

Yorkfield Presbyterian Church

Our Mission at Yorkfield Presbyterian Church is to be a Community of Disciples with a Heart for God and Hands to Help Others.

*Annual Report
May 2022*

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Church Staff	4
Elected Church Officers	4
Congregation Statistics	4
Commission Rosters	4
Yorkfield Presbyterian Church - Mission Statement	5
Head of Staff	5
Associate Pastor	5
Parish Associate.....	6
Untamed Vision Team.....	7
Administration and Personnel Report.....	7
Generosity	8
Christian Education Commission Report.....	9
Childcare Annual Report.....	10
Sunday School	10
TOWN.....	10
Middle School Youth Fellowship	11
High School Youth Fellowship	12
Library	12
Discipleship Commission	13
YPC Men's Bible Study	14
WINGS (Women Intently Navigating God's Scripture).....	14
Social Justice Small Group	14
Tuesday Morning Psalm & Prayers	15
Fellowship Commission.....	15
Mission and Service Commission.....	16
Fair Trade.....	17
DuPage P.A.D.S.	17
Adult Worktrip	17
Worship and Music Commission	17
Praise Worship Music Director	18
Joyful Noise Ringers Handbell Choir.....	18
Chancel Choir	18
Board of Deacons	18
Board of Trustees	19

Church Staff

Head of Staff: Lauren Cochran
Associate Pastor: Matt Parker Wrzeszcz
Office Manager: Deborah Suits
Office Clerk: Kristin Sterling
Childcare coordinator: Laurel Gerald
Chancel & Bell Choir Dir: Dylan Rehm
Organist: Darlene Richards
Praise Band Director: Chrissa Jennings

Church Officers

Elders (Session)

Class of 2022 (June): Kelly Kost, Leslie Menconi, Jeff Redick, Angie Udelhofen
Class of 2023 (June): Rich Peterson, Roger Lawrence, Ann Raley, Neil Schwan
Class of 2024 (June): Jason McMyler, Heidi Moy, Margaret Schiefer, Caroline Wolfe

Deacons

Class of 2022 (June): Jacki Doyle, David LaVette, Mary Ann Luther, Sue Shepard
Class of 2023 (June): Pat Burrows, Bonnie Peticara, Melony Robbins, Jeff Skinner
Class of 2024 (June): Joyce Jensen, Jacki Lawrence, Jodi Redick, Nancy Wilson

Trustees

Class of 2023 (January): Dave Beck, Gordon Burrows, Greg Caraballo, Rick Raley
Class of 2024 (January): Jane Foreman, Chris Prodoehl, Cindy Stoner, Tom Wiesenmayer
Class of 2025 (January): Lani Allen, Tom Ebsen, Heidi Jeffery, Bill Mola

Church Treasurer: Debbie Suits
Financial Secretary: Roger Lawrence
Memorial Treasurer: Jacki Lawrence

Congregation Statistics

June 2021–May 2022

Total Active Membership: 295

New Members: Todd Lestina, Sarah Lestina, Colin Lestina, Barb Rieger, Rob Rieger, Michael Richards, Laura Richards, John Stumpf, Barbara Stumpf, Joe Kurcz, Clark Wormer, Becky Wormer, Liz Cellini, Leigh Gibson, John and Deb Helms, Kenny and Melissa Heflin, Jim, Donna, and Maggie Moriarty

Deaths of Members: Roy Johnson, Richard Bruce, Patricia Koch, Dorothy Frantz, Margaret Ducci, Doris Keller, Barbara Siligmuller

Baptisms: Bryce Mowry, Adelaide Richards, Grady Douglass, Hailey Klenck, Eleanora Cellini

Removed from Active Role: Barbara Beach, Megan Farley, Mike Farley, Courtney Graham, Cindy Hurtig, Ken Hurtig, Mark Hurtig, Kathi McMullen, Natalie Mecum, Ryan Mecum, Debra Palmer, Kurt Palmer, Kim Reiman, Dave Schmitt, Nicholas Schmitt, Barb Schmitt, Josh Schmitt, Chris Taylor, Glenn Taylor, Chris Ward, Abigail Wesseler, Christian Wesseler, Melissa Young

Commission Rosters

Administration & Personnel: Kelly Kost*, Jeff Redick, Anne Callen, Joe Jeffrey, Joy Peters, Gary Schiefer

Christian Education: Roger Lawrence*, Heidi Moy, Marissa LaVette, Sarah Lestina, Nancy Peterson, Donna Schwan

Discipleship: Angie Udelhofen, Caroline Wolfe, Pat Burrows*, Kate Cross, Ann Raley

Fellowship: Rich Peterson, Margaret Schiefer, Mike Baker, Heidi Moy, Greg Peticara*, John Udelhofen

Mission & Service: Margaret Schiefer, Jason McMyler, Jane Foreman, Martha McGreal, Carol Mola, Amy Wiesenmayer*

Worship & Music: Ann Raley, Leslie Menconi*, Lani Allen, Jenny McMyler, Lisa Miller, Kurt Muehleis, Bill Shepard

*chairperson

**OUR MISSION AT YORKFIELD PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
IS TO BE A COMMUNITY OF DISCIPLES
WITH A HEART FOR GOD AND HANDS TO HELP OTHERS.**

HEAD OF STAFF

by Rev. Lauren Cochran

We are a changed people.

I've been thinking about how the Israelites wandered through the desert for 40 years, and finally emerged in the Promised Land: they made it! But... they carried what happened in the desert with them for the rest of their lives, whether in the Promised Land or not. They were a changed people.

This December, I was making the plans for our Christmas Eve worship services. I thought to myself, 'Because we weren't in person last year (Christmas Eve 2020), we really need to sing all our favorite hymns- no picking and choosing- no 'we did this last year let's swap'- we are doing it ALL this year!'

So we did, and I treasured each measure. Each song. Each part of the liturgy and prayers and the Christmas story. I promised myself that whether we are dealing with COVID or not... we only have so many Christmas Eves in our lives; why should we ever say "oh we can sing that one next year"?

The same feeling arrived at Easter (my 3rd Easter with you... but first with singing!). We can't waste one precious breath, I decided, Not one chance of celebrating the resurrection. We cannot take this day for granted.

I know I'm not alone. Our time through the wilderness of COVID has changed us as people, and I've seen this change at YPC again and again over this past year in our desire to not waste one moment of being together (not just in the holiday worship services).

