

FPC Waunakee



2025 Annual Report

First Presbyterian Church of Waunakee, Inc. myfpc.org



Meeting Agenda

Introduction and Call to Order

Pastor Will Wilson, Moderator

Opening Prayer

Pastor Will Wilson

Declaration of a Quorum (5%)

Diane Larson, Acting Clerk of Session

OUR PURPOSE TODAY

- To recap the FPC year just past and look back with thanksgiving.
- To recognize and thank those who have served faithfully.
- To rejoice in what God is doing in and through the life of His Church.

Clerk's Report for 2025

Elder Lolly Lawrence, Clerk of Session

Questions, Comments, Suggestions on any Ministry Reports from 2025

Financial Report 2026

Monty Cordell, Finance Elder

Session's Church Budget for 2026

Session Member

"The Session... has the responsibility and power... to establish the annual budget, determine the distribution of the Church's benevolence and order offerings for Christian purposes, providing full information to the congregation of its decisions in such matters."

—The Book of Order, G-3.0205

Personnel Report - Motion to adjust Pastoral terms of call

Rick Mueller, Personnel Elder

Closing Message and Prayer - The Lord's Prayer

Pastor Will Wilson

Our Father, who art in heaven; hallowed be Thy name. Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our debts as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation; but deliver us from evil; for Thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, now and forever. Amen.

A Letter from our Pastor

Rev. Will Wilson

Dear FPC Waunakee Family,

As I reflect on our shared ministry in 2025, I am drawn to Paul's words in 2 Thessalonians 1:3: "We must always give thanks to God for you, brothers and sisters, as is right, because your faith is growing abundantly, and the love of every one of you for one another is increasing."

In the pages of this Annual Report, you'll see glimpses of how we here at FPC have grown deeper in faith and in love for each other. Our faith has grown through Worship, Bible Study, VBS, Children's Sunday School, faithful stewardship of the gifts God has given us, and service to our community and world through mission. Our love for each other has grown as we've taken opportunities to fellowship and be a church family.

While this year has been one of spiritual growth and love for one another, 2025 has also been a year of change—some difficult, some easy. Yet, even through all these changes, I continue to see God's faithfulness to our church. We're seeing new faces in our congregation, we've onboarded new staff members, and we continue to explore more opportunities for vibrancy as a congregation that seeks to proclaim and live out the good news of Jesus Christ.

A Letter from our Pastor

Rev. Will Wilson

As I reflect on my personal journey with you, I thank God that serving you has deepened my faith and strengthened my love for each of you. In 2025, I preached 37 Sunday sermons, baptized 8 children and adults into the Christian life, officiated two funerals for church members and two for community members, and officiated one wedding. This work brings me great joy, and I thank God for giving me the opportunity to serve among you. I trust and pray that 2026 will be another year of growth in love and faithfulness.

For the glory of God,



Will Wilson



Report of the Clerk

Elder Lolly Lawrence, Clerk of Session

Membership
456 as of Dec. 31 2025

Members Received

Letter of Transfer: 2

Confirmed: 3

Reactivated Inactive Members: 2

Profession/Reaffirmation of Faith:

10

Total Members Received: 17

Members Lost

Deaths: 6

Letter of Transfer: 7

Removed: 16

Total Members Lost: 29

9

Baptisms in 2025

8

Funerals in 2025

2

Weddings in 2025

Adult Nurture & Spiritual Growth



The Adult Nurture & Spiritual Growth (ANSG) Ministry saw continued growth in 2025, supporting 12 adult groups for women, men, and couples, with three new groups added. Together, these groups strengthened fellowship and supported ongoing spiritual formation as participants grow in their faith and follow Jesus Christ.

- Launched two new 8-week community Bible studies
- Women's Light Team completed four studies
- FPC Men's Group completed multiple Bible studies
- Two ongoing Sunday Adult Education classes
- Hosted two 6-week Heavenly Stretch Yoga sessions
- Led a 4-week Advent Bible study



“Serving as an Elder allows me to give back to our church community while experiencing how God works through fellowship, study, and prayer as we seek His purpose together.”

-Jim Fitzgerald

Building and Grounds



Thanks to generous support through the Pillars and Pathways campaign, 2025 was a highly productive year for the Building and Grounds team.

