

AGENDA

THE ANNUAL MEETING OF THE CONGREGATION AND CORPORATION OF COMMUNITY PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF RINGWOOD, NJ February 2, 2025

Call to Order

Prayer

Approval of Minutes of the Last Meeting, pages 2-3

Pastor's Report, pages 3-4

Clerk's Report, page 5

Other Reports:

Personnel Report, page 6

Fellowship Committee Report, page 7

Congregational Care Report, page 7

Skylands Learning Center Report, page 8

Worship Committee Report, page 9

Interfaith, page 9

Digital Outreach, page 10

Youth Ministry, pages 11-12

National Mission, page 12

International Mission, page 13

Nominating Committee Report, page 13

Audit Committee Report page 14

Facilities, page 15

CFA Report, page 15

Adult Handbells, Youth Handbells, Skylands Music, pages 16-17

Choir, page 17

Stewardship, page 17

Budget pages 18-19

Election of Elders to serve on Session Class of 2026

Election of Nominating Committee Members (4) and Alternates (2)

Election of Auditing Committee Members (4)

Adjournment

Prayer

The Community Presbyterian Church

Annual Meeting of the Congregation

Minutes

February 4, 2024

Moderated by Pastor Fred Milligan

Call to Order Meeting called to order at 11:10 a.m. with prayer.

Prayer

Approval of Minutes of the Last Meeting: *Motion by Dan Daly, Second Woody Hood, Passed with common consent.*

Annual Reports

Correction on Reports - Sue Cail is not the chair of the Women's Group

Comments on Reports - Faith in Action is looking for someone to Mentor and take over Faith in Action. Please see Heather F. or Jaclyn F. if interested.

Election of Officers

Elders

The Following members have been nominated the following members to serve as Elders on Session for the three year term in the class of 2027

1. Rebecca Foley
2. Gary Wogisch
3. Sue Cail*
4. Tracy Rynkowski*

*Serving second term

Common consent, motion passes

Election of Nominating Committee Members

Alternates

1.	Scott Grant, Chairperson	1.	Tania Martin
2.	Tom Williams	2.	Margaret Gavin
3.	Louise Hood		
4.	Bob Oostyk		

Common Consent. Motion Passes

Election of Auditing Committee Members

1. Elyse Williams
2. Jean Rynkowski
3. Nancy Lavoie
4. Barbara Zach

Common Consent, Motion Passes

Motion to Adjourn,
Meeting closed with prayer at 11:25 a.m.

Respectively Submitted,
Jaclyn Fudge, Clerk of Session

2024 PASTORS REPORT

July 1, 2024—January 31, 2025

It has been six months since I had the joy of becoming Community Presbyterian Church's new full-time minister. It is amazing to me how quickly this church and my role in it has become comfortable and familiar! I have done better with remembering people's names than I feared I would, although I will admit there are still some I struggle to remember and others I still just do not know. Building deeper relationships should remedy this, but I am deeply appreciative for all of the grace that has been shown to me. This congregation is a truly caring family of faith.

Community Presbyterian Church is also an exciting place to be! From working with Neil and all of our spectacular musicians, to brainstorming with Tracy about building up our ministry to children and families, spending time with Christine, Melissa, Kaitlin and the Skylands staff and children, as well as all those serving on committees, as well as the planned and unplanned visits of those who stop by for any number of reasons—my office hours are truly life-giving and filled with energy and enthusiasm. Being here truly feeds my soul and every day is a great day in service to the Lord! To God be the glory!

Below is a rough overview of how I spent my time as your pastor over the last six months.

Worship:

Regular and special worship services, including my Installation, New Members, Baptisms, World Communion Sunday, Reformation Sunday, Stewardship Sundays, Harvest Sunday, Advent Sundays, Blue Christmas, Christmas Eve 7:00 and 11:00 PM, Funerals/Memorial Services (3)

Adult Education:

Tuesday Night Bible Study, Thursday Morning Bible Study, New Members Class, Session Devotions, Youth Ministry Design Workshop at Johnsonberg Retreat Center, with Tracy Rynkowski Presbytery Boundary and Safe Spaces online training, NJTogether Training in Hackensack with Tracy Rynkowski

Children, Youth and Families

Dinner with the Youth Groups, Children's sermons, Meetings with Tracy, Planning for upcoming family events, Hanging of the Greens Family Event, Skylands Learning Center conversations and planning, Christmas Eve Family Worship

Pastoral Care and Counseling:

