Team. Rob announced that the other members of the team who served this year included Krysia McCurdy, Ted Tozer, Lois Briggs, and Elly Weiss.

Rob Smith placed the following four names into nomination for Ruling Elder:

For the class of 2026 – Mary Jane Carr for the Congregational Care Team Elder

For the class of 2027 – Lois Briggs for the Christian Education Team Elder

Brenda Thomas for the Fellowship Team Elder

Ted Tozer for the Finance Team Elder

Rev. Bender opened the floor for additional nominations.

Rick Lambert made a motion that the nominations be closed. Jim Northrup seconded the motion. The motion was **approved by acclamation.**

There being no further business, Rev. Bender closed the meeting with prayer at 11:25 AM.

Rev. Dr. David Bender

Jane Stein, Clerk of Session/Secretary

Date Approved _____

Clerk of Session – Annual Report – 2024

Active Members on Church Roll as of January 1, 2024	222
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Additions:

Certificates of Transfer	6
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Reaffirmation of Faith	6
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Total Additions	12
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Losses:

Moved to Inactive/Transfers	18
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Death of Member	5
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Total Losses	23
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Active Members as of December 31, 2024	211
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The following members died in 2024:

Sandy Monahan, Nancy Senatro, Hank Howland, Donna Hammill, Donna Harmon

Attendance Information

Average Weekly In-Person Sunday Attendance	133
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Average Weekly Virtual You Tube Views	63
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Christmas Eve In-Person Attendance	182
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Christmas Eve Virtual You Tube Views	72
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Respectfully submitted,

Jane Stein, Clerk of Session

2024 Year-end Summary for Program Director

My responsibilities as Program Director (22 hrs./ week):

* **Nursery** - Nursery staffing has been volunteer only, as we have no consistent attendance. The Christian Education team will cover the nursery with 2 adults who have been background checked / child protection trained, if children come to worship. There are several of us on the CE team that qualify and are willing. I have kept up with the volunteer screenings and have coordinated nurseries as needed.

* **MMO Director** - Responsibilities include registration, filling spots that become vacant throughout the year, arranging subs, planning lessons, getting snacks, and collecting tuition. (My position as MMO teacher is a separate job, 4 hrs. per week).

* **Children's Worship**—When we have children (K-4th grade) in worship who would like to participate in Children's Worship, I work with CE volunteers to offer a children's church lesson. We have prepared lessons in the craft closet that volunteers can use when needed. I am also working to maintain supplies in the worship bags, which children can use in the sanctuary, as well as a selection of books for them to choose from, if they would like. This year I replaced the worship bag "tree" with a sturdier one and added some new items to the bags.

* **CE Kits** - We provide Christian Education kits quarterly, for families to learn about the Bible together at home. I adapt a unit of curriculum from the *Growing in God's Love* series (published by the PCUSA). Each family receives a Story Bible, and each unit covers 4-6 stories from the Story Bible, inviting families to read, discuss, and then engage in activities and crafts to teach more about that story or theme. We send home a unit approximately every 3 months, and distribute 8 kits at a time, reaching about 14 children. Several in our congregation are using these with their children or grandchildren, as well as a couple of the MMO moms and a family who joined the program after VBS. The CE team packs and distributes these kits.

* **Adult Education** – This year, I have continued as some of the "tech help" with adult education, including our adult Sunday School classes, Advent / Lenten Bible study and Women's Bible study. This hybrid work has been greatly enhanced by the "OWL" camera / mic, but I have limitations in my knowledge of how best to use it and would love to have a few alternate folks trained to use it. I have taught sessions of the Lenten series, adult Sunday School sessions, and am co-teaching "Be the Bridge" small group with Lasenia Jones.

* **Small Groups** - I was able to be involved again this year with choosing Small Group studies, helping to advertise and coordinate sign-ups and book orders, as well as to be part of Be the Bridge.

* **Youth Group** – I plan, along with the kids, programs for our youth to meet 2x per month. We rotate between mission projects, fellowship time, and a book study of Rachel Held Evans' *Inspired*, this year. We have done several mission-focused activities this year, including hosting activities at "Trunk or Tr'Easter" and the Pumpkin Patch, and shopping for Angel Tree and senior gift bags this Christmas. I also work with the recycled ink program, which helps us to pay for youth trips and other unbudgeted expenses.

* **VBS**—My responsibilities with VBS continue to include making arrangements with Bethelwoods, maintaining registrations, recruiting, and scheduling volunteers to help with food, ordering t-shirts, etc. In 2024, Faith folks wrapped around the VBS counselors, to provide more adult assistance, as well as to teach the kids about some of our ministries. I worked with the CE team to plan and implement this change.

* **Children's Ministry** - I was happy to be part of some outreach to children and families in our community, including "Trunk or Tr'Easter," the kids' day at the Pumpkin Patch, and the Advent worship.

* **Retreat team** - I have loved meeting with an enthusiastic group of planners as we look toward a Faith retreat in Sept '25. This group has surveyed the congregation for interest, visited Bethelwoods for a tour, and begun to plan the program and structure for a fun retreat!