- Parking Lot Upgrades: Expanded, resurfaced, restriped, re-lit, & improved drainage across the parking areas.
- Exterior & Grounds: Power washed the building & completed low-maintenance landscaping around outdoor gathering spaces.
- Accessibility Improvements: Added a new concrete sidewalk connecting the church to the outdoor shelter.
- Interior Updates: Installed new kitchen flooring, refreshed music room seating, & began bathroom floor restoration.
- Facility Systems Care: Completed roof, plumbing, & moisture-control repairs to protect the building long-term.

"FPC has a beautiful facility that we should all be proud of. It has been a blessing to be trusted by the congregation to faithfully maintain and enhance our worship space to continue to make it a church home to be proud of."

-Ryan Horst



Children's Ministry



2025 marked a year of faith, fun, and meaningful change in Children's Ministry. As the team prepared for Vacation Bible School, Angela Himegarner stepped in to help lead and was soon inspired to take on the role of Interim Children's Ministry Director, which she continues to serve with enthusiasm.

- Vacation Bible School engaging dozens of children
- Kickoff of the 2025/26 Sunday School year
- Bible presentations for Network 56 students
- Children's Nativity Service joyfully shared
- Family Pizza & Bingo Night to celebrate faith and fun



"As always, the most gratifying thing about being an Elder is seeing how the children respond to learning about God and Jesus. I am also very thankful to Angela and all of the volunteers who support Sunday School, VBS and all of the other events we hold."

-Peter Bergmann

Deacons



GATHER

...with the table of the Lord...

Throughout 2025, the Deacons faithfully supported the congregation through both ongoing ministries and compassionate, timely care.

Their work included care packages for students and military personnel, Muffin Madness, practical assistance through Hammers with Halos, and continued support for caregivers.

The Deacons also led prayer, card, meal, and visitation ministries; coordinated funeral luncheons and birth recognitions; and provided comfort through the Prayer Shawl and Quilt Ministry.

Looking ahead to 2026, the Deacons remain committed to expanding their ministries of care and connection within the FPC community.

2025 Deacons

Marcia Chase

Kate Dietry

Kristy Drewry

Judy Fitzgerald

David Good

Paul Larson

Cindy May

Sharon Mikkelson

Beth Mueller

Jamie Roberts

Maeline Schall

Brian Wolhaupter

Fellowship



We welcomed 2025 with a King's Cake during Epiphany at coffee hour. Lenten dinners were held on Wednesday evenings throughout March and April, bringing families together for fellowship and meals. Special treats marked First Communion, Mother's Day, and Father's Day, and a Fall Kickoff once again highlighted opportunities for connection and involvement. Following the Children's Nativity Service, we shared a special nativity cake celebrating Jesus.

Five Lenten Dinners - 2,600 Cups of Coffee Served

"I appreciate the opportunity, as Fellowship Elder, to promote greater connections between church members over a warm drink (or possibly cold) and a tasty treat."

-Krista Wallace



New Member Outreach



In 2025, New Member Outreach focused on strengthening both short- and long-term efforts to welcome and retain guests. Leadership of the Greeting Ministry transitioned smoothly to Connie Pelton, who continues to lead with enthusiasm.

Outreach efforts also emphasized improving guest communication and experience through updated signage messaging, new guest information cards, and a renewed focus on viewing worship and ministries through a guest's perspective. New member classes are planned for 2026 as we continue inviting guests to formally join our faith family and expand outreach opportunities.

Welcomed 17 New Members

-

24 Volunteer Greeters



“My first six months have taught me that the seemingly small things are what can make the biggest difference. A handshake, a smile, and a couple words can feel better. So, I will continue to keep our focus on the small things.”

-Kyle Halweg

Missions

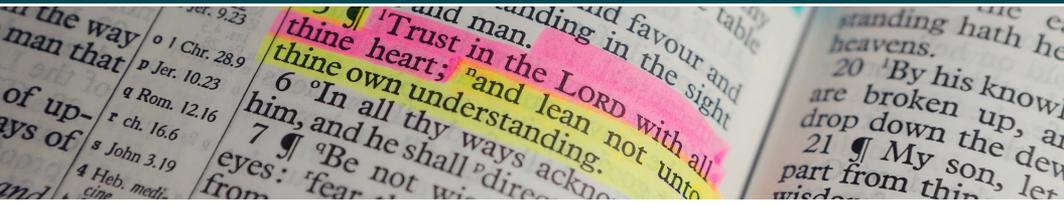


2025 was a year of transition for Missions Ministry, with leadership changing mid-year and continued oversight by Session.