Personal, Marriage, and Family Counseling, Pastoral Calls and Visitations, Outreach Calls, Bereavement Follow-up, Funeral/Memorial Service Planning, Prayers for the Sick and Grieving, Cards and Correspondence

Meetings:

Grant Committee, Stewardship Committee, Mentoring with Tracy Rynkowski, Monthly Online Ladies Coffee, RCA Classis meetings, RCA Classis Executive Committee, Presbytery, Monthly Session, Monthly Finance, Monthly Facilities, Classis Student Supervision, Worship Committee, Caregiver Support Group, Ladies Book Group, New Members, Personnel, Requests from congregation, Staff

Self-care:

Clergy Support Group, Doctor of Ministry (D. Min.) in Pastoral Care and Counseling studies at New Brunswick Theological Seminary, two weeks of vacation, one week of professional development/education, walking, praying, honoring my days off.

D. Min. Program:

Theories of Counseling, Spring 2025. Classes held on Tuesday nights starting 1/28—4/8.

2024 ANNUAL REPORT OF CLERK

Beginning Membership Numbers (as of 2024)		147
Membership Gains		
Profession of Faith 17 and under		0
Profession of Faith 18 and over		9
Certificate Gains		0
Other Gains		0
Total Gains		9
Membership Losses		
Certificate Losses		0
Deaths		5
(Lois Robertson, Eileen Klingen, Carol Minegram, Bruce Robertson, Jay Knotts)		
Other Losses (Reconciliation)		10
Total Active Membership		141
Total Adherent Members		141
Child Baptisms		3
Adult Baptisms		0

2024 BAPTISMS

Grayson Serrano 5/19/2024, Sophia Kelly 8/25/2024, Joseph Rohn 8/25/2024

2024 PERSONNEL REPORT

Committee Members:

Rich Crowe, Sue Cail, Rebecca Foley, Pastor Arlene Romaine

"The greatest among you will be your servant. Whoever exalts himself will be humbled and whoever humbles himself will be exalted." Matthew 23:11

Overview

The Personnel Committee met regularly in 2024, accomplishing many of its stated goals, including: Hiring a new Music Director and Organist, calling a new pastor, conducting staff reviews, hiring a Children, Youth and Families Director. Below, in order of their occurrence, is a brief are the committee's work.

Music Director

Following the departure of our former Music Director and Organist, Jim Webber, Neil McDonald was hired in July, 2024 as part-time Music Director. After serving over the summer as interim organist, Maureen Butler was officially hired in September 2024 as part-time Organist.

Pastor Call

On July 1, 2024, following a congregational meeting and vote, Arlene Romaine M.Div., RCA, was hired as full-time pastor of the Community Presbyterian Church. Arlene's call, salary, benefits and annual review will follow the timing of her call, occurring from July 1st—June 30th, annually.

Staff Reviews

In September 2024, all staff received an annual review at which time the parameters of their roles and responsibilities as well as their needs, hopes and vision for the future were explored. Those receiving an annual review were: CPC Office Administrator Christine Burger, Music Director Neil McDonald, and Skylands Daycare Directors Melissa Kolstein and Kaitlyn Sweeny.

At their reviews, Christine, Melissa, and Kaitlyn each individually expressed the need for building management to be overseen by a part-time building manager, as too much time and effort in this role is being handled by all three employees, whose job descriptions do not include such work. The request was then brought to session, who agreed. We are currently in the process of further developing the parameters for this position and meeting with potential candidates.

Director of Children, Youth and Families

On October 2, 2024, Tracy Rynkowski was hired as part-time Director of Children, Youth and Families. Her role includes children from birth through age eighteen and the families they are a part of. Tracy oversees the nursery, Sunday school, and youth programing, and meets weekly with members of the committee who encourage and guide her in the work she is doing. Tracy will have two reviews in 2025, at six months (in April, 2025) and one year (October, 2025), from hiring.

2024 FELLOWSHIP COMMITTEE

The Fellowship Committee has continued to increase its offerings over 2024. Coffee Hour is well attended and in need of weekly set up volunteers. Three youth and family events were the focus of the committee this past year: Garden and Plant Event (April), Family Pride Event (June) and Hanging of the Greens Event (December).

With the consistent help of Christine Burger, Coffee Hour is an easy weekly task for congregation members to facilitate. Christine routinely restocks the fridge for everything that is needed to supply coffee hour. She also negotiated a new bagel supplier through Cupsaw Market. This support provides ease and assurance to volunteers to sign up for coffee hour. In addition to Julie Haarman and other members who regularly help with coffee hour, Sue Cail has been working behind the scenes to ensure someone is covering coffee hour each Sunday. Thank you to you all.

