



Waverly Presbyterian Church  
Annual Report  
2024

## Pastor's Report – The Struggles and the Joys

*Less than perfect people seeking to live out God's perfect will.*

*We live out our mission by committing ourselves to one another in the struggles and joys of worship, discipleship, and love.*

This year, we updated our mission statement as noted above. What seems like a small change may have a large impact as it better captures who we are at Waverly. If we are truly honest, we don't only worship in joy, our studies aren't always stimulating, and while we try to make God's love real, we know we don't always succeed. Instead, we commit as a community to live together in all aspects of life. We hold ourselves to the standard of Jesus Christ but recognize our need for grace and offer it to one another. In this way, we form and maintain genuine connections, encouraging one another to grow while still accepting each other as we are. We seek God among us and strive to share the love of God throughout our days and spaces. This is a compelling vision for all those who seek, in their own imperfect ways, to follow the call of the God of perfection.

Worship - Worship this year has been lively and varied. We continue to remain open to the reforming nature of God and try new things, like different affirmations of faith, new language, and a variety of music. Our Wiggles and Wonder space has expanded to include new materials for our children and youth to explore their spirituality and the many ways to worship. We seek to worship God beyond just our Sunday services in reflecting on poetry in Drawing Closer, listening to God's movement in our lives through Free for Good, and joining with friends and neighbors at special events, like Martin Luther King Jr. Day.

Discipleship - Our Sunday School classes continue to be vibrant and creative. All ages gather to learn and grow together each week, and often in additional times and spaces as well. Our new Theology talks allowed us to explore topics beyond our Sunday School lessons and opened up the opportunity for longer discussion.

Love - Love continues to abound at Waverly. I am always impressed by how easily people fold into the community at Waverly because of how warm and truly welcoming you all are. You see each other and listen well. You respond when you see your neighbor in need. You celebrate and mourn together. You lean on God when you feel overwhelmed and allow the Spirit to take control.

As we head into another year together, I look forward to the many ways we will find growth, build stronger connections, and follow God's movement in this world. We stand together looking in the direction of God's love, ready to respond and eager to live into the truth of who we are.

In God's Peace,

Pastor Caitlin

# Clerk's Report

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

*Gains for 2023*

Profession of Faith, Reaffirmation, Certificate or Restoration

17 and under: 0

18 and over: 1

**Total Gains: 5**

*Losses for 2023*

Request: 4

Death: 0

Roll review: 5

**Total Losses: 9**

**Total Active Membership as of 12/31/2024: 91**

*Baptisms*

Children: 0

Adults: 0

**Total baptisms: 0**

**Weddings at Waverly: 1**

Respectfully submitted by Tracy Small

Clerk of Session

1/19/2025

# Christian Education Committee

## Christian Education Committee Members:

Chair: Jean Bird

Members: Jean Bird, Amy Dove, Mollie Pollack, Ellie Covert, 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
- 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 4-8 children per week in nursery care during worship - Jill Ramsey (lead), Belle Werth (assistant), parent and other volunteers
- Sunday School teachers included: Jean Bird; Kate Golightly; Zoe Pienkoski; Sarah Rybicki; Ashley Peralta; Jim Bird; Mollie Pollack; Andrew Jones; Kellie Skweres, Amy Dove, and seven other adult volunteers taking turns with individual sessions of the adult curriculum.
- Wuppet Directors/Writers included Jim Bird and Mollie Pollack.

### Highlights of the Year:

- Children's Message takes place and is live-streamed weekly from the Wiggles and Wonder Space.
- Adult Sunday School averaged 10-15 people per session.
- Teacher recognition/graduation Sunday recognized 7 graduates from middle school, high school and college.
- Coordination of Sunday School Teachers, Child Care workers, and Sunday School lessons via shared Google/Excel docs.
- Sent/delivered 14 care packages to our college and graduate school students during fall semester exams.
- A Coffee House led by youth in the spring was well-attended by children, youth and adults.
- Eight Sunday School families participated in the Christmas Eve Pageant.
- 2<sup>nd</sup> -5<sup>th</sup> grade class, and the youth class allocated \$500 approved from Mission Budget to local charities.
- The Frog Group moved to Wonka Room in Fall 2024. The Youth moved to the back balcony in the Sanctuary. The Wonka Room will continue to be a Youth Space for all.
- CE hosted a table at National Night Out in Frick Park, and helped children from the community make native animal KeyChains.
- The Waverly Mini Opera House for Pre-K -5<sup>th</sup> grades debuted on Sundays in June with activities and a stellar ending performance. Waverly Youth assisted in coaching and directing.
- 3 Summer Camp Scholarships were awarded for children and youth to attend Camp Crestfield.
- A Theology Talk Tuesday was held on Faith and Politics.

Respectfully submitted by Jean Bird  
Christian Education Committee Chair  
1/18/2025

# Communications and Publicity Committee

## Communications and Publicity Committee Members:

Members: Karen Cornell, Eleanor Fisher, Julie Mull

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

*The Communications and Publicity Committee is responsible for communicating the mission and vision of Waverly Presbyterian Church near and far. The committee initiates work and responds to communications and publicity needs to enhance the ministry of Waverly Presbyterian Church.*

- In conjunction with Mary Cullen, administrative assistant, and the S4 program (which helps churches use their resources for sustainability), we updated our procedures, added a page to our website, and created a new brochure on space sharing. We distributed this information widely in the community.
- We updated our committee description as listed above.
- We circulated promotional materials to encourage a strong Waverly presence at community events like Martin Luther King Jr. Day Vigil, the Art and Talent Show for Peace, Pride, Juneteenth, and National Night Out.
- We created promotional materials and publicized Waverly events such as the Blessing of the Bicycles, the Waverly Opera House, the Easter Egg Hunt, the Blessing of the Animals, the Cookie Walk, and other fellowship events.

Respectfully submitted by Rev. Caitlin Werth

Staff for Communications and Publicity Committee

1/15/2025

# Membership Committee

## Membership Committee Members:

Chair: Ginny Grimes

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

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 2024:**

- Reached out to visitors
- Recruited volunteers for coffee hours
- Completed membership class and welcomed 1 new member (other 4 to be welcomed in 2025)
- 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
- Organized food and setup for potluck meals, including Palm Sunday, Pentecost, and Homecoming Sunday
- Organized Cookie Walk/Soup Sale, including group soup prep. We have switched to glass mason jars for the soup to be more sustainable and help protect our planet.
- Facilitated First Friday family events (Game night, 2 movie nights, and a Holiday Craft night)
- Facilitated the crafting and signing of Christmas cards for shut-ins, our veterans and Waverly friends who have moved

Our motto is: Untamed Hospitality!

Respectfully submitted by Ginny Grimes

Membership Committee Chair

1/19/2025

# Mission Committee

## Mission Committee Members:

Co-Chairs: Paul Ogori 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.

The committee also identified four additional local organizations to feature through Waverly's 2024 Advent Offerings: Lullaby Project, Garfield Farms, Abuelas Responden and Write Pittsburgh. Each organization received contributions by individuals and the Mission budget.

Waverly's National & Global Partners:

- Church World Service
- Community Foundation of West Kentucky (tornado relief)
- Hope Made Real, Urukundu Learning Center, Rwanda
- National Black Presbyterian Caucus
- World Mission Initiative

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 2024, the Mission Committee allocated \$19,556. The funds were allocated in support of local, national, and global mission partners.

The committee paid \$1,000 as a second of three annual payments toward a \$3,000 pledge (over 3 years) to support our long-time ministry partner, the Crestfield Camp and Conference Center.

Recipients and the amounts they received from the mission committee are summarized below. In some instances, they received additional funding from congregational donations.

