

Mantua Center Christian Church



Children's Annual Christmas Pageant

2024 Annual Report

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Annual Report - Pastor's Report 2024

Greetings in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ!

Another year has passed of blessings and ministry together.

As we reflect on the year 2024, we are reminded of God's steadfast presence in our lives and our shared mission at MCCC. This year, as every year should be, has been one of growth, challenges, and transformative changes, both in our congregation and within the wider church community. Our focus on being a welcoming, loving, and service-driven congregation has given us many opportunities to serve God in amazing ways. As we seek to embody the love of Christ, we have witnessed growth in our ministry efforts, relationships, and commitments to our surrounding community. With joy, gratitude, and hope, we celebrate how the Holy Spirit has guided us throughout the year, and we remain open to what God has yet in store.

Pastor Numbers & Highlights

- Pastoral Care Visitations: 98+ visitations/calls made
- Coaching Sessions: 50+ coaching sessions (including New Church Ministry and Vision Coaching)
- MCCC Dwelling in the Word: 48+ sessions of weekly Lectio Divina study Life Study Groups: With Jon Secaur, facilitated multiple studies, including In the Shelter, Borders & Belonging, and The Righteous Mind
- Highlights
 - CYF Mission Trip to Mayfield, KY (June 9-15)
 - Clothing Giveaway (May 11) in collaboration with St. Joe's and Portage County Health District
 - Purple Chalice and Prayer Vigil throughout the election season
 - New Church Ministry Coaching: Continued coaching for 7 pastors with NCM
 - Funerals and Special Services: Led several funerals and memorial services, including those for Michael Osman, Daniel Wilke, and a stillborn infant, as well as special memorial prayers for Memorial Day
 - O&A Process: Successful completion of Open & Affirming and Mission Statement vote in June
 - Baptisms: Baptized two people, Linda Head and Candy Lloyd (Aug 25)

Personal Development and Service On a personal note, I began my studies at Christian Theological Seminary, pursuing a degree in Marriage and Family Therapy. This has been both enriching and challenging, and I look forward to how this learning will deepen my ministry and service. I continue to serve on the Portage County Board of Health and was honored to offer Memorial Day prayers at the local cemetery, representing MCCC in the broader community.

Coaching and Leadership Development In addition to my personal studies, I have been honored to serve as a coach for several pastors in the New Church Ministry program of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ). I also worked with a colleague to build a coaching training program at the denominational level, and I continue to find great joy in helping others develop their ministries. These coaching sessions not only benefit those I coach but also help shape my own leadership and vision.

Church Highlights

Open & Affirming Process One of the most important initiatives this year was the ongoing journey of becoming an Open & Affirming congregation. The process, rooted in the feedback from our Re-Centering process, aimed to explore how we could extend a more inclusive and welcoming space, particularly to the LGBTQIA+ community. By forming a dedicated committee and engaging the entire congregation in learning and dialogue, we held discussions, meetings, and created a Welcoming Statement. In June, the congregation voted to affirm this new direction, marking an important step in our mission of hospitality, love, and inclusion.

Building and Facility Improvements This year also marked the beginning of significant improvements to our church building. The front stoop was demolished and rebuilt, while waterproofing projects were initiated on the building's exterior. We went on to get new front doors, remodeled stairwell, and a new accessible bathroom and chairlift. We are blessed with incredibly dedicated MCCC Trustees and a wonderful congregation who offered so much of their time, energy, and spirit to making this all happen with our beloved and historical building. The project was not without its challenges, but the congregation has shown great patience and support, and future generations will thank us! Please refer to the trustees comprehensive report to see all that has been accomplished!

Worship and Youth Ministry

The worship and ministry teams have worked tirelessly throughout the year to provide meaningful services, events, and opportunities for spiritual growth. Lent, Easter, and other seasons were marked by creative and reflective activities. Our "A Time to Grow" theme in Lent was particularly impactful, highlighting lessons from the garden and connecting faith to justice issues. I'm also super grateful for Sarah's organization of special music opportunities with the help of Jan Green (organ), Ryan and Karly Lind, Cheryl Delaney and the Handbells, as well as the MCCC Choir.

I also wanted to celebrate our CYF program who had an awesome and memorable experience with a mission trip to Mayfield, KY. Several weeks after our return we shared our experiences and reflections with the congregation. The trip was a powerful testament to the energy and commitment of our youth, and we are grateful for the leadership of Pam & Dave Auble in organizing and guiding this trip.

As we reflect on the year's journey, I am deeply grateful for the many incredible individuals who contribute so much to the life and spirit of MCCC. It is their dedication and leadership that sustain us and propel us forward in our mission.

Our Staff and Ministry Leaders, first and foremost, I want to express my heartfelt thanks to our outstanding staff members. Sandi Kossick keeps us all together with her communication and organization, ensuring the congregation stays informed and connected to all things happening at MCCC. Sandi also runs our Mitten Tree collection in the fall and is involved in helping in countless other activities at MCCC in so many ways. She is a treasure to our congregation! Sarah Park's musical leadership has enriched our worship services, along with organizing our special music for worship most Sundays. Marcia Page, our treasurer, has faithfully managed the complexities of our finances, especially as we navigate all the building renovations. Her hard work and attention to detail are invaluable, and we are truly blessed by her leadership. Many thanks, too, to Angela Mangieri who is our Nursery Attendant and does a great job with our children.

Volunteer Leadership and Service I am also incredibly thankful for the tireless work of our lay leaders, whose dedication and service ensures the smooth operation of our church. Rick Painley's leadership as Board Chair has been instrumental in guiding us toward new opportunities, particularly in relation to our building's future. His steady hand has helped move us forward in exciting ways. Steve and Brian Hurd, who led our elders this year, have been key in keeping us prepared for worship and mindful of the concerns within our congregation. Rick's leadership extends beyond the board as he also guides our Worship Team with creativity and organization, meeting monthly to explore fresh ways to enhance our worship experience. Much thanks to our worship team members Katie Baird, Sandi Kossick, Carol Magyarics, and Nancy Humes who help make everything happen.

Christin Delaney continues to do a wonderful job coordinating our children's ministry. She, along with Sue Wright, Nora Brant, and Kathleen Lewarchick have made a welcoming and faith-full environment for the children of our church. We are so blessed with their leadership. The Trustees, chaired by Pat Hoskin, have dedicated countless hours to caring for our building and preparing for future accessibility improvements. Their hard work ensures that our church remains a welcoming space for all. A HUGE debt of gratitude and appreciation is owed to each one. We are also grateful for Becky Tipton's leadership of our Smile Team, which is committed to spreading kindness through random acts, and is a gift to our church and community. Their work exemplifies our mission of hospitality and love. Our StoryTime program, under Pam Auble's guidance, continues to be a source of connection for many local families. We are grateful for the crew of volunteers who help make this program possible every week during the school year. The adult classes that meet

after worship, led by Nancy Humes, Jon Secaur, and Carol Buzbee, have enriched our spiritual lives. Their leadership fosters lively discussions and thoughtful reflections on scripture and faith. Wednesday evening Life Studies, led by Jon Secaur, offers opportunities for meaningful and diverse conversations throughout the year. Jon's creativity in developing topics has been a source of inspiration for many in our congregation.

We also celebrated our tenth year of our Kids Weekend Meals program, led by Liz and Paul Meeker, which continues to have a profound impact on the community. Serving over 190 children each week with the help of more than 50 volunteers, this initiative makes a tangible difference in the lives of many. We are incredibly grateful for Liz and Paul and all the volunteers who make this ministry a success. I've already mentioned it, but I'm also so thankful to Pam and Dave Auble, along with Larisa Catcott, Ken Parker, Chris Carter, Carol Magyarics, and Christin and I, who have been vital in leading our CYF youth ministry, providing monthly meetings and organizing the Mission Trip that deepens the faith of our young people. Carolin Newell's leadership of Loaves & Fishes has been another highlight of the year. Her ability to rally volunteers and bring our church together in service to the wider community is truly remarkable. Additionally, we are blessed by the ongoing efforts of our knitters who provide prayer shawls, and Mike Hoskin, whose generosity ensures that our church has holding crosses to offer those in need. These small acts of love have a profound impact.

There are many more individuals who give of their time and energy to the life of this church, and it is impossible to name them all. I am profoundly grateful for each person who volunteers, serves, and contributes in ways both big and small. The efforts of so many continue to sustain and strengthen our congregation, and I could go on and on listing each one. You are all deeply appreciated.

Summary

As we look back over this year, we can see the hand of God guiding us through every season. The growth in our ministry efforts, the success of our Open & Affirming process, the improvements to our building, and the deepened connections with our community are all signs of God's faithfulness. Each pastoral care visit, every counseling and coaching session, and all of our collective efforts have contributed to the flourishing of MCCC. This year, I have had the privilege of visiting many members in their homes, offering prayer, and sharing in moments of joy and sorrow. It is a privilege I do not take lightly. We continue to hold in prayer those who have faced challenges or lost loved ones, and we remember them with love.

I am profoundly grateful for the support of our congregation, the leadership of our worship and ministry teams, and the ongoing dedication of everyone involved. Together, we have made this year one of progress, learning, and shared commitment. Let's continue to walk in faith, serve with joy, and spread God's love in the year ahead. May we always strive to have Open Minds, Open Hearts, and Open Arms to live and love like Jesus.

With gratitude, Pastor Chad

Annual Report MCCC Board Chair 2024

Rick Painley resumes the position of Board Chair on St. Patrick's Day, 2024.

One of the agenda items new this year is that anyone attending a board meeting helps with outreach by writing a card to someone. (This is in support of the SMILE Team who created a card-writing station.)