There were two new community building events this year: The Garden and Plant Event was held in April - we had an outdoor, robust coffee hour, activities and planting for kids. It was a very successful community building endeavor amongst many volunteers from the congregation. A similar event was held in June, with the theme of Family Pride. We added more crafts for kids as well as yoga in the garden. The committee raised donations to support at-risk LGBTQ youth. We ended the year with our second annual, Hanging of the Greens. It was another beautiful effort amongst a multitude of committees that helped to offer an afternoon of cheerful Christmas crafts, a Holiday shop for kids to purchase presents for their families, ribbon and ornament sales to support Youth Group and CFA, a robust Coffee Hour and festive decorations adorning CPC with everyone's aesthetic touches. It was a glorious, triumphant group effort with much joy and celebration for all.

There is talk about starting more fellowship initiatives such as the potential for a Moth style storytelling evening and a return to our wine to water events. If you have any ideas for fellowship activities in 2025, please reach out.

Thank you.

Helen, Dan and Julie

2024 CONGREGATIONAL CARE REPORT

We are a committee of members called to respond to those in need, including but not limited to prayers, meals, visits, rides and other instances of assistance and support. There were those this past year that received cards, telephone calls, prayers, visits, baked goods, meals, carolers, and some special assistance for a member in a care facility. Some collaboration with Fellowship Committee for church/community events also occur. The mission is to provide support and services for those with short term needs during a difficult time. Interested congregants wanting to volunteer, please contact the main number. Should you or someone you know have a need for assistance or support, please contact the church office. Meetings are held via ZOOM or as needed in person.

Karen Caviasco

2024 SKYLANDS LEARNING CENTER ANNUAL REPORT

We are happy to report that SLC is still thriving. There are 68 families enrolled with a total of 99 children. All of our classes continue to be at full capacity. Our registration for the 2025-2026 school year is already complete with all classrooms full. We have a working waitlist in each classroom and do our best to accommodate as many families as the building will allow. SLC currently employs 28 staff members. We have incredible, dedicated teachers with more than half employed with us for many years. Our goal continues to be to provide quality, affordable childcare for the families of Ringwood.

This year 4 additional staff members will complete their CDA (Child Development Associate)certificate and 3 of our lead teachers are earning their Infant/Toddler Credential. We were able to help them secure a tuition grant for all tuition to be paid in full.

We are very proud to announce that we earned 4 stars in our rerating process with GrowNJ this year. This process takes an incredible amount of effort by the teachers and administrative staff as we are evaluated on all aspects of our school and classrooms. In earning 4 stars we will receive a financial incentive that will be used to continue to improve the program.

We could not provide the quality of care that families have come to expect without your continued support of the program. We thank you for giving us your confidence to continue to do so!

Wishing you all a healthy and happy 2025!

Melissa & Kaitlyn

2024 WORSHIP COMMITTEE REPORT

The Worship Committee has had a busy year this past year. Our faithful group continued to greet, set up and clean up communion, light and extinguish candles, change vestments, provide flowers, decorate and usher, among other duties.

We started a new service with “The Blessing of the Backpacks” at the beginning of the school year, blessing and dedicating backpacks that had been donated towards Center For Food Action, as well as for the Ukraine.

We witnessed Pastor Arlene’s ordination service on September 8th. What a wonderful uplifting event that was!

We celebrated World Communion Sunday, wore red for Reformation Sunday and had another new event with “Harvest Sunday” on the Sunday before Thanksgiving. During this service we not only collected food for CFA, but we decorated in a harvest theme. Faith Commitment cards were also turned in at this service.

Our “Hanging of the Greens” activities were enhanced this year as well as the “Blue Christmas” service. Participation increased over the previous year.

Weekly attendance has increased quite a bit since the previous year. We currently average about 65 people per service.

I must thank everyone on the Worship Committee for their faithful dedication and support. A special shout out to Barbara & Chris Zach for their amazing last minute set up of 45 huge poinsettia plants in time for the Sunday before Christmas when the carpet on the risers was JUST installed.

Respectfully submitted by Sallie Crowe, Worship Committee Head

2024 INTERFAITH SERVICE REPORT

Our friends at St. Catherine’s hosted the Interfaith Service this year and Pastor Arlene delivered the message. We look forward to hosting next year on November 25th with the hopes of growing the outreach in the community. Pastor Arlene is working toward greater communication with the other churches in town. The Pastor of the Good Shepherd Episcopal Church is attending the Women’s Book Group. We are also building relationships with Peace Islands Institute Center for Interfaith Affairs and plan to host an Iftar Dinner in March.