### 2024 Funds – Commitments & Remaining Balance

Distribution Recipient	Distribution Amount
*Abuelas Responden	\$637.75
Bethlehem Haven (Selected by Waverly Older Youth)	\$250.00
Bibles for Allegheny County Jail	\$145.75
Blessed Be Educators	\$250
Candy for Juneteenth Parade	\$40
Crestfield Camp & Conference Center	\$1,000.00
Church World Service CROP Walk	\$2,500.00
Harmony Dog Rescue (Selected by Waverly Younger Youth)	\$500.00
Foundation of Hope	\$1,000.00
*Garfield Farms	\$637.75
Humane Animal Rescue (Selected by Waverly Older Youth)	\$250.00
LAMP - LGBTQIA+ Affirming Ministries	\$250.00
*Lullaby Project	\$637.75
PCUSA Special offerings	\$1,000.00
Pgh Chapter of the National Black Presbyterian Caucus	\$150.00
Pittsburgh Presbytery	\$2,000.00
Hope Made Real (Rwanda)	\$719.30
Community Foundation of Western KY - Relief	\$250
Wilkinsburg Community Ministries	\$4,000.00
Wilkinsburg Community Ministries - Paper Bank	\$1,200.00
Wilkinsburg Sanctuary Project for Peace	\$1,000.00
World Mission Initiative @ Pittsburgh Seminary	\$500
*Write Pittsburgh	\$637.75
<b>Amount Distributed</b>	<b>\$19,556</b>
Budgeted Amount (10% of 2024 pledges)	\$19,505.06
Additional \$ from a closed special fund	\$51.00
Amount Available for Distribution	\$19,556.06

\*2024 Advent Offerings

### Activities

- **Pride Events.** On June 1st, Waverly representatives joined our LAMP (LGBTQ+ Affirming Ministries of Pittsburgh) partners at the Pittsburgh Pride March and Celebration.
- Greater Pittsburgh Community Food Bank. On June 13, seven volunteers from Waverly worked a shift in the **Volunteer Engagement Center**, inspecting, sorting, and repackaging donated food and beverages.
- Black Presbyterian Caucus. Waverly participated in the Caucus' Juneteenth parade on June 15.



- **Wilkinsburg Sanctuary Project for Peace.** Rev. Caitlin serves as a chaplain and on the board of the Project and members participated in the Martin Luther King Jr. Day Vigil, the Art and Talent Show, and the Pancakes for Peace breakfast.
- **Open Hand Ministry.** Volunteers from Waverly continue to work with Open Hand Ministries. Bill Vandivier organized a Waverly team of 10 that gave a day of service on July 13th, to work on the Ministries' 423 Ardary Street property. In addition to this work day, Bill Vandivier and Jim Crawford also worked on this house on other days throughout the year.
- **CROP Hunger Walk for Church World Service.** The walk was held on October 13th. The Mission Committee contributed \$2,500 and Waverly's team of 9 raised an additional \$6,468. Combined, Waverly contributed \$8,968 toward this year's walk which raised over \$27,514 in support of Church World Service and Wilkinsburg Community Ministry.

Respectfully submitted by Paul Ohori and Tom Golightly  
Mission, Co-chairs  
1/18/2025

# Personnel Committee

## Personnel Committee Members:

Chair: John Wray

Members: Holly Wray, Dave Gigliotti, Ellen Guise

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

The Committee held several meetings as needed toward the end of the year in regard to staff evaluations. There were no meetings held on a regular ongoing basis, however, staff was approached as to their work circumstances regularly throughout the year. 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 fourth quarter of 2024. Feedback was provided to all employees by the end of November. 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 2024 consisted of the following:

- The Rev. Caitlin Werth completed her fourth full year as Waverly's pastor on August 1, 2024. She received a 5% increase in salary in 2024 and is scheduled to receive a 5% increase in salary for 2025. Pursuant to Presbytery and BOP revisions, Rev. Werth's pension and benefit packages were adjusted accordingly. Rev. Werth has done a wonderful job of shepherding Waverly and has met the goals for 2024 that she established. We thank her for her outstanding service.
- Caitlin Zeist completed her one-year position as Student Pastor in May 2024. She worked closely with Rev. Werth throughout her year. Caitlin was compensated at the Presbytery salary level for Student Pastors. Caitlin did an outstanding job in her capacity as Student Pastor.
- Caitlin Zeiset provided a full year of service to Waverly as Director of Children and Youth Ministry. In addition to her Student Pastor compensation Caitlin was compensated commensurate with what a full-time position would be paid for a 10-hour work week in a similar position. 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.
- Jennifer Geibel completed her third 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.
- Mary Cullen was hired in February to the position of Office Administrator. She was hired on a salary basis for a ten-hour work week commensurate with the current wage for such a position. Mary has been a tremendous asset for Waverly allowing Rev. Werth to focus more on her position as pastor.
- Jill Ramsey completed her second full year as Childcare Supervisor in September. Allison Butterfield ended her one-year position as Childcare Assistant in August. Both Jill and Allison were paid on an hourly basis. Jill will receive an increase in her hourly rate of approximately 5% for 2025. Belle Werth was hired in October as Childcare Assistant at an hourly rate. All childcare staff provided a caring and secure environment for the youngest members of Waverly's family.
- Special thanks to Tom Fisher who has provided grounds maintenance service on a volunteer basis again in 2024. Tom has agreed to provide lawn and grounds service on a volunteer basis again in 2025.
- Thanks to the many volunteers who bring us live streaming worship services on a weekly basis. This service will continue in 2025.