It was no small feat, but in the last program year we brought back and adapted: all our worship services, Sunday School, mid-week children's programming, adult faith formation and education opportunities, hands-on mission work, welcoming

new members, baptisms, funerals, weddings, confirmation, fair trade, coffee on Sundays (God is good!), small group gatherings... and more. We know what the wilderness feels like, so we want to treasure where we are now.

We celebrated Christmas in July, formed the Untamed Vision team, got a new organ, had new member dinners, played in the park, hired new staff members, worshiped at sunrise on Easter, and shared stories and dreamed about the future... we have looked each other in the eye and wept with joy to be together. We have not taken any moment for granted.

We are a changed people.

Frankly, I hope this change in us never goes away... never goes 'back to normal'. I pray we are always able to view our calling to be a church community as our precious chance that we cannot waste one moment of... that we always sing all the Christmas songs and welcome the visitors and love our neighbors and linger in the lobby as long as we can. I hope we treat each day of our discipleship as one in the Promised Land, but also with the lessons of the wilderness we've brought with us.

ASSOCIATE PASTOR

by Rev. Matt Parker Wrzeszcz

"I hereby command you: Be strong and courageous; do not be frightened or dismayed, for the Lord your God is with you wherever you go."
Joshua 1:9

The world has changed. As we learn to come together in community, we are guided by the One who continues to create and sustain us through all things. Over the past couple of years, we certainly needed to pivot and shift in order to create space that was safe and nurturing for the wider community. As we step forward, God

continues to remind us that we are not alone – God is with us wherever we go.

This is an exciting time for many of the ministries and programs within the church. If we have learned anything through the pandemic, we have learned to be open to doing things a bit differently. The congregation of YPC continues to adapt and be open to approaching ministry in different ways.

As we move into the summer and the upcoming program year, it is great to see us come together as community. We continue to encourage each other to be open to what God has in store for us, knowing that the Lord our God is with us wherever we go.

I am grateful to serve alongside so many people in ministry. I am grateful for the leadership of Pastor Lauren and for the enthusiasm, theology and knowledge she shares with those around her. I am grateful for Debbie Suits and the creative and thorough work she offers day after day. They bring fun and energy to the office and it is a great place to be in ministry.

Many thanks to Jacki Lawrence, the Moderator of our Deacons, and to all the Deacons who prayerfully care for the congregation. Thanks to Amy Wiesenmayer, the chairperson for our Mission Commission. As a commission, we reflected on all the ministries we support, listening to where God was leading us and responding by adding additional ministry partners. Thanks to Abby Udelhofen and Kelly Klenck who led our HSYF group again this past year (along with advisors Brian Jones and Janet Andrews). The care and support of our youth was evident in the plans and encouragement they gave week after week. Thank you to the Nominating Committee, who faithfully prayed, discerned and called members to serve in ministry. Many thanks to Jeff Redick, Jason McMyler, Bonnie Peticara, Greg Caraballo, Anne Callen, Kim Hlavenka and Susan Baker who made this task enjoyable! Thank you to Roger Lawrence, the Moderator for Christian Education and for the members of the commission (Marissa LaVette, Sarah Lestina,

Heidi Moy, Nancy Peterson and Donna Schwan) for navigating this past year so well. They offered regular and amazing ministry to children of all ages. There was a LOT of behind the scenes work. It was great to participate in ministry with CE this past year. Thanks to our High School Sunday School team (Nancy Pedersen, Pat & Becky Davis and Tim Dykes) for finding creative way to engage our youth in mission. There were some amazing projects offered this past year!

This coming year, you have offered the generous gift of a sabbatical. Thank you! I pray this will be a time of rest and renewal for all. I also pray it will be a time for vision and possibility. During that time (August through the beginning of October), I am confident the leaders and groups I work with will continue to offer amazing ministry. As we take the next step forward, we know the Lord our God is with us wherever we go.

PARISH ASSOCIATE

by Rev. Jennifer Parker Wrzeszcz

As Parish Associate my main responsibilities continue to revolve around facilitating contemplative prayer practices within the congregation – specifically through monthly Lectio Divina Bible Studies and the Contemplative/ Centering Prayer Group.

In the autumn of 2021, our Wednesday morning Lectio Divina Bible Study group opted to stay on Zoom because we now have two members participating that live outside of Illinois. The group has grown this last year to about twelve participants. At the same time, our Monday evening group decided it was time to say good-bye after five years. The ebb and flow of a group are all part of the life of faith and we give thanks for the nourishment the Monday night group provided during the time we met.

In January of 2022 it was a joy to finally be able to be back in person for Lectio Divina at Lexington Square on Friday mornings! Although we miss our faithful members Roy Johnson and Doris Keller, who both now know the fullness of God's

love in the eternal realm, we are grateful for two new members K.T. Thompson and Nancy Wilson. Through the coming and going of faithful friends we remember that in both life and in death we belong to God.

The Lectio Divina Bible Studies continue to use the Psalms as the scripture texts for our meetings and we are often amazed at how the ancient prayers of the church echo so many of our modern-day concerns. The joys and struggles of being human reverberate throughout the ages - as does God's abiding love and care. We have especially enjoyed the modern take on the Psalms in Nan Merrill's book *Psalms for Praying: An Invitation to Wholeness*.

Our small Contemplative/Centering Prayer continues to work our way through Cynthia Bourgeault's book *The Wisdom Jesus: Transforming the Heart and Mind – A New Perspective on Christ*. We have been stretched and encouraged by her teachings, as well as sometimes befuddled. God's Holy Wisdom is always calling us into more expansive territory and deeper depths of trust. After discussing the insights of a chapter, we end each meeting with 20 minutes of quiet Centering Prayer. Anyone interested in exploring this more meditative/contemplative side of prayer is welcome to come along.

On the Saturday before Easter (Holy Saturday) the Contemplative/Centering Prayer group offered the congregation the opportunity to pray through meditatively walking the Labyrinth – a medieval prayer practice. Ten people took the opportunity to prayerfully connect with God in this manner. It is amazing as to what kind of insights are placed on a person's heart when they try a different way of praying!

I continue to be privileged to get to participate in worship leadership and the leading of prayers. I seek to put shape to those prayers through being part of the Social Justice Group at YPC as well as the Interfaith Committee for Detained Immigrants.