* **People Growth Team** – I met with the People Growth Committee and have helped to do some social media advertising

* **Christian Education Team** – I also met with the CE committee for most of the above work. They are great at generating ideas and creating programs, and I am blessed to work with them.

* **Communications Team** - I met with the new Communications team this year. I continue to post on social media 3x per week and help with the newsletter.

In addition to meeting with these committees, I have offered support for Zoom needs that they have had and have helped with adding events to the church calendar.

* **Montreat Women's Connection** - Twelve women from Faith (plus 2 from other congregations) were able to participate in the Women's Connection in August. I helped coordinate registration, transportation, housing, and food. I have also been working with the SC Inn staff (and William Black staff post-hurricane) to make sure that we are registered for the 2025 conference.

* **Service to the Larger Church** – Part of the gift of the Presbyterian Church is that we are connectional and lean on each other from time to time. I meet with the educators of Providence Presbytery throughout the school year, which gives me a great group of colleagues to bounce ideas off of and gain new ideas and insights on how to improve our program. I also spend some of my time contributing to the presbytery, by serving on the Community of Faith (education team) of the presbytery. This team planned the 2024 Mental Health First Aid workshop.

* **Continuing Education** - I was thankful to be able to attend the 2024 Association of Partners in Christian Education (APCE) meeting in St Louis. Especially in these days when ministry is changing rapidly, it is a blessing to be connected to other educators in the PCUSA and other partner denominations.

Respectfully submitted,
Edye Williamson Bender

Administration and Personnel

Team Members: Rick Lambert, Rev. Dr. David Bender, Kathy Bjorklund, Pete Scheckermann, Osmond Simm, Jane Stein, Ray Weiss, and Greg Wellman

2024 was a very busy year for the Administration and Personnel team with several of our activities devoted to bringing our programs from those used for a small church to those needed for a larger church. It is a great feeling to have a church that is growing as ours is.

In the area of personnel management, we had no written personnel policies, but we relied on an informal approach to communicate what we provided to our employees. This year we developed personnel policies for employment, vacations, sick days, inclement weather, and other topics. We documented these policies in the church's first Personnel Policy manual which has been approved by the Session and is now in effect. Additionally, we created Faith's Human Resources Management Team to focus on HR issues, ensure compliance with State and Federal employment regulations, and update our Policies as needed.

As our church grows, the administrative requirements also grow. Recognizing our increasing workload, we recommended the addition of an Administrative Manager to staff. Upon Session approval, we posted the position and have conducted several interviews with prospective candidates. We expect the position to be filled in January 2025.

Insurance also required our attention during the year, with 2024 being a year of increasing cost due to significant losses to the insurance industry. We were able to obtain a new policy at the most reasonable cost from our existing insurance company. We will be faced with an increased cost for Pastor David's benefit package from PC(USA) due to increasing cost in the health care area. Finally, our church was without Workman's Compensation insurance which put us at risk if an employee or contractor was injured on our property. We were able to obtain an appropriate policy through our property insurer.

We have continued to work on the implementation of Realm, a software system developed by ACS Technologies, the creator of our financial management software. Realm has several very good features for planning meetings and events, communicating with committee members, tracking prospects, and maintaining records of our members. However, it requires several hours of training to use the system properly.

In 2024 we have cleaned up member database in Realm and are using the system to track church attendance and provide us with member and prospective member information. As part of this process, we reinstituted the use of attendance pads in our church services. We have also begun providing training to some committees to schedule meetings and communicate with their team members.

We believe that the addition of the Administrative Manager will help us in Realm implementation since it will provide a single point of contact for questions on Realm usage. So, our Realm implementation will continue in 2025.

The church's technology also needed to be reviewed since we have instituted streaming of our services, are making use of Zoom technology for remote meetings, and we are expanding our building, which requires additional capabilities in the new section. To meet these growing needs, we have instituted a Technology Management Team with members of the Administration-Personnel Committee, the Communications Committee, and the Audio-Visual Team. The Technology Management Team will be utilizing an outside company to help us evaluate what technology we have and develop a plan for maintaining and improving our technology in the future.

We also undertook a review and update of the church's Operations Manual. Since the Operations Manual documents our policies and procedures, it requires constant review to ensure that everything is current. In 2024 we conducted a more detailed review and updated several areas in the manual.

Rick Lambert

Elder for Administration and Personnel Team

BUILDINGS & GROUNDS

2024 YEAR-END REPORT

TEAM MEMBERS:

Glen Affonso, Ron Archer, Bob Bertolini, Judy Boyes, Rod Boyes, Richard Briggs, Robert Douglas, Rodney Mandracchia, Gary McCurdy, Steve Roche, Dan Senatroy, Rob Smith, Gail Smithwick, Jan Tacy, Tim Wells

ACCOMPLISHMENTS:

January 2024

The B&G team worked with the Worship team to re-set the sanctuary after the Christmas season. A Girl Scout event was held in our sanctuary on January 6, requiring a set-up for the event and then a re-set. New shelving units were built and placed in the front-right storage area. On January 10, an expert began a scan of the Old Six Mile Cemetery looking for unmarked grave sites.