2024 CPC WEBSITE AND DIGITAL OUTREACH

Our weekly service continued to be streamed live from our YouTube channel and recorded in 2024. We now have 151 subscribers, which is 24% more than we had at the end of 2023. During 2024 we had 2,569 views, which was actually 10% less than we had in 2023 – for the great reason that more people are now attending church in-person. Our most viewed services were for the first sermon Pastor Arlene preached (146 views), Music Sunday (105 views) and the Service of Lessons and Carols at 11:00pm on Christmas Eve (87 views). The videos available include concerts by Skylands Music Academy and special services like the Installation of Pastor Arlene, the Ash Wednesday and Tenebrae Services, and several funerals and memorial services.

You can find our video channel at

<https://www.youtube.com/@communitypresbyterianchurc9363> and the current service links can also be found on the home page of our web site at <https://www.communitypc.org/>. We have a very small video team and would still welcome some additional support – training and guidance will be provided, so do come and help!

The **CPC newsletter** has just reached its third anniversary with a total of 65 issues, including 23 in 2024. Our average open rate (65%) improved 1% over 2023 and went as high as 73%. We sent out 4,522 emails last year, which does not include those people who read it via our Facebook and Instagram links. The more relevant our content, the more engagement we will have, so if you have any interesting information you would like to share with the congregation, please email the details to Christine and we will make sure that it is included in the next issue. The emails usually go out on the first and third Wednesday of each month.

Our **FaceBook page** now has 772 followers (+8% over 2023) and the frequency of our posts has increased dramatically since Pastor Arlene joined us. Posts in the last 28 days have attracted between 75 and 336 hits, depending on content, while a 'boosted' post about our Christmas services reached 5.4K readers. Our weekly 'service' information reaches around 75-100 people. The more engagement we have, the better, so if you use FB, please make sure you like and/or comment on any of our posts – and share them if you think other users would be interested.

Work on our major website updates was completed in 2024 (see <https://www.communitypc.org/>). Thanks to the 2023 Presbytery grant, we still have professional help to make additional changes and Christine has done a great job in keeping the content current. We are happy to take feedback on the site so please get in touch if you see any way in which it might be improved.

In 2024 we purchased a Chromebook and Christine installed a new camera and conference equipment to enable us to offer the Lenten Book Study via Zoom so that we could include one participant from Chile and several more in Ringwood. This capability has also proved useful for some Session meetings.

Additional upgrades are in the pipeline for 2025.

Respectfully submitted,
Sue Cail

2024 CHILDREN, YOUTH AND FAMILY REPORT

We believe that our children and youth are the future of our church. It is very important to us that we provide safe and supportive groups for them to serve our families best. We are here to provide a welcoming and nurturing safe place that will give the children, youth and families a place to not only worship but to call home.

Nursery -

Our nursery is fully staffed with both adult and high school staff. Nursery care is provided each Sunday from 9:50 - 11:30 for children up to 5 years old or in Kindergarten. Each Sunday we provide a safe and nurturing place for our youngest members to be engaged while parents are able to worship and socialize. The children have time to play and be enriched with stories and songs. We follow themes that go along with those being discussed in Faith in Action and Community Youth for continuity.

Faith in Action - (Sunday School)

Faith in Action is a mission-based Christian education program created by former Sunday School Superintendent Heather Frisbee. Our focus is on our church's 3 mission outreach partners, Center for Food Action - Son Servants & Charity Water. We use scripture and bible stories to help the children understand why these missions are so important to our church family. We not only share the information they need for learning and growing but we also take on projects that we can use to benefit these missions. In the past they have built birdhouses, walked in the Hunger Walk, and have taken on extra chores to raise money to help provide clean water for other children. Through these actions they are learning how to be the "hands and feet of Jesus" and to learn how serving others enriches everyone. The children from Kindergarten through 5th grade meet on Sunday mornings during our 10 am worship service and are taught by a rotating team of 10 teachers.