I hope that each of you are finding ways to deepen your relationship with Christ and expand

your connection with God's good creation and all of God's beloved children. If any of the above items pique your interest, please contact me and come journey alongside us as we seek to walk humbly with our Lord.

UNTAMED VISION TEAM

by Rev. Lauren Cochran



This time last year we were introducing the Untamed Vision Team! As a group we have met monthly, hoping to discern what wild and wonderful thing God has in store for YPC next.

We spent time reviewing history of YPC, and a great deal of time meeting with small groups within the church. We searched for themes and overlaps from the feedback given over the Fall / Winter of 2021/2022. In March we presented to the congregation about 'what we have heard so far' - reminding folks that there have been differing opinions, but there have been many themes.

Now we are working on setting up community listening sessions with local leaders / organizations (including but not limited to schools, park districts, hospitals, Elmhurst University, local law enforcement, etc). We continue to covet your prayers in this process!

As always, please reach out if you have questions or an idea you would like to share!

Respectfully submitted from: Emily Douglass, Melissa Malmgren, Gary Schiefer, Neil Schwan, John Udelhofen, and Pastors Lauren and Matt.

ADMINISTRATION & PERSONNEL

by Kelly Kost, Chairperson

The Administration and Personnel Commission (A&P) serves in a Human Resources role for the church to ensure that the church staff and office functions as smoothly and efficiently as possible.

This year, our biggest goal was to fill the

vacancies of both the Praise Band Director and the Director of Children's Education. Members of A&P evaluated interim and permanent position needs and duties, updated and posted job descriptions to the Presbytery, seminaries, Christian colleges and the YPC website, undertook recruitment and candidate marketing, reviewed candidate credentials, and interviewed candidates. YPC is blessed to have hired Chrissa Jennings as Praise Band Director and Rev. Kathy Wellman as Director of Children's Education (with a start date of July 1, 2022).

A&P drafts the Local Ministry budget. We worked with the various commissions (as well as the Office Manager and Financial Secretary) to present a preliminary budget to Session at its November meeting. A&P's 2022 budget proposal included increased revenue projections, staff raises, remuneration flexibility for the Director of Children's Education, increased snow removal, utility and program costs and one-time expenditures to address previously neglected areas of concern including technology/computer needs and manse repairs. Additionally, based on a higher-than-expected Local Ministry fund balance, A&P's budget proposal included a one-time increase in Mission Funding equal to 3% of projected revenue. The Session adopted the budget. The 2022 budget was shared with the congregation at the January 2022 congregational meeting. We give thanks to God for the congregation's faithful giving throughout the pandemic.

Cybersecurity and potential hacking events have become a topic of concern for churches throughout the country. A&P reviewed threat identification and best practices for updating and maintaining system integrity at the church. A&P facilitated cybersecurity training for church staff, which was conducted by trained FBI agents in January of 2022.

Pastor Matt is taking a sabbatical in Fall 2022. A&P assisted the Sabbatical Committee in reviewing Pastor Matt's sabbatical plan and staff support required during his absence.

A&P established a plan to review staff and officer duties to better identify and understand all work performed by each position. This will help create coverage plans and assist the Nominating Committee with its selection processes going forward. A&P began with the financial officer positions and will move forward to other officers and staff positions.

The program year ended with annual staff reviews in May.

The members of A&P (Anne Callen, Joe Jeffery, Kelly Kost, Joy Peters, Jeff Redick and Gary Schiefer) are thankful to be serving in a church with such a strong commitment to our staff. And once again, our amazing YPC staff, with God's steadfast helping hand, thoughtfully guided the church and our congregation through another year of challenges and changes.

GENEROSITY

by John Udelhofen



Our theme this year was **Moving Forward in Faith.**

We used this theme since we all are so ready to move forward from the pandemic. Moving forward has felt like a monumental challenge and roller coaster over the past two years, but God's faithfulness and your generosity have kept YPC vibrant and serving – and moving forward in faith. These past two years have shown us that no obstacle can truly stand in the way of God's purpose for our community.

Thanks to the entire congregation for all your generous blessings of your time, talents and financial resources provided in support of YPC!

Our committee members are Roger Lawrence, Allie Pleiter, Jeff Redick, Stephanie Roon, John Udelhofen and Pastor Lauren. If you have ideas on how to foster generosity at YPC, we would love to hear from you!

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

by Roger Lawrence, Chairperson

The mission of the Christian Education Commission is to actively engage all children and youth in faith formation through a variety of programs and activities. Unfortunately, we lost the guidance of Dr. Lea Schweitz, our Director of Children's Education (DCE), who chose to pursue a different path last October. We appreciated working with her but understand the opportunity presented to her to develop the children's ministry at another church. We all want to express our thanks for Pastor Matt joining the team as our interim Staff Liaison in November. We are also thankful for God's providence which has brought our new DCE (Kathy Wellman) starting in July of this year. Pastor Kathy will be working on integrating into our church family this summer and we are very excited about this opportunity.

This year was one of flux as we navigated moving from a COVID world to one more like what we have experienced in the past. Much of the committee's efforts this year were focused on safely bring the education programs back through these changing times. Roger Lawrence continued as the commission chair (as more capable members were busy actually doing the hard work), and we celebrate the addition of Marissa LaVette to our team. Unfortunately, we had to say goodbye to Diana Kurcz, Jeff Redick, and Jen Skinner as they decided to step down from active roles. With the departure of Lea, existing committee members took up the reins of leadership with the following assignments. Donna Schwan and Nancy Peterson leading Sunday School, Sarah Lestina heading TOWN, Heidi Moy overseeing MSYF activities, VBS operations lead by Nancy Peterson. Everyone did an exceptional job keeping programs running and serving our youth. YPC is truly blessed to have such capable CE leadership at the helm.