Much of the discussion during board meetings this year was dominated by the Trustees as they took on a host of projects, some of them were necessary maintenance and some were newly mandated from the Re-Centering Project headed up by Jon Secaur, Chad Delaney and Rick Painley. Projects included:

- An ADA compliant ramp
- New front doors
- A water-proofed foundation
- A handicapped accessible bathroom
- A wider staircase
 - A chair lift

Gratitude to the Trustees, Pat Hoskin, Brian Summerlin, Randy Alger, Beth Voinovich, Paul Meeker and Dale Ausperk for their many hours of work.

The Technology Team made people more welcome with an upgrade in the sound system and ability to record and present services online. Thanks to Carol Magyarics for her fine work.

A huge thank you to the Personnel Committee, Steve Hurd, Chair, in finding a qualified candidate so quickly to replace Liz Meeker as Treasurer. Marcia Page has filled the void seamlessly.

Mantua Center Christian Church voted to become an Open and Affirming congregation. The vote came with 90% approval. Jon Secaur and Linda Idoine generously chaired this effort.

Brian Hurd chaired the Finance Committee and Stewardship Campaign. Finances are down in terms of the number of pledges and money collected. Marcia Page also discovered some unpaid debts

and we are starting 2025 in the red. There is discussion and thoughts about how to close the gap in terms of identifying people online. The Finance Committee also presented a much leaner budget for 2025. The suggestion was made that we create a line item for capital expenses in the budget.

Brian Hurd and Rick Painley formed the Nominating Committee. Most positions have been filled. Again, the fact that we have fewer people in the pews each week has created a challenging situation to fill all the lay positions necessary. It would be nice to see each position filled and have a co-leader as well to avoid burn-out.

We continue to be a church that reaches outward:

- Carolin Newell keeps Loaves and Fishes rolling along.
- Nancy Tafel continues to expand her clothing ministry partnering with St. Joe's
- Prayer shawls continue to be distributed by Kathy Meier
- The Mitten Tree continues with leaders Sandi Kossick and Kathy Meier
- The OWM supports everyone as needed.
- Story Time, chaired by Pam Auble, continues to inspire the very young in our community.
- Liz and Paul Meeker continue to grow the Kids Weekend Meal program. Liz has assembled a wonderful team.
- The SMILE Team, chaired by Becky Tipton, consistently keeps people motivated.
- The Day of Kindness, chaired by Roger Cram, keeps us grounded reminding us of Micah 6:8
- CYF continues to reach out to devastated communities

Chad Delaney continues to be an inspirational leader (both in our church and in the community). His gentle nudges help us become who we proclaim to be. I am grateful to live out my faith with his guidance.

Sandi Kossick, despite enormous efforts to care for her family, is an incredibly faithful servant of the church. God bless her.

Steve and Brian Hurd are not only my friends, but they are also wonderful advisors to MCCC. Their leadership of the Elders was a gift.

The Worship Team of Nancy Humes, Katie Baird, Sandi Kossick, Chad Delaney, Sarah Park, Carol Magyarics and (newly) Cheryl Delaney is a font of creativity and energy.

Respectfully submitted,
Rick Painley
Board Chair

**2024 TREASURER'S
ANNUAL REPORT
Mantua Center Christian
Church**

**Income Statement
for the period of 01/01/2024
to 12/31/2024**

Account #	Account Name	Amount
Income		
4000	Contribution Income	\$154,547.76
	Kids Weekend Meals	
4100	Income	\$30,949.84
4200	Building Income	\$5,815.00
4300	Interest Earned	\$4,378.99
4400	Miscellaneous Income	\$6,141.11
4496	Memorial Funds	\$616.85
4500	Outreach Offerings	\$1,032.00
4600	Special Offerings	\$15,549.35
4700	Youth Funds	\$29,656.72
Total Income		\$248,687.62
Expense		
5100	Bank Fees	\$132.55
5200	Building Expense	\$103,519.56
5400	Pastor Employment	\$85,125.82
5500	Education Expenses	\$16,305.57
5600	Worship Expenses	\$20,690.33
5700	Payroll Expense	\$2,981.05
	MCCC Support Team	
5800	Expenses	\$29,735.91
	Church Building	
5900	Expenses	\$22,161.86
	Outreach Ministry	
5200100	Expense	\$10.00
	Kids Weekend Meals	
5300100	Expenses	\$6,600.00
	Kids Weekend Misc	
5300180	Food Expenses	\$29,862.42
5500000	Special Offerings	\$1,136.19
Total Expense		\$318,261.26
	Net Income (Loss)	(\$69,573.64)

Balance Sheet

As Of 12/31/2024

General Checking Account	\$89,641.38		
Building Fund Checking Account	\$62,029.18		
Kids Weekend Meals Checking	\$43,475.82		
Total Checking		\$195,146.38	
Money Market Savings Account	\$10,671.63		
Farmers Bank CD #5194	\$9,942.83		
Farmers Bank CD #5197	\$4,876.67		
Farmers Bank CD #5169	\$15,267.67		
Cann/Converse Scholarship Fund	\$110,570.29		
Total Investments		\$151,329.09	
	TOTAL ASSETS		\$346,475.47

Respectfully Submitted,
Marcia Page, Treasurer

Mantua Center Christian Church – Ministries and Leaders for 2024

	Ministry	Leader
1	Board Chair	Rick Painley
2	Board Vice-Chair	<i>In discussion</i>
3	Historian	Steve Hurd
4	Treasurer	Liz Meeker
5	New Elders (existing Elders)	Cathay Ausperk, Carol Buzbee, Ruth Anne Ruehr Kathleen Lewarchik (2023-2025: Nora Brant, Sally Hoffman, Katie Baird and Sandi Kossick 2022-2024: Ally Bozeka, Brian Hurd, Roger Cram, Steve Hurd)
6	Memorial Ministry	Cathy Ausperk
7	Facility Trustees	Paul Meeker, Dale Ausperk, Pat Hoskin, Brian Summerlin, Randy Alger and Beth Voinovich
8	Deacons	<u>See monthly schedule</u>
9	Personnel Committee	Steve Hurd
10	Finance Committee	Liz Meeker
11	Worship Committee	Rick Painley
12	Tech/Web Ministry	Carol Magyarics
13	Stream Team and Gathering Team	Temporarily suspended
14	SS/Junior church	Pending the hiring of a Faith Formation Leader
15	Nursery Ministry	Christin Delaney
16	Chi Rho	Chris McCreight & Chad Delaney
17	Pastoral Relations Committee	Brian Hurd
18	Supper at the Center	Pending
19	Loaves & Fishes	Carolyn Newell
20	Kids Weekend Meals	Liz Meeker
21	Prayer Shawls	Kathy Meier
22	Mitten Tree	Sandi Kossick
23	Special Music Team	Jon Bozeka and Jon Secaur
24	Ohio Women's Ministry	Carol Buzbee
25	Holding Crosses	Mike Hoskin
26	Greeters	Dale Ausperk
27	Fellowship Team	Pending
28	Sunday Hospitality and Communion Bread	Laura Parker
29	3rd Century Committee	Jon Secaur

30	Smile Team	Becky Tipton
31	Care Team	Nora Brant
32	Storytime Ministry	Pam Auble
33	4-Cs representatives	Roger and Linda Hurd
34	CYF (Christian Youth Fellowship)	Pam Auble

35	Library	Cathy Ausperk
36	<i>Day of Kindness</i>	<i>Kathleen Lewarchick & Roger Cram</i>
37		
38		
39		

2024 Diaconate Schedule

	February 2025	March	April
Preparing		Carolyn Newell	Roger & Linda Hurd
Serving		Tim Bennett Mary Ellen Hamlin Cathy Hakala-Ausperk Dale Ausperk	Jon Secaur Linda Idoine
	May	June	July
Preparing	Beth Voinovich	Ruth Anne Ruehr	Colleen & Jeff Crane
Serving	Ally Bozeka Jon Bozeka		2 Baynes family Jeff Crane
	August	September	October
Preparing			Travis & Christina Brant
Serving			The Hoffman Family
	November	December	January 2025
Preparing	Dottie Summerlin	Sue Hurd	
Serving	Brian Summerlin Dave Auble Randy Alger Pam Auble	2 Baynes family	

Preparers: Please arrive at 9:00 a.m. and prepare 2 full sets each of bread and juice. (Some Sundays may require a third tray.) Clean up trays after service.

Servers: Please arrive by 9:15 a.m. Be sure the organist is served prior to service starting. If you need a server sub for any Sunday, please contact Linda Head.

Annual Report Trustees 2023-2024

February 2023—The process of obtaining quotes for a chairlift, renovated bathrooms, handicap ramp, and front doors was initiated. During the investigation of the chairlift and staircase, a water issue was discovered, leading to the acquisition of waterproofing quotes. Multiple quotes for each project were obtained.

January 2024—the board approved further investigation into renovating the staircase and bathroom, marking the beginning of the project.

Spring 2024—work commenced on waterproofing, steps, and sidewalk projects, focusing on the north, west, and south sides of the church. Issues arose with the township trustees when digging began, resulting in liability disputes and necessitating a land swap. This required the church to hire a lawyer and surveyor and engage in meetings with township trustees. Additionally, permits for the new handicap ramp were needed, causing delays due to complications with the township. Below is all that we accomplished this past year and the start of 2025.