Community Youth - (Middle and High School)

Community Youth is a natural extension of our Faith in Action program. It is also based on mission opportunities and grounded in scripture and bible study. This year our study has been based on Old Testament stories and finding out how to relate them to their day-to-day life. This group is quick to serve others. This group works hard to find ways to plug into and support our missions. It is often through direct support of bringing in canned goods for CFA or money for Charity Water or even going to West Virginia to work with Son Servants. Within our own church family, they love serving our church by joining in on Family Outreach events. Over the past year, we have had youth volunteers at every family event held, and they are already signed up for many of our upcoming ones. They are amazing kids who are quick to help each other out. They have found that they have built a close-knit group that provides support and encouragement when needed. They enjoy each other's company and spend plenty of time being social and having fun. Each year we try to integrate events like Johnsonburg retreats, tubing, bowling, going out to eat and so much more. We always are looking for more friends

and leaders. Community Youth is for kids in grades 6-12 and meets at least twice a month. Check us out on Instagram at # cpcyouthgroups to know when we meet and what we will be doing or email tracyrynkowski@gmail.com and ask to be added to the email list.

2024 NATIONAL MISSION REPORT- SON SERVANTS (PANTHER, WV)

We are blessed to have had another year as partners with Son Servants. For over 35 years Son Servants has been allowing youth to serve others through short-term mission work, helping those who might otherwise be overlooked. Our partnership with Son Servants provides our church an opportunity to be part of a team that is bigger than themselves. It brings groups from around the US together to live, work, and worship together for a week leaving ripples that are felt far beyond the end of the trip. The work we do is usually basic home repair - with the families served to be in true need. For our last 6 trips, we have worked in Panther, WV.

Our work this year was at two different homes. At the first home, we tore off a front porch and then rebuilt it from the frame up. The homeowner had not been able to use the front entrance for a long time and the back entrance was along the river bed and was not safe. At our second home, the homeowner had been unable to leave her house for months because she no longer could walk but didn't have a wheelchair ramp. She needed to have heart surgery and the ramp was the first step toward that possibility. We cut away part of the existing rail and built a brand new landing and then built a very long wheelchair ramp that would reach to their driveway. This gave her the ability to get to a car from her home. These two jobs gave both the homeowners and their caregivers the ability to be safe and healthy.

We will be back with Son Servants this summer. The trips are life-changing, not just for the families who receive the assistance provided but also for those who attend. We believe, now more than ever, it is important that we continue our support of this ministry that has done so much good for so many families. Stay tuned to see how you can help make that happen this year as we continue supporting them while they continue supporting others - "To love is to serve"

"Whoever serves Me will follow Me, and where I am my servant will be. The Father will honor the one who serves Me." – John 12:26

2024 INTERNATIONAL MISSION REPORT

The 2024 International Mission report this year is a little different than in past years. In December, CPC donated \$10,000 to help fund school water projects in Cambodia. Instead of writing about all of the amazing things the Community Presbyterian Church has accomplished, I'd like to share an excerpt from a note Charity Water shared with us just recently.

Community Presbyterian Church of Ringwood,

This past year has only reinforced how grateful I am for the chance to do this work. Every day, I'm inspired by the generosity and belief of donors like you. You remind me that meaningful change is not just possible; it's already happening! One community, one school, one family at a time. Thank you for standing with us on this journey to bring clean water to everyone. As we step into this new year, I'm excited to continue this work with you and hopeful for what's ahead.

Here's to another year of hope, progress, and transformation.

With gratitude,

Maria

Key Relationships Manager

Charity Water

Imagine being thirsty, really thirsty. Now imagine getting a cup full of dirty water from a greenish brown lake near your house to quench your thirst. There are thirsty families in Cambodia that are drinking clean water from a BioSand Filter because of us. Let's keep making a difference, one drop at a time.

Kind regards,

John Lavoie

International Mission Committee Chairperson

Mission Project 2024

	Opening Balance	Income	Expense	Balance
Food Bank	\$13340.00	\$11609.00	\$10155.00	\$14794.00
Water Project	\$3280.00	\$7894.00	\$10075.00	\$1099.00
Youth Mission	\$13064.00	\$3192.00	\$3820.00	\$12436.00

2024 NOMINATING COMMITTEE REPORT

The Nominating Committee met and will present to the Congregation the following nominations for elders to serve on Session for the class of 2027:

Chip Cronauer, Dan Daily, Karen Caviasco, Julie Haarmon, Cassandra Rohn

Leaving Session, with our thanks are:

John Lavoie, Heather Frisbie, Rich Crowe

Sincerely, Heather Frisbie & Helen Hill

2024 AUDIT COMMITTEE REPORT

The Audit Committee ("AC") met on January 18, 2025 and had a productive meeting. We discussed what the main purpose of the AC was and how it can be effective. As a result of these discussions, we are recommending the following procedures be put in place commencing for 2025:

1. Request the Finance Committee chair e-mail the following list of reports to the AC as soon as available after the books and records of the Church are closed:
 - A. Comparative Balance Sheet / Statement of Position at December 31 (current year vs prior year)
 - B. Comparative Income Statements (current year vs prior year)
 - C. Current year Trial Balance
 - D. Current year Detail General Ledger
 - E. Current year General Journal, manual journal entries
 - F. Current year General Journal, system journal entries
 - G. Quarterly payroll reports (Form 941s)
 - H. Annual payroll report, if available (Form 940)
 - I. Monthly bank reconciliations, including bank statements, for each month
 - J. Schedule of Fixed Assets, if available
2. Once the AC receives the reports:
 - A. The AC members will independently select certain transactions they would like to review in a meeting
 - B. The AC members will send their respective list of transactions to the Finance Committee chair
 - C. The AC chair will schedule an AC meeting (early to mid-January) with the Finance Committee chair
3. At the Audit Committee meeting:
 - A. The AC members will analyze support for the selected transactions provided by the Finance Committee chair
 - B. The AC will conclude the reasonableness of the Church's books and records based on the activities analyzed
4. After the meeting, the AC chair will draft the AC's report which will be submitted for inclusion in the materials to be presented at the Annual Congregational Meeting, typically held the first Sunday in February

Based upon looking at certain transactions of the financial records of Community Presbyterian Church performed by its Audit Committee in January 2025, we did not identify any variances. The books and records of Community Presbyterian Church were deemed to be reasonable.

Nancy Lavoie (chair), Gene Rynkowski, Elyse Williams and Barbara Zach

2024 FACILITIES MINISTRY

The newly named Facilities ministry (formerly Operations) is responsible for the upkeep and improvement of our physical plant. We have been busy this year with the following projects:

Our Solar Panels on the gym roof produce 31Mw of electricity daily saving on utility bills and helping preserve the environment for future generations.

A 1200 cubic foot storage container was placed outside the gym to free up space in the church. This was aided by an overdue and well-attended general cleanup which filled TWO 30 yard dumpsters. Special mention to John Lavoie who tackled and conquered the byzantine mess in the Carpenter's Club closet.

A very recent revision of the choir chancel to accommodate the Handbell Choir has resulted in an eye pleasing change to the sanctuary.

Externally new fascia & soffit have been installed along the visible perimeter of the church. A new roof was completed above the church office.

A plastic film recycling container was placed to collect for a local animal shelter. One thousand pounds of plastic will result in a new bench for their building.

Our ministry had met monthly to discuss improvements to our buildings. We are attempting to accommodate an increase in enrollment at the Skylands Learning Center and improve space for the Center for Food Action. A local architect has been retained to propose solutions to our needs.

Carpenter's Club is charged with effecting minor repairs to our building when needed. At present its single member could always use a little help.

Respectfully submitted,
Gary Wogisch and Chip Cronauer
(we'd like to see a few more names down here)

2024 CENTER FOR FOOD ACTION REPORT

As I reflect upon the past year, gratitude for our steadfast donors is foremost on my mind. It is difficult to express how important you are to CFA's mission, enabling us to continue to supply the basic necessities -- food and homelessness prevention -- for local needy families and individuals.

Thank you for your food donations throughout the year, and for your response to our annual key efforts: the "Souper Bowl" collection, Back-to-School supplies and backpacks, our huge Thanksgiving event, and the holiday supermarket gift card drive. Each and every donation we receive makes a significant impact on the lives of your neighbors in need.

May God continue to bless the caring, community-minded people of CPC, and grant you a 2024 filled with worship, love, and all good things from above.

Warmly,

Linda Somwaru, CFA-NW Site Manager

2024 ADULT HANDBELL & YOUTH MUSIC PROGRAM

Adult Handbell Choir

The Adult Handbell Choir meets every Thursday evening 7–9:00pm. We are very grateful to West Milford Presbyterian Church for loaning to us the lower 4th & 5th Octave of bells, which gives us a full five octave set of handbells. The Adult Handbell Choir plays at least once a month. A big thank you to the 15 ringers that give their time and talent to make this choir everything that is. The improvements to the Sanctuary have been well received and support the handbell choir in their efforts to perform to the best of their abilities. If you are interested in learning more about the Adult Handbell Choir please see or email Neil McDonald.

Skylands Music Academy

Skylands Music Academy launched in 2022 and are pleased to see over 40 youth spanning our 4 ensembles.

Our Spring Concert will be on Monday, March 24, 2024 at 7:00pm.

