



FIRST CONGREGATIONAL UNITED CHURCH
OF CHRIST, CORVALLIS

2024 Annual Report

ANNUAL MEETING + BUDGET MEETING
SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 23, 2025





Welcome

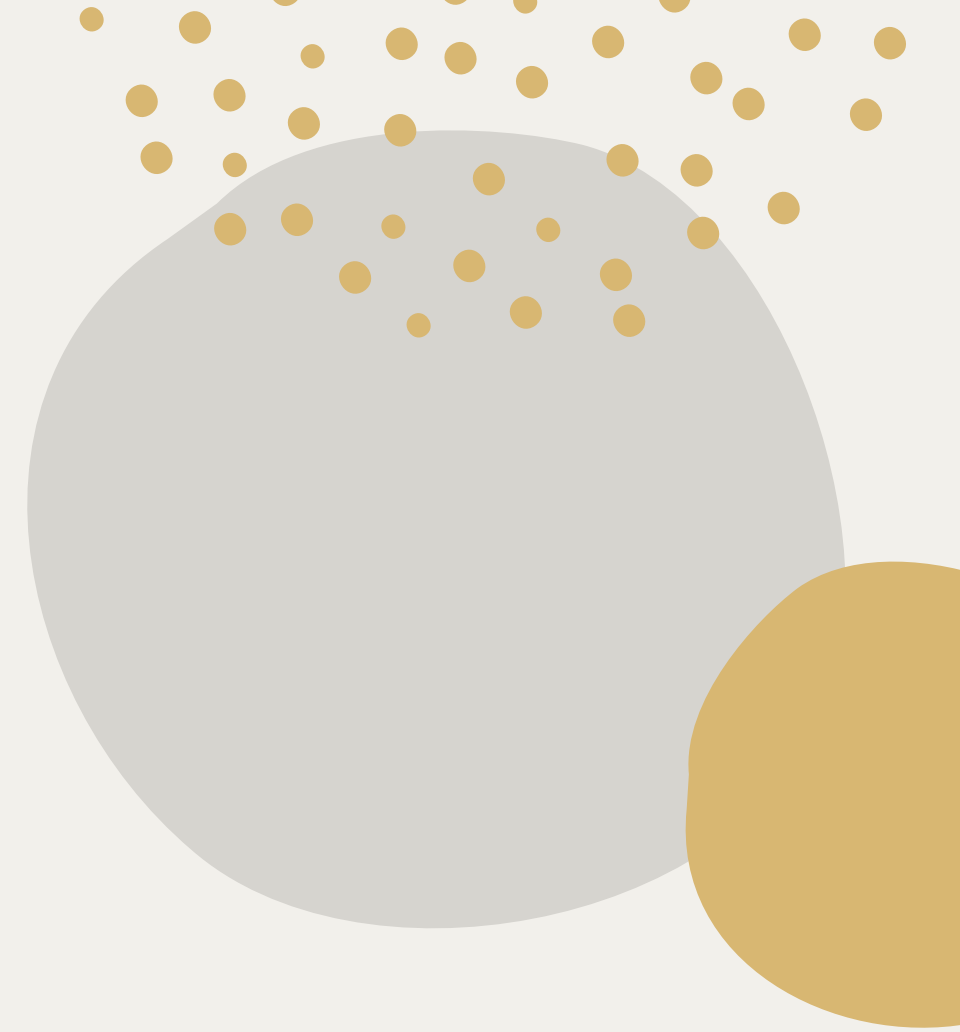
ST. THÉRÈSE

She said, "may today there be peace within. May you trust that you are exactly where you are meant to be. May you not forget the infinite possibilities that are born of faith in yourself and others. May you use the gifts that you have received, and pass on the love that has been given to you. May you be content with yourself just the way you are. Let this knowledge settle into your bones, and allow your soul the freedom to sing, dance, praise, and love. It is there for each and every one of us."