There are many moving parts on this commission, and we appreciate the extra communication efforts put forth by Matt with Youth Fellowship, Jeff Redick for Safe Practices, Nancy for VBS. Unfortunately, we were without a youth

representative this year, but hope we can encourage high school youth participation on the committee in the future. In-person Sunday School resumed this year with assembly in the sanctuary where we learned about "God's living room" and all the iconography contained therein. We fully expect to return to traditional Assembly and Sunday School the coming program year, hopefully with increased numbers as folks feel more comfortable with social gathering. The annual Christmas Pageant was back this year (headed by Kate Cross) with a great deal of excitement from many of our Sunday school kids. In-person TOWN also returned this year starting outside, and then moving inside with social distancing to aid in a safe return. VBS was also back last year with a significantly reduced number focusing on "children of the church". This program was a great success with 32 children in attendance and 51 volunteers. We plan to expand on this version of VBS this year with children of the church being encouraged to invite friends. Confirmation Class resumed under the direction of Pastors Lauren and Matt. Nine confirmands and mentors took the journey with confirmation of 8 newly minted Christian brothers and sisters becoming members in May.

Next program year we look forward to conducting a Bible Class for 3rd-5th graders and a Communion Class for 1st-3rd graders as we have missed the opportunity to hold these important classes on God's word and our connection with God at table these past two years. Confirmation Class will also be held for 7th and 8th graders next year starting September.

The work of the CE Commission is not done just by the members, but most of the visible work attributed to CE is completed by many amazing youth and adult volunteers. It is a true testament to YPC's commitment to the spiritual education and enrichment of our youth who we have been trusted to care for. Thank you to everyone who assists in any manner to children's ministry at YPC who all come together to create a safe and welcoming learning environment for the children and youth at YPC.

CHILDCARE ANNUAL REPORT

by: Laurel Geraldi, Childcare Coordinator

The nursery and activity time programs provide a very important service and welcoming environment to visitors and church seekers in addition to YPC families. The average weekly nursery attendance is 4 infants/toddlers. We hope to see more new visiting families attending and using the nursery program. Activity Time averages about 4 - 5 children per week.

My major responsibility is to provide consistent, quality care for children age birth-6 years. This entails coordinating parent and teen volunteers to assist a paid person in the nursery during both services and Sunday School. Volunteers also staff Activity Time at the 9am service September-May and the 10am service during the summer. This year, I was fortunate to have 11 adults and 14 teenagers who volunteered once a month to help with these very important programs. These programs could not function without them!

I also arrange for paid nursery caregivers for special worship services (Christmas Eve, Ash Wednesday, Maundy Thursday, and Good Friday), and congregational meetings. Also, I provide paid adult caregivers for children ages birth-kindergarten for T.O.W.N. parent volunteers for 3 hours every Wednesday night. Besides arranging for all the childcare and working in the nursery, I follow up with all the workers, maintain records, authorize time sheets, plus clean and care for the rooms and equipment.

Mrs. Susan Ruzevick and Mrs. Janet Andrews continue as the other paid Sunday nursery staff. They are a wonderful addition to the program and do a great job with the young children of the church. Thanks to everyone for all their help and cooperation.

SUNDAY SCHOOL REPORT

By Donna Schwan

It was wonderful getting children, teachers, and shepherds back together again, in person, to learn

about Christ, his teachings, and the Bible. I would like to give the BIGGEST SHOUT OUT to the teachers complimenting their creativity, patience, and attentiveness in developing lessons that were engaging and safe, and could successfully meet the needs of a class of two students or ten. We tested out a new curriculum for 1st through 8th graders and received positive feedback from teachers about it. Roger Lawrence continued as Assembly Leader, welcoming children to gather in the sanctuary as the education hour began, to learn about the symbols and furniture composing that space. The high school teaching team, YPC staff, CE representatives met mid-year to address needs specific to the high school Sunday school class. The high school team created and launched Christian education lessons that included additional, hands-on, mission opportunities. We all learned so much this year, and I believe we learned not to take each other, or being together to learn about Christ, for granted.

T.O.W.N. (TOGETHER ON WEDNESDAY NIGHTS)

By Sarah Lestina

The TOWN program resumed in person this year, starting in mid-September. First through fifth graders met on Wednesdays from 3:45-6:30 for Bible learning, crafts, games, music, and fellowship and fun at dinner. Registration, an annual fee, and parent participation were required. Because of Covid restrictions, things looked a little different (dinner was held outside until the weather got too cold), but thanks to former Director of Christian Education Lea Schweitz's careful planning for contingency upon contingency and flexibility on everyone's part, TOWN was able to be successfully held.

Each night had a theme, where children were encouraged to dress up. TOWN kicked off the year with a Mr. Rogers Neighborhood themed night. The ever-popular Trunk or Treat Night in which church members and friends decorate their cars and hand out goodies to the TOWN and MSYF kids was a fun night. Many thanks to those who helped continue this tradition! Another great

night was the family Advent craft night, led by Lisa Muelheis. Families enjoyed making a craft to use throughout the season of Advent. We were also able to enjoy a Variety Night, where children demonstrated a skill or activity they enjoyed doing. There is a lot of talent in this group!

Without a director of Christian Education starting in October, a multitude of volunteers stepped up and went above and beyond to make this program a great experience for the kids. Sarah Lestina and Diana Kurcz coordinated TOWN. Pastor Lauren led Bible study each week. Lea and Isaac Schweitz and then Heidi and Audrey Jeffery planned a variety of fun games and Lisa Muehleis planned creative crafts to coordinate with the week's theme. Mary Ann Luther, Jane Vaupel, Margaret Schiefer, Kathie Crombie, Bonnie Peticara, and Roger Lawrence assisted in crafts. During the first semester, Leslie Menconi led the children in music. During the second semester, Mary Ann Luther taught bells and chimes, which is always much anticipated. Heidi Moy assisted Mary Ann. Laurel Gerald and Melony Robbins were our faithful childcare providers. Debbie Suits organized registration and created our calendars and fifth grade certificates. Many parents volunteered and helped in a variety of ways.

A highlight of every week was dinner, which involves a large group of people to plan, shop, set up, cook, and clean up. Kate Cross, Cathy Dykes, and Lynne Kern led the team, along with Lani Allen, Becca Harpster, Lianne Sundberg, Nancy Koval, Angie Udelhofen, and Jane Vaupel. Gary Schiefer and John Udelhofen grilled in the fall. Diana Kurcz, Heidi Moy, Laurel Gerald, and Jaime Schwager shopped for groceries. Mary Des Jardins coordinated a bevy of dessert makers, who provided tasty and creative desserts. These people included Margaret Schiefer, Jacki Lawrence, Jaime Schwager, Angie Udelhofen, Mary Des Jardins, Betty Czowiecki, Bonnie Graham, and Jodi Redick. At dinner, the children enjoyed the wacky costumes and post-dinner games of our Picnic Provost (when we were eating outside)/Dinner Dean Tom Wolfe. Pastor

Matt filled in as needed and kept up the fun. Table parents included Emmett Cross, Diana Kurcz, Roger Lawrence, Bill Shepard, and Sue Shepard. MYSF parents, Pastor Matt, Greg Caraballo, and often times the kitchen volunteers provided dishwashing duty as well.