Waterproofing north, west and south side of the church	New sidewalks and steps entering the church
Demolition of the downstairs bathrooms and stairs in the back of sanctuary.	Demolition of the back part of the sanctuary opening everything to fit the chairlift & wider staircase
New concrete floor poured for new bathroom and storage	Drywall, plumbing, electrical and Heating installed in new area.
New stairs installed	Old Hardware from old front doors cleaned, sanded & painted and reused.
New Front doors installed—a member paid for the doors.	Cleaned out barn
Painted wall in children's classroom	Painted upstairs and downstairs hallway educational wing

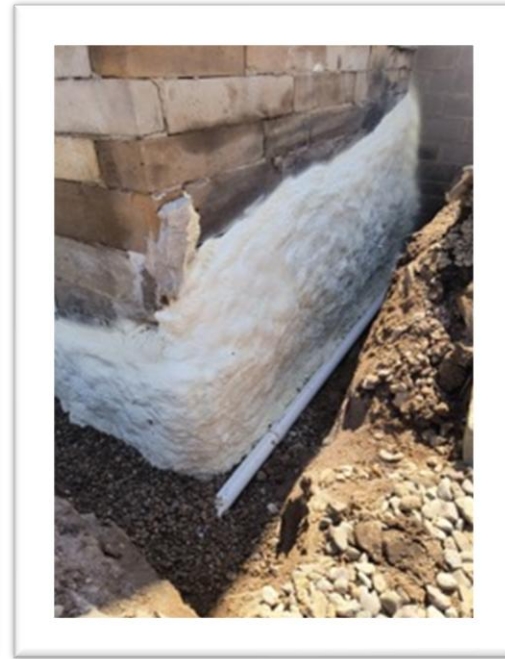
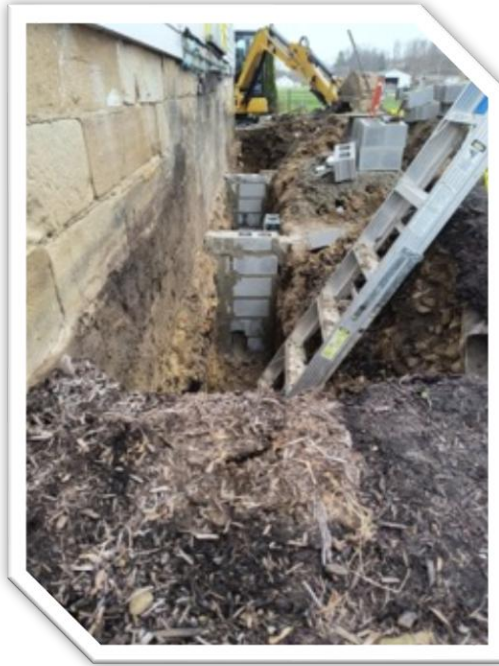
Cleaned out junk room	Replaced window frame on door to education wing
Weather stripping replaced on all the existing windows	New stove donated by a member old stove removed
Many lights were updated with LED fixtures	New furnace installed
2025 —Campbell room painted and furniture updated.	Chairlift installed and inspection completed

We were blessed by working with an architect/contractor who wanted to preserve the historical aspect of the church. The contractors gave us extra time so we could help with demolition and other things to keep the cost of the project down. Many of the contractors also donated their time on some of the projects. We continue to work hard to maintain a good relationship with the township trustees.

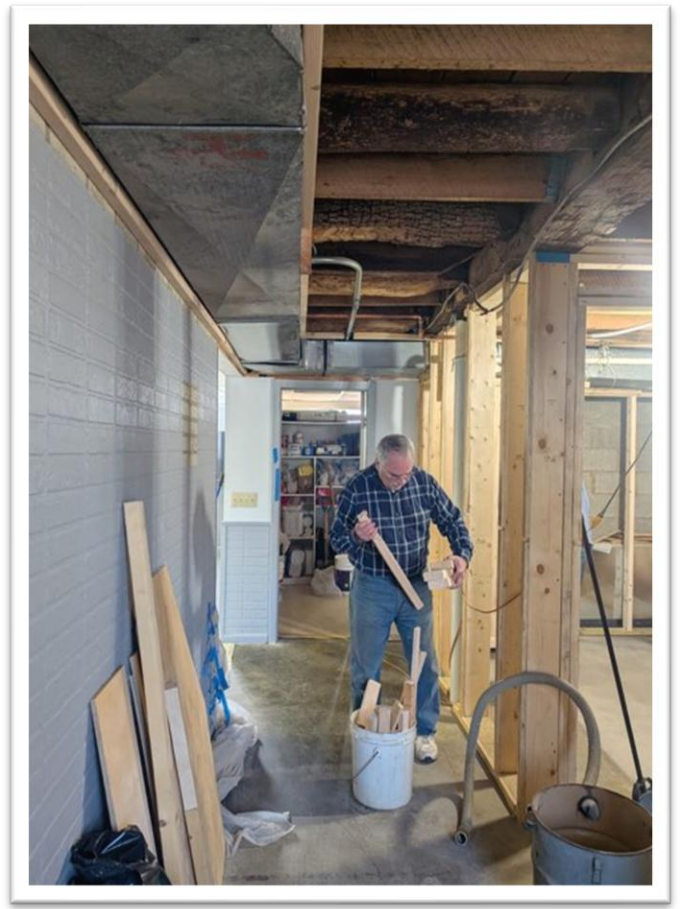
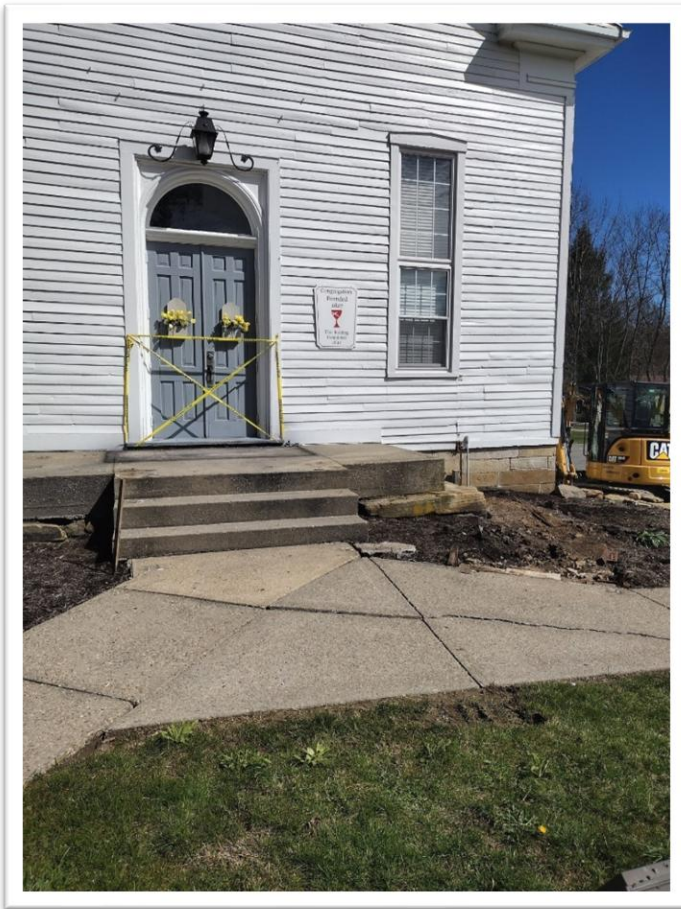
The improvements have significantly enhanced our facility, providing a better environment for members and visitors. We worked hard to maintain the historical aspect of the church. We appreciate the hard work of all the people who helped the trustees, as well as the generous contributions that made these upgrades possible.

Pat Hoskin (Chair), Brian Summerlin, Paul Meeker, Dale Ausperk, Randy Alger, Beth Voynovich and Paul Magyarics

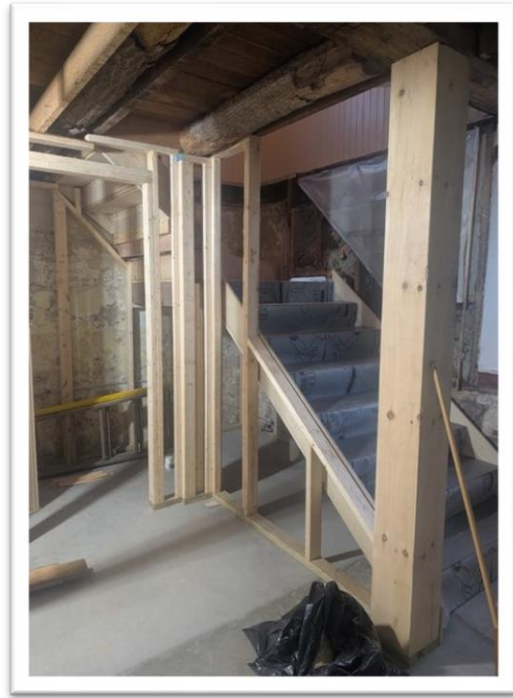
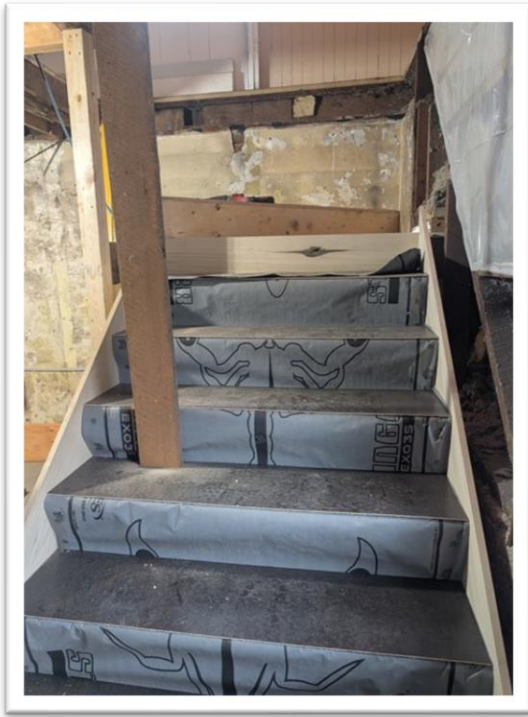
Building Renovations 2024