Currently, SMA is offering programs for students in grades 1 through 3 and grades 4 through 8.

1st Grade through 3rd Grade:

Skylands Children's Chime Choir – Thursdays, 3:45 – 4:15

Skylands Children's Choir – Thursdays, 4:15 – 4:45

4th Grade through 8th Grade:

Skylands Youth Choir – Thursdays, 5:00 – 5:45

Skylands Youth Handbell Choir – Thursdays, 5:45 – 6:30

All the groups meet weekly and have a concert at the end of each session. These groups will also be participating in worship throughout the year when ready. A complete description of each group is listed below.

Skylands Children's Chime Choir

The Skylands Children's Chime Choir is offered to children in 1st through 3rd grade. The Chime Choir teaches the fundamentals of music and ringing. It is a beginner choir which advances into our Youth Handbell Choir and the group plays on 4 octaves of Malmark Choirchimes. The group has fun learning about basic music theory including note values, rhythms, and learning the basics of ringing on our chimes.

Skylands Children's Choir

The Skylands Children's Choir is offered to children in 1st Grade through 3rd Grade. This choir is taught using the Orff Method where the children will learn music through singing, playing Orff instruments, moving with singing games and dances, and improvising on instruments and vocally.

Skylands Youth Choir

The Skylands Youth Choir is offered to youth 4th Grade through 8th Grade. The Skylands Youth Choir builds upon skills in singing, musicality, sight-reading, and music literacy. We perform a wide range of diverse choral music while singing unison, two- and three-part repertoire in many styles and languages.

Skylands Youth Handbell Choir

The Skylands Youth Handbell Choir is offered to youth 4th Grade through 8th Grade. We continue to learn about music making as the rhythms and music start to become more complex. The group rings on 5 octaves of Malmark Handbells and 4 octaves of Malmark Choirchimes.

Respectfully submitted,
Neil McDonald

2024 CHOIR REPORT

The Chancel Choir has been getting back to business after taking an extended break during covid. We are always looking for new members!! We have a small but mighty group of dedicated people and we would love to add to our motley crew!!! If you are interested in joining the choir, reach out to Neil McDonald.

2024 STEWARDSHIP TEAM REPORT

The current Stewardship Committee includes Charlotte Williams, Bob Oostdyk and Bruce Gibson. In order to begin our annual Stewardship campaign this year, during the month of November we heard from three volunteers who provided testimonials about why the Church is important in our lives; culminating with a celebration on Harvest Sunday, Nov 24th.

During the worship service on that day, we praised God for everything we have and everything we are, we asked God to bless our gifts, tithes and offerings, and offered up to God the Faith Promises we make to one another for 2025. We followed up with a wonderful catered lunch in the gym after worship.

Rich Crowe reported some of the financial results of our efforts showing pledging activity increasing from \$109K in 2023, \$117K in 2024 to \$126K for 2025. We met recently to discuss what changes we might like to make for our next campaign including some of the feedback we received. We like to extend an invitation to anyone who may be interested in joining us on the Stewardship Committee!