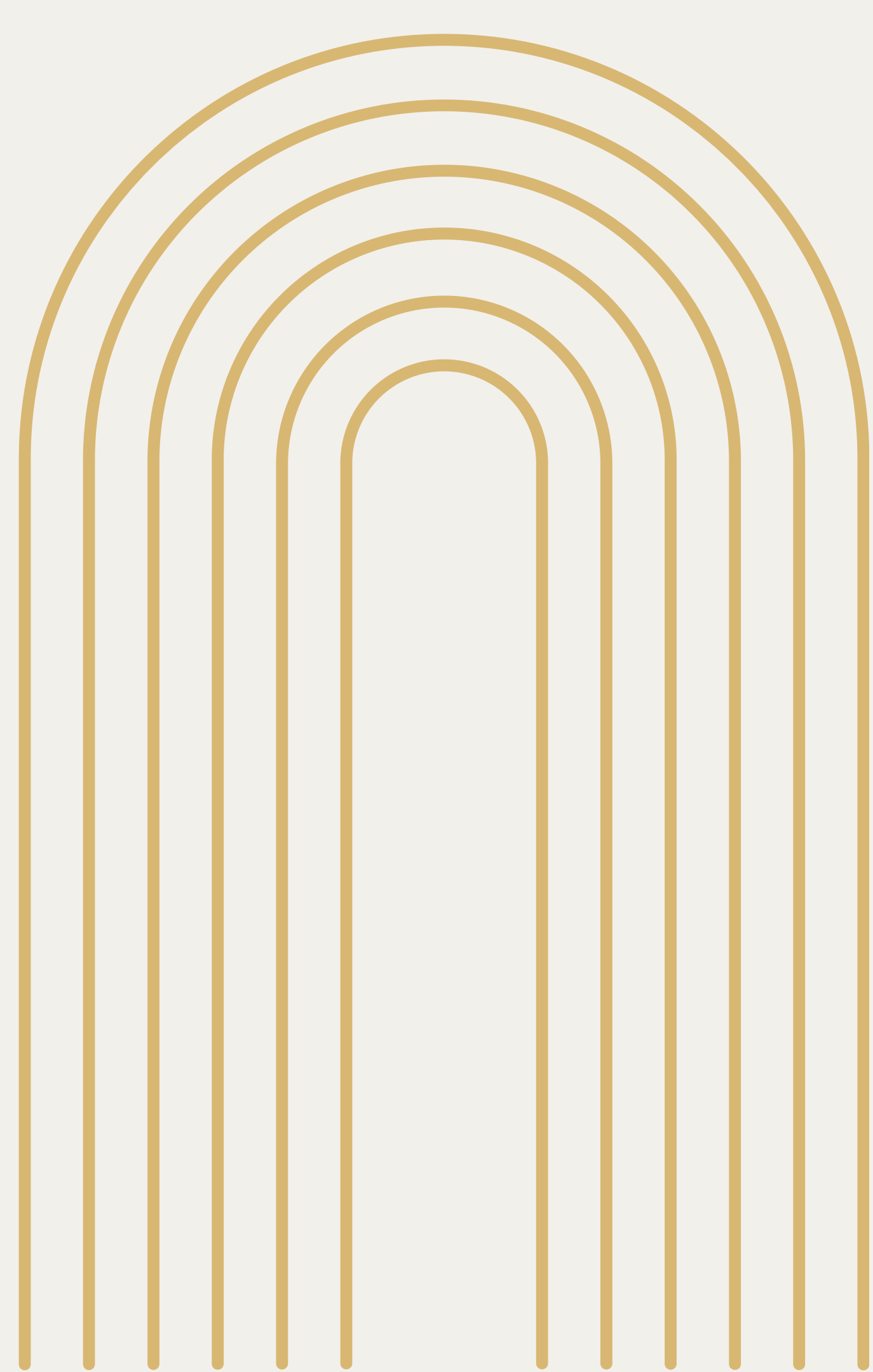


Agenda

1. Pastoral Greetings
2. Council Chair Report
3. Staff Reports
4. Administrative Report
5. Ministry Circle Reports
6. Call To Order --Amy
7. Election of Council Members
8. Election of United Campus Ministry Board Members
9. Approval of 2025 Budget
10. Adjournment

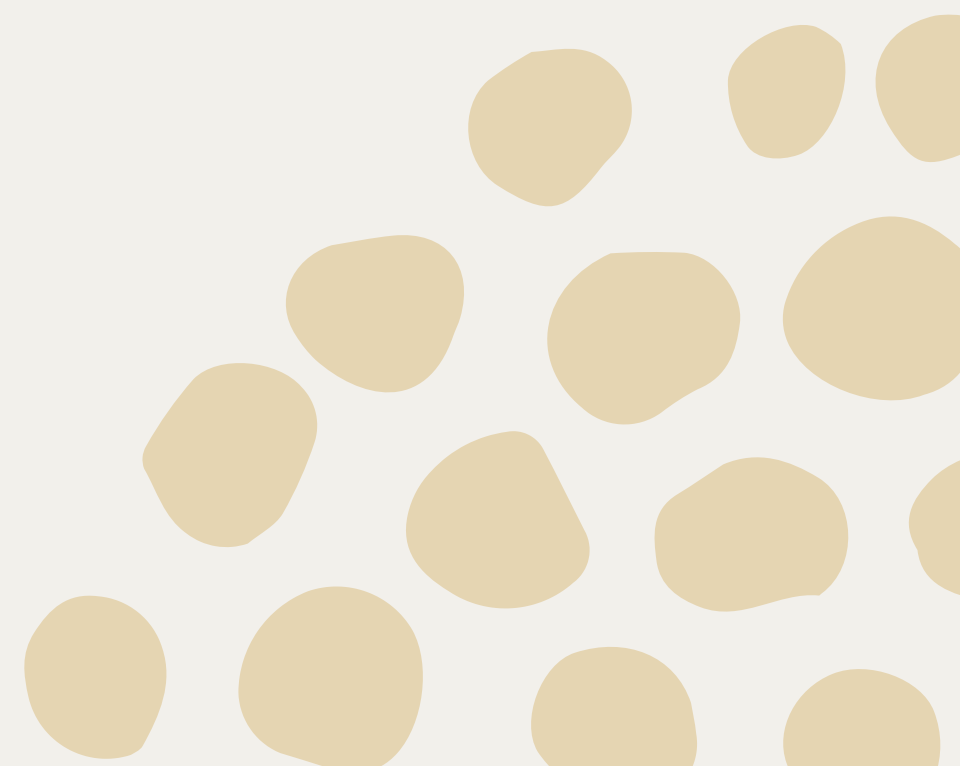






Pastoral Greetings

**REV. JENNIFER L. BUTLER,
SENIOR MINISTER**







Baptism of
Frank Faltsek

June 2024





We are an inclusive spiritual community committed to Christian worship and practice while working toward meaningful social justice-based-change work in the world.

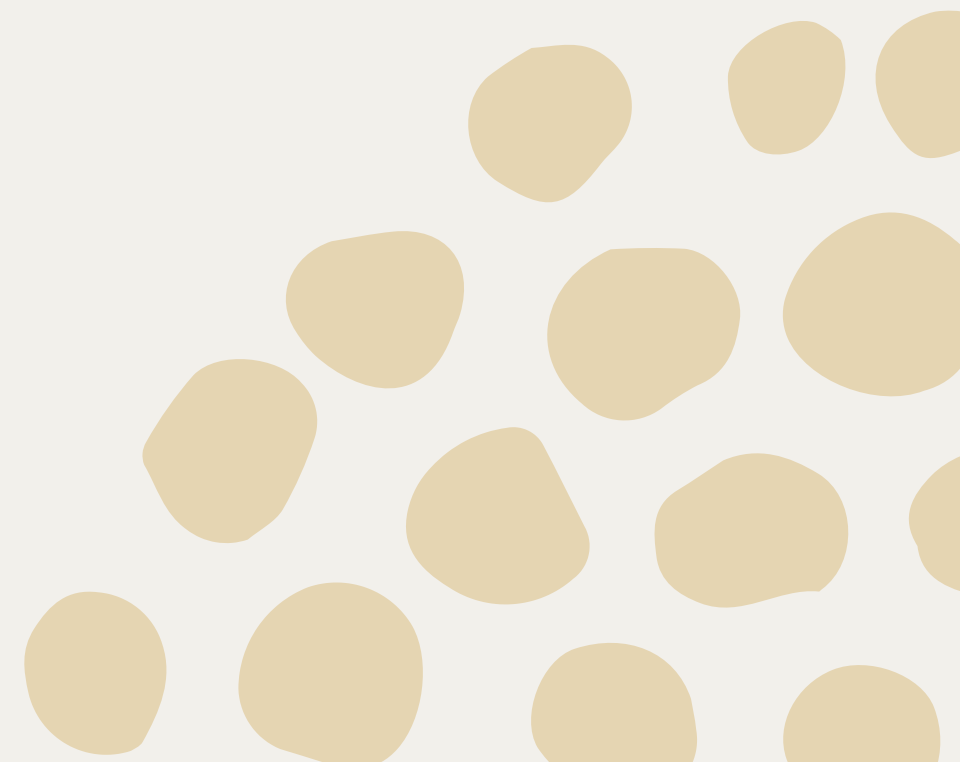
Presence:

listening, curiosity, showing up with as much authenticity as possible

Housing:

a framework of radical belonging, hospitality and resistance

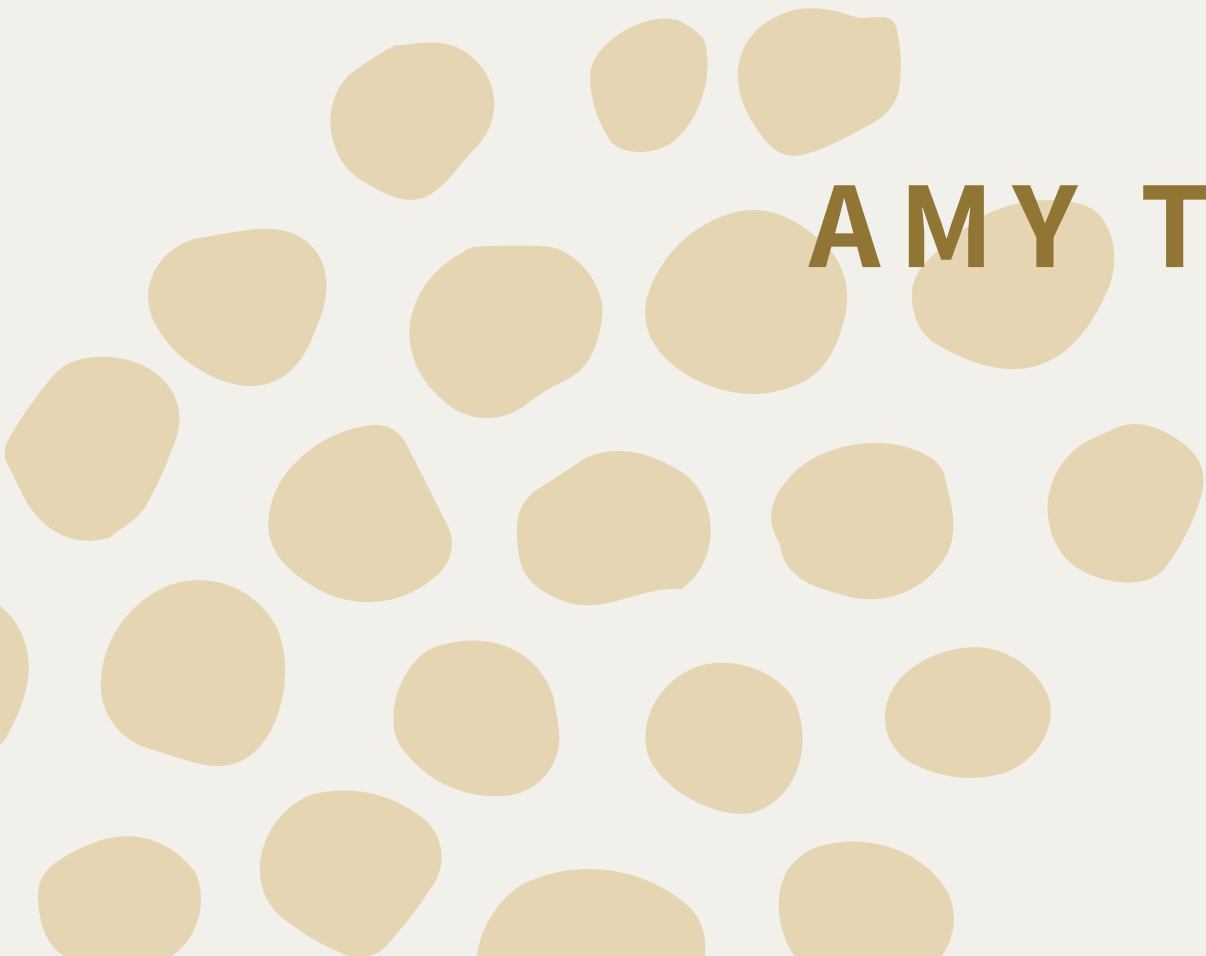
Critical Connections:
rather than critical mass