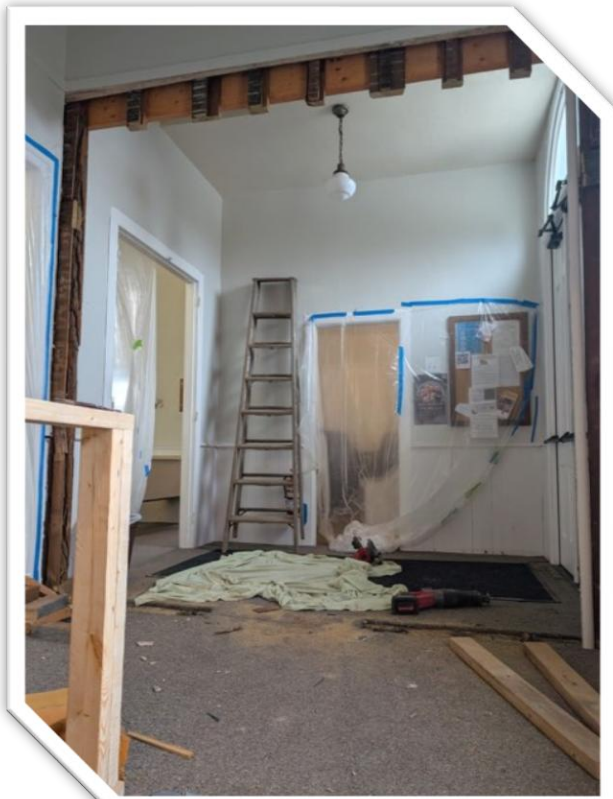
Waterproofing the foundation



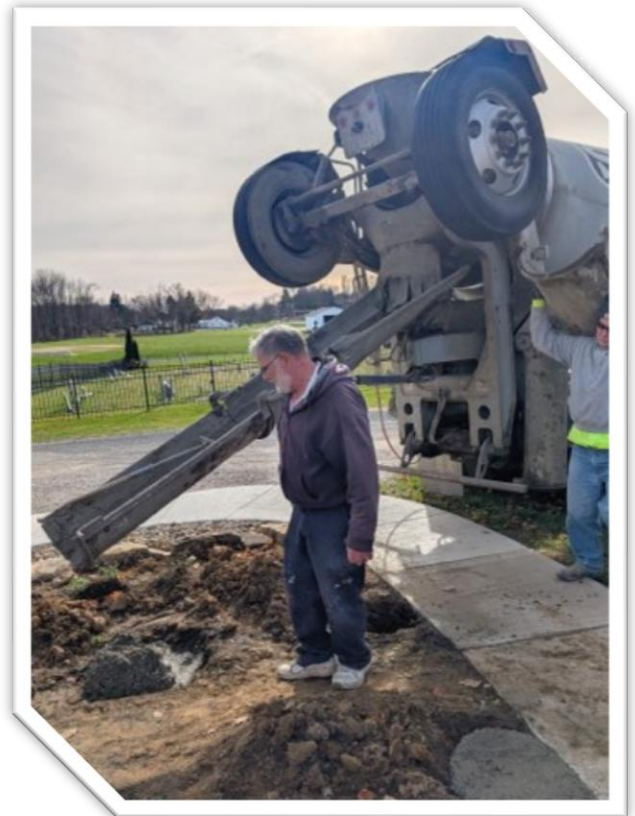
Mike Hoskin hard at work



Work on the back steps off the sanctuary



The door entrance for the new bathroom



Brian Summerlin helping with the job



The ADA compliant ramp begins to take place!



Linda Head helps in her free time



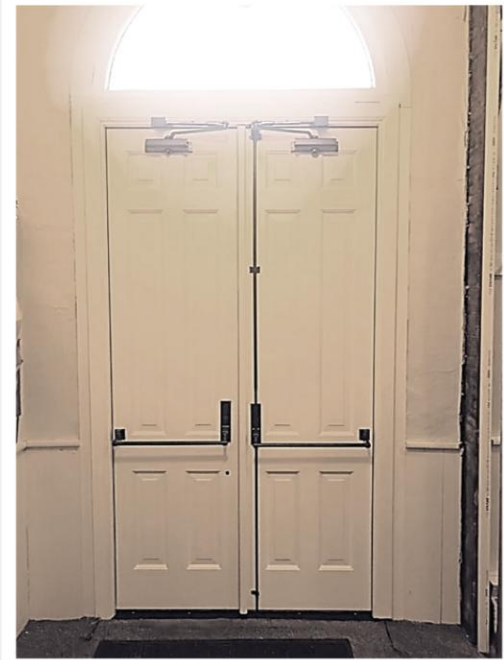
Beth Voynovich & Pat Hoskin – always at work!



Carpeting on our finished steps!



Dave Auble tries out the chair



New Front Door is installed!



The finished renovations show how the Trustee's (and contractors) were able to keep the historical part of the church intact. Thank you to all who helped in any way on these projects. You have been a blessing!

Kids Weekend Meals Year-end report for 2024

Income from all sources: \$30949.84

Expenses \$36558.61

Net Loss for fiscal year 2024 \$ 5608.77

Expense detail:

Akron Canton Regional Foodbank	\$15544.42
Sirnas	\$ 1043.64
D&S Produce	\$ 8247.02
KWM Supplies	\$ 2216.77
KWM Community	\$ 476.68
Fees	\$ 126.84
Crestwood Board of Education	\$ 5300.98
Kids Weekend Meals Donations	\$ 250.00
Gift Cards	\$ 463.98
Stripe Expense	\$ 99.10
Misc Food Supplies	\$ 2289.18
KWM Butchering/Processing	\$ 500.00

Checking Balance as of 12/31/2024 \$45337.42 (reconciled)

In 2024 Kids Weekend Meals fed 210 kids in 101 families

Respectfully Submitted,

Liz Meeker

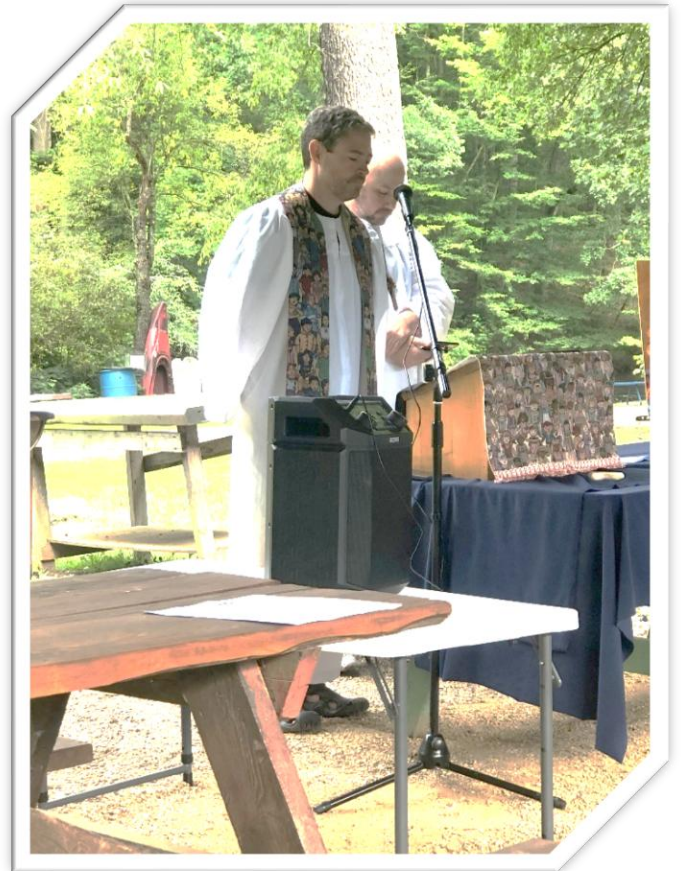
Annual Clerk Report - 2024

Baptism – Linda Head – August

Respectfully Submitted
Steve Hurd, Clerk/Historian



From left: Eric Davis with Candy Lloyd and Chad Delaney with Linda Head



Chad Delaney and Eric Davis officiating the Baptisms

Mantua Center Church and Hilltop Church held a combined baptism in the Cuyahoga River at Camp Hi in Hiram, Ohio. Thanks to Helen Hazlett for reserving space at this beautiful location!



Linda Head - MCCC



Both congregation members walking to the river's edge



Candy Lloyd, Eric Davis, Chad Delaney & Linda Head



Linda's son, Sean Head, with Linda & Chad



Candy Lloyd waiting while Sean, Linda, Chad & Eric return to shore.



Candy Lloyd



Chad Delaney, Candy Lloyd & Eric Davis



**Baptisms completed!
Hallelujah!**

2024 Personnel Committee

There were two new additions to our paid staff in 2024 that were coordinated by our MCCC Personnel Committee.

Late in 2023, a decision was made to add back a paid Nursery Attendance position (a position that had been unfilled for several years) to have available for any families attending worship with young children. After advertising online, we were fortunate to find Angela Mangeri from Hiram who started with us in March. In addition to being an ESL tutor, Angela had three years of hand-on experience working in local with local pre-school / daycare programs. She has been a welcome addition to our staff, and she's great with the little ones.