February 2024

The team discussed logistics required to serve as a polling place for upcoming elections. A discussion took place regarding purchasing two new Christmas trees for the sanctuary that would be easier to put up each year and easier to store. Discussions were initiated about better use of the bulletin board space across from the restrooms in the sanctuary building; the Communications said they would take the lead on that item. On May 2, the congregation was invited and encouraged to help clean up the church grounds. Discussions on replacing the digital projector and screen with a monitor continued. Discussions began about replacing the 4 picnic tables and about better ideas for the tents during the Pumpkin Patch.

March-May 2024

The team took down and then re-set the sanctuary for Holy Week events. Clean-up behind the office building continued. There was a discussion of the impact of the new drainage for our building extension and its potential impact on some of our plant life began. We started working with the Communication Team on how to better use our bulletin board area. Discussions continued on the possibility of replacing our picnic tables. A report was presented outlining likely buildings and grounds upkeep and replacement expenditures for the next 15 years.

June 2024

Materials were assembled for stripping and painting the office building door. The team facilitated the clean-up behind the office building. The team hosted the June 11, 2024, primary polling with light turnout. Routine appointments were scheduled for air conditioner maintenance, pest control and landscaping. The Old Six Mile cemetery received the gift of a rebuilt and donated lawnmower. The B&G cemetery team provided decorations for Memorial Day.

July 2024

This month had a few maintenance projects. We reported on expenditures for carpet cleaning; made preparations for stripping and painting the office door once the humidity dissipated a bit; and facilitated a big clean-up behind the church office building. We provided updates on various maintenance schedules—air conditioning, pest control, mowing. We supported the Women’s Bible Study brunch by setting up and taking down tables and chairs. We presented a proposed Information Technology Policy for the ministry teams to review.

August-September 2024

The B&G team planned and accomplished the running of cable underneath the floor in the office building, which was connected to the administrative computer, the Owl, and the television monitor. We worked with Komfort Air to diagnose air conditioning issues; updated carpet cleaning and chair cleaning project plans; and assisted with a memorial service. Much time was dedicated to discussion of the building expansion.

October-November 2024

A data cable was installed beneath the floor in the office building, with a floor box underneath the tables. We approved a facility use request from folks at Our Lady of Grace Catholic Church to utilize space in our sanctuary building for youth group events two Sunday evenings per month from September through May. The team supported a funeral on October 11 and the Stewardship Luncheon on October 13 by setting and re-setting the sanctuary. We supported the pumpkin patch ministry; prepared the sanctuary for Election Day voting; and helped clean the Old Six Mile Cemetery following the hurricane.

December 2024

The team led support in the transformation of the buildings for the Advent and Christmas seasons. More storage units were installed in the left closet in the sanctuary. Discussions took place on how we will support a Girl Scouts Cookie Sale training event on January 4, 2025. We supported other teams by setting and re-setting the sanctuary for Candlelight Christmas and the Women’s Bible Study brunch. We also started pursuing various projects to keep up our grounds, and became involved with other ministry teams regarding construction of a new playground.

GLEN AFFONSO – Building & Grounds Elder

Christian Education (CE) Annual Report, 2024

The CE Team worked hard this year to provide a variety of educational opportunities for the members and friends of Faith Church. The members of the Team for 2024 were: Edye Bender, Pinky Bender, Lois Briggs, Amy Chapman, Barbara Choate, Marsha Fairbanks, Sandy Knight, Stephanie Lambert, Kathy McGovern, Susan Moore, Ann Marie Simm, and Daune Teague. The faithful work of these women is greatly appreciated!

Ongoing Opportunities at Faith in 2024

***Women's Bible Study:** An energetic group of women meet every second Monday of the month at 11:00 AM in the church office. The Rev. Dr. Pinky Bender ably leads this class. This year the study was on the book of Mark. In the months of July and December, the group enjoys a delicious brunch and a time of fellowship.

***Adult Sunday School Class:** This group meets every Sunday at 9:00 AM in the church office. Pastor David's questions on the back of the bulletin are used to start a lively discussion on the previous week's sermon. During Advent, a DVD series called The Journey by Adam Hamilton was used to stimulate our discussions.

***Youth Group:** Edye Bender leads this small but dedicated group of high schoolers in a variety of service, study, and social opportunities. This year the group has assisted with the Blessing of the Animals, Angel Tree gifts, Senior Gift Bags, Christmas caroling, Trunk or Tr'EASTER, and Pumpkin Patch Family Day.

***Children's Ministry:** We continue to distribute *Growing in God's Love* kits to children grades K-4 associated with our church for family faith development. Usually 9-11 kits are distributed quarterly. In addition, members of the CE team are prepared to teach Children's Church for young children who come to worship and to provide Nursery Care for babies or toddlers on Easter, Christmas eve, and any other Sunday when this service is needed.

***Mother's Morning Out:** Edye Bender and Susan Moore do a great job of teaching this weekly program for 2 and 3-year-olds. Eight energetic little ones come for a half-day program each Wednesday morning during the school year.

***Church Library:** The Church Library, under the supervision of MJ Carr, continues to provide interesting reading material for our congregation. A cart was placed in the gathering hall this year to make the books more visible and accessible.

Short Term Opportunities at Faith in 2024

***Lenten Bible Study:** A group met for six weeks during Lent to study the book Witnesses at the Cross by Amy-Jill Levine. Average attendance was 30, both in person and on Zoom.