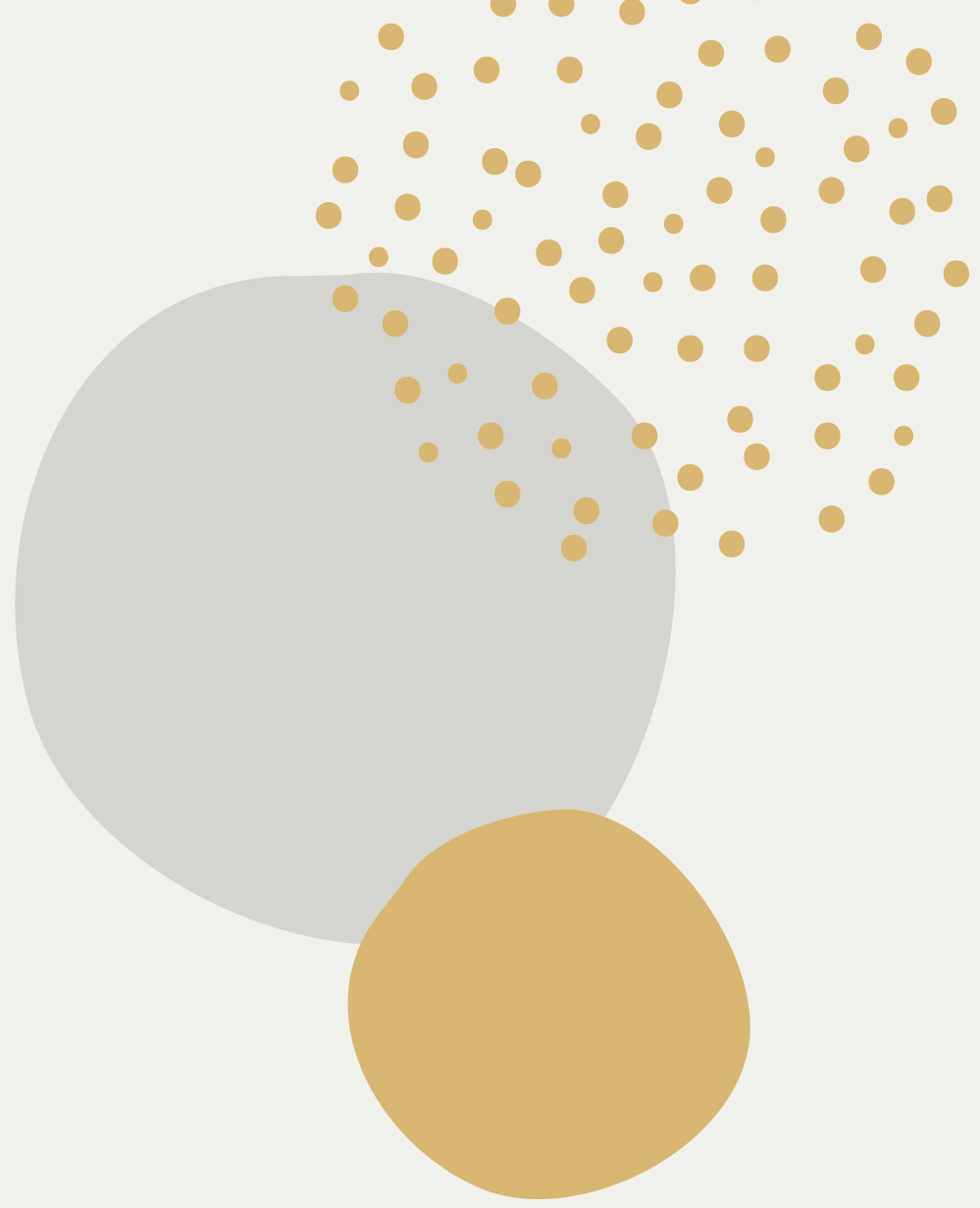




A Look Back

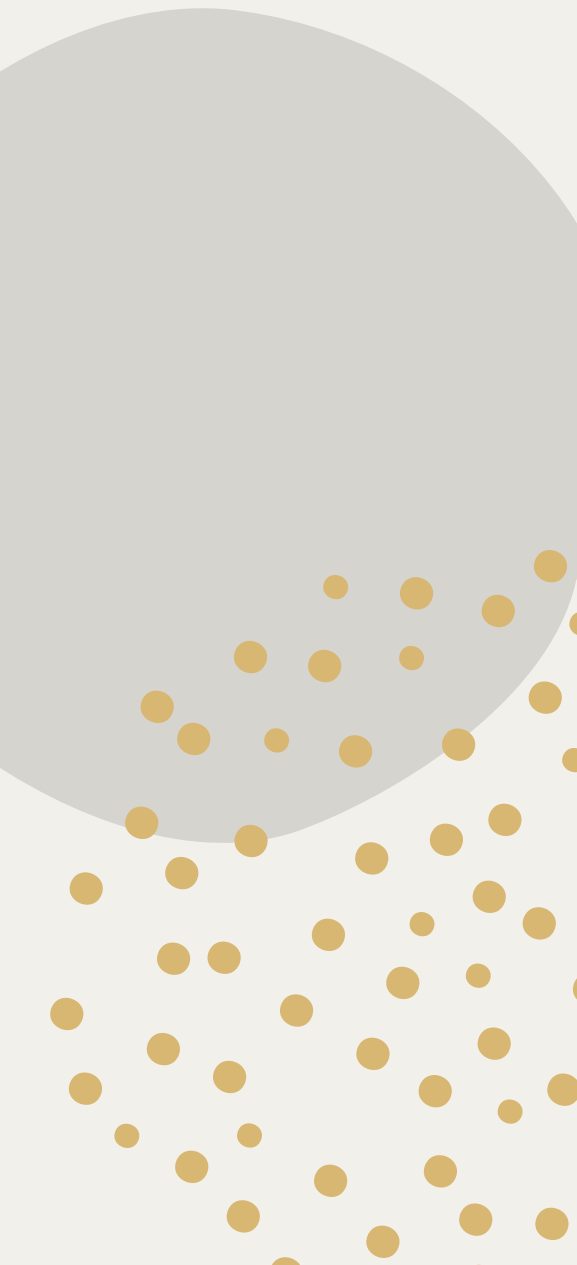
AMY THOMSON, COUNCIL CHAIR





Amy Thomson

**COUNCIL
CHAIR**





Why Council?

Church Council cares for, and provides support to, the operational needs, community health, and spiritual foundations of the congregation, in co-creation with our called Minister/s and staff. As per our Bylaws, we are charged with supervising the financial and administrative affairs of the church; recommending church policy; providing leadership in the formulation of church programs; and promoting communication among the ministers, staff, and committees of the church.

We are not a rubber-stamping committee. Council is the leadership body for the church, working towards, and in, community with each other, with an awareness that who we are, what we do, and what we create in the space we hold will be reflected in the congregation.

Where did Council encounter God in 2024?

Decision-making and discernment regarding Stone Soup requests for space/rental agreement. Anchoring into our touchstones, trusting in the Spirit, feeling God's partnership in the outcomes.

Council's hope for 2025?

Continued development of becoming the Council we aspire to be within the touchstones work, holding deeper presence, curiosity, and authenticity at the center of our relating.

Supporting increased congregational engagement in events or ministry circles, in any way we can provide influence and partnership in that endeavor.

Helping support the search committee for our Minister of Congregational Care and Leadership position, in welcoming an additional called pastor to our community.

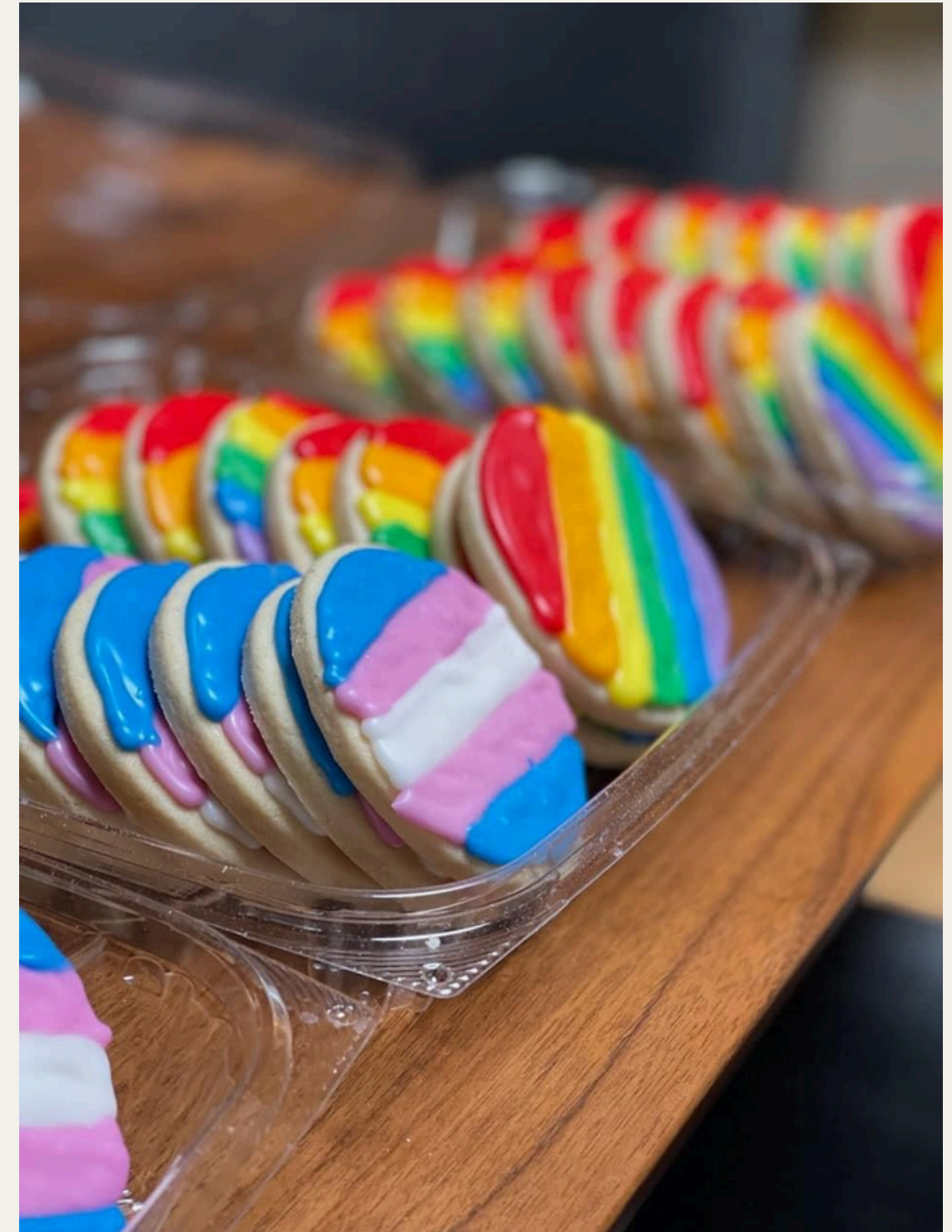
Nimbleness, flexibility, open-minds, and bravery to meet and adapt to new challenges ahead, leaning into becoming the Church our community and world needs today.