Early in 2024, Liz Meeker informed the Board of her desire to retire from her role as Church Treasurer, a position she had held for the last 10 years. The amount of time and expertise that Liz devoted to managing our finances was incalculable, and we are truly grateful for her faithful stewardship and willingness to share her gifts with our church.

After a five-month search, we were thrilled to announce that our own Marcia Page had graciously agreed to become our new Treasurer starting in July.

Marcia's extensive work experience in banking, retail bookkeeping, and working as an office manager/bookkeeper made her an amazing candidate to fill this role, and after a brief transition period, is now fully involved in managing our finances. As with Angela, we are fortunate to have her on our team.

While these two searches were successful, our ongoing efforts to find a Children's Ministry Director have not been. We expect to re-evaluate and re-start the search again in 2025.

Respectfully Submitted - Jon Secaur, Linda Idoine, Drema Herron, Steve Hurd

**Mary Cann, Perlea Converse, & Lucius Converse
Memorial Scholarship 2024**

The Mary Cann, Perlea Converse, and Lucius Converse Memorial Scholarship for 2024 Committee is excited to have awarded scholarships for the following people: Bethany Head, Emma Magyarics, Bryce Pruszynski, and Aspen Baynes. They each received a check in the amount of \$958.46

Aspen is attending Miami University and Bethany is at Kent State University. We wish them the best as they move forward in higher education! We are happy to announce that Emma graduates from Kent State University and Bryce graduates from Hiram College in May 2025. Congratulations!

Scholarship Committee members: Ruth Anne Ruehr, MaryEllen Hamlin, and Jon Secaur

2024 Elder Report

In the year of our Lord 2024, the MCCC Elders continued our long tradition of servant leadership to the congregation.

Presiding at the communion table through thoughtful prayers and insightful meditations are often the most visible aspect of the elder role. However, elders also lead worship, preach, teach, and serve in varied ways. In 2024, the elders supported Advent, Lent and other services by reading scripture, writing devotions, organizing a prayer vigil, offering testimonials, and other readings. Additionally, elders provide support and guidance to the pastor, and coordinate care for the congregation.

A new effort in 2024, initiated and organized by Cathy Ausperk, focused on more consistent process to reach out to congregants who may need additional care. Every week, the praying elder is assigned a person/couple to check in with for a visit or phone call. Elders also prepared and delivered meals, visited, called and wrote letters and cards to MCCC folks regularly.

The 2024 Elders were: (Back row left) Kathleen Lewarchick, Steve Hurd, Carol Buzbee, Cathy Ausperk, Roger Cram, & Brian Hurd. (Front row left) Nora Brant, Katie Baird, Sally Hoffman, Ally Bozeka, Ruth Anne Ruehr, and Sandi Kossick.



Respectfully,

Steve Hurd & Brian Hurd, 2024 Elder Co-Chairs

MEMORIALS MINISTRY

2024 ANNUAL REPORT

On All Saints Sunday, November 3, 2024, I shared the following dedication during the service:

“We receive with thanks memorial donations received over the past year in memory of Pastor Len Malotte – and, in accordance to the will of the family, we dedicate them to the support of Kids Weekend Meals - in the name of Christ Jesus and to God's glory.

We receive with thanks memorial donations received over the past year in memory of Allan Korner – and, in accordance to the will of the family, we dedicate them to the general use in the church - in the name of Christ Jesus and to God's glory.

We receive with thanks memorial donations received over the past year in memory of Andy Oros – and we dedicate them, in accordance to the will of the family, to the support of the Loaves and Fishes Meal - in the name of Christ Jesus and to God’s glory.

Sincerely,
Catherine Hakala-Ausperk

MCCC LIBRARY

2024 ANNUAL REPORT

In 2024, three new titles were donated to the MCCC Fellowship Library by Dale Ausperk, Liz Meeker, and Phil & Marie Derthick.

Sincerely,
Catherine Hakala-Ausperk

MCCC GREETERS 2024 ANNUAL REPORT

In 2024, the MCCC Greeter Team continued to welcome old and new visitors alike. The team included Fred Delaney, Liz Meeker, Drema Herron, Pat Hoskin, Pete Pruszynski, and me. While the new front steps were being constructed, we moved our welcome area temporarily to the lower-level door. We continued to work on a monthly rotation and covered for one another when needed. As always, we “mugged” new visitors whenever possible. Gift mugs included candy, Chad’s card, and information on MCCC ministries.

Sincerely,

Dale Ausperk, Greeter Chair

OWM 2024 Annual Treasurer Report

Beginning Balance - January 1, 2024 \$2,098.68

	Income	Expenses
Donation to OWM		\$500.00
Craft Fair		
Table Rent	\$630.00	
Sales Total	\$464.57	
Rent Charge		\$125.00
 Total for Craft Fair		 \$969.57
Charge for new checks		\$19.95
Mailing fee for 3 months		\$3.00
(this has been taken care of)		
	\$3,693.25	\$147.95
 Total December 31, 2024		 \$3,545.30

Respectfully Submitted,
Ruth Anne Ruehr

OWM Craft Bazaar Annual Report – 2024

The 1st Saturday in December for the past 8 years, Carolin Newell has been Chair in organizing the OWM (Ohio Women’s Ministries) Craft Bazaar. It is held in the old Mantua Center School annex and has become a favorite for many in the area. As in past years, we sold out all 24 craft tables right away!

The event was well attended, and vendors were pleased with the turnout and purchases made.

OWM supplied homemade soups, hot dogs, and various chips along with coffee, tea, and bottled water as a fundraiser and although we cut back this year, there were still some food items left over which were purchased by workers and patrons alike.

The 50/50 Raffle was won by Linda Eaken (MCCC member). She won \$50 plus a package of notecards that Chris Kitchens (a vendor) donated!

It was a good time had by all and was another successful event with the proceeds to help various missions within Mantua Center Christian Church and beyond.

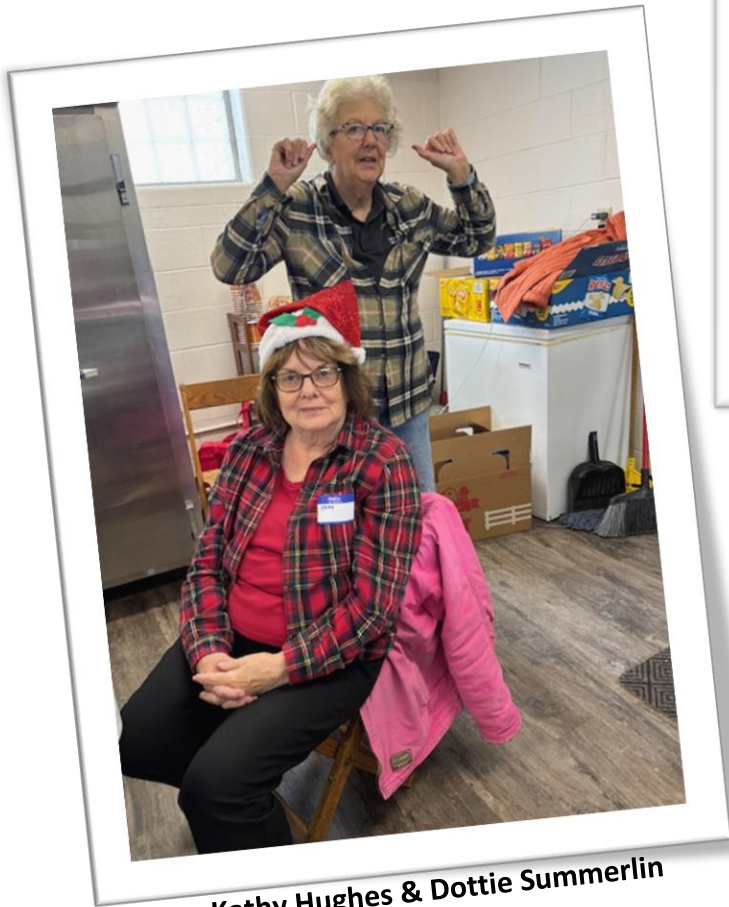
Respectfully Submitted,
Carolin Newell, Chair



Dottie Summerlin & Carolin Newell



Helpers, Kathy Hughes & Sandi Kossick



Kathy Hughes & Dottie Summerlin



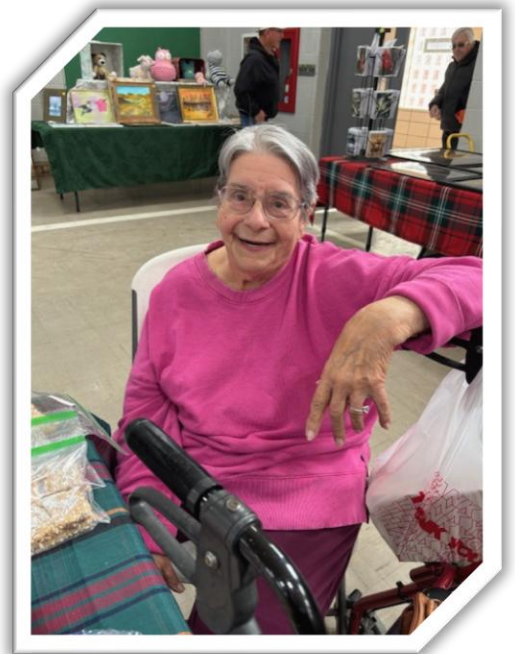
Vendor, Nancy Whaley selling many woven and other hand-crafted items



Vendor, Cheryl Delaney selling artwork and stuffed animals!



The Smile Team held their annual Bake Sale, with proceeds going to fund upcoming Smile Team Projects!