***Trunk or Tr'EASTER:** This family event was held on March 17, 2024, with a large number of children and their families from the community coming to Faith to enjoy games, crafts, treats, bouncy houses, the Easter story, and a prayer center. This event was planned with the help of the People Growth Team and many Faith volunteers.

***Pizza Party for MMO:** CE Team members assisted with the end-of-year Pizza Party.

***Vacation Bible School:** During the week of June 17-21, Faith hosted 44+ children for VBS. Six counselors from Bethelwoods Camp led the school, with many Faith members assisting with registration, snacks, lunch, introducing several of our Mission projects, and serving as aides for each age group.

***Women's Connection at Montreat:** Fifteen women from Faith attended this annual retreat in the mountains of Western NC in August for inspiration and fellowship.

***Small Groups:** In our third year of offering Small Groups, we had 67 people sign up to participate. Eight groups are currently meeting once a month in homes, studying a variety of topics. These groups enrich us in Bible knowledge, spiritual growth, and fellowship with other members of Faith.

***Advent Devotions:** Three Advent daily devotionals were made available to the congregation online and one devotional in printed form.

***Advent ADVENTure:** On Sunday, November 17, an event was held for young children to teach them about Advent. Crafts, cookie decorating, card making, the Christmas story, and pizza were included. Each family made an Advent wreath to take home.

The CE Team has had a busy and productive year. We have enjoyed working together as a Team and with the other Ministry Teams at Faith. Edye Bender works closely with our Team, lending her enthusiasm and expertise. Thank you, Edye!

Respectfully Submitted, Sharon Archer, Outgoing Elder for Christian Education

2024 Communications Ministry Annual Team Report

Team Members: Osmond Simm, Rev. David Bender, Rick Lambert, Thomas C Wells, Pete Scheckermann, Jane Stein, Edye Bender, Jack Haubach, and Pinky Bender.

The Communications Ministry team was formed in 2024 with responsibility for developing and executing a strategy for effective communication among and between the church, the congregation, and the community at large. This new role was crucial in ensuring that communication within the church is clear, consistent, and aligned with the church's goals and values. The team developed a Communication Ministry Ecosystem which we executed throughout 2024. (Thanks to Edye for doing the graphic).



The team worked with other ministry teams on projects such as REALM. This church communication software was first introduced to small groups starting with Session members and their respective groups. They were trained to use its features, allowing the ministry teams to set up events and track attendance. We also implemented a CHECK-IN to Sunday worship using REALM CONNECT, to facilitate church attendance. In addition, we are now

recording attendance using REALM. The bulletin board was updated with photos that identified the administrative staff, session, and new members.

The team led by Edye Bender and Rick Lambert continued to use social media's Facebook, Instagram, and the World Wide Web to inform, and to distribute outreach materials to the members of Faith Presbyterian Church and the community at large. Faith This Week, a weekly newsletter containing inspirational articles from Pastor David, goes out to the congregation. It keeps the congregation informed on all church events and activities.

A subcommittee that focused on the church's annual Stewardship Campaign was formed to communicate with the congregation the financial needs and ministry opportunities of the church. The campaign not only met the financial goal but exceeded it.

We are committed to further enhancing the digital sign at the front of the church so that it can be read from both directions while driving on HWY 521. We will also work to achieve full implementation of the REALM communication software, and to guarantee uninterrupted network communication.

Osmond Simm

Elder, Communications Ministry Team

CONGREGATIONAL CARE TEAM ANNUAL REPORT-2024

Faith Presbyterian Church's Congregational Care Team serves our church family, community, and friends by reaching out in times of need to provide temporary help and assistance. The Congregational Care Ministries include **Card Ministry, Prayer Shawl Ministry, Prayer Chain, Supportive Ministry, Singles Ministry, Chrismon Ministry, and Visitation.**

Team Coordinators are:

Card Ministry-Judy Terwilliger

Prayer Chain-Jill Bikowski, Pinky Bender

Prayer Shawl Ministry- Gail Smithwick, Pinky Bender

Supportive Ministry- Gail Smithwick

Singles Ministry-Sandy Horton, Jo-Ann Hitzmann

Chrismons-Sandy Horton, JoAnn Hitzmann

Visitation-Anne Mary Simm

Meal Train-Christine Affonso

Anyone who has an interest in joining any of our Ministries is welcome.

- **The Card Ministry** sent out approximately 107 greeting cards to bring a touch of kindness and well wishes to so many of our congregation and homebound members. We also send expressions of sympathy and for special occasions as well. Additionally, 15 cards were sent out for Thanksgiving. The card making workshop also provides us with several cards each month.
- **Prayer Chain Ministry**-Under the leadership of Jill Bikowski, members can request urgent and immediate prayers that cannot wait until the Sunday prayers.
- **Prayer Shawl Ministry**-Our several faithful crafters (knitters and crocheters) have made sure that we always have a good supply of shawls, ready to be presented when needed. 62 prayer shawls and 4 fleece blankets for children were presented in 2024 to Faith members and others who were experiencing loss of close family members or friends, life altering illness, surgery, or difficult circumstances. All shawls and blankets were blessed by Pastor David at various times throughout the year.