We were able to end the year in March with a banquet combined with the MSYF program. Four fifth graders were recognized with certificates and welcomed into MSYF. We were happy to be able to share a meal and enjoy each other's company, filled with gratitude for all the children, parents, and volunteers who made this year possible. Many, many thanks to all the dedicated, supportive, and gracious people involved in getting us back Together on Wednesday Nights!

MIDDLE SCHOOL YOUTH FELLOWSHIP

by Heidi Moy

The purpose of this program is to engage youth in a meaningful relationship with Christ. It is also designed to create an environment where youth will be participating in wholesome, uplifting fellowship and gain lasting friendships with other youth and adults who are believers in Christ. We are thankful we were able to be in person for middle school youth fellowship this year! In middle school youth fellowship, we share a meal together, play games, and have a faith discussion where joys and concerns are shared. There were 18 middle schoolers (5 in 8th grade, 6 in 7th grade, 7 in 6th grade) who regularly attended our Wednesday evening gatherings from 5:30-7:30pm. Our activities included: capture the flag at Wilder Park, rehearsing and performing a skit written by Allie Pleiter, trunk or treat, service project making scarves, Christmas white elephant exchange, craft night with Debby O'Malley, sledding, stump the pastor, volunteering at Feed My Starving Children and the end of year banquet. There were 10 middle schoolers who attended a weekend retreat at Camp Timber-lee. Adult chaperones included Kenny Heflin, Roger Lawrence, Charlie Kern, Heidi Moy and Michelle Saltiel. Our faith and relationships with one

another grew through worship, small group discussions as well as broomball, zip lining, rock climbing, escape room, tubing and more! If you have any questions or are interested in working with our amazing middle school youth in 2022-2023 please contact someone from the Christian Education Commission.

HIGH SCHOOL YOUTH FELLOWSHIP

by Kelly Klenck and Abby Udelhofen

The YPC High School Youth Fellowship is a place for teenagers to grow in their faith while building relationships with one another. Prior to the start of our new year, we engaged in a local mission trip in which we were able to serve our local community. We had 12 youth and 4 advisors participate! We restored flooded cabins at the Historic Methodist Campground, packaged meal kits at Northern Illinois Food Bank, and led a product drive for our Elmhurst Yorkfield Food Pantry. We also enjoyed food and fellowship at Marcel's Culinary Experience, games at YPC, and a closing cookout at the Kostos (thank you, Kostos!).

We began the fall by spending time playing outdoor games and learning about themes chosen by our youth. After a challenging year and a half, we decided to refocus on our spiritual journey and gifts. We discovered how we learn best, the spiritual gifts that shine the most in us, and how we can use these gifts. At the end of October, some of our high schoolers served on a panel at MSYF to answer questions about high school, pressures of social media, and their faith journeys. This was a great segway to a topic that several of our youth had asked about: What does society say about how we should act versus what the Bible says? How do you live out your faith? We spent a few weeks exploring this topic in various ways.

In December, we held a lock-in and spent time walking through stations of Advent. It was a great opportunity to grow together and really dive into what it means to have hope, love, joy, and peace. As youth approached finals, we practiced "calm in

the chaos" through meditation. We ended the 2021 year with a PJ Christmas Party!

After a delayed start of the new year due to the pandemic, we regrouped in February to talk about the clean slate that the Lord offers us. We talked about love as an action, and spent a lot of time planning for our Youth Sunday! In March we led services with the theme: "Won't You Be My Neighbor?" We also went laser tagging! In April, we asked Pastor Lauren to come answer complex questions regarding angels and celestial creatures. We also dove into the emotions and sounds of Holy Week. Lastly, we learned about how like the mustard seed, we have roots in the Lord that help us grow. While plants need things to grow, we also have needs to support our spiritual growth. We ended the year with a senior celebration!

This summer we will be heading to Philadelphia, PA for a mission trip. We will also be hosting gatherings for our current youth and incoming freshmen as fellowship opportunities!

Many thanks to Pastor Matt, Janet Andrews, and Brian Jones who serve as our fellow adult advisors. Thank you to everyone who has supported, prayed for, guided, listened, laughed with, and encouraged our high school youth.

LIBRARY

by Kim Hlavenka

The church library is up and fully running again. Displays have been set up to correlate with the church seasons or sermon topics. You can browse or check out materials any time the church is open, simply follow the directions on the bookcase in front of the library desk. Feel free to stop in whenever it's convenient - before or after worship or when you're in the building for a meeting or rehearsal.

The library's mission is to support faith formation by providing supplemental materials for adult and children's classes, as well as resources for small groups and personal study. With this in mind, the

library is working with the Social Justice group to include books on topics they have been studying. Watch for more displays in the coming year.

If you are looking for something in particular, you can use the old fashioned (but useful) card catalog. It is in the same place, but a little harder to get to with the new arrangement. Feel free to go behind the desk to use it. There is a topical index of materials on our shelves in a binder next to the card catalog. If you're having trouble finding something you can leave a note, call or drop me an e-mail.

Please take advantage of the treasures available to you in the library.

Find something to simply enjoy or challenging to help you grow in your faith.

DISCIPLESHIP COMMISSION

by Pat Burrows, Chairperson

The current Discipleship Commission is comprised of Pat Burrows, Kate Cross, Ann Raley, Caroline Wolfe, and Angie Udelhofen along with Pastor Lauren. You are welcome to join us as we plan for adult faith formation, engaging new members, and reaching out to the community.

In the last year, YPC stretched and pivoted and figured out how to still be church to each other and in the wider community, whether in person or online. A new level of empathy and appreciation created fertile ground for the Spirit to move among us and in us. We've seen each other grow and watched our church grow. We welcomed 16 new members plus 8 confirmands, who will each bring new life as they find inroads and explore the many possibilities we have to engage.

Our second YPC Advent Devotional had contributions by 30 YPC members of all ages, each bringing their unique voice to the experience of Christ coming into the world. Debbie Suits lent her flair to the production, making the material not only meaningful, but beautiful as well.

Small groups continued to meet both off-site and

on Zoom with several returning to YPC over the winter. Look for details of each group in this report.

Adult Ed returned to meeting in-person, downstairs between the Sunday services. With Bible studies, social justice and faith formation topics led by pastors and YPC members, the diverse offerings always left us with ideas to consider. Sunday morning Adult Ed is designed for group discussion and mutual learning, whether you come every week or come when you can.

A highlight at the beginning of Advent and Lent, were two evening presentations by UMC pastor and art historian, Reverend Dr. Daniel Cochran. In May 2023, Pastor Daniel will lead a YPC pilgrimage to Rome. At the time of this writing, there are spots open for you to join us.

We closed out this 2021-22 season by hosting a Women's Dinner in May. Thirty-eight women gathered for much needed fellowship, fabulous food, and a challenging presentation from Reclaim13. It was a memorable and joyful evening with connections made and many seeds planted. We're excited to see what takes root and blooms.

Want to grow your faith, use your gifts, or connect in a more meaningful way? We have ideas! Speak to Pastor Lauren, Pastor Matt, or any member of the Discipleship Commission. Take time to read through this Annual Report or scroll through the website at eypc.org and see what catches your attention. Is something on your heart that you wish "someone" was doing? Talk to us. That's how new things happen!

An important note: God is actively at work stirring the hearts of so many people all around each of us who are longing for connection to something bigger than themselves. Right now is the time to invite them to worship, a summer book discussion, a social justice activity, or a mission event. The invitation matters. God will do the rest.

YPC MEN'S BIBLE STUDY REPORT

by John Udelhofen

Our group's mission is to seek personal spiritual development, biblical knowledge and group community. This year we studied Proverbs, 1 and 2 Samuel and 1 Chronicles. We also watched the movies *The Sound of Metal* and *Yesterday* which are movies about how people react to changes in their life.

We welcomed Greg Caraballo, John Helms and Clark Wormer into the group this year while Mark Harada and Bill Bortelli moved away. The other folks in the group are Lani Allen, Mike Baker, Gordon Borrowes, Gordon Hlavenka, Kelly Kost, Kurt Muehleis, Pat O'Malley, Rich Peterson, Jeff Plieter, Tim Robbins, Kurt Sundberg, and John Udelhofen.

W.I.N.G.S.

(WOMEN INTENTLY NAVIGATING GOD'S SCRIPTURE)

by Angie Udelhofen

This Women's Group, WINGS, met over the past year either on Zoom, outside, or in Fellowship Hall, depending on the positivity rate. Over the summer, we read and discussed the novel *On Skein of Death* by our own member, Allie Pleiter. We invited other women of YPC to join us and enjoyed a great discussion and Q and A with Allie at YPC. We also stayed connected over the summer by meeting for brunch at Fresh Start and also met to catch up on the lawn at YPC.

In the fall, we met the 1st and 3rd Tuesdays from 10 a.m.-noon. We studied *Word of Life: Jesus and the Promise of the Ten Commandments Today* by Adam Hamilton. We were all amazed at the new insights and perspectives we gained. We also really appreciated the DVD that accompanied the study that took us to several locations in Egypt that tied in the Pharaohs and areas mentioned in the Old Testament and also had Adam Hamilton interviewing a Jewish rabbi to give us understanding of the traditions and words mentioned in the commandments.

From February through May, we studied another Adam Hamilton book that took us through the book of John. The author's focus was on this Gospel being different from the Synoptic Gospels (Matthew, Mark and Luke). The study was a perfect Lenten study. We found we had great discussions with both of these studies.

In addition to these studies, we stayed connected with one another and shared our joys and concerns, whether in person, via Zoom, calls or emails. We also added two new wonderful women to our group this year. This group of now 16 women find great support in one another. We had a celebratory brunch in May to complete our year of study and are planning at least two summer gatherings. One will be to come together in the kitchen and prepare meals that can be frozen and distributed by the Deacons to those when needed. Another is to select a book to read and discuss and open up to all women of YPC.

WINGS is always open to women of all ages. If you'd like to join us, please contact Angie Udelhofen at jaudel@comcast.net.

SOCIAL JUSTICE SMALL GROUP

by Margaret Schiefer

The YPC Social Justice Group continues to meet on the 4th Tuesday of the month. We have spent most of the last year on Zoom and are now meeting in person. In May of 2021, we had a guest speaker, Laura Grimes, a clinical psychologist that works with LGBTQ+ clients. It was informative for all and encouraged further study! Over the summer, we read 2 books: *The Savvy Ally, A Guide for Becoming a Skilled LGBTQ+ Advocate* and *Transforming, The Bible & the Lives of Transgender Christians*. As we discussed these books, we were prompted to look at our church for signs of the welcoming atmosphere we discovered God calling us to. The result is rainbow PCUSA symbols on our doors, signs of welcome on bulletin boards, and a statement of welcoming all people in the pews. Our study has also produced more knowledgeable and compassionate members of YPC.

The winter study has been looking at Ibram X Kendi's *How to be an Antiracist*. Come and join the discussions as we seek to be the loving Christians Jesus calls us to be.

TUESDAY MORNING PSALMS AND PRAYERS

by Matt Parker Wrzeszcz, Associate Pastor

A small group of people gather remotely at 8 a.m. on Tuesday mornings (on Zoom) to read a psalm and pray for members of the congregation. Each week we read a psalm aloud and reflect on specific words and phrases that catch our attention. Weekly, we pray for families on two pages of the church directory (and offer other prayers as well). In this way, we hope to constantly lift each other up in prayer. Recently, we read Psalm 100, indicating we have been together for nearly two years. All are welcome to join in reading the Psalms and praying for our community. The Zoom link can be found within the church calendar. Reach out to the church office if you need help finding the link. Hope you can join the group!

FELLOWSHIP COMMISSION

by Greg Perticara, chairperson

Fellowship Commission members for the past year included Mike Baker, Heidi Moy, Greg Perticara, Rich Peterson, Margaret Schiefer, John Udelhofen, and Pastor Lauren (Staff).

The Fellowship Commission's mission is to strengthen the bonds of YPC's community through friendship, fellowship, and fun! What a wonderful mission – to sponsor events to enjoy each other's company!