Sincerely,
The Stewardship Committee

**Community Presbyterian Church 2025
Budget**

Income	2025 Budget	2024 Actual	2024 Budget
General	\$140,000.00	\$139,397.00	\$120,000.00
Loose Plate	\$3,000.00	\$3,665.00	\$2,200.00
Bricks and Mortar	\$10,000.00	\$9,103.00	\$8,000.00
Building use	\$2,000.00	\$1,736.00	\$2,300.00
Vacation Bible School	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Youth and Family	\$3,500.00	\$2,246.00	\$2,630.00
Music Program	\$3,500.00	\$3,231.00	\$4,419.00
Grocery Cards	\$2,000.00	\$1,627.00	\$2,000.00
Skylands Learning Center	\$180,000.00	\$180,664.00	\$140,000.00
<i>Income Total</i>	<i>\$344,000.00</i>	<i>\$341,669.00</i>	<i>\$281,549.00</i>
Expenses			
<i>Pastoral Ministry</i>			
Salary	\$70,000.00	\$35,110.00	\$41,000.00
Housing allowance	\$35,000.00	\$30,000.00	\$20,000.00
Reimbursable expenses	\$1,000.00	\$500.00	\$2,000.00
FICA employer contrib	\$8,032.50	\$2,677.00	\$4,665.00
Pension (Board of Pensions)	\$12,000.00	\$5,775.00	\$20,910.00
Guest Pastor	\$1,500.00	\$2,640.00	\$1,500.00
Education	\$1,200.00	\$1,200.00	\$1,200.00
<i>Pastoral ministry total</i>	<i>\$128,732.50</i>	<i>\$77,902.00</i>	<i>\$91,275.00</i>
<i>Mission Ministry</i>			
Per Capita	\$6,757.00	\$7,777.00	\$6,757.00
Mission Programs	\$200.00	\$1,405.00	\$200.00
Sunday School Mission	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
<i>Mission total</i>	<i>\$6,957.00</i>	<i>\$9,182.00</i>	<i>\$6,957.00</i>
<i>Worship Ministry</i>			
Music & Supplies	\$1,500.00	\$5,792.00	\$1,500.00
Vocal Musicians	\$7,000.00	\$15,335.00	\$7,000.00
Instrumental Music	\$5,500.00	\$16,834.00	\$5,500.00
Childrens Music	\$3,000.00	\$2,600.00	\$3,000.00
Worship	\$600.00	\$445.00	\$600.00
<i>Worship total</i>	<i>\$17,600.00</i>	<i>\$41,006.00</i>	<i>\$17,600.00</i>
<i>Education Ministry</i>			
Sunday School	\$500.00	\$100.00	\$250.00
Adult Education	\$250.00	\$298.00	\$500.00
Vacation Bible School	\$1,000.00	\$0.00	\$1,000.00
<i>Education total</i>	<i>\$1,750.00</i>	<i>\$398.00</i>	<i>\$1,750.00</i>

**Community Presbyterian Church 2025
Budget**

Youth Ministry

<u>Triennium</u>	\$1,500.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Youth Groups	\$2,250.00	\$100.00	\$2,000.00
Youth total	\$3,750.00	\$100.00	\$2,000.00

Growth Ministry

Programs & Town Wide Mailings	\$1,500.00	\$277.00	\$500.00
Growth total	\$1,500.00	\$277.00	\$500.00

Fellowship Ministry

Kitchen supplies	\$2,500.00	\$3,319.00	\$2,500.00
Nursey Care	\$2,600.00	\$550.00	\$0.00
Childrens Christmas Workshop	\$300.00	\$0.00	\$3,000.00
Fellowship	\$500.00	\$500.00	\$500.00
Fellowship total	\$5,900.00	\$4,369.00	\$6,000.00

Operations Ministry

Church Maintenance	\$15,000.00	\$16,854.00	\$15,000.00
Capital Improvement	\$0.00	\$20,475.00	\$0.00
Capital Reserve	\$5,000.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Internet	\$2,250.00	\$2,214.00	\$2,000.00
Office expenses	\$5,000.00	\$7,333.00	\$5,000.00
Cleaning Service	\$12,000.00	\$12,977.00	\$12,000.00
Gas	\$5,500.00	\$4,883.00	\$7,500.00
Electricity	\$5,500.00	\$9,182.00	\$7,500.00
Water	\$2,000.00	\$2,644.00	\$2,000.00
Operations total	\$52,250.00	\$76,562.00	\$51,000.00

Finance Ministry

Realm Support	\$2,000.00	\$1,704.00	\$1,700.00
Bank Charges	\$2,000.00	\$1,942.00	\$2,223.00
Postage	\$2,000.00	\$2,120.00	\$300.00
Telephone	\$700.00	\$990.00	\$700.00
Insurance	\$15,000.00	\$19,129.00	\$15,000.00
Stewardship	\$1,500.00	\$900.00	\$500.00
Finance total	\$23,200.00	\$26,785.00	\$20,423.00

Staff payroll

Organist	\$12,000.00	\$9,897.00	\$14,000.00
Director of CYF	\$20,000.00	\$4,333.00	\$0.00
Music director	\$25,000.00	\$19,000.00	\$13,000.00
Childrens Music/Vocal	\$10,000.00	\$8,458.00	\$8,000.00
Office manager	\$36,750.00	\$36,750.00	\$36,750.00
Total gross salary	\$103,750.00	\$78,438.00	\$71,750.00
Total Church FICA/Medicre contrib.	\$7,936.88	\$5,654.00	\$5,488.88
Medical	\$0.00	\$6,425.00	\$8,555.00
Payroll Fees	\$7,200.00	\$7,636.00	\$6,800.00
Total Staff payroll	\$118,886.88	\$98,153.00	\$92,593.88

1/16/25	Total Expenses	\$360,526.38	\$334,734.00	\$290,098.88
	Surplus (deficit)	(\$16,526.38)	\$6,935.00	(\$8,549.88)