Knitted or crocheted pocket prayer shawls are always available at the Church. These were also included in Operation Christmas Child Shoeboxes, Senior Gift Bags, and the New Visitor Gift Bag.

A number of VBS attendees learned to knit with instructor Jessica.

The 4th Annual Faith Knitting Challenge was enormously successful. An overwhelming 439 beautiful knitted and crocheted hats of all sizes were blessed by Pastor David and presented to the United Way in Lancaster for distribution by them to needy individuals in Lancaster County. We are so very grateful to all who participated in this generous and loving ministry.

Because of generous financial donations, we have been able to keep our crafters well supplied with yarn. In addition, several large donations of yarn were made to the Ministry this year. We are truly grateful!

Besides being presented locally, shawls (large and small) have made their way all over the United States and to at least 7 foreign countries.

The Prayer Shawl Team welcomed several new crafters this year. As this important ministry continues to grow and flourish, additional crafters are welcome and needed.

To request a shawl or blanket, or to volunteer, please contact Gail Smithwick or Pinky Bender.

Supportive Ministry

- Meals-Meal Train support (10 meals) was provided to one household for several weeks, as well as miscellaneous meals for several others.
- Transportation-Several rides to medical appointments were provided as needed.
- Home Visits-Multiple visits were made to homebound individuals, as well as “thinking of you” and miscellaneous visits to numerous others. New this year was the creation of “goodie bags” to help those going through difficult times.
- Phone calls-Innumerable phone calls were made to members.
- Visits were made to members who had lost spouses in late 2023 and 2024. Stephen’s Ministry “*Journeying through Grief*” booklets were offered at designated intervals following the loss.
- An excel spreadsheet was created and updated to keep track of visits, phone calls and other types of contacts.
- The team worked with Faith Youth group to provide cookies, cards and physical support for Christmas caroling.

Singles Ministry

The Singles Social Group (now known as the FAITHful Singles), has been reorganized and social activities are being held most months. The group has enjoyed a tea, movies, and meals out, 100th birthday celebration for Lou, a play at Matthews Playhouse, lunch, and board games. Recently, they have been enjoying a casual lunch and gathering following church service on most Sundays. This year we have welcomed several men to the group which makes for some lively and diverse conversation. Anyone who is single (without a partner) is welcome to join this fun group for any or all activities.

Chrismon Ministry

Informal Chrismon making workshops are held monthly to create these beautiful gold and white beaded ornaments. These meaningful Christian symbols are presented to new members, for landmark anniversaries, new babies, weddings, serious illness. The team gave an explanatory presentation to the congregation during Advent.

The Congregational Care Team invites you to share your gifts of time and talents (cooking, driving, knitting, or crocheting, crafting, and visiting) with this Ministry.

Respectfully submitted,
Mary Jane Carr
Congregational Care Team Elder
Gail Smithwick
Supportive Ministry

FELLOWSHIP MINISTRY ANNUAL REPORT FOR 2024

Fellowship Team Members:

Affonso, Christine	Brazzel, Bev	Kirk, Bobbi
Archer, Sharon	Briggs, Lois	McCurdy, Krysia
Bender, Edye	Clement, Gloria	Northrup, Ann Mary
Bender, Pinky	Cullen, Jan	Sellards, Jan
Bershers, Janet	Gallaway, Joyce	Stevens, Barb
Bertolini, Mary	Gardner, Peb	Thomas, Brenda
Bjorklund, Kathy	Harkey, Jan	Weiss, Elly
Bonner, Glenda	Hitzemann, Jo-Ann	Wellman, Melissa

The Fellowship Team works to build relationships that are encouraging and supportive as we grow. We coordinate church-wide fellowship events such as dinners, special celebrations, and activities with other Ministries in addition to serving coffee and refreshments before and after church services.

This year we had the following coordinators of special events:

1. Coffee Schedule – Christine Affonso
2. Supplies – Janet Bershers
3. Guest Registration & Gift – Jan Sellards
4. Candlelight Christmas – Sharon Archer
5. Memorial and Funeral Committee – Ann Mary Northrup and Elly Weiss
6. Decorations – Krysia McCurdy

The following events were chaired by individual team members and by working with other Ministries:

1. **February 14** – Time of Prayer
2. **February 17** – Don Hubbard Memorial – special refreshments
3. **March 9** – Vada Affonso Memorial – special refreshments
4. **March 15** – Sandy Monahan Memorial – special refreshments
5. **March 28** – Maundy Thursday Soup Supper – Special Service
6. **March 31** – Easter Sunrise Brunch – special refreshments
7. **April 11** – Nancy Senatrot Memorial – special refreshments
8. **April 14** – Sabbatical Party for Pastor Bender – catered luncheon
9. **April 28** – Carol Edmonds Concert – special refreshments
10. **May 12** – Mother's Day Photo Gallery
11. **May 26** – Memorial Day – special refreshments