Staff Questions

* SHARE THE WHY OF YOUR WORK

* WHERE DID YOU SEE GOD IN 2024?

* WHAT IS YOUR HOPE FOR THE WORK OF THE CHURCH IN 2025?





Rev. Caroline Zaworski

PARISH NURSE

Describe your work

To provide education, support and presence to Parishioners and staff around health-and wellness-related concerns. To remind us of God's presence in the midst of illness, birth, death and grief. To work with the other clergy to address pastoral care needs and assist with worship as needed.

Where did you see God in 2024?

Looking at the Touchstones we have developed (Presence, Housing and Critical Connections), I see my work as helping to ensure that our members and friends have access to physical, emotional and spiritual support during health challenges. This involves being present, listening deeply, and helping to connect members of our faith community with one another. I am also available to help support health needs of those being served by our various housing ministries.

My Hope for 2025

I remain available to the congregation in person, on Wednesdays and Sundays, and by phone or Zoom other days. I hope to continue to be of support and to provide a presence that enables us to keep growing in individual physical/spiritual health and our congregational health.

Dr. Steven Zielke



CHOIR DIRECTOR & MUSIC DIRECTOR



Purpose (from Touchstone Work)

The Choir & Music Ministry reaches that part of the soul/spirit in a way only art can, creates a collective experience of communal connection, and accompanies the community in expression.

Where did Choir encounter God in 2024?

We encountered God in the hearts, minds, and voices of new members who joined our choir. We encountered God in the musical moments when our anthem took on special and unexpected meaning after a sermon. We encountered God in our visiting artists who brought their years of training and a desire to share into our community.

What is Choir's hope for 2025?

We hope to be surprised by joy. We hope to find moments of rare community in our rehearsal. We hope to be a leader—when appropriate—in helping our congregation find meaning in their own lives in a world that often doesn't seem to make sense.

Abigail Spear

MUSICAL ARTIST IN RESIDENCE





Why

We sing together to be present in our own bodies and in community with the voices around us.

Where did your group encounter/see God in 2024?

In discovering the joy of music through play and freedom of expression.

What are your group's hopes for 2025?

Evolving participation in the silly and the unknown in a way that is curious and exciting rather than judgmental or withholding.