We look forward to 2025. 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

1/16/2025

# Property Committee

## Property Committee Members:

Chair: Curt Boirum

Co-Chair: Bill Vandivier

Members: Tom Fisher, Brian Kerr and Stephen Neely

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

The Property Committee met early in the year to set priorities for the year taking into account the funds available, the results of last fall's congregational Building survey and the needs of the Building.

A large tree above the Briar Cliff parking lot fell into the parking lot during a brief windstorm on Friday, Feb. 16. The tree and associated debris was removed that afternoon by members of the Committee and Pastor Caitlin. A second tree was removed for safety reasons by Jonathan Wasko, continuing his multi-year work of improving the Briar Cliff hillside.

The Committee also voted to approve a two-year extension of the Memorandum of Understanding with Shadyside Academy regarding their use of Waverly (and our use of Shadyside Academy) as a safe place for people to relocate in the event of an emergency.

In addition to regular mowing and snow removal, landscaping work included improvement to the gardens and surrounding vegetation. A three sisters garden was planted, which provided education and a small amount of produce and enhanced the Braddock Ave. front yard.

Mary Vandivier and Pattie Relosky led the organization of the outdoor shed.

Pointing around the stones on the Briar Cliff upper wall corrected water infiltration in the choir loft and chancel area.

Workdays were held on April 27th and November 9th.

New tenants began occupying the office behind the Sanctuary on June 1st.

Jim Lenkner installed a more permanent screen and projector, and is working on a sound system in our Social Hall. A showing of the movie "It's a Wonderful Life" was a success.

We upgraded our facilities for safety and accessibility by installing new doors and a stair lift into the Social Hall, updating the bathrooms to all-gender, updating lighting in the Kitchen, Social Hall and stairwell, and repairing the lower Forbes Ave./Braddock Ave. steps, Social Hall steps, and main front steps.

Flooding in the Social Hall restroom and entry door was corrected by snaking. Regular preventive snaking is needed to prevent future flooding.

Session increased budgeted hours for Nancy Lindahl and expanded her job description for Cleaning Services.

The annual inspection of our fire alarm and emergency lighting system was completed in December.

Regular maintenance was provided on the heating system.

We are thankful to have numerous groups and individuals who share our space including:

- Alcoholics Anonymous
- Al-Anon and Al-A-Teen
- Narcotics Anonymous
- Guitar lessons with Ian
- Two private therapists
- Amnesty International
- Yoga, Qigong and Tai Chi with Laura
- Reiki

Respectfully submitted by Curt Boirum  
Property Committee Chair  
1/21/2025

# Stewardship & Finance Committee

## Personnel Committee Members:

Co-Chairs: John Wray and Paul Otori

Treasurer: 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.

In 2024, 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. 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.

In May, Waverly received a bequest from Louise Mohn's estate of \$1,120,319 paid in increments over the course of the year. Louise died in January at the age of 100. Of the total funds received \$400,000 went to a fixed annuity yielding a 5.4% return for 7 years (\$21,600/year). \$489,720 was transferred into Brown Advisory investments. \$295,000 will be invested in the first quarter of 2025 in Delaware Life annuity yielding a 5% return for 5 years (\$14,500). Additionally, Waverly transferred its endowment funds of \$64,720 from the Presbyterian Foundation to Brown Advisory. All investments will be made in accordance with PC(U.S.A.) and Waverly investment guidelines.

As Waverly proceeds into 2025, it is hoped that Waverly will continue to enjoy this support. We believe this generosity is representative of our collectively joy-filled and grateful response 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 2024 (as of 12/31/24)

2024 Total Number of Households contributing to the General Fund:	59	
2024 Pledging Households	40	\$176,045
Actual Amount Received		\$177,881
2024 Pledging Households fulfilling, or surpassing pledge	29	\$160,410
Difference between pledged and contributed dollars	plus	\$8,975
2024 Pledging Households not completing pledge	11	\$17,471
Difference between pledged and contributed dollars	negative	\$7,139
2024 Households Contributing to General Fund but not Pledging	19	\$15,121
TOTAL RECEIVED		\$193,002

## 2024 Stewardship Campaign Results for 2025 Budget

44 Pledges - \$187,985: 19 increases; 14 same; 2 decreases; 9 new; 2 ended pledges

\$10,001 or more: 4 pledges \$73,400; 39.1% of total amount pledged

\$10,000 - \$5,001: 6 pledges \$34,450; 18.3% of total amount pledged

\$5,000 - \$2,501: 14 pledges \$54,580; 29.0% of total amount pledged

\$2,500 - \$1,001: 13 pledges \$22,185; 11.8% of total amount pledged

\$1,000 - \$20: 7 pledges \$ 3,370; 1.8% of total amount pledged

Top 10 pledges totaled \$107,850 or 57.4% of total dollars pledged

Respectfully submitted by John Wray

Co-Chair Stewardship

01/16/25

# Worship and Music Committee

## Worship and Music Committee Members:

Chair: Kellie Skweres

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 we offer spaces for reflection, redemption, and responsiveness. We strive to be inclusive and provide a sense of belonging to all those who seek to community with Christ. "Love Thy Neighbor-No Exceptions."

In 2024, worship and music continues to be a way that congregants engage in the church.

- We continue to make beautiful offerings through voice and instrument. We are also blessed to have a multi-generational group of musicians and vocalists who grace us with their talents and gifts. Musical contributions to worship services are always welcome!
- We had in-person worship all year in 2024. We thank those who run sound and video, which allows members, friends, and guests to join Waverly's worship services remotely. It also supports those who may struggle with reading on the page to participate via our big screen.
- Communion is celebrated every Sunday that an ordained minister is available to serve. Pre-package cups and wafers are provided in the pews for those who may not be able to or feel comfortable with Intinction. We encourage all congregants to participate in this central worship sacrament in the way in which they are most comfortable. We also provide masks during services for those concerned with continuing the spread of illness.
- Every Sunday, the children of Waverly gather and participate in worship by way of the Wiggles and Wonder space. While there, they are provided with a Children's Message. Caitlin Zeiset plans and delivers these messages most often; however, we have had Jean Byrd and Kellie Skweres fill in when necessary, in her absence.
- Caitlin Zeiset has also provided many insightful and meaningful messages when Pastor Werth has been out of town or unavailable. We are blessed and grateful that she has been able to fill that void and continue her duties as part of the Christian Education Committee.

Here are some highlights from Waverly in the year 2024:

- Under the guidance of Caitlin Zeist, youth engaged in worship via a "Lock In".
- We have also recruited new faces and perspectives to serve as Sunday School teachers for the coming year.
- We gathered together for Ash Wednesday, Maundy Thursday, and Good Friday. We joined with others in worship on Martin Luther King Jr. Day (an interfaith prayer vigil with Sanctuary Project for Peace) and Stations of the Cross (a joint prayer service with Sanctuary Project for Peace).
- We celebrated Easter with a wonderful Easter Egg Hunt for the children on March 30<sup>th</sup> and followed it up the next day with a Joyful Easter Sunday service on March 31<sup>st</sup>.
- We provided a Blessing of the Bicycles outdoor service to the community with the support of Haiti H2O.
- We welcomed new members.
- The Worship services were moved to 10am throughout the summer and into the lounge, which seemed to be cooler than the sanctuary. This practice will continue in 2025.
- We held an outdoor Blessing of the Animals event.
- We celebrated World Communion Sunday.
- We held a prayer vigil on Election Day.
- We held a Blue Christmas Service on December 21st.
- We held a Christmas Eve service which included youth and adults, candlelight and special music.

Thanks to all who have helped make this year a memorable one! We invite you to use your gifts to help make Waverly's Worship and Music celebrations even better!

Respectfully submitted by Kellie Skweres

Worship and Music Committee Chair

1/19/2025