12. **June 16** – Father’s Day Photo Gallery
13. **June 16** – Welcome Back Pastor Bender & Thank You to Pinky, Colin, and Edgar
14. **July 8** – Women’s Bible Study Brunch – catered luncheon
15. **July 21** – Hank Howland Memorial – special refreshments
16. **July 28** – Donna Hammill Memorial – special refreshments
17. **September 8** – Celebration Luncheon with Endowment Committee – catered luncheon
18. **September 20** – Ice Cream Social for New Members – special refreshments
19. **October 6** – Blessing of the Animals – water and pet treats
20. **October 11 – 31** – Pumpkin Patch – refreshments
21. **October 11** – Donna Harmon Memorial- special refreshments
22. **October 13** – Stewardship Luncheon – catered luncheon
23. **November 17** – Pastor Appreciation – special refreshments & gift
24. **December 5** – Candlelight Christmas Tea – special entertainment and tea
25. **December 9** – Women’s Bible Study Brunch – catered luncheon
26. **December 15** – Christmas Carol Sing-a-Long – special refreshments

We had a fun filled 2024 and look forward to repeating many events and adding new events in 2025. This is a TEAM effort, and we are blessed to have so many volunteers offering to help with all our events.

Respectfully Submitted,

Elly Weiss, 2024 Fellowship Elder

Finance Team Annual Report-2024

Members:

David Bender (Ex Officio)

Nancy Roche (Investment Committee Chair)

Mike Carr

Jan Tacy (Endowment Committee Chair)

Rick Lambert

Ted Tozer (Elder Chairman)

Jim Northrup

Dick Reif (Treasurer)

Don MacArthur

Ray Weiss (Asst. Treasurer)

Gary McCurdy

Beth Young (Financial Administrator)

JC Rouchon

Mary Jane Carr (Secretary)

Glen Affonso

The Finance Committee wants to thank the congregation for their continued support of Faith Presbyterian Church (FPC) with their time, talents, and treasurers. Contributions exceeded the budget for 2024. Expenses in 2024 were underbudget. The following are some major financial accomplishments for 2024:

1. FPC was able to make major contributions to the contingency fund. The contingency fund is used to cover major upgrades and repairs to the church's infrastructure. Having the contingency funds allows the church to deal with unexpected repairs without having to redirect funds in the current year's budget.
2. FPC was able to secure a mortgage to fund the construction of the 1.3-million-dollar Ministry Center. Key to obtaining the mortgage and being able to build a 1.3-million-dollar structure was the success of the current capital campaign for the construction of the Ministry Center.
3. The mortgage on the worship center was paid off by a generous member of the congregation. By having the mortgage on the worship center paid off the congregation can concentrate on paying down the mortgage on the Ministry Center.
4. The stewardship campaign was very successful. The generous pledges for 2025 exceed the campaign goal. The success of the campaign allowed for a balanced budget for 2025 to be created. Generating a balanced budget could have been a challenge because of the increased costs of operating the Ministry Center and overall increased cost of operating FPC.
5. Finance Committee reported the financial results to Session every month.

Respectfully submitted,

Ted Tozer, Elder Chairman

Faith Presbyterian Church
Balance Sheet
December 31, 2024

Assets

Operating Account	430,645
Building Fund	506,112
Endowment fund	81,357
Land and Buildings	<u>1,000,000</u>
Total Assets	2,018,114

Liabilities and Net Worth

Prepaid Offering	43,500
PILP Mortgage	<u>0</u>
Total Liabilities	43,500
Net Worth	<u>1,974,614</u>
Net Worth and Liabilities	2,018,114

Faith Presbyterian Church
Income Statement

	Actual <u>2024</u>	Budget <u>2025</u>
Offering	398,397	439,000
Rental	450	0
Vacation Bible School	2,119	2,167
Interest Income	<u>16,295</u>	<u>15,000</u>
Total Income	417,261	456,167
Staff Compensation	188,436	242,727
Staff Professional Expense	3,885	8,300
Worship	2,993	4,450
Communications	0	1,100
Christian Education	8,996	9,250
Outreach	920	900
Congregational care	192	500
Fellowship	3,481	11,350
Building and Grounds	157,460	118,390
Administration	25,551	34,100
Mission	1,985	2,400
Per Capita	<u>22,558</u>	<u>22,700</u>
Total Expense	416,457	456,167
Net Cash Flow	804	0

