



Waverly Presbyterian Church
Annual Report
2025

Pastor's Report – Working with the cycles

“You have made the moon to mark the seasons; the sun knows its time for setting.” - Psalm 104:19

This year, we began our work with the Wild Indigo Guild and learned much about how the principles of permaculture can also apply to the life of faith. Two principles that particularly struck me were the importance of slow and evolving solutions and the benefit of creating circular systems of interconnection.

In nature, fast solutions rarely take root and last the test of time, and the best solutions are flexible as new things may arise during implementation that may require additional adaptation. The session of Waverly lives these same ideas out in being thoughtful in their decision making. They have helped me to slow down and encourage us all to allow our ideas to take shape over time. As a congregation, we move forward with open palms, ready to receive and let go as needed.

I see so many circular systems at Waverly. Often when a new event is being planned, it is difficult to find where to place it as so many of our committees work together. We recognize that our larger mission draws us together to consider multiple aspects of all that we do. Our cookie walk, for example, raises funds, but it also brings our membership together in fellowship, and offers connection to our community.

In 2025, we saw many connections and much flexibility in our continued joys and struggles of worship, discipleship, and love.

Worship - We continue to be flexible with our worship as our needs and desires change. We held interactive summer worship services in the social hall and adapted our children and youth offerings throughout the year. We created new services for the community in honor of Black History Month and as a response to the divisions and pain we see in our world for United Against Hate week.

Discipleship - We continue to make connections across age and backgrounds. Our new Director of Children and Youth began making more connections across the age groups in Sunday School and beyond. Our adults explored growing through the challenges with Courageous Conversations and Tough Questions. We opened our minds to wonder and growth through New Member classes, Confirmation class, and the Wild Indigo Guild.

Love - And as always, we love intentionally, extravagantly, and unconditionally. We continue to hear from folks new or adjacent to our community how warm and welcome they experience this special place.

As we continue in our mission and ministry in the year ahead, I pray that we continue to work with the flow of the Spirit, slowly and intentionally, welcoming connections and using our resources well.

In God's Peace,

Pastor Caitlin

Clerk's Report

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

Gains for 2025

Profession of Faith, Reaffirmation, Certificate or Restoration

17 and under: 0

18 and over: 8

Total Gains: 8

Losses for 2025

Request: 3

Death: 0

Roll review: 0

Total Losses: 3

Total Active Membership as of 12/31/2025: 96

Baptisms:

Children: 0

Adults: 0

Total baptisms: 0

Weddings at Waverly: 1

Respectfully submitted by Kristie Boirum

Clerk of Session

1/19/2026

Christian Education Committee

Christian Education Committee Members:

Chair: Jean Bird

Members: Jean Bird, Amy Dove, Mollie Pollack, Ellie Covert

Staff: Rev. Caitlin Werth (Pastor, ex-officio), Alexandria Barr (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
- Confirmation Class
- Drama Opportunities for Children and Youth (Youth Play; Mini Opera House)

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), Winnie Wang (assistant), parent and other volunteers.
- Sunday School teachers included: Jean Bird; Kate Golightly; Zoe Pienkoski; Karen Cornell; Ashley Peralta; Andrew Jones; Kellie Skweres, Alexandria Barr, Amy Dove, and seven other adult volunteers taking turns with individual sessions of the adult curriculum.

Highlights of the Year:

- The Children's Message took place and was live-streamed weekly from the Wiggles and Wonder Space. The Children's Message was paused during December.
- Adult Sunday School averaged 10-15 people per session.
- Teacher recognition/graduation Sunday recognized 13 graduates from middle school, high school, college and graduate programs.
- Coordination of Sunday School Teachers, Child Care workers, and Sunday School lessons via email.
- Sent/delivered 13 care packages to our college and graduate school students during fall semester exams.
- Six Sunday School families participated in the Christmas Eve Pageant.
- 2nd -5th grade class, and the youth class allocated \$500 approved from Mission Budget to local charities.
- The Wonka Room continues to be a Youth Space for all, where Sunday School, Youth Group and special activities meet..
- 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 -5th grades met on Sundays in June with activities and a stellar ending performance of the Fruits of the Spirit. Waverly Youth assisted in coaching and directing.
- 3 Summer Camp Scholarships were awarded for children and youth to attend Camp Crestfield and other camps.
- An adult series on Courageous Conversations began.
- Participated in the whole church stewardship campaign with Sunday School lessons and presentations on Crop Walk.
- Attended Worship and Music Workshop and discussed ways to include children in Worship more.
- Free For Good met on Mondays during Advent.

Respectfully submitted by Jean Bird
Christian Education Committee Chair
1/12/2026

Communications and Publicity Committee

Communications and Publicity Committee Members:

Chair: Robyn Crawley

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, the publicity committee created a Waverly Presbyterian Church Instagram account. Posts and stories have been made to promote the annual Cookie & Soup Walk, special services, and to wish followers a Happy Thanksgiving, Merry Christmas, and Happy New Year. Posts and stories will be added throughout the year.
- The committee oversaw the creation of a special QR code that, when scanned, has links to 3 options: the Waverly Presbyterian Church website, the Waverly Instagram page, and the Waverly Facebook page.
- We created and circulated promotional materials (flyers, Eventbrite invitations, and/or newsletter announcements) to encourage a strong Waverly presence at community events like Blessing of the Animals, Crop Walk, and Cookie & Soup sale.
- A Blessing Box was designed and built by a friend of Waverly, Geoff, and installed on the church grounds. The box is filled with free items that people can use. Items like toilet paper, and other necessities are regularly supplied to the box.
- Tom Fisher updates our painted yard signs and several volunteers manage their posting and removal.

Respectfully submitted by Robyn Crawley

Chair of the Communications and Publicity Committee

1/15/2026

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 2025:

- Reached out to visitors
- Recruited volunteers for coffee hours
- Completed membership class and welcomed eight new members
- Provided special coffee hours for new members and other special events
- Organized meals and delivered 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, Annual Picnic, and Homecoming Sunday
- Organized Cookie Walk/Soup Sale, including group soup prep
- Facilitated First Friday family events (Game night, movie nights, a Dance night, puzzle 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

1/12/2026

Mission Committee

Mission Committee Members:

Chair: Mollie Pollack

Members: Dan Cornell, Clare Cornell, Eleanor Fisher, Tawna Loutsenhizer, Marsha Morris, Joan Stone, Tom Golightly, Bill Vandivier, Beth Simon

Members of Justice Subcommittee: Bob Dove, Ellen Guise, Ellen Hughes, Beth Simon, Bill Vandivier (chair)*

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, LAMP: LGBTQIA+ Affirming Ministries of Pittsburgh, National Black Presbyterian Caucus (Pittsburgh chapter), Wilksburg Sanctuary Project for Peace, Open Hand Ministries, Blessed Be Educators, Pittsburgh Presbytery

- 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 organizations to feature through Waverly's 2025 Advent Offerings: Bethel AME Church, Harmony Dog Rescue, Heal Palestine, and Metro Community Health Center. Each organization received contributions by individuals and the Mission budget totaling \$1,000 per organization.

Waverly's National & Global Partners:

- Church World Service
- Haiti H2O
- Hope Made Real, Urukundu Learning Center, Rwanda
- Matthew 25 Initiative
- National Black Presbyterian Caucus
- Undue Medical Debt
- Wild Indigo Guild

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 2025, the Mission Committee allocated \$23,700. The funds were allocated in support of local, national, and global mission partners.

The committee paid \$1,000 as the third and final annual payment 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.

2025 Funds – Distributions & Remaining Balance

Distribution Recipient	Distribution Amount
Advent Offering - Bethel AME Church	\$350.50
Advent Offering - Harmony Dog Rescue	\$350.50
Advent Offering - Heal Palestine	\$350.50
Advent Offering - Metro Community Health Center	\$350.50
Blessed Be Educators	\$250.00
Candy for Juneteenth	\$49.03
Coleman/Patrick Scholarship	\$250.00
Crestfield Pledge	\$1,000.00
CROP Walk	\$2,500.00
Deposit for 2026 Delegation to Mexico - 2026 Mission Trip	\$100.00
Foundation of Hope	\$1,000.00
Greater Pittsburgh Community FoodBank	\$871.50
Hello Neighbor	\$200.00
LAMP	\$250.00
Lazarus Fund	\$250.00
Medical Debt	\$500.00
Open Hand	\$250.00
Pastor Discretionary	\$1,000.00
PCUSA Special offerings	\$1,000.00
Pittsburgh Chapter of the National Black Presbyterian Caucus	\$150.00
Pittsburgh Presbytery	\$2,000.00
Rise Against Hunger	\$100.00
Sanctuary Project for Peace Camp	\$250.00
Waverly Frogs - Harmony Dog Rescue	\$450.00
Waverly Frogs - Sandy Hook Promise	\$450.00
Waverly Youth - Rise Against Hunger	\$100.00
Wild Indigo	\$2,000.00
Wilkinsburg Community Ministries	\$4,871.50
Wilkinsburg Community Ministries - Paper Bank	\$1,200.00
Wilkinsburg Sanctuary Project for Peace	\$1,000.00
Community Member in Need - Specific Support	\$255.34
TOTAL AMOUNT DISTRIBUTED	\$23,699.37
Budgeted Amount (10% of 2025 Pledges)	\$23,700.00
Remaining In Budget	\$0.63

Activities

- **Lenton Collection for Wilksburg Community Ministry.** We collect donations of menstrual hygiene products during this season for WCM to distribute as needed.
- **Publicizing Mission Partners during community events.** We publicize HaitiH2O during our Blessing of the Bicycles and Harmony Dog Rescue at our Blessing of the Animals.
- **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 February 5, 2025 five volunteers from Waverly worked in “The Market” at the Greater Pittsburgh Community Food Bank helping to shelve food and assist shoppers in navigating the market.
- Waverly joined with members of the **Pittsburgh Chapter of the National Black Presbyterian Caucus** to celebrate Juneteenth on June 21st by participating in the Pittsburgh Juneteenth Parade.
- **Wilksburg 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, Project Peace Camp, and the Pancakes for Peace breakfast.
- **Open Hand Ministry.** Volunteers from Waverly continue to work with Open Hand Ministries.
- **CROP Hunger Walk for Church World Service.** This year the walk was held on October 12th and hosted at Waverly. The Mission Committee contributed \$2,500 and Waverly’s team of 26 raised an additional \$11,776. Combined, Waverly contributed \$14,276 toward this year’s walk which raised over \$44,595 in support of Church World Service and Wilksburg Community Ministry, breaking the walk’s (over 50 year) record for fundraising.
- **Wild Indigo.** This Mission Committee partnered with Wild Indigo to help reimagine how the church may use the space that we are blessed with and called to care for. The Wild Indigo program takes place over three phases and in 2025 Waverly completed Phase 1 which included an 8-week study focused on connecting with God, others, and the natural world.

Respectfully submitted by Mollie Pollack
Mission Chair
1/15/2026

Personnel Committee

Personnel Committee Members:

Chair: John Wray

Members: Tom Golightly, Holly Wray, Ellen Guise

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

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 Session.

There were no meetings held on a regular basis; however, staff members were asked about their employment circumstances throughout the year. Staff evaluations were conducted during the fourth quarter of 2025. Feedback was provided to all employees by the end of November. It is an important goal of the Personnel Committee to provide staff with opportunities for continued growth.

Major accomplishments and/or activities in 2025 consisted of the following:

- The Rev. Caitlin Werth completed her fifth full year as Waverly's pastor on August 1, 2025. She received a 3% increase in salary in 2025 and is scheduled to receive a 3% increase in salary for 2026. Pursuant to Presbytery and BOP revisions, Rev. Werth's pension and benefit packages were adjusted accordingly.
- Karlie McWilliams joined Waverly as Student Pastor in September. She has worked closely with Rev. Werth throughout her time and provided additional support after the end of the PTS's fall semester. She was compensated at the Presbytery salary level for Student Pastors. Karlie is scheduled to be Waverly's student pastor until May of 2026.
- Caitlin Zeiset stepped down as Waverly's Director of Children and Youth Ministry in August. Caitlin was compensated commensurate with what a full-time employee would be paid for a 10-hour work week in a similar position.
- Alexandra Barr was hired as Director of Children and Youth Ministries in September. Alexandria is compensated commensurate with what a full-time employee would be paid for a 10-hour work week in a similar position. She is scheduled to work a 15-hour week starting in January 2026.
- Jennifer Geibel completed her fourth 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 monthly. She is scheduled to receive an increase in pay in 2026 commensurate with what a full-time employee would pay for a 10-hour work week in a similar position.
- Mary Cullen completed her first full year as Office Administrator in February. She was hired on a salary basis. Mary will be receiving an increase in pay in 2026 commensurate with what a full-time employee would be paid for a 10-hour work week in a similar position.
- Jill Ramsey completed her third full year as Childcare Supervisor in September. Belle Werth stepped down as Childcare Assistant in August. Winnie Wang was hired as the Childcare Assistant in September. Jill, Belle and Winnie were paid on an hourly basis. Jill and Winnie will receive an increase in their hourly rates of approximately 5% for 2026.

We look forward to 2026. 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

1/12/2026

Property Committee

Property Committee Members:

Chair: Paul Otori

Co-Chair: Bill Vandivier

Members: Jim Crawford, Ellie Covert, Tom Fisher, Brian Kerr, Doug Penhallegon, Pattie Relosky, Mary Vandivier, Caitlin Zeiset

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

Our care for our own congregation and outreach to others occurs in the context of our beautiful and historic building. The Property committee and church volunteers facilitated the following work during 2025 and early 2026.

- Bill Vandivier served as a point of contact for Nancy Lindahl, who provides our cleaning service, and for our trash hauler Dave Bonacci.
- Jim Lenkner furnished and installed new audio visual technology in the social hall.
- Likar Roofing installed a roof-over-roof, known as a "cricket", on our main roof to correct chronic leaks. Although reduced, leakage still continues because of deteriorated mortar joints in the area above the Forbes side upper entrance. Additional pointing will be requested in early 2026.
- Session approved renovation of two double stained glass windows in the sanctuary. A contract has been signed with Pittsburgh Stained Glass and we hope work will begin by early 2026 at a cost of up to \$70,900. We have applied for a \$10,000 grant from the Pittsburgh History and Landmarks Foundation to apply to the cost.
- Precision Pointing did extensive spot pointing of the Briarcliff sanctuary outer wall.
- During a heavy rainstorm, flooding occurred in the social hall. Water was removed by volunteers and there was no major damage. A-1 Sewer service snaked two floor drains. Later, a sewage backup occurred in another floor drain, which was snaked. Beginning in the spring of 2026, snaking of those three drains will be done annually to prevent future social hall flooding.
- A leak beneath the toilet in the sanctuary north side restroom has caused plaster damage in the restroom on the social hall level. Plumber Ron Eikey made some repairs; additional work will be done in 2026 to replace a deteriorated soil stack.
- In the sanctuary south side restroom, Eikey replaced the flusher mechanism to correct a problem of slow tank refill. This was unsuccessful; Jim Lenkner then donated parts and labor to install a new flexible feed line, which has reduced re-fill time from 7 minutes to two.
- A professional painting company re-painted the Briarcliff entryway and stair area. Later, ceiling cracks and sagging was observed in the church administrator's office. The ceiling has been partially removed and will be replaced as soon as the roof leak is corrected. This may require replacement of the roof, which was installed many years ago. Roof and plaster work will be done in early 2026.
- Additional electrical work was needed to protect the smoke and fire alarms on the office ceiling.
- The annual electrical inspection, including re-charging all fire extinguishers and checking smoