



Waverly Presbyterian Church
Annual Report
2023

Pastor's Report – Flowers Bloom and Flowers Fall

“For everything there is a season and a time for every matter under heaven” - Ecclesiastes 3:1

Over the past several years we have used the seasons to frame our annual report and I am reminded this year of how apt that metaphor is - while in the COVID years we felt a bit fallow and in those to follow we saw signs of spring, we are now back to more of a regular rhythm. Just like the seasons, our church life moves in cycles and will continue to do so. Waverly is a resilient congregation - one that finds and encourages life no matter how inflexible the earth may appear. 2023 was a year of life. We celebrated the life of many beautiful souls who went on to join in full unity with God. We met new friends and welcomed new members. We tried new things and returned to some old beloved traditions. I continue to be amazed by what a holy place this community is - and it is because of God working through each of you. You are open to who or what may come. You are open to the changing of minds and practices. With open hearts and spirits, join me in reflecting on our past year.

Joyful worship - What a year in worship! In 2023, we saw new members added to our choir, new worship leaders arose, and we heard an amazing variety of music to lift our spirits and deepen our reflection. Our children's message moved to the Wiggles and Wonder space and more children and families use that space to worship with moving bodies. We held intimate services in the lounge during the summer and worshiped with the community to bless bikes, bless animals, and hold space together in vigil. We connect our worship to our lives - may we continue to do so more and more in the years to come.

Spiritual education and stimulating study - In 2023 we worked to achieve continuity across our age groups and studies. We held a teacher training and created teacher guides for our children and youth. We re-opened the “Frog Pond” classroom for 2nd-5th graders. We brought back the all-church retreat and overnight women's/non-binary retreat and began a new group for vulnerable accountability and connection called Free for Good. We learn and grow together, all seeking God's gracious love.

Making God's love real - This year we shared God's love with one another and beyond by mourning and celebrating together. We were with one another through the cycles of birth and death and all the in-between. We continue to show God's love through the sharing of meals, resources, and laughter. We rolled on skates, performed on stage, hunted for eggs, and cut drywall in Kentucky. We sought to live freely and intentionally in love and felt God's love close.

We may move away from the season analogy when we pull together this report again in 2024 and yet we know that God is always moving, and we will continue to cycle together through both ups and downs. God is with us at both the high peaks and in the lowest of valleys. And we are together. Thank you, my beautiful Waverly family, for showing me this each and every day.

In God's Peace,

Pastor Caitlin

Clerk's Report

Total Active Membership as of 12/31/2022: 112

Gains for 2023

Profession of Faith, Reaffirmation, Certificate or Restoration

17 and under: 0

18 and over: 5

Total Gains: 5

Losses for 2023

Request: 2

Death: 2

Roll review: 14

Total Losses: 18

Total Active Membership as of 12/31/2023: 99

Baptisms

Children: 0

Adults: 0

Total baptisms: 0

Weddings at Waverly: 0

Respectfully submitted,

Tracy Small
Clerk of Session
1/13/2023

Christian Education Committee

Christian Education Committee Members:

Chair: Jean Bird

Members: Jean Bird, Amy Dove, Mollie Pollack, Sarah Rybicki, Nick Vargas

Staff: Rev. Caitlin Werth (Pastor, ex-officio), Caitlin Zeiset (Director of Children and Youth Ministry, ex-officio)

Activities Coordinated by C.E.:

- Sunday School classes for all ages
- Bible Studies and other learning opportunities for all ages
- Confirmation Class
- Nursery care during worship
- Games and activities for special events
- Coordination of intergenerational events

The People:

- 50 children, youth and adults enrolled in Nursery Care, Sunday School, and Youth Group
- An average of 5-10 children per week in nursery care during worship - Jill Ramsey (lead), Allison (assistant), parent and other volunteers
- Sunday School teachers include: Jean Bird; Kate Golightly; Zoe Pienkoski; Sarah Rybicki; Ashley Peralta; Jim Bird; Mollie Pollack; Andrew Jones; Amy Dove, and seven other adult volunteers taking turns with individual sessions of the adult curriculum.
- Wuppet Directors/Writers include Jim Bird and Mollie Pollack.

Highlights of the Year:

- Children's Message now takes place and is filmed in the Wiggles and Wonder Space.
- Adult Sunday School averaged 10-15 people per session.
- Teacher recognition/graduation Sunday recognized three college graduates.
- Coordination of Sunday School Teachers, Child Care workers, and Sunday School lessons via shared Google/Excel docs.
- Sent/delivered 12 care packages to our college and graduate school students during fall semester exams.
- Waverly Opera House now exists as its own committee, and is scheduled for production in May 2024.
- A Coffee House led by youth, and a Christmas Coffee House in December were well attended by children, youth and adults.
- Sunday School families participated in the Christmas Eve Pageant.
- A \$2000 grant was secured for Nursery and other children and youth projects. Nursery updates are in progress, including new carpeting and artwork at Nursery entrance.
- 2nd -5th grade class allocated \$500 approved from Mission Budget to local charities.
- 3 new acolytes trained with plans for Acolyte Workshops in January 2024.

We live out our mission statement of "less than perfect people seeking to live out God's perfect will" through joyful worship, continuing spiritual education and stimulating study, and making God's love real.

Respectfully submitted by Jean Bird
Christian Education Committee Chair
1/14/2024

Communications Committee

Communications Committee Members:

Chair: Adam Dove

Members: Eleanor Fisher, Karen Cornell

Staff: Rev. Caitlin Werth (Pastor, ex-officio)

The communications committee works with the Pastor to elevate the efforts of the church and disseminate that information to the broader community.

- This season, the communications committee expanded its outreach into the local community to promote the many events and happenings at Waverly.
- We created promotional materials and ensured a strong Waverly presence at events like Run Around the Square, Pride, and National Night Out.
- We supported Waverly events such as the Blessing of the Animals, the Blessing of the Bicycles, the Waverly Coffee House, and various fundraising concerts by increasing attendance through promotion to the Waverly community and beyond.
- We improved the Waverly website to highlight for visitors all of the events, outreach, and mission work our congregation does.
- We designed a new pew card to help direct visitors to opportunities to connect with Waverly that fit with their interests.

Respectfully Submitted by Adam M. Dove

Communications Committee Chair

1/16/2024

Membership Committee

Membership Committee Members:

Chair: Ginny Grimes

Members: Amy Dove, Bob Dove, Marsha Morris, Pattie Relosky, Pam Shaffer, Mary Vandivier, David Gigliotti,

Staff: Rev. Caitlin Werth (Pastor, ex-officio)

The mission of the Committee is to increase the body of Christ at Waverly by:

- Sponsoring and promoting activities that encourage a sense of community & fellowship
- Creating a welcoming environment for visitors
- Providing support for members in times of joy & sorrow
- Creating an environment in which members can grow closer to God and each other
- Providing opportunities for members to share their gifts and talents

Activities and events coordinated by the Membership Committee in 2023:

- Reached out to visitors
- Recruited volunteers for coffee hours
- Completed 2 members classes and welcomed 5 new members
- Provided special coffee hours for new members and other special events
- Organized and delivered meals to members who are new parents, ill, or in need
- Maintained a greeting ministry by training new greeters, creating a greeter schedule, and ensuring all visitors are greeted and provided with any information they request
- Helped work with Communication Committee to create new pew cards that include a space for the person completing the card to list interests or talents
- Organized food and setup for potluck meals, including Mardi Gras, Pentecost, Homecoming Sunday, and Holiday Potluck
- Organized Cookie Walk/Soup Sale, including group soup prep. We have returned to an in person cookie walk this year.
- Organized and facilitated Presby Senior Care Hymn Sing.
- Facilitated Christmas Open Mic and game night
- Facilitated coffee hour Christmas cards for member signatures to shut-ins and Waverly friends who have moved
- Provided refreshments following a concert by EastShore Chorale.
- Facilitated a knitting class.

Our motto is: Untamed Hospitality!

Respectfully submitted by Ginny Grimes

Membership Committee Chair

1/14/2024

Mission Committee

Mission Committee Members:

Co-Chairs: Bob Snyder and Tom Golightly

Members: Dan and Clare Cornell, Eleanor Fisher, Tawna Loutsenhizer, Marsha Morris, Mollie Pollack,, Joan Stone, and Bill Vandivier

Members of Justice Subcommittee: Bob Dove, Ellen Guise, Bill Vandivier, Mary Vandivier

Staff: Rev. Caitlin Werth (Pastor, ex-officio)

Waverly leverages its mission and outreach work through local, national, and global partners.

Waverly's Local Mission Partners: Wilksburg Community Ministries, Foundation of Hope, LAMP: LGBTQIA+ Affirming Ministries of Pittsburgh, National Black Presbyterian Caucus, Wilksburg Sanctuary Project for Peace.

- Beth Simon is president of the board of Wilksburg Community Ministry.
- Beth also serves as coordinator of Church World Service's annual Pittsburgh East CROP Walk.
- Marsha Morris serves as Waverly's coordinator for the Pittsburgh East CROP Hunger Walk.
- Tawna Loutsenhizer is treasurer of LAMP: LGBTQIA+ Affirming Ministries of Pittsburgh.
- Ellen Guise serves as Waverly's representative for the Pittsburgh Chapter of the National Black Presbyterian Caucus.
- Avery Pollack is Waverly's representative for Bread for the World.

The committee also identified four additional local organizations to feature through Waverly's 2023 Advent Offerings: HaitiH2O, Esfera Faith, Jewish Family and Community Services, and Za'kiyah House. Each organization received \$1200 thanks to contributions by individuals and the Mission budget.

Waverly's National & Global Partners:

- Bread for the World
- Guatemala Service Projects
- Hope Made Real, Urukundu Learning Center, Rwanda
- National Black Presbyterian Caucus
- PC(USA) Presbyterian Disaster Assistance

Waverly's outreach efforts are guided by the following Mission Statement and being a Matthew 25 PC(USA) congregation.

"The Mission Committee affirms that Waverly is a church committed to making God's unconditional love real in the lives of people inside and outside our community. We live out our mission through joyful and reverent worship, welcoming fellowship, open minded study, and working to bring out SHALOM –just and lasting peace – in our community, nation and world. We commit, as part of our Mission work, and as a Matthew 25 church, to seek justice for those most marginalized in our world. We further commit to the anti-racist work of fighting white supremacy, dismantling institutionalized racism, and repairing broken relationships. The Mission Committee seeks out opportunities for Waverly's members to become God's hands, feet and face to our neighbors by ministering to people's basic needs for food, shelter, education, healthcare, safety, equal justice under law, and spiritual growth. Our strategy includes financial and hands-on assistance, partnerships with other organizations, and participation in civil political discourse." (Mission Statement, October 2020)

Matthew 25 congregations build congregational vitality by challenging themselves to deepen their faith and actively and joyfully engage with their community and the world; dismantling structural racism by advocating and acting to break down the systems, practices and thinking that underlie discrimination, bias, prejudice and oppression of people of color; and eradicating systemic poverty by working to change laws, policies, plans and structures in our society that perpetuate economic exploitation of people who are poor.

Distributions and Activities:

Distributions

Ten percent of the dollars pledged to Waverly each year are directed to the Mission budget. In 2023, the Mission Committee allocated \$16,937. The funds were allocated in support of local mission partners, the mission and ministries of Pittsburgh Presbytery, and Presbyterian Disaster Assistance's partners involved in the recovery efforts following the February 6, 2023 Turkey–Syria earthquakes and RIP Medical Debt. The committee also committed \$3,000 (over 3 years) to support our long-time ministry partner, Crestfield Camp and Conference Center.

Recipients and the amounts they received are summarized below.

Angel's Place (Youth Mission)	\$125
Bethlehem Haven (Youth Mission)	\$125
Crestfield Camp and Conference Center	\$1000
CROP Walk Mission Support	\$2,500
LAMP (East Liberty Presbyterian Church)	\$200
National Black Caucus (Membership)	\$150
Paws Across Pittsburgh (Youth Mission)	\$250
Pgh Presbytery Shared Mission Support	\$2,000
Presbyterian Disaster Assistance	\$1,000
Ride for Recovery (McKeesport Hospital Foundation)	\$200
Wilkinsburg Community Ministries (Paperbank and Quarterly Support)	\$5,200
Wilkinsburg Sanctuary Project for Peace	\$400
Advent Offerings*	\$2279
RIP Medical Debt*	\$508

**adding in donations from the congregation and remaining funds from the pastor's discretionary funds, we gave \$1200 to each Advent offering and \$594 to RIP Medical Debt*

Activities

- Waverly partnered with WCM for the Good Friday walk and collected feminine hygiene products to be donated to WCM.
- Waverly hosted the Holocaust Center of Pittsburgh/Generation Speakers Series presentation on April 26.
- Pride Events. On June 3, Waverly representatives joined our LAMP (LGBTQ+ Affirming Ministries of Pittsburgh) partners at Pittsburgh Pride Revolution Downtown and on the North Side, and participated in the June 25 People's Pride PGH 2023 March and Festival in Swissvale.
- Black Presbyterian Caucus. Waverly participated in the Caucus' Juneteenth parade on June 17.
- Summer Mission Project. June 24 – July 1, nine Waverly volunteers traveled to southwestern Kentucky (Marshall County) and completed home restoration work coordinated by Presbyterian Disaster Assistance

(partnering with International Orthodox Christian Charities (IOCC) and Inspiritus), following a devastating series of 71 tornados December 10-11, 2021.

- Open Hand Ministry. Volunteers from Waverly continue to work with Open Hand Ministries, following our 2022 week. Jim Crawford's ongoing service was featured in an Open Hand newsletter. Bill Vandivier organized a Waverly team of 10 that gave a day of service on October 7, to work on the Ministries' 423 Ardary Street property.
- Prison Book Project. This past summer, Waverly households generously supported the Pittsburgh Prison Book Project with donations of books for prisoners across Pennsylvania.
- CROP Hunger Walk for Church World Service. The walk was held on October 8. The Mission Committee contributed \$2,500 and Waverly's 10 walkers raised an additional \$8,209.52. Combined, Waverly contributed \$10,709.52 toward the Walk's total dollars raised this year, \$27,541.
- Za'kiyah House Gift Collection. People attending this year's Christmas party were invited to bring a gift for Za'kiyah House clients.

Respectfully submitted by Bob Snyder and Tom Golightly
Mission, Co-chairs
1/15/2024

Personnel Committee

Personnel Committee Members:

Chair: John Wray

Members: Holly Wray, Robbie Bashore

Staff: Rev. Caitlin Werth (Pastor, ex-officio)

There were no scheduled meetings held this past year. Meetings are held on an as needed basis. The Personnel Committee was established to create and oversee all policies relating to Waverly's staff and to maintain all personnel records. The committee helps with the hiring of staff and contract workers, provides the resources for annual reviews (e.g., job descriptions, work plans and evaluation forms), and makes compensation recommendations to the session. Staff evaluations were conducted during the first quarter of 2023. Feedback was provided to all employees by the end of March. It is an important goal of the Personnel Committee to provide everyone working on behalf of Waverly opportunities for continued growth.

Major accomplishments and/or activities in 2023 consisted of the following:

- The Rev. Caitlin Werth completed her third full year as Waverly's pastor on August 1, 2023. She received a 4% increase in salary in 2023 and is scheduled to receive a 5% increase in salary for 2024. Rev. Werth has done a wonderful job of shepherding Waverly and has met the goals for 2023 that she established. We thank her for her outstanding service.
- Elizabeth Nicodemus completed her second and final year as Waverly's Student Pastor in May. She worked closely with Rev. Werth as part of her training. Caitlin Zeist joined Waverly as Student Pastor in September. Both Elizabeth and Caitlin were compensated at the Presbytery salary level for Student Pastors. Both Elizabeth and Caitlin were/are wonderful addition(s) to the Waverly staff.
- Jennifer Geibel completed her second year as Waverly's Director of Music in September. She accompanies the choir on the piano and organ thus eliminating the need for a salaried accompanist. Jennifer is compensated as a salaried employee and paid on a monthly basis. She is scheduled to receive an increase in pay in 2024 commensurate with what a full-time position would pay for a 10-hour work week. Waverly is fortunate to have Jennifer as its Director of Music now and for the foreseeable future.
- Catherine Zeiset completed her first full year as Waverly's Director of Children and Youth Ministry which began in August 2022. Caitlin also will be compensated commensurate with what a full-time position would be paid for a 10-hour work week. Caitlin has worked with Rev. Werth and the Christian Education committee to develop programs which will attract and enhance our ministry to children and youth. She has done a wonderful and innovative job.
- Alex Marthaler completed his position as Office Administrator as of December 31, 2023. Alex served as Office Administrator for four years. We thank Alex for his exemplary service to Waverly and wish him the best moving forward. A search has begun to hire a new Office administrator on a salary basis for a 10-hour work week.
- Jill Ramsey who was hired in September 2022 completed her first full year as Childcare Supervisor in 2023. Allison Butterfield was hired as Childcare Assistant in September. Both Jill and Allison are paid on an hourly basis. Jill will receive an increase in her hourly rate of 5% for 2024 and Allison will receive the same hourly rate she received in 2023. They have both provided a caring and secure environment for the youngest members of Waverly's family.
- Nancy Lindahl provided Waverly's custodial service in 2023 at the same hourly rate as in 2022. That rate will remain the same for 2024. Nancy is paid monthly (or when invoices are submitted) based on the number of actual hours worked.
- Special thanks to Tom Fisher who has provided grounds maintenance service on a volunteer basis again in 2023. Tom has agreed to provide lawn and grounds service on a volunteer basis again in 2024.
- Kenneth Hand provided piano tuning for Waverly on a per service payment basis when needed.

- Thanks to Brian Kerr, Stephen Neely, Mollie Pollack, Bill Vandivier and Mike Roberts for volunteering to bring us live stream worship services on a weekly basis. This service will continue in 2024.

We look forward to 2024. We trust that those people, who receive financial compensation from Waverly for serving our church, receive God's blessings and our continued support. We thank all the individuals mentioned in this report for their service and creativity this past year.

Respectfully submitted by John Wray
Personnel Committee Chair
1/14/2024

Property Committee

Property Committee Members:

Chair: Pattie Relosky

Co-Chairs: Brian Kerr and Stephen Neely

Members: Curt Boirum, Tom Fisher, Bill Vandivier, Bonnie Titus

Staff: Rev. Caitlin Werth (Pastor, ex-officio)

Our church building is a major landmark in Pittsburgh's East End. The Property Committee exists to create and maintain an attractive, comfortable, accessible, safe, useful, and efficient facility to house our community of faith and to help our property fulfill its potential to serve as a beacon in the larger community, including use on a regular basis by NA, AA, AI Anon, Amnesty, International and for music lessons, reiki and foster care support team meetings.

Waverly accomplished many of its property goals in 2023 through the efforts of committee members, staff, dedicated volunteers, and contractors. We are lucky to have willing and knowledgeable volunteers to do much of the work that we would otherwise have to pay for. The Property Committee systematically tracks what needs to be done to maintain and improve the building and grounds, and strategically prioritizes, plans, performs, and outsources this work using the church's resources in a responsible, effective, sustainable, and joyful manner. This year's accomplishments include:

- We continued with our ongoing pointing program to repoint portions of the building every year to keep up with deteriorating mortar.
- The structural issue causing the repeated leaks in the ceiling of the Forbes vestibule was fixed, so the plaster has been repaired.
- Ashley Taylor, a music therapist, started leasing the office behind the Sanctuary in June.
- Bob Dove and his reiki partner began offering reiki sessions in the small room behind the Sanctuary.
- We negotiated the repairs to the Forbes Ave. sidewalk and driveway, at no cost to the church, in return for the use of our parking lot by contractors working on the bridge. We hosted a community meeting in which the City described their plans to improve the Forbes & Braddock intersection.
- We signed an agreement with Pittsburgh Regional Transit, which installed a new bus stop shelter on part of our property.
- Our Annual Fire Inspection was conducted in December, covering the fire alarms, fire extinguishers and emergency lighting. Per the report, we contracted to replace the batteries in most of the emergency lighting.
- We installed a new sign for the Social Hall that also includes directions for getting to the Lounge entrance.
- The light above the social hall was fixed, and ongoing repairs were made to other exterior lights.
- Ten of the high sanctuary spotlights were replaced.
- The maple tree along the Braddock side of the building that had dropped a big branch was cut down.
- We continued re-landscaping of the Forbes entry garden, including the planting of native shrubs. New plantings were also made in other areas of the property.
- A new epoxy-based floor was installed by Carl Brown in the men's bathroom at no cost to us.
- All-Church Workdays were held in April and October.
- In addition to the special projects, all the routine maintenance tasks continued to occur, like cutting the grass and weeding.

We look forward to being actively involved with any improvements to the church to be made as a result of the building survey conducted this past fall.

Respectfully submitted by Pattie Relosky, Stephen Neely, and Brian Kerr

Property Committee Chair and Co-Chairs
1/16/2024

Stewardship & Finance Committee

Personnel Committee Members:

Co-Chairs: John Wray and Paul Otori

Treasurer: Dan Vargas & Mollie Pollack

Members: Holly Wray, Mollie Pollack, Bob Snyder

Staff: Rev. Caitlin Werth (Pastor, ex-officio)

Plus, input from the Chairs of Worship and Music, Membership, Christian Education, Outreach and Property Committees.

Mollie Pollack succeeded Dan Vargas as treasurer in March.

In 2023, Waverly's mission and ministry, as well as numerous additional mission outreach entities, were generously supported with the time, talents, and financial resources of many households—members and friends. Again, this past year Waverly could not have accomplished all that it did without this generous level of enthusiastic support it received from its members and friends. As Waverly proceeds into 2024, it is hoped that Waverly will continue to enjoy this support. We believe this support is representative of our collectively joy-filled and grateful response to God for God's steadfast love, grace, faithfulness and generosity. **Praise God from whom all blessings flow.**

Report of Financial Commitments for our General Mission and Ministry in 2023 (as of 12/31/23)

2023 Total Number of Households contributing to the General Fund:	55	
2023 Pledging Households	37	\$176,065
Actual Amount Received		\$173,356
2023 Pledging Households fulfilling, or surpassing pledge	26	\$148,890
Difference between pledged and contributed dollars	plus	\$2,080
2023 Pledging Households not completing pledge	11	\$24,466
Difference between pledged and contributed dollars	negative	\$4,789
2023 Households Contributing to General Fund but not Pledging	18	\$15,016
TOTAL RECEIVED		\$188,372

2023 Stewardship Campaign Results for 2024 Budget

39 Pledges - \$175,045: 20 increases; 8 same; 3 decreases; 8 new; 6 ended pledges

\$10,001 or more: 4 pledges \$73,160; 41.8% of total amount pledged

\$10,000-\$5,001: 4 pledges \$23,600; 13.5% of total amount pledged

\$5,000-\$2,501: 13 pledges \$51,030; 29.1% of total amount pledged

\$2,500-\$1,001: 13 pledges \$24,505; 14.0% of total amount pledged

\$1,000-\$300: 5 pledges; \$2,750; 1.6% of total amount pledged

Top 10% of pledges (8) totaled \$96,760 or 55.3% of total dollars pledged

Respectfully submitted by John Wray: Co-Chair Stewardship – 01/14/24

Worship and Music Committee

Worship and Music Committee Members:

Chair: Rob Hosken

Members: Robbie Bashore, Kate Golightly, Karen Schoedel, Gwen Vargas

Staff: Rev. Caitlin Werth (pastor, ex-officio)

Music Director: Jennifer Geibel (staff, ex-officio)

The Worship and Music Committee works with the Pastor to ensure meaningful, engaging and accessible worship of God.

“Come in, come in and sit down; you are a part of the family. We are lost and we are found, and we are a part of the family.”

In 2023, the worship and music at Waverly continued to be a source of strength to many people, and has become increasingly relevant to people who have decided to find out what Waverly is like.

- We continue to experience the deep joy of worshipping God together and to acknowledge the blessings and challenges of life together as a community.
- We had in-person worship all year in 2023. We are grateful to those who run sound and video, which both enhances our in-person worship experience, and enables members, friends, and anyone else to join Waverly’s worship remotely, via Facebook live.
- Communion is celebrated every Sunday that there is an ordained minister available to serve. We provide options for people to walk up front to receive elements during communion, or use pre-packaged cups and wafers in their pews. We are constantly evaluating our communion practices, to encourage people to participate in this central worship sacrament, as they choose.
- We remain vigilant, and sensitive to people’s concerns, about potential spread of illness – masks are available at Sanctuary entrances, and Rev. Werth communicates about this topic during worship at appropriate times.
- Every Sunday, the children of Waverly have an important time and place to gather and participate in worship, in the Wiggles and Wonder space, and with the Children’s Message. The Worship and Music team works to adjust practices for these things, to help everyone worship. Thanks to Caitlin Zeiset for regularly providing the Children’s Message!
- Music: We had music in a wide variety of styles, and modestly increased the amount of older, well-known hymns during worship. Waverly is blessed with many musicians, and is a wonderful place to learn about making music in public. If you would like to sing with the choir, please talk with Jennifer Geibel, our Music Director – we would love to have your voice! Other musical contributions to worship services are also welcome.
- We obtained a new glass bowl for the baptismal font, so worshippers can see the baptismal water every Sunday.
- We enjoyed sermons from a number of insightful people on Sundays when Rev. Werth was away: Elizabeth Nicodemus, Caitlin Zeiset, John Wray, Bob Dove, Paul Ogori, Rev. Ellie Johns-Kelley.

Here are some of Waverly’s Worship highlights throughout the year of 2023:

- Ash Wednesday service and passing of the ashes on February 22.
- Waverly members traveled to the Pittsburgh Theological Seminary on Palm Sunday, April 2, 2023, to join the Black Presbyterian Caucus in a powerful Unity Service.
- Informal Maundy Thursday service: foot-washing, communion, and potluck dinner.
- Good Friday: Stations of the Cross walk during the day. Met for outdoor prayer near Wilkinsburg Community Ministry, with members of Pax Christi. Tenebrae service at 7pm.
- Joyful Easter Sunday service!

- 2023 saw the return of Acolytes assisting with worship! Through serving as Acolytes, young people receive affirmation of their value and importance in the Waverly community. Thanks to the grown-ups who helped make this possible.
- We provided a Blessing of the Bicycles outdoor service to the community on Saturday, May 6. Haiti H2O and FreeRide Pittsburgh partnered with Waverly to support this event.
- Youth-led worship on May 21.
- Celebrated Pentecost and welcomed new members on the same Sunday in May.
- Low-Key worship services at 10am throughout the summer, including a move to the lounge for services in August.
- Outdoor Blessing of the Animals on Saturday, September 30. In attendance were 17 dogs, 2 cats, and 31 people!
- World Communion Sunday on October 8
- We held two prayer vigils for peace, on October 24 and November 21.
- Blue Christmas Service on December 21: We had a meaningful, reflective service, acknowledging the sorrows we may experience even during the season more typically known for cheerfulness.
- Christmas Eve was on a Sunday, so we had a small celebration of the fourth Sunday of Advent in the morning, and a big celebration of Jesus' birth in the evening, with a pageant featuring kids and grown-ups, special music, candlelight, and a nice full Sanctuary with 165 members and friends attending!

Thanks for the memories, and we look forward to continuing reaching people's hearts through worship and music in 2024. We invite you to use your gifts to help Waverly enhance its worship and music!

Respectfully submitted by Rob Hosken
 Worship and Music Committee Chair
 1/17/2024