MISSIONS AND OUTREACH ANNUAL REPORT - 2024

- Missions & Outreach Team Members
 - Christine Affonso
 - David Bender (Minister)
 - Daune Teague
 - Glen Affonso
 - Gloria Clement
 - Janet Bershers
 - Jim Northrup
 - JC Rouchon
 - Kathy Bjorklund
 - Kathy McGovern
 - Linda Stewart
 - Lynda Berry
 - Melissa Wellman (Elder)
 - Mary Ann Bass
 - Sally Herr
 - Sue Lambert
 - Susan Moore
- On-going Monthly Missions & Outreach Programs & Facilitators
 - Card Making for Lancaster Health & Rehabilitation – Daune Teague
 - Plastic Recycling – Glen Affonso, Christine Affonso, & Melissa Wellman
 - One TREX bench ordered.
 - Faith Mobile Food Pantry (April, May, June, August, October, November) – Jim Northrup
 - HOPE of Lancaster – Melissa Wellman
 - Lions Club Eyeglasses Collection
 - Missions & Outreach Informational Flyers – Christine Affonso
 - Little Food Pantry – January - November
 - LFP Grocery purchase, labeling, storage – Melissa Wellman
 - LFP Replenishment Schedule – Kathy Bjorklund
 - LFP Weekly Replenishment – Missions Team
 - 5th Sunday Offerings – Missions Team
- Monthly Missions & Outreach Meetings
 - January – March
 - Jamie Miller of Christian Services spoke on Sheltered of Lancaster.
 - 5th Sunday Collection taken for Sheltered of Lancaster on March 31st.
 - Greg Hamill spoke on Hearts for Honduras Schools.
 - Donation made to Lancaster Children's Home.
 - Hope of Lancaster food collection taken by congregation – 250 lbs. collected.
 - April – June
 - VBS Children 'Missions Moment' provided on LFP; VBS children provided LFP groceries for LFP. Daune Teague made cards with VBS Children.
 - 5th Sunday Collection taken for Bethelwoods.
 - July – September
 - Realm use & training.
 - 5th Sunday Collection taken for Providence Presbytery Disaster Fund.
 - School supply drive benefiting Lancaster Housing Authority
 - October – December
 - Dimes for Hunger collected during month of October – Christine Affonso, Glen Affonso
 - 5th Sunday Collection taken for Montreat Conference Center

- Candlelight Christmas offering taken for Black Mountain Presbyterian Church/Western NC Relief
- Operation Christmas Child – 66 boxes – Missions Team
- Senior Bags for Council on Aging Senior Center – 66 bags were donated – Sue Lambert, Mary Ann Bass, Melissa Wellman, Christine Affonso, Glen Affonso
- Angel Tree served 5 large families. – Sally Herr, Mary Ann Bass
- 40 Gift Boxes for residents of Lancaster Health & Rehabilitation – Daune Teague
- Donation to Black Mountain Presbyterian Church/Western NC Relief – Missions Team

Missions & Outreach could not have performed the work of the church during 2024 without the dedicated efforts of the entire Missions & Outreach team and Faith's generous congregation.

Respectfully submitted.

Melissa B. Wellman
Elder, Missions & Outreach

People Growth Annual Report for 2024

The People Growth Team consistently joined with other ministries to share the ministries and missions of Faith Presbyterian Church.

Team Members: Glenda Bonner, Ann Mary Northrup, Janet Bershers, Jan Sellards, Linda Gibson, Velta Rouchon, Marvin Gallaway, Krysia McCurdy, Elly Weiss, Christine Affonso, Pinky Bender, Edye Bender, Gloria Clement, David Bender, and new members in 2024 Peb Gardner and Susan Moore.

Postcards: Beginning in March over 200 postcards were mailed out to newcomers in the area and placed in the paper tubes of new residents of Sun City. Data Axle was our source for the mailing list. Not receiving adequate results from the mailings, we decided to stop after three months.

Trunk or Tr'Easter: In early March we participated in the planning and carrying out of the very successful Trunk or Tr'Easter event.

Life's Recovery: The 12-Step Christian Ministry which Marvin started in October of 2023 has continued throughout 2024 with good participation.

Sweet Little Symphonies: A music class for babies and toddlers in the community was started in August 2024 and is continuing. Jennifer Gouvatsos and Kim Psinakis approached David Bender and then our People Growth team about offering this program on Saturday mornings in the church office. Session approved and the program began.

Pumpkin Patch: Preparation for the Pumpkin Patch begins early in January with the selection of a hopeful delivery date for the pumpkins. Christine Affonso leads the Pumpkin Patch endeavor. Her organizational skills and attention to detail keep the yearlong plans on track. This great outreach ministry could not take place without the participation of many of our church members who are there to unload pumpkins when they arrive and then volunteer to help sell the pumpkins and interact with the folks who come to buy the pumpkins. 485 pumpkins and many specialty pumpkins were sold with total sales of \$6,710. Just over \$2,000 was raised and donated to the Mobile Food Pantry.

Plans are already under way for Pumpkin Patch 2025.

People Growth Team had a good productive year with outstanding participation from our team members for which I am incredibly grateful! I look forward to the opportunities that will be offered in 2025.

Blessings,

Glenda Bonner

Elder for People Growth

Worship Team Ministry Annual Report – 2024

Worship Team Members:

The Rev. Dr. David M. Bender, the Rev. Dr. Pinky Bender, Bette Acker, Charlie Acker, Janet Bershers, Bob Bertolini, Judy Boyes, Rod Boyes, Jan Cullen, Carol Edmonds, Linda Gibson, Greg Hammill, Jack Haubach, Jo-Ann Hitzemann, Sandy Horton, Baha Lee, Krysia McCurdy, Ann Mary Northrup, Jan Sellards and Shirley Sweeny.

The Worship Ministry Team is a group of dedicated members who work to enhance the worship of God.