We assist the church's disciple-making mission with fellowship events that let us gather and get to know each other in a variety of casual, social settings. We try to have a mix of adult as well as family events. The strength of community and knowing your brothers and sisters in Christ is an important part of keeping YPC a healthy church.

Needless to say, the COVID pandemic disrupted much of our universe the past year. While that meant cancellation of some activities (for example, the Souperoo), Fellowship actually hosted quite a number of events (May 2021 thru April 2022).

- ◆ During the summer (2021), Pastors Lauren and Matt preached on the theme of 'God at Play' with various events planned between the two services. Fellowship helped on two Sundays, playing games and "hosting" a mini-Olympics on the last day of the Summer Olympics.
- ◆ While not a Fellowship event, Pastor Matt, who volunteers at the East Troy (WI) Railroad Museum, hosted a train ride and dinner on August 6.
- ◆ On August 22, the annual Church Picnic returned after a year hiatus, with food(!), on the lawn between the church and the Manse. Fellowship provided chicken, desserts, and water and soft drinks; participants brought a side dish. Approximately 60 people enjoyed the food and conversation, while some of the children played games.
- ◆ On September 12, the annual Silver Cup golf outing proceeded as usual. 16 golfers (four foursomes) met at the White Pines Golf Course for fun in the sun on a beautiful day.
- ◆ For Halloween, Fellowship, in conjunction with Christian Education, held the annual 'Trunk or Treat' event. The children gathered treats going from car to car.
- ◆ Fellowship again purchased a Christmas tree in Wilder Park right next to the old library, which was decorated by members of our church (the tree, not the library (LOL)!). The tree gave witness to YPC's presence in the Elmhurst community. In addition, some people attended the Elmhurst Holiday Tree Lighting ceremony on Dec 2 to greet folks with questions about our church.
- ◆ The Fellowship Commission is always ready to

collaborate with other Commissions within the church. For instance, a member of Fellowship helped MYSF participate in a Feed My Starving Children event in March.

† Several members participated in the annual Sarah's Circle fundraiser which is focused on providing housing to women in the Chicagoland area.

Events are already in the works for May and this summer, as the Fellowship Commission continues its mission.

In addition to the above, your mission dollars are carefully and thoughtfully distributed to organizations who rely on our support to fund their ministries here and abroad. These include:

MISSION & SERVICE COMMISSION

by Amy Wiesenmayer, Chairperson

The YPC Mission Commission supports the communal hands of YPC as we reach out to care for Christ's world through the gifts of our time, talents, and finances. Pastor Matt is the staff liaison for the Mission Commission and Amy Wiesenmayer is the Chairperson.

We have a faithful team of dedicated members on the commission. YPC is a congregation who are doers of the Word. Through giving to Missions via the annual Stewardship Campaign and an active willingness to serve our neighbors, YPC supports a large number of hands-on opportunities and financial partnering with local and international missions. The work of our commission included:

- Over twenty-five organizations -- in the areas of poverty, hunger, homelessness, child welfare, domestic violence, economic development, human trafficking, LGBTQ+ and mental health.
- Four mission co-workers (missionaries). We continued to support our mission co-workers in Taiwan, Egypt and Mexico.
- Presbytery Shared Mission, which aids international missionaries, new church developments, military chaplains, and other work for the 'wider' church.
- Via our reserve fund we assist people on a onetime, as needed, basis throughout the year.
- The commission coordinates four annual Presbyterian special offerings supported by YPC members -- One Great Hour of Sharing, Pentecost Offering, Peace and Global Witness Offering, and the Christmas Joy Offering.
- In 2021, we began donating to three new organizations focused on racial healing, LGBTQ+ and mental health. These organizations are Together is Better Alliance, The Trevor Project and NAMI DuPage.

† We continued our support of the Yorkfield Elmhurst Food Pantry. Members of YPC serve beside many from the community who volunteer, and we continue to provide financial support via the Mission budget. In 2022 a Mobile Food Pantry began providing local support to a community in need. Members of our congregation volunteer to support the monthly outreach.

† Our congregation provided a large donation of supplies to World Relief for to support their welcome kits for Afghan refugees.

† We started a Mission Sunday update each month in service. We highlight a mission partner each month in order to keep the congregation informed on where we are donating our mission money and also share volunteer opportunities.

For further information about all of the mission partners we support, there is a brief description of each on the YPC website. We follow the activities of these organizations and actively encourage YPC members to participate as donors and volunteers. The Mission Commission could not do these things without the generous support of the members of our congregation -- by prayers, donations, and hands-on work.

FAIR TRADE

by Margaret Schiefer

YPC Mission Commission continues to bring Fair Trade products to YPC every 2nd Sunday morning as part of Mission Sunday. The idea behind Fair Trade is for subsistence farmers to band together in co-ops to increase their bargaining power and allow for consistent fair prices for their crop. We work with Equal Exchange which helps form the co-ops, cuts out the middle man and provides a market for the products. A portion of all profits earned by the co-ops goes into the community for schools, medical clinics and other community needs. Equal Exchange teaches sustainable organic farming. Our products come from all over the world: Coffee and chocolate from Central & South America and tea from India and Africa. Thank you all for supporting this worthy cause as we seek to use our purchasing power to improve the lives of many.

DUPAGE P.A.D.S.

(PUBLIC ACTION TO DELIVER SHELTER)

by Rev. Matt Parker Wrzeszcz

The pandemic changed the way we approach things. This was especially true for the ministry PADS offers those who are homeless in DuPage County. In the past, we supported Interim Housing Sites. This model was not effective and leadership at PADS realized they needed to adapt and change. Through a visioning PADS purchased a hotel in Downers Grove that could safely and effectively house individuals as they transitioned into permanent housing. Social workers and mentors work out of the facility, bringing resources directly to those who need them. This eliminates the need for weekly transportation throughout the county and provided a stable housing solution for many individuals and families. PADS changed the way they approached the challenge of homelessness and the results are encouraging.

As this ministry continues to evolve, there will be opportunities for our congregation to participate.

PADS staff continues to evaluate this new model and will determine future needs.

ADULT MISSION TRIP –

PUERTO RICO (SEPT 2023) & STRONGHOLD (AUG 2022)

by Rev. Matt Parker Wrzeszcz

Our adult mission trip to Puerto Rico originally planned for May 2020 obviously did not happen! But... plans are in the works for a future mission trip to Puerto Rico in September 2023! A recent survey to the congregation revealed this was the best time for the trip. If you are interested in participating, contact Pastor Matt or Amy.