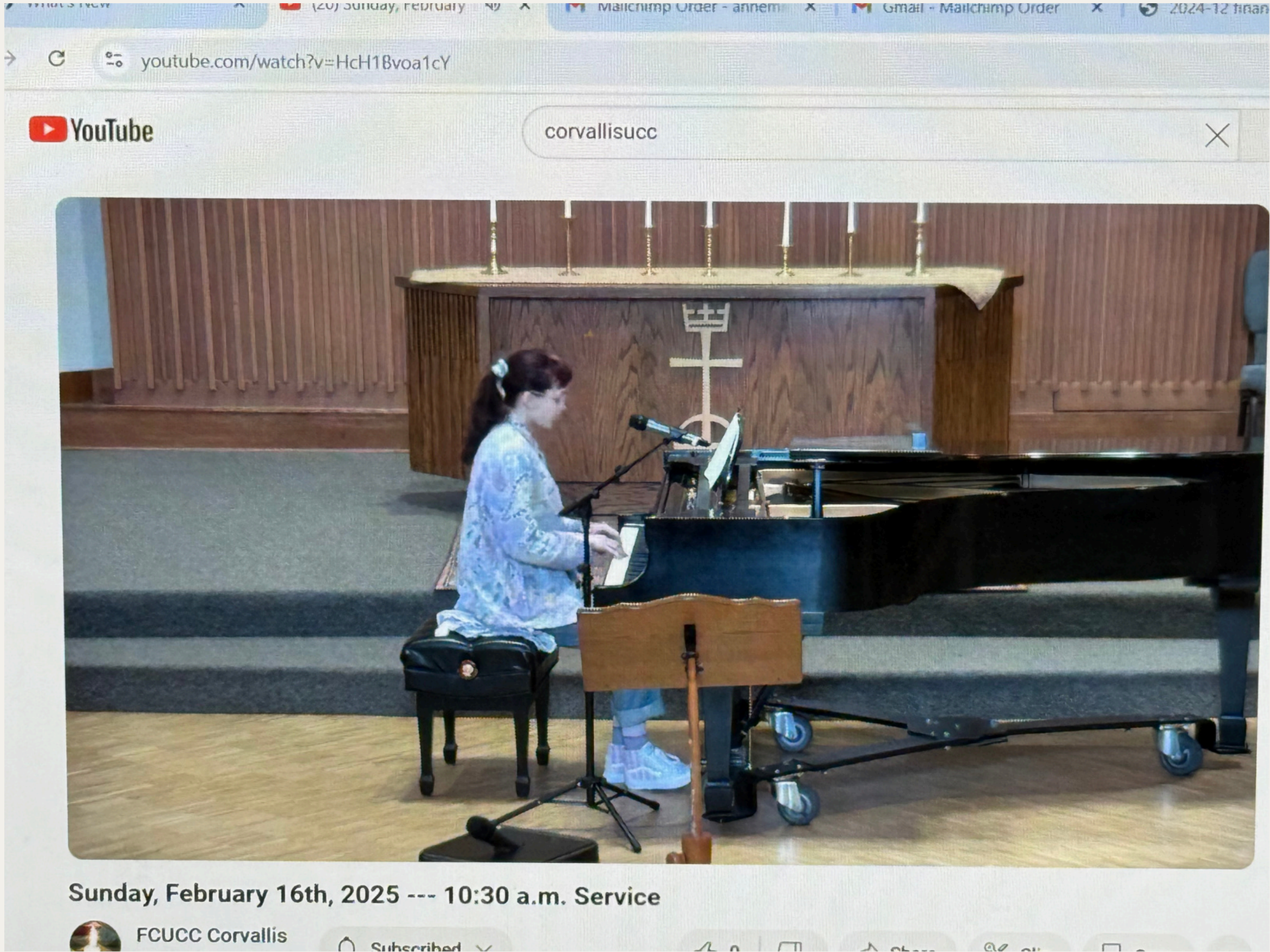
Results of your work with Lillie

We've created an environment where all experience levels can learn and sing together. All are welcome and belong in the space. We connect over old songs and new, always through a lens of joy, exploration, and discovery of what it feels like to join our voices.

Ken Fankhauser

DIRECTOR A/V TECH





Worship
livestream
on
YouTube

Describe your work

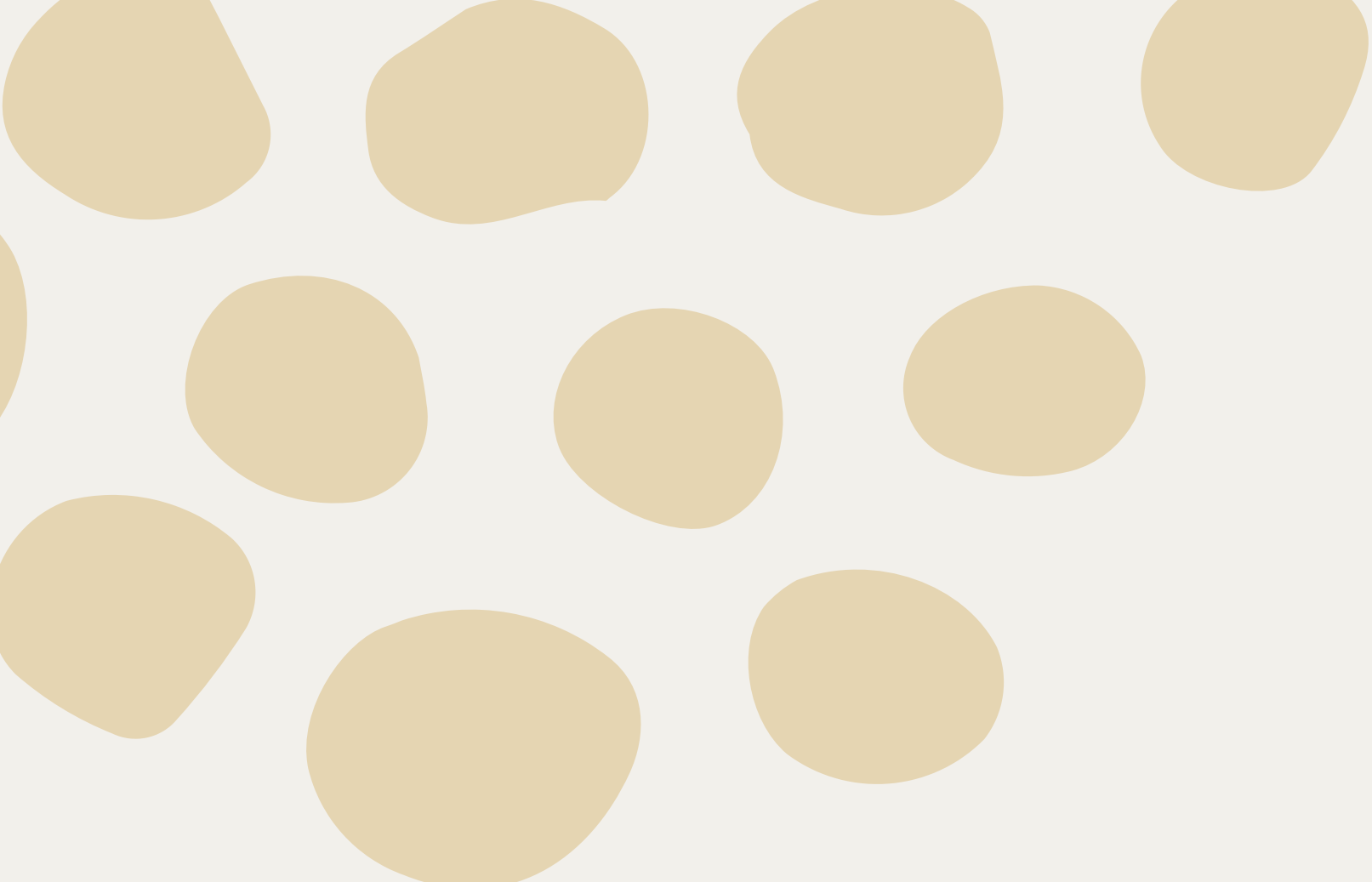
Our goal is to provide Audio and Visual support and broadcast services weekly. We do so by maintaining and upgrading equipment as needed, provide staff for special functions and operate the equipment. Roger, Alex, and Jack are the A/V techs on the team.

Where did the A/V tech team encounter God in 2024?

Our group encounters God in many ways, in particular in our chat rooms on both YouTube and Facebook. We get to share the strong and inspiring message here at First Congregational. We have come a long way from using an iPad up above the chapel, or a folding table in the back. We now have our own booth for both Audio and video. We use 3 cameras, a switcher , Multiple wireless microphones and a hearing assistance system. So we can share this message with people everywhere.

A/V Tech's hope for 2025

We hope that our audience will grow in 2025.
And to add a controller to make the cameras move.



Annemieke Laport

**OFFICE
ADMINISTRATOR**



Describe your work

To see to the many administrative tasks of our church such as accounting, donations, membership, publications, and building use.

Where is God?

I see the hand of God at work in the various ways our church touches lives both by ministry and by making our spaces available to the community at large, in an extravagant way.

My hope for 2025

My wish for the future is that we will continue optimizing our spaces, so we can continue to meet the needs of organizations whose missions dovetail with our values.









PLEASE RETURN THIS PROPERTY TO THE FOOD BANK



PLEASE RETURN THIS PROPERTY TO THE FOOD BANK



Vertical sign on the refrigerator door with illegible text.

WELCOME TO STONE SOUP

Stone Soup

Community Meeting





MODERCO
WARNING
ATTENTION
CAUTION
DO NOT
PLACE
FINGERS
BETWEEN
PANELS

EXIT

EXIT

Membership Report

Active membership per 1/1/2024:	224
New members received	6
Deaths	3
Moved to inactive	9
Transferred membership	3
Active membership per 12/31/2024:	215
Active non-members & newcomers	98

In Memoriam

Anne Harper 1928 - 2024

Nancy Klingeman 1936 - 2024

Doris Sherry 1929 - 2024



Website reach in 2024

www.corvallisucc.org

received 8,268 visits, a 27% increase over last year
54.6% via desktop and 45.4% via mobile devices

Webpages Top 5 (after the homepage):

Rev. Jen Butler's profile page

Church staff page

Safe Camp page

What We Believe page

Newsletter page

Social Media reach in 2024

Our Facebook page was visited 17,301 times
8% increase over 2023

Of those visits, 4,676 interacted with the content
(reactions, comments, shares, clicks, etc)
6.4% decrease from 2023

Our YouTube channel
has 440 subscribers!

E-mail campaign reach in 2024

We sent 120 e-mail campaigns,
resulting in 39,770 individual emails sent
to 373 subscribers, up 14 subscribers from last year

The open rate is 63.7%, up 3.7% from last year.

The average open rate for
religious institutions is 43.97%!
(Source: Mailchimp.com)



Ministry Circles

* SHARE THE PURPOSE OF YOUR MINISTRY.

* WHERE DID YOUR GROUP SEE GOD IN 2024?

* WHAT IS YOUR HOPE FOR YOUR MINISTRY IN
2025?



Barbara Gray

WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP

CNVFILLM FF1



Purpose (from Touchstone Work):

Women's Fellowship seeks to nurture strong connections within the congregation by offering hospitality, support, and educational opportunities, while also exploring ways to engage more deeply with the wider community.

Where did Women's Fellowship encounter God in 2024?

In relationship-building, as we spent time together sharing meals, learning together, and serving our neighbors

Women's Fellowship's hope for 2025

To foster an inclusive hospitality in which all are welcome, continue to develop critical connections with each other, and to explore ways to engage more deeply with the wider community.”

Peter Walker

MEN'S CIRCLE



Purpose: from Touchstone work

The purpose of this group is to provide a space for men to safely practice vulnerability and self-reflection as we develop strong relationships, support one another other, and cultivate belonging.

Where did the Men's Circle encounter God in 2024?

The holy has been present in our connection, in the trust being cultivated, and in the support and compassion men in our group are offering to one another.

Men's Circle's hope for 2025

To explore how we can be of greater service and support to the First Congregational Community.



Sally Robertson

CHAIR OF TRUSTEES



INSTALLATION OF WALL PADS IN GATTON HALL GYM



**New ceiling light fixtures
on the front porch.**



Purpose: from Touchstone Work

The Trustees tend to the church's physical space in a way that creates a comfortable, welcoming, and inclusive environment for the community.

Where did Trustees encounter God in 2024?

In the people who said yes and helped put wall pads up, cleaned blinds, moved furniture, installed new porch lights, cleaned up tree debris, mowed the grass and more.

What is Trustees' hope for 2025?

Grow the list of volunteers that was started last November to make our facility safe and welcoming for all. As we build this community, look for ideas to refurbish parts of the two kitchens, the BBQ pit and Hanson Grove where the whole family can gather.



Peace, Biodiversity & Justice Ministries

Purpose:

To create learning opportunities and pathways for meaningful action for the congregation on timely, meaningful efforts that seek justice.

Informed and inspired by our faith in the teachings of Jesus Christ, we are called to discern injustice in all its forms and to respond with love, seeking peace. As a congregation, this includes seeking justice in housing, health, environmental stewardship, poverty, labor, racism, and other various forms of oppression, acknowledging that all systems of oppression are interconnected.



Ken Crouse & Caroline Zaworski

IMMIGRATION



Larry Weymouth

**BIODIVERSITY
MINISTRY TEAM**





Why Biodiversity Justice Ministry Team?

We see the harm being done to people in our community and to our planet.

Where did your team encounter God in 2024?

Bring compassion and comfort to those suffering and restoration to Creation.

Hope for 2025

Our congregation will authentically live and steadfastly work together to provide people with refuge, shelter, food, and health care in a peaceful, biodiverse, and just world.





Never doubt



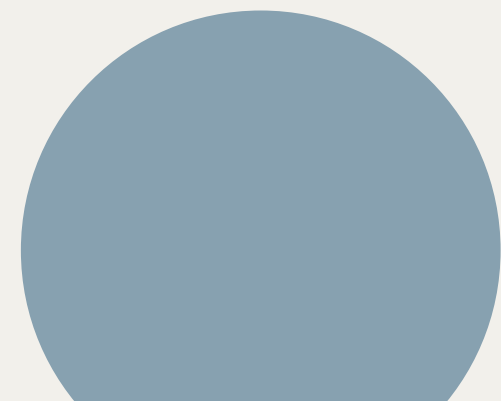
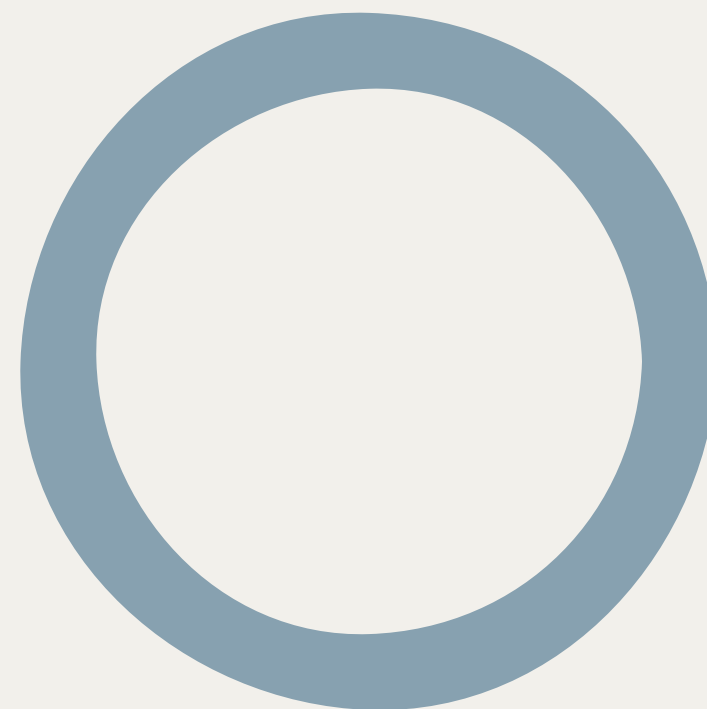
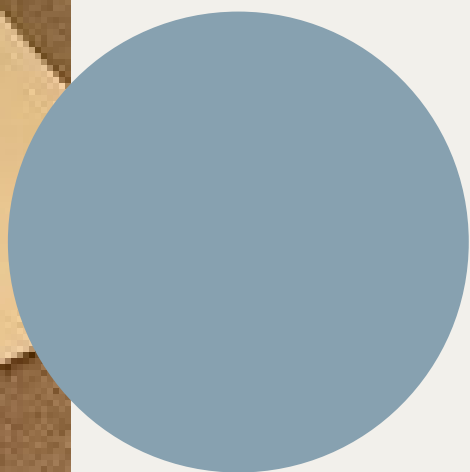
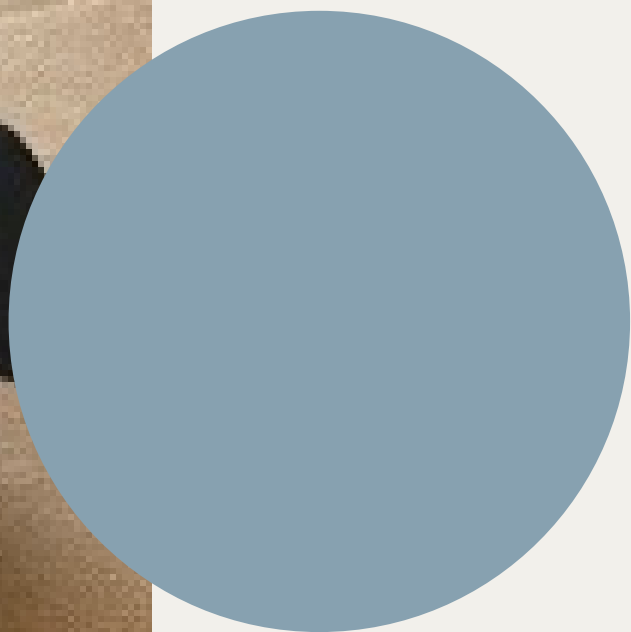
that a tiny group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world; indeed, it's the only thing that ever does.

STOP THE WAR
AGAINST THE POOR



Aleita Hass-
Holcombe

JUSTICE WITH THE POOR





Meal Prepping with Stone Soup on first Sundays

Why The Ministry with the Poor

Micah 6:8

What does the Lord require of us? To act justly and love mercy to walk humbly with our God.

Because we are inspired and informed by our Christian faith in the teachings of Jesus Christ, we are called to raise awareness and to respond to injustice that harms the poor by listening with curiosity and showing up with authenticity.

Where did Ministry with the Poor encounter God in 2024?

In the faces and in the voices of the individuals we interact with every day

Ministry with the Poor's hope for 2025

In line with our church touchstones: the Practice of Presence, a Justice Commitment to Housing, a Focus on Critical Connections, our hope for 2025 is:

- to address local issues through a lens of justice with the poor:
 - to listen and record the experiences of houseless people in our midst
- to work with local coalitions to end violence against our unhoused neighbors.



Mike Huntington
HEALTHCARE FOR ALL

Why Healthcare Ministry Team

To practice Active Hope in Health Care Justice by taking active steps to achieve health and health care that is:

- Free or with minimal co-pay at the site of service
 - High Quality
 - Universal--Everybody in, Nobody out
- Equitable--providers have no incentive to accept some patients and not others

Where did the Healthcare Ministry Team encounter God in 2024?

We see God in the faces of those telling their stories of suffering under our health care system.

Healthcare Ministry Team's hope for 2025

Promote local and state-wide interest in improving health care through a publicly managed health plan.
Promote specific actions toward this goal, e.g., participating with the Oregon Universal Health Plan Governance Board, and Mid Valley Healthcare Advocates.



Evan Scheessele & Raymund Ocampo

ENDOWMENT AND MEMORIAL FUNDS (EMF)



Purpose: from Touchstone work

The Endowment and Memorial Funds (EMF) Committee is the safe hand for the treasury of the church, tracking financial instruments, reallocating funds, and ensuring donations are spent within donor intent when applicable.

Where did EMF encounter God in 2024?

In the gifts our congregation has given to the church, which are powerful testimonies in support of the mission of the church.

EMF's hope for 2025?

The continued support of our church through Pledge Continuation Funds and gifts to endowments/memorials will be a sign for us that the church sees where we can grow and wants us to live into our mission now and into the future



DUNAWI CREEK WATERSHED



The Dunawi Creek Watershed is a 1,000-acre area located in the City of Dunwoody, Georgia. It is a tributary of the Dunwoody Creek, which flows into the Chattahoochee River. The watershed is primarily forested and contains several small streams and ponds. The City of Dunwoody is responsible for the maintenance and protection of the watershed. The watershed is a valuable resource for the City and its residents. It provides a natural habitat for many species of plants and animals. It also provides a source of clean water for the City. The watershed is a beautiful area that should be protected for future generations.

HANSON GROVE
1977

Mike McNally

STEWARDSHIP



Stewardship Numbers



Total pledged to the 2025 Operating Fund:
\$495,349

8 new pledges: \$10,920

56 increased pledges: \$380,926

38 pledges sustained at 2024 level: \$88,903

4 decreased pledges: \$14,600

Why Stewardship and Budget Teams

The Stewardship and Budget teams work to ensure the church has the financial resources to attain the work of the Congregation: from spiritual care and nurture for all ages, to sacred worship and justice and advocacy in the community and beyond.

Where did these teams encounter God in 2024?

We see God in the continued commitment from members and partners who give from a place of abundance.

Stewardship and Budget Teams' hope for 2025

We hope to continue to make progress on building a financially sustainable congregation, so that we can remain responsive to the dreams of the congregation and the future we are creating together



Business Meeting

Election of Church Council Members

& Board Representatives

Budget





Agenda

I. Call to Order

II. Election of Council Roster

III. Election of UCM Representatives

IV. Approval of 2025 Budget

Council Roster 2025



Amy Thomson, Chair
and We Care Representative

Earl Hadfield - Trustees Liaison

Raymund Ocampo - E M F Liaison

Larry Weymouth - Biodiversity Justice

Aleita Hass-Holcombe - Justice for the Poor

Keith Bowers

Nicole Hinds

Election of United Campus Ministry Board Representatives

Larry Weymouth

Craig Gray

On to the Budget ...



Benediction & Adjournment