In November, the congregation elected Leslie Strangfeld as Missions Elder, serving through June 2027. During the year, charitable giving was thoughtfully adjusted to support disaster relief following the Texas floods, while continuing longstanding partnerships with local, regional, national, and international mission organizations.

- Student Mission Experience - \$11,940
- The River Food Pantry - \$7,965
- Waunakee Food Pantry - \$7,000
- Waunakee Neighborhood Connection - \$5,000
- FPC Kerrville, TX - \$5,000
- Friends of State Street - \$3,000
- PCUSA Disaster Assistance - \$3,000
- Outreach For World Hope - \$2,700
- Porchlight Shelter - \$2,500
- Shelter From the Storm - \$2,500
- The Beacon - \$2,030
- Presbyterian Disaster Assistance, Flood Relief - \$2,000
- Food For Kidz - \$1,200
- Presbyterian Mission Support - \$1,000
- Bethel Bible Series - \$500
- Good News Kenya - \$500
- Pres House - \$208

Personnel



2025 was a year of meaningful transition for our personnel, with eight new staff members hired to fill key vacancies and the announcement of Sam Robinson's retirement in 2026. These changes reflect a church moving beyond survival and toward faithful investment in the future.

As we are often reminded by Pastor Kirk Morledge, Pastor Will Wilson, and others, Christianity is only one generation from extinction. Together, we share the responsibility to nurture and grow the church so that more people may come to know Jesus Christ—and so we may continue to make Christ known for generations to come.

- Pastor Will continues his PhD with a focus on homiletics
- Pastor Ben will be on sabbatical from Sept. 1 - Dec. 31 2026

“Special thanks to Pastor Will and Kristina Maher for their leadership of staff throughout the year, including onboarding new staff. Their care and attention to our employees help us hire and retain great staff!”

- Rick Mueller



Stewardship



As our church building marked its 30th year, needed repairs and updates were identified, leading to the launch of the Pillars and Pathways campaign in July. Thanks to strong participation, generous pledges, and an anonymous gift, many projects—including major parking lot improvements—were completed or planned, positioning the church to retire the remaining parking lot loan.

The October annual stewardship campaign, Faith for the Future, centered on Psalm 90:1 and emphasized God's continued faithfulness across generations. Looking ahead, members are invited to share their time, talents, and treasures through volunteer opportunities and emerging stewardship efforts, including Legacy Planned Giving, as we continue living into God's vision for the future.

"As I wind down my term, I feel that I'm fitting into my role better. I've been blessed to work with good people on Session, and FPC's staff. We have a great team; everyone knows and supports each other."

- Barb Cash



Stewardship

2025 PLEDGE INFORMATION

Pledged for 2025 (from 2024 Annual Report) *	\$577,116.00
Additional Pledges Received for 2025	\$28,100.00
Total Pledges for 2025	\$605,216.00
Total Amount Received - 2025 Pledges	\$568,671.30
Percent of 2025 Pledges Received	94.0%

* Includes 2025 pledges prepaid in 2024.

2026 PLEDGE INFORMATION

Total Number of Pledges Received To Date	129
Total Amount Pledged for 2026 To Date	\$609,051.00

Student Ministry Elder



Weekly Wednesday night gatherings and Sunday School continued to anchor Youth Ministry in 2025, offering worship, Bible study, discussion, and fellowship. Students also participated in Winter Camp in Lake Geneva, growing in faith alongside youth from other congregations.

The confirmation class of four students deepened their faith through mentoring relationships and sharing of their meaningful testimonies on Confirmation Sunday. A highlight of the year was the June mission trip to Guatemala, where 21 students and adults partnered with local ministries to build two homes—an experience that strengthened faith, service, and global awareness.

As we look to 2026, we are grateful for the dedication of adult volunteers and excited for continued growth under new leadership.

“2025 was a transformative season for our Student Ministry, marked by spiritual growth, service, and a renewed sense of community.”

- Emily Hofmann



Worship and Music



During Lent 2025, we introduced a chapel service that was met with strong participation and positive feedback. As a result, the service continued beyond Lent and returned after Fall Kickoff. Attendance grew significantly, eventually requiring the service to move into the sanctuary. After thoughtful evaluation, we returned to a single worship service at the end of December.