Mama Muir (Beth Voynovich's mom) is one of our favorite visitor's each year! She is one beautiful "Mama" to all of us!



Vendor, Phillis Bolden, selling a variety of handmade kitchen items

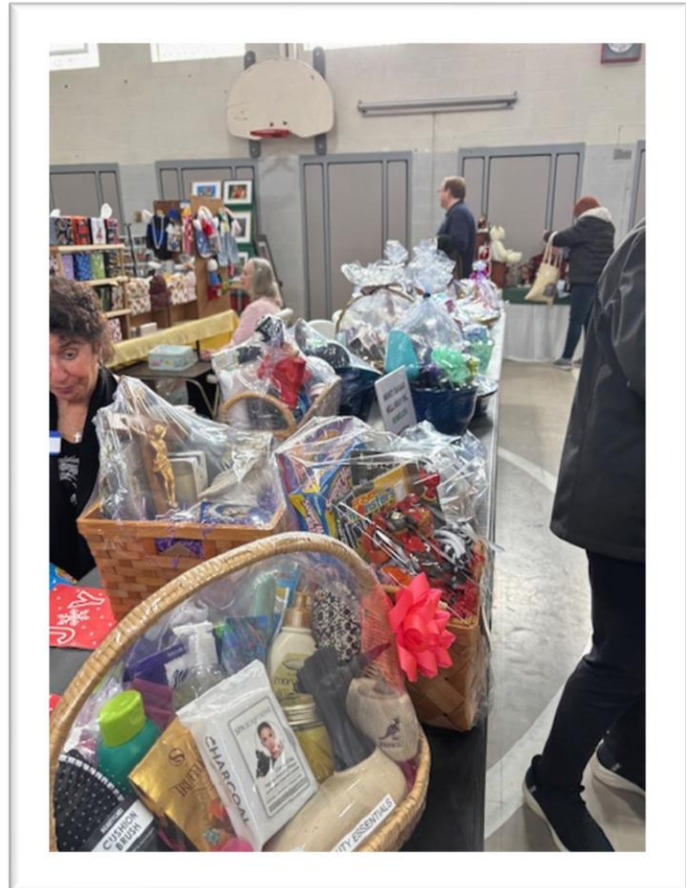


Lots of creative Christmas ideas for sale!

It looks quiet now with Kathy Hughes serving Ruth Anne Ruehr food from the kitchen, but usually the kitchen is a hustling and bustling place to be!



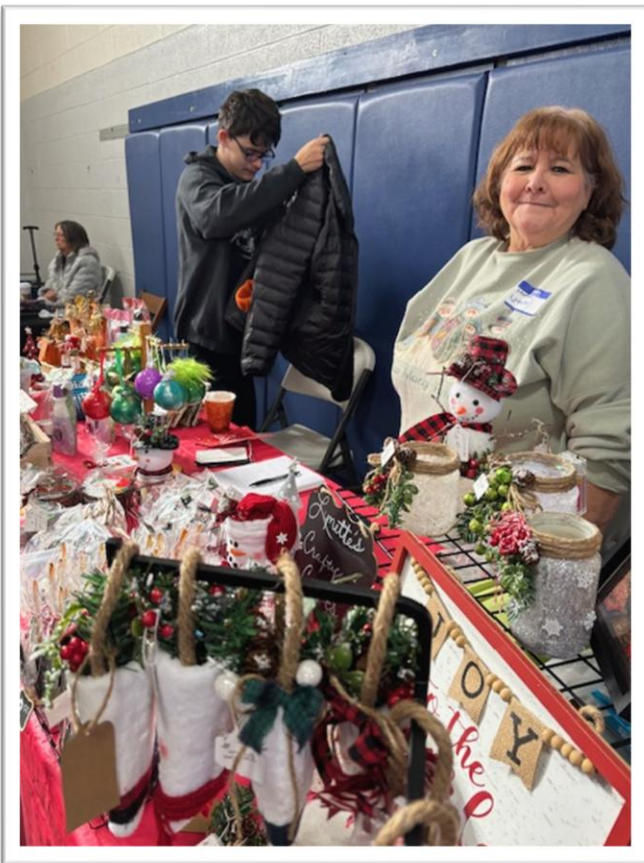
One of our repeat vendors, Chris Kitchens, who sells artfully crafted nature pictures and note cards.



A variety of Gift Baskets for anyone on your list!



Lots of Jellies & Jams for sale from this vendor!



More creative Christmas items for sale!



This vendor can't leave out our furry friends at Christmas! Pick up a neckerchief for your pet!



Ruth Anne Ruehr is hard at work selling tickets for the 50/50 raffle!

CYF Annual Report 2024

Christian Youth Fellowship is a blessed tradition and ministry of our church, involving the youth and adults of our congregation as well as the community. A few annual events that the youth participated in this year include serving the Easter morning breakfast, offering the dinner and auction to raise funds for the youth mission trip, community service projects as well as our mission trip and leading a service to report on our experience on the trip. For fun we went tobogganing, toured the Derthick's Corn-maze, shared Christmas gifts with a white elephant exchange and began making dinner together every Sunday night.

There were at least 20 youths that CYF touched in 2024 although weekly gatherings are generally much smaller than this. So many youths have jobs that occupy their weekends and there are others involved with scouting and 4H. Gatherings are always open and the program tries to flex with the demanding schedules of high school youth. Youth brought friends and neighbors; one youth came to one meeting before we left on our mission trip and left a week later with us on that trip!

The highlight of every year is our annual mission trip. This year we headed to Mayfield, KY and helped with tornado repairs, guided by Week of Compassion staff. Eight adults led a group of 15 youth so we could work on three differing sites. We painted, repaired and added ramps, made baskets of home-goods for new homeowners and cleared home lots. We met neighbors and construction workers. We visited the devastated downtown area, including the lot where the Disciples Church of Mayfield once stood. This all had a lasting effect on our group.

Because of the community's overwhelming support and the CYF youth's hard work, we raised a record amount at our dinner auction, about \$7,000. These funds paid the way for our mission trip in 2024 and will likely cover costs in 2025.

As the school year started in the fall we began to meet regularly again without our two graduates, Josh Delaney and Aspen Baynes. This year we have 9 potential seniors, a few of whom have already demonstrated great leadership skills. A special thanks to these CYF leaders: Chris Carter (a recent CYF youth himself), Dave Auble, Larisa Catcott, Ken Parker, Carol Magyarics and Christin and Chad Delaney, all of whom support this CYF ministry.

Respectfully Submitted,
Pam Auble

Loaves & Fishes Annual Report - 2024

This signage at Rt. 82 by MCCC tells it all! **“FREE MEAL THIS THURSDAY.”** We have served many meals for the church and community for several years. Loaves & Fishes is a free community meal for anyone who needs a meal. (Donations are gratefully accepted but are not a requirement!) Any donations we receive are used to help buy food supplies for our next meal. This program runs on the last Thursday of each month from January through October. (No meals in Nov. or Dec.)



Some of our guests' favorite meals for 2024 were: Sloppy Joes, Pierogis & Noodles, Baked Chicken Legs, and Pulled Pork Sandwiches. **We served a total of 594 meals in 2024!**

I want to thank anyone who donated desserts for our dinners or who helped with set-up, clean-up, cooking, or serving! Special thanks to Kathy Meier, Kathy Hughes, Sandi Kossick, Linda Head, Teri & Glen Beck, Nora Brant, Carol Buzbee, Becky Tipton, Helen Hazlett, Dottie & Brian Summerlin, Pat Hoskin and Olivia Kuchenbecker (Sandi Kossick's granddaughter) who helped to earn school credits! I am grateful for all your support!

Respectfully Submitted,
Carolyn Newell

Mitten Tree Annual Report – 2024

This is my 5th year as chair of the Mitten Tree mission. It is a mission that from the minute I heard about it – I really wanted to be a part of! We collect hats, head bands, gloves, mittens and scarves to help those in our community and beyond. The Mitten Tree is run (typically) all through the month of November each year. We sort and count the items and they are then distributed, in early December, to Kids Weekend Meals families. Any remainder of left-over items are then taken to Family & Community Services in Ravenna or given to the Free Clothing & Diaper Giveaway. It was noted this year that we need to collect more young adult size gloves and mittens as that is a much-needed size.

Kathy Meier has been a big help in assisting me with this mission since 2023. We have recently talked about switching back to hanging items on a tree again, instead of clothes lines on the north and south walls of the sanctuary. No decision as yet – but let's see what 2025 will bring!

Respectfully and Gratefully Submitted,
Sandi Kossick, Chair
Kathy Meier, Co-Chair

PRAYER SHAWL MINISTRY ANNUAL REPORT - 2024

My name is Kathy Meier and I work with the Prayer Shawl ministry. This group was originally overseen by Diane Johnson. She turned it over to me due to her health issues.

A handful of church members create these shawls and give them to me. When we have a lot, they are blessed at church. There is a printed tag that is attached to each one and is hung on the ladder in the rear of the church.

For the year 2024, there were 9 shawls that were signed out. There is a clipboard with a sheet for people to sign that they have taken a shawl and/or holding cross.

Here are some of the hurdles I have experienced:

1. I would like to have another yarn-inspired person to help with this.
2. There needs to be another tag designed to attach to the shawls. It needs to be smaller and have more church information.
3. The ladder in the back of the church needs to be relocated. It is lost in the audio area.
4. There needs to be a place to store the rest of the shawls. Not all fit on the ladder. This needs to be worked out with Chad Delaney and Pat Hoskins.