Worship Attendance:

For each Worship Service the number of in-person attendees was manually counted and reported in the following Sunday Bulletin. Beginning in September, in addition to the in-person worshiper count the number of on-line views was also reported. The average Sunday attendance, as reported, was:

Month	In-person	Views	Total
June	132		132
July	128		128
August	126		126
September	131	48	179
October	140	37	177
November	142	35	177
December	131	50	181
Christmas Eve*	182	59	241

*Not in Dec. numbers

Communion Responsibilities:

- a. The sacrament of the Lord's Supper continued to be celebrated the first Sunday of each month, as well as Maundy Thursday and Christmas Eve. A rotating schedule of elder teams who serve communion with Pastor David was published in December for 2025.
- b. Members of the Worship Team (Pinky Bender, Judy and Rod Boyes, and Ann Mary Northrup) prepared the elements and often served to clean up with a rotating group of team members.
- c. Chancel linen: The paraments were changed by the team according to the liturgical calendar. Pastor David changed the banners to reflect the same special times.

Live streaming and Recording:

- a. Jack Haubach continued to coordinate all AV work including the creation of the weekly PowerPoint for our worship services. At times, Bob Bertolini, Ken Edmonds, Larry Handeland, Rich Briggs, and Bonnie Haubach assisted Jack in the booth.

- b. On Saturdays, Bob Bertolini and Jan Cullen served to review PowerPoint, as did Shirley Sweeny, Christine Affonso, and Linda Gibson.

Worship Volunteers:

- a. Ushers and Greeters. Schedules of volunteers were prepared and published quarterly.
- b. Scripture Readers. Except for the first Sunday of the month when Pastor David and Carol Edmonds present the scripture passages, volunteers read Scripture Lessons for the Sunday worship services as well as readings during Lent and Advent. A list of volunteers is prepared and published on a quarterly basis.

Sanctuary - Worship Services:

- a. Janet Bershers and Krysia McCurdy continued to co-chair the Decorations committee, responsible for decorations for the gathering hall and sanctuary for each season.
- b. The Building and Grounds Team also helped prepare the church for special seasons, including draping the Columbarium cross in purple for Lent and white in time for the Easter services.
- c. Chancel Flowers: Janet and Krysia continued to be responsible for the Flower Chart sign-up book.
- d. Music: Faith is fortunate to have gifted musicians. Carol Edmonds is our pianist and music worship leader, and Baha Lee is the director of the choir and handbell ringers. Ken Edmonds often performs at Sunday Services and he and Carol provided special music performances, with invited guests, at various times during the year. Judy Brown provided piano music in Carol's absence, and Bette Acker played flute accompaniments this past fall.
- e. Bulletins: The bulletins were prepared by Pastor David with a group of volunteers, led by Jan Sellards, Christine Affonso, Lasenia Jones and Kathy Bjorklund, proofreading, printing, and folding. Jan Sellards chaired an effort to document the entire Bulletin Preparation Process. The Document was approved by the Worship Team and accepted by Session as part of the Procedures Manual
- f. Pastor David was on Sabbatical during portions of April, May, and June. During this time, Rev. Colin Winchester, Rev. Pinky Bender, and Rev. Edgar McCall filled the Pulpit.

Welcome Table:

Jan Sellards continued to staff this table. First time visitors were presented a loaf of bread baked by Jan, Janet Bershers, and other Faith volunteers. Visitors were encouraged to fill in their information on a yellow form. Pastor David was given the information which was processed for the church records. A Faith postcard was also promptly sent to the visitor's home.

Chrismon Ministry:

- a. This team, under the leadership of Sandy Horton and Jo-Ann Hitzemann, worked steadily all year to create beautiful Chrismons. Chrismons were given to honor joyous events in the lives of members of our Faith family and to spread comfort to those with serious illnesses. Chrismons were also given to new church members. In November, a Chrismon Workshop was open to all Faith members for a cost of \$10, which included lunch.
- b. This group also provided the message on the first Sunday in Advent worship service, Dec. 1. The program consisted of presentations on the history of Chrismons, how Faith got involved, current activities and several testimonies on the meaning of Chrismons.

Lenten and Advent Traditions:

- a. The Lenten practice takes its cue from the Advent wreath – only rather than lighting a candle weekly, the Lenten practice extinguishes a candle weekly. The dimming of the light during Lent reminds people that this 40-day journey is leading to the cross of Good Friday. The Worship Team initiated this practice and arranged seven votive candles on the edge of the communion table. On the first Sunday of Lent, all seven candles were lit before worship began. After a structured reading each week, a candle was extinguished until the last candle was put out at the end of Holy Week. On Easter Sunday, all candles were lit again to signify that Christ is alive and living among us.
- b. Pinky, Jan Sellards and Jack Haubach were coordinators of A Day of Prayer held on Ash Wednesday. It was a very meaningful time for all attendees.
- c. Tenebrae Service: After a simple soup supper (planned in coordination with the Fellowship Team), the Lord's Supper was celebrated. We then experienced the beautiful Tenebrae (shadow) service. Worship Team members participated in the readings from Matthew, as the room gradually darkened. Following the final hymn, worshipers were invited to depart in silence.
- d. Advent practice is like Lenten practice. During the first 4 Sundays of Advent, plus Christmas Eve, Scripture is read, and candle(s) are lit on the Advent Wreath.

The Worship Team is always open to new members and their ideas. Please consider joining this faithful group.

Respectfully submitted:

Greg Hammill
Elder and Worship Team Leader
December 10, 2024