In preparation for the future, a search committee has been formed to find a new Music Director, in anticipation of Sam Robinson's retirement. Sam's assistance on the committee will help shape the position and guide the search for FPC's next Music Director.

13 Guest Musicians

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528 Attendees on Christmas Eve



"Serving as an elder at FPC gives me the opportunity to make meaningful decisions that can help spread the good news of Jesus Christ!"

- Amy Lewis

Finance



2025 was a blessed year for FPC from a financial perspective. This update also includes related information from the Stewardship Pillars and Pathways campaign and Buildings and Grounds parking lot improvements.

2025 Highlights

First, we exceeded our Pillars and Pathways (P&P) campaign goal. The congregation pledged \$230,966 exceeding our goal of \$216,216. Special thanks to a large anonymous donation of \$100,000 of which \$97,000 went to P&P to put us over the top!

Second, monies from the Parking Lot Fund and the P&P campaign, including the large donation, were used to pay down the Parking Lot loan. The loan balance is now low enough for the P&P contributions to pay off the loan by the time the P&P campaign ends in June 2028. More on the parking lot fund later in this report.

Third, proceeds from the land sale, donations, and return on investment dramatically boosted the Endowment Fund balance. Some of the Endowment Fund has been used for the planned matching P&P donations (\$15k of the \$50k match) and to set aside initial funding for a new music director position (\$40k). The Endowment Fund balance after the increases and expenses in 2025 is sitting at a healthy level (\$232k). More on the Endowment Fund later in this report.

Finance

Pillars and Pathways (P&P) also funded the expansion of the parking lot, including the west turn around in the upper parking lot and the southern parking areas of the upper and lower lots.

We were able to add 44 parking spaces in total, creating a safer and easier to navigate upper lot, with the turnaround at the west end. The entire parking lot that was repaved in 2022 was also seal-coated last year and restriped to sustain the previous investment in the new pavement. Grading work was also completed in the lawn area at the east of the lower lot to improve drainage of the lot.

Investments were also made in maintaining the parking lot lighting to bring the existing lights back into service. We hope to further invest in the safety of the parking lot by upgrading to LED fixtures to provide better illumination and increased efficiency, sustainability, and longevity in the coming years.

In 2025, managing the General Fund—the money used for everyday operations, essential expenses, and primary ministry support—was sometimes challenging. At times, spending was higher than incoming donations, so savings were used to cover regular bills. For 2026, we are making changes to strengthen cash flow and provide greater financial stability.



Parking Lot Fund Summary

Parking Lot Fund Income

Donations Received Prior to 2022	\$13,135.99
Loan Proceeds Received in 2022	\$300,000.00
Donations Received in 2022	\$124,495.00
Donations Received in 2023	\$21,089.00
Donations Received in 2024	\$18,787.71
Donations Received in 2025	\$7,620.00

Total Parking Lot Fund Income **\$ 485,127.70**

Parking Lot Fund Expense

Parking Lot Repaving Expense in 2022	\$288,420.39
Loan Closing Costs (2022)	\$1,966.00
Parking Lot Loan Payments in 2022	\$71,004.00
Parking Lot Loan Payments in 2023	\$62,008.00
Parking Lot Loan Payments in 2024	\$22,008.00
Parking Lot Loan Payments in 2025	\$136,708.00

Total Parking Lot Fund Expense **\$ 582,114.39**

12/31/25 Parking Lot Fund Balance **\$13.31**

Parking Lot Loan Summary

Parking Lot Loan Amount	\$300,000.00
Principal Paid To-Date	\$251,996.14
Interest Paid To-Date	\$41,565.86

12/31/25 Parking Lot Loan Balance **\$ 48,003.86**

Finance

2026 Budgeting Approach

We are excited about the future of FPC. In the early nineties, we saw growth in the congregation of 20-25 new families each year for 10 years. We can do this again and broaden our reach and grow as a church serving the existing congregation, those returning from a break, and new participants in God's work here at FPC. Our budget for 2026 takes this projected growth into account.

Like years past, 2026 will carry forward the tradition of using a faith budget. To pull a quote from last year's annual report "In several recent years FPC has adopted a "faith budget," which assumes an ambitious ministry plan commensurate with our call to preach the gospel and spread Christ's love. The faith part is the belief that General Fund and other giving will exceed your aggregate pledges and fully support what God is calling us to do."