I have not given the prayer shawl group attention to these issues lately. But it is my mission to get these issues addressed in 2025. The created shawls are beautiful, the mission to bless the recipient is amazing, and I want this to proceed in an easy procedure for our church members.

Respectfully Submitted,
Kathy Meier

Smile Team Annual Report 2024

2024 was another great year for the Smile Team! This is a mission designed to bring smiles and joy to members of our church and our community. Members are: Becky Tipton (Chair), Roger Cram, Helen Hazlett, Pat Hoskin, Kathy Hughes, Sandi Kossick, Kathy Meier, Carolin Newell, Marcia Page, and Dottie Summerlin.

This year the team gave gift cards to several members of the congregation to recognize their efforts; donated \$100 toward a Crestwood 8th grader's trip to Washington D.C.; handed out 50 pairs of special glasses to view the solar eclipse that we all viewed on April 8, 2024; gave flower bouquets to several people who were injured or ill; handed out flowers to all of the ladies on Mother's Day; served refreshments after church on Father's Day; and delivered Monroe's Orchard apple gift baskets (apples, cider, jelly) to several congregation members who were in need of a pick-me-up. We held a bake sale at the OWM Craft Bazaar in December and we were blessed with generous support from the congregation to help fund our future projects.

Respectfully Submitted,
Becky Tipton, Chair



This was our bake sale table from the OWM Craft Bazaar in 2024. The proceeds allowed us to continue doing fun projects for those in our community and church!

Thanks to all in our church who helped provide baked goods for the sale!

Third Century Team Annual Report 2024

The first phase of our building accessibility and improvement plan, overseen by our building Trustees, has been completed, paid entirely from savings. Waterproofing the Fellowship Hall, constructing a new front stoop and stairs, pouring new concrete sidewalks, installing new front doors, building an ADA compliant ramp, widening the back corner stairs, installing a chair lift, and creating a new accessible restroom downstairs are the visible aspects of the improvements. Less obvious are the major upgrades to our audio system in the sanctuary, and the two remotely controllable cameras that improve our video recording and streaming service.

While that phase made the lower level and the restroom accessible from the sanctuary, the level of the chancel and the entire second floor remains inaccessible to anyone with serious mobility issues. The Third Century Team conducted a survey of the congregation last year, and it identified an elevator, to reach all levels of the building, new ADA compliant restrooms, and improvements to the kitchen as unfulfilled needs. The team has been working with David Patterson, an architect from Motter and Meadows, Canton, to develop the most cost- and space-efficient solution to those needs as the second phase of our long-range plan.

The team also suggests that instead of raising a large addition on the south side of the building, that we consider purchasing property off-site to make a community-friendly center that would include rental space for basketball, wedding receptions, and large meetings. Such a property would be designed so as to be self-supporting and a blessing to the community, but not a burden on the congregation. That more distant project is the third phase of our plan.

We look forward to sharing our vision of the second phase during the next few months and beginning a fund-raising campaign with a tithe of 10 percent to the Camp Christian renewal fund.

Sincerely,
Jon Secaur, Chair

MCCC Christmas Party

Our Annual MCCC Christmas Party was held on the 1st Sunday in December. We had a wonderful turn out and want to send a special “thanks” to Dottie & Brian Summerlin, and Carolin Newell for all their efforts decorating and planning this event. It is ALWAYS an enjoyable time had by all, and to see all the unique gifts is really a treat. Thanks to all who provided food for our Christmas Party! The following are just a few pics that were captured:



Loved the striped poles – very festive!



Brian Summerlin



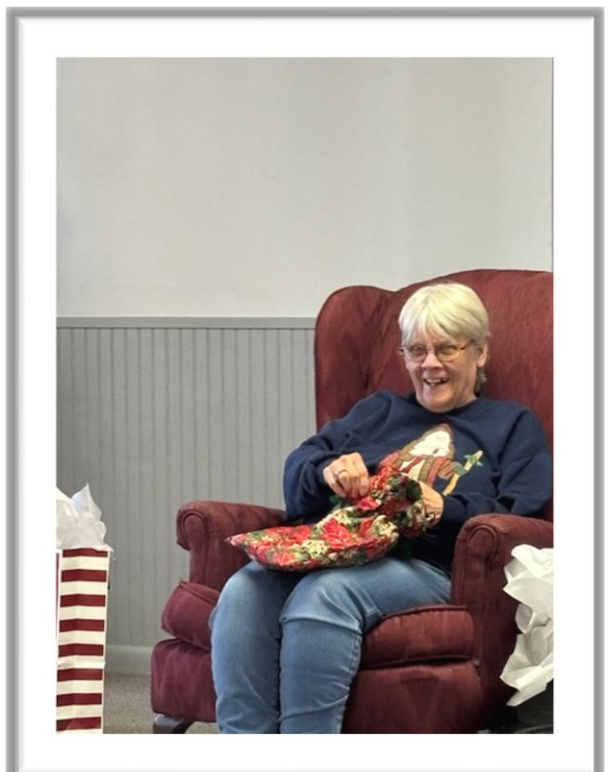
Carolin Newell wonders what she received!



Our favorite couple 42
Christin & Chad Delaney!



Karla Collins looks festive tonight!



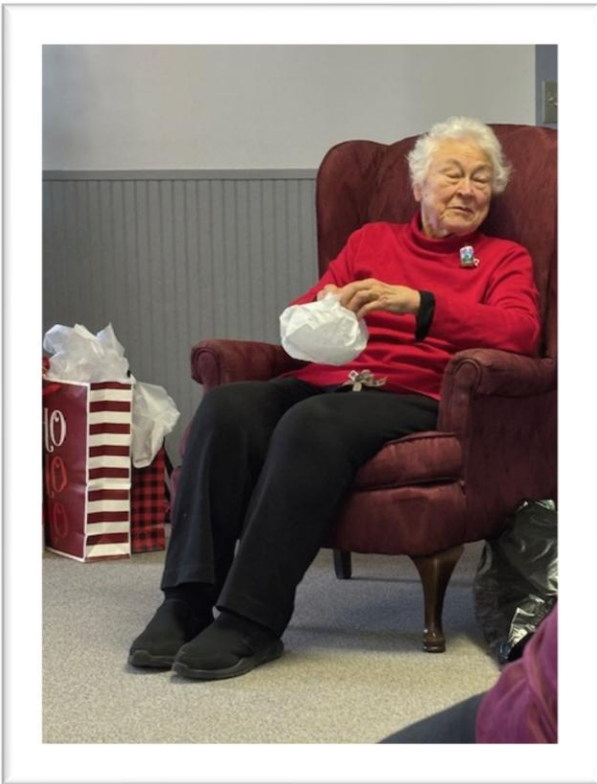
Linda Head can't wait to see her present!



Roger Cram holds up his gift!



Carol Fifik's turn to open her gift!



Katie Baird "What can it be?"



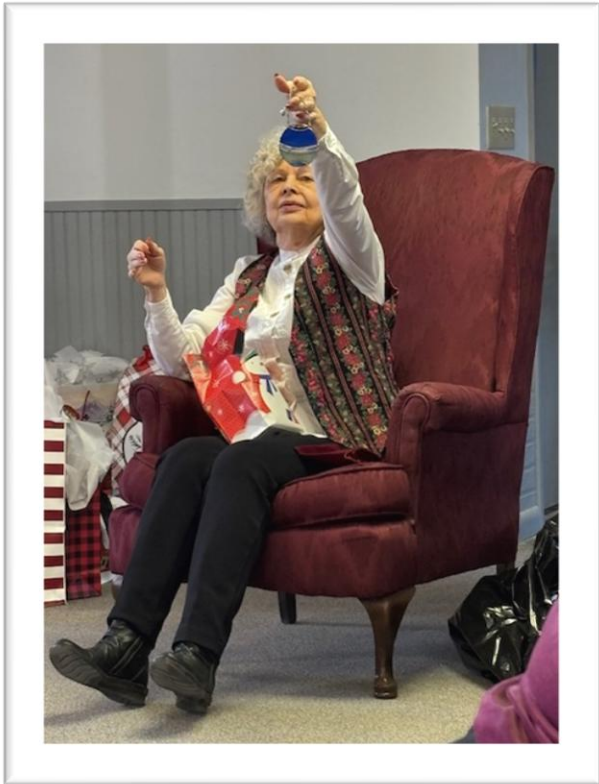
**Helen Hazlett receives the perfect gift!
Don Baird's hat and walking stick!**



**Christin looks happy to receive a block
snowman decoration!**



Linda Hurd opens her gift



Linda Hurd – “It’s a stained glass ornament!”



Roger Hurd seems to enjoy the fun!

Worship Services in Advent



Candlelight speaker, Becky Tipton



Candlelight speaker, Jon Secaur



Candlelight speaker, Katie Baird



Candlelight speaker, Drema Herron



Children's Christmas Pageant

Christmas Eve Candlelight Service



Speaker, Amy Auble



Speaker, C J Delaney



Speaker, Aspen Baynes



Speaker, Lauren Painley



Speaker, Danny Magyarics



Ally & Jon Bozeka
singing "O, Holy Night"
So perfect for this night.



Ryan & Karly Lind perform & sing
"O Come, O Come Emmanuel"



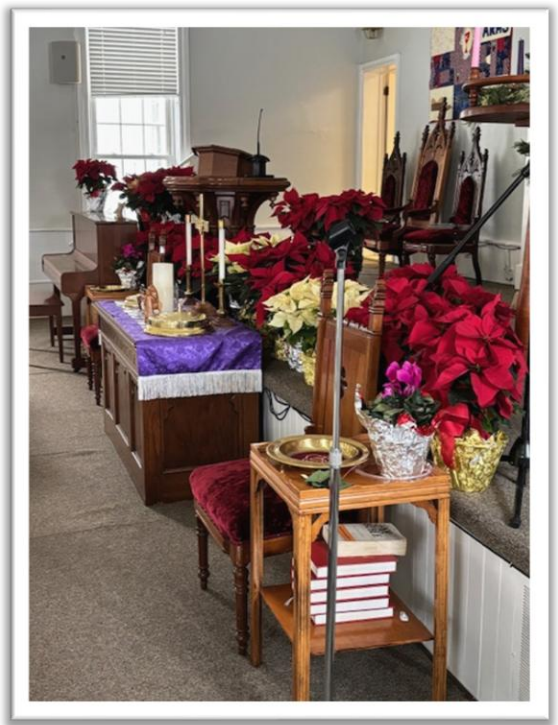
Chad lighting the Christ candle

When the candles are lit . . .
we welcome
the birth of Jesus.





Silent Night, Holy Night . . .



Merry Christmas to all!

Extra Miscellaneous Pics



High School Senior, Oscar Russo, served as Worship Leader! We loved him!



Cheryl Delaney leads the Bell Choir at MCCC

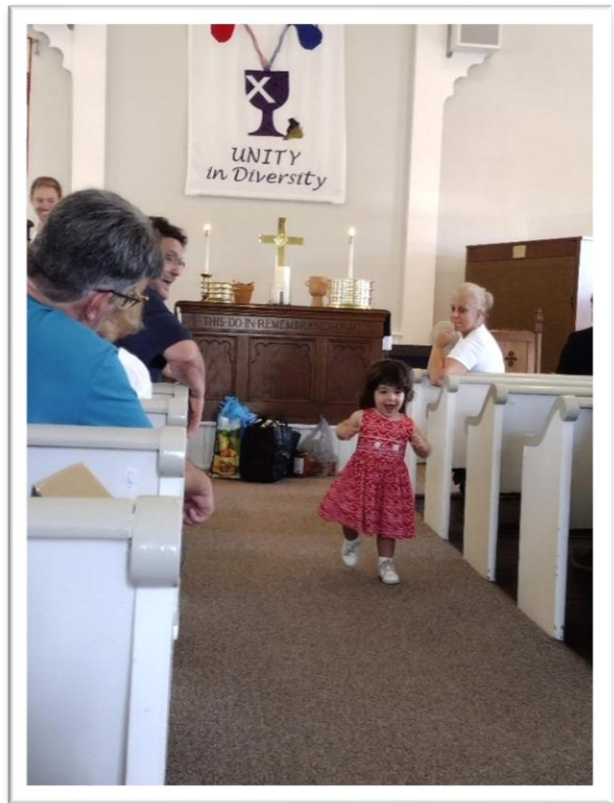
**2024 was a wonderful year to hear the bells at MCCC again!
From left: Ruth Anne Ruehr, Fred Delaney, Beth Voynovich,
Marcia Page, Tim Herron, Tim Bennett, Carol Magyarics, Ruth
Anne's granddaughter Madyson Ruehr, and Chad Delaney.**



Timeline over the years to show how much the MCCC budget was in the 1800's vs. present time in 2024! It was a great illustration presented by Rick Painley! Well Done!



Roger Cram takes a turn at the Children's Moment during worship!

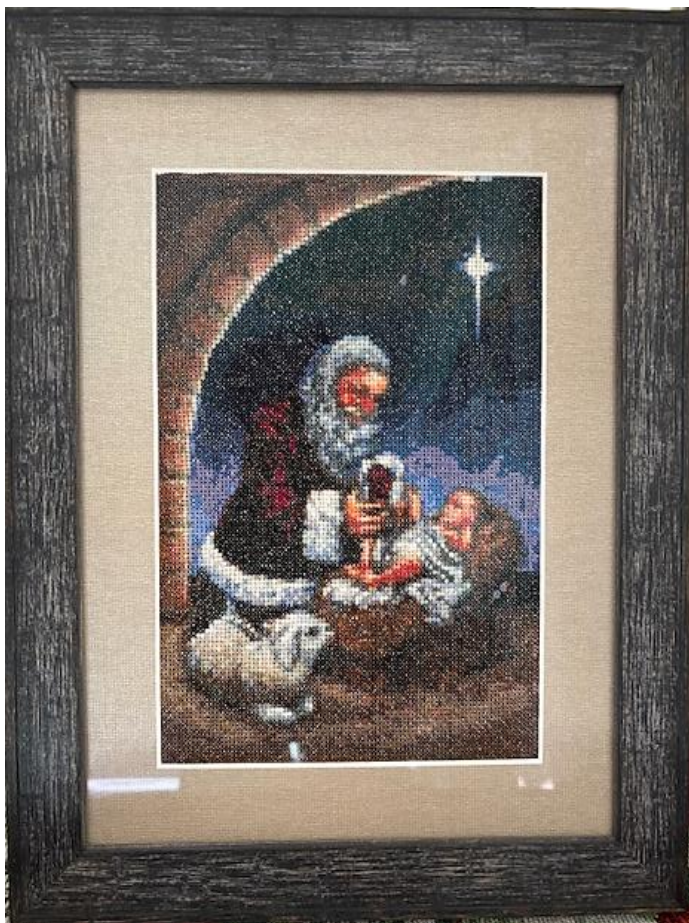


Sophia Vigne is all smiles after collecting food donations for the 4C's!



The “Back Row Girls” still smiling even after they got relocated due to the new staircase!

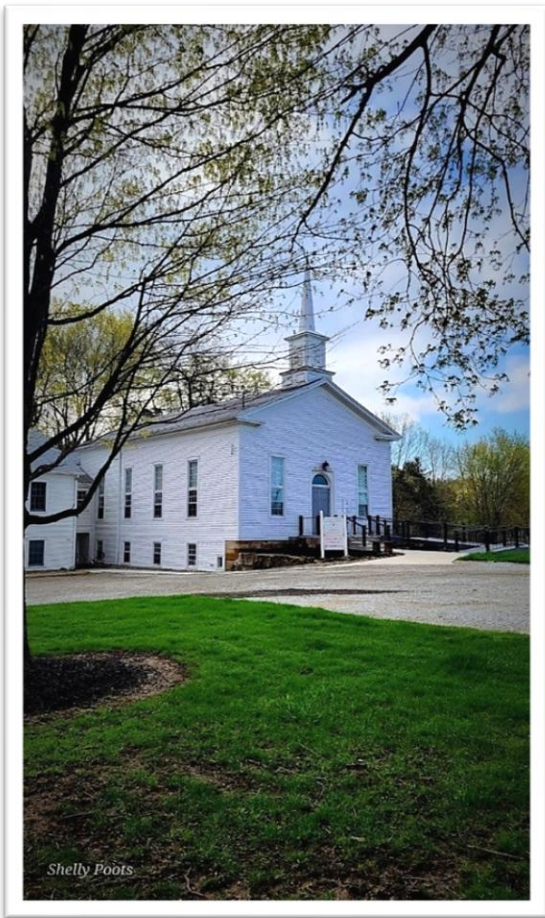
From left back row:
Sandi Kossick, Carolin Newell, & Laura Parker.
From left front row: Linda Head and Shelly Poots



This beautiful cross-stitch was hand crafted by MCCC member Cathy Hakala-Ausperk. It was created to raffle off as a fundraiser for Kids Weekend Meals. It was truly a work of art, and the funds were certainly appreciated by Liz and Paul Meeker for their mission. They raised a total of \$320.00 for Kids Weekend Meals!

The winner of the raffle was Sandi Kossick. It has a cherished place in her home, but she wants to bring it back to MCCC for all to enjoy during the holidays.

Thank you, Cathy, for giving of yourself to help others in need!



Closing Thoughts from the Secretary:

2024 has been a year of so many changes. We began the process of officially becoming an Open & Affirming church and we hope to have that completed in 2025. This was also the “Year of the Trustees” as the renovation process slowly came to fruition. Pat Hoskin, Chair, along with the other trustees, were at the church nearly non-stop all through 2024. Pat’s guidance and love of our church kept this project on track. It was a LOT of work, a LOT of research, a LOT of waiting, a LOT of meetings, and a LOT of PATIENCE, but their goals were all successfully met, and the trustees should be proud of the end result. The MCCC congregation is extremely proud of what they have accomplished!

I’d like to also give a “shout-out” to Brian and Steve Hurd, who took on the job of being co-chairs of the Elder’s. Our church would not be the same without all the Hurd family members! We are blessed to have them!

Carol Magyarics and Rick Painley have continued to keep our YouTube services going famously! There is so much that goes on behind the scenes that most people are unaware of. Yet, Carol and/or Rick show up every Sunday to keep everything running smoothly. We are so blessed to have them keep our services “alive” each week through YouTube and for Carol’s diligence in keeping up our website at mantuacentercc.org!

And to Nora Brant . . . she is simply amazing! I don’t know when she has time to take a breath and just *breathe!* She is always on someone’s doorstep with a pie, a dinner, other baked goods, or a quilt, all while she helps Liz and Paul Meeker with Kids Weekend Meals! I am happy for all of us that Nora chose MCCC as her home church!

I could go on about all the people who add so much to our church as a whole, but it would go on endlessly! I will simply say that I am grateful for the opportunity I have had to serve as your secretary! If it weren’t for this labor of love, I wouldn’t have the church family I have grown to love so much. It is YOU, the congregation, who make this church a place that I, and others, want to keep coming back to. Thank you all for your Open Minds, Open Hearts, and Open Arms!

With a Grateful Heart,
Sandi Kossick