In the meantime, one of our members (John Helms) is organizing a work weekend at Stronghold (a camp owned by the Blackhawk Presbytery in Oregon, IL) the weekend of August 25-28, 2022. The cost is \$80/person and is open to people 19 years and older. The group will be painting and refurbishing buildings at the camp. More information is offered in the weekly newsletter. If you are interested, please contact John Helms, Amy Wiesenmayer or Pastor Matt.

WORSHIP COMMISSION

by Leslie Menconi, Chairperson

This past year the Worship Commission has been faithful to meet and make decisions on bringing the most holy worship possible for YPC. We have also strived to make a safe environment during the pandemic by following the CDC guidelines.

The pastors have been spectacular at “pivoting”, sometimes even at a moment’s notice. They have met every need of the Worship Commission and we are very thankful. We are also so grateful for the fantastic preaching and teaching that happens in the sanctuary on Sunday mornings. To God be the glory!

The Worship Commission helps with preparation for Sunday services by finding Lay Leaders, Ushers, Communion workers, arranging for

flowers for the services and keeping the pew racks stocked for the congregation. Visual arts projects also fall under this committee as well as all of the technology that is involved in worship – that which is seen and unseen! We appreciate the music directors and our musical volunteers for the beautiful additions to the services.

Our goal is always to honor God through worship and music. We are always open to suggestions from the congregation regarding ideas and if you are interested in becoming a member of this commission, feel free to reach out to Leslie Menconi, lesliemenconi@icloud.com.

PRAISE WORSHIP MUSIC DIRECTOR

by Chrissa Jennings, Director

It's 2022. The pandemic still haunts us but we are singing again! And well! I feel very blessed to be working with such talented people and honored to have met so many welcoming and joy filled members of the congregation!

The praise and worship service brings much exuberance and joy, as well as, prayer and reflection, to all in attendance. Messenger has had guest singers and musicians often. They've brought a fabulous addition as we all believe the more, the merrier!

Music is healing, music is prayer, music is joy. We'd love to invite you to join us; intermittently or regularly, as you are able. Please call me, email me, or talk to me after church services on Sunday! We are God's messengers and we must heed Christ's call.

JOYFUL NOISE RINGERS HANDBELL CHOIR

by Dylan Rehm, Bell Choir Director

It has been a very successful year back with Bells this year. We had added two new young members in Maddie and Avy and are excited as we continue to grow as an ensemble. We were able to execute some very nice anthems and look forward to another successful year in the fall.

CHANCEL CHOIR

by Dylan Rehm, Chancel Choir Director

It has been a challenging but rewarding year for the choir. Coming off the pandemic, when we were unable to safely sing, we had a nice summer and truly magical Christmas and Holy Week liturgies. A beautiful Rutter anthem with the harp was a perfect end for the program-year. Hoping that as we get back to a healthier world, it will bring new members and the return of the Messiah!! (Handel's Messiah)

BOARD OF DEACONS

by Jacki Lawrence, Moderator

It was great to get back to meeting in person after a year of Zoom or meeting in social distanced situations, outside or far apart in the library. What a year! The YPC Deacons have been hard at work this past year regardless. This past year we:

- ♥ provided several funeral receptions for family of YPC church members who passed away,
- ♥ delivered many meals to those in need,
- ♥ dropped off a baby gift and Elmhurst City Center gift cards to families of new babies as well as added a white rose on the baptismal font,
- ♥ mailed out Easter and Christmas cards to each church family,
- ♥ provided rides to appointments,
- ♥ visited with the homebound including little gifts,
- ♥ arranged for flower delivery for those who are hospitalized,
- ♥ mailed coffee gift cards and homemade cookies to the college students,
- ♥ provided financial assistance to a few YPC church families to make Christmas a bit merrier,
- ♥ mailed Upper Room devotionals to seniors

who can't make it to church,

- ♥ sent every adult and child a birthday card
- ♥ and our Undershepherds have prayed for each and every YPC church member!

Wow, that seems like a busy year for our elected and ordained committee of 12. Your Deacons this year were-Jacki Doyle, Dave LaVette, Melony Robbins, Mary Ann Luther, Sue Shepard, Jeff Skinner, Jodi Redick, Bonnie Peticara, Pat Burrows, Joyce Jensen, Nancy Wilson and Jacki Lawrence (moderator). Pastor Matt is our staff liaison.

We hope to be able to do more in the upcoming year once the pandemic settles down a bit more.

We would like to thank everyone who helped out this year by contributing to the Deacon's offering on the 3rd Sunday of every month, given rides, prepared meals, delivered gift baskets, or just said prayers. Our board runs very smoothly thanks to so many!

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

by Gordon Burrows, Chairperson

The Trustees continued to meet remotely through February of this year. We finally began in person meetings in March! In February we welcomed four new Trustees. In 2021 Trustees (Church Home) was slightly under budget and so far in 2022 we are slightly favorable to budget. The 2022 budget includes an increase in utilities in anticipation of higher costs there.

There have been Fall 2021 and Spring 2022 Church Work Days in which many small repairs and gardening projects have been done. The East entrance was repainted during our Fall work day. Thanks to all who have come out to participate in these.

Major projects that have been done this year: LED lightbulbs have been installed throughout the church including the outside lights at the North entrance. The carpet in the Narthex has been

replaced. The overgrown tree against the Northeast corner of the church building has been taken out. At the Manse issues with the gas piping have been corrected and a new fireplace has been installed. And, as of this report the parking lot seal coating project, for which we have been reserving funds for three years, has been scheduled for May.

We are rebidding our snow removal contract this year and hope to have this resolved by the end of Summer. Also, we are gathering bids to redo the water piping at the Manse. The Ossuary for the Memorial Garden is progressing and two of our Trustees are designing and building a Memorial Wall for the West entrance to go along with that.

We continue to maintain a task list of small repairs for which individual Trustees take ownership. Please contact anyone on Trustees if you see something that needs to be done. There are also green work requests that can be filled out and put in a Trustee mailbox. We are thankful for everyone's support in keeping up our church home.



1099 S. York Street, Elmhurst, Illinois 60126
(630) 833-6600 www.eypc.org