Session has again approved a faith budget, with a total 2026 forecasted General Fund income of \$797,150 and anticipated spend of \$929,315 leaving a projected 2026 faith gap of (\$132,165). This projected faith gap is partially offset by the January 1, 2026, General Fund balance of \$30,363, leaving a potential General Fund overall net gap of (\$101,902) at 12/31/26. Session plans to review FPC's financial progress each month and will adjust spending if needed based on actual results.

Finance

Additional highlights for 2026 budget include the following:

- Estimated Income for 2026 is consistent with last year. Pledged income increased for 2026, due to donors switching from unpledged to pledged. We anticipate additional unplanned income to partially close the gap in the faith budget.
- Continue to encourage electronic payments for recurring donations AND giving one time donations early in the year help build up cash reserves/address cash flow.
- Encourage members to pay the yearly individual \$45 Presbytery Member Dues to reduce General Fund expenses. Payments can be made online at myfpc.org under Give & Serve -> Donate Online -> FPC's Donation Page -> Presbytery Member Dues (Per Capita) or mailed to the church business office.
- Deferred timing of expenses where possible to improve cash flow.
- Discretionary funding planned towards the end of the year and will be monitored/adjusted if needed by Session.

Finance

“A special thank you to Brian Gade who continues to volunteer his time to serve as the IT Director for the church. This is a critical position that keeps things running smoothly.

We would also like to thank Alan Roberts, Steve Cable, and Tony Tomaselli for completing their terms as Finance Elder, Treasurer, and Endowment Committee member respectively.

A warm welcome and thanks to new and continuing finance committee members go to Bill Baker as the new Treasurer, Steve Sash and Harley DeBoer for counting contributions, Phil Greenwood for filling the Endowment Committee slot along with Mark Mathwig and Barb Cash, and thanks to Tom and Bridget Stitgen as well as Steve Sorenson for their roles in the annual financial audit.”

- Monty Cordell



2025 AUDIT OF FINANCES

First Presbyterian Church Report of the Audit Committee October 26, 2025

Members of the Audit Committee met with the Treasurer, Finance Elder, and Business Manager to review the fiscal year ending December 31, 2024.

The Audit Committee members discussed specific areas for examination and review. The Committee did not perform a financial audit of the Church's books and records, but rather conducted financial review and examination of the Church's financial records and related procedures, as described below.

Banking: The Committee selected three (3) random months and tested deposits, receipts, payments and withdrawals as well as verifying the closing bank statement balance to the ledger. All tested deposits, receipts, payments and withdrawals were well documented and in good order. The Committee also reviewed the internal controls on banking and verified the banking access and signatories, without exception. The Committee recommended disabling the ability to do wire transfers, as a fraud avoidance procedure. The Committee also recommended adding positive pay for disbursements as an additional fraud avoidance procedure, this was acted on and has been put in place.

Revenue: The Committee reviewed Sunday offering deposit procedures and confirmed the offering is counted by two unrelated persons, funds are deposited and posted in a timely fashion and recorded to donor records appropriately. Procedures for other deposits outside of the weekly offering were reviewed. An additional procedure was recommended to secure undeposited funds into the safe and create a deposit log to track these deposits.

Disbursements: Disbursements and payments to a random selection of vendors and contractors were reviewed. All disbursements appeared to be in order and properly documented. The Committee also selected samples of the Church's credit card statements to review. The Committee reviewed the statements, accompanying receipts, approvals and other backup documentation. The receipts and other documentation were reconciled to the sample statements. Receipts were properly documented, approved and submitted.

2025 AUDIT OF FINANCES

Insurance: The Committee did not review insurance as this was determined to be outside the scope of the financial review. A recommendation was made to have a separate committee to review risk.

Payroll: The Committee selected and reviewed a sample of payroll documents for employees. Employee tax documentation was reviewed. Compensation paid, tax withholdings and benefits were tested and found to be in good order. Additionally, the pension contributions were tested and verified.

Findings and Conclusions

The Committee found no material deficiencies during the review of the Church's records, operations and procedures. The Committee recommends that the Church's records retention policy be examined and revised as appropriate, particularly as the records are increasingly kept only in digital format. The Audit Committee thanks Kristina Maher for her professionalism and assistance during the course of the Committee's examination.

Respectfully submitted by the 2024 Audit Committee,

Tom Stitgen, Bridget Stitgen and Steven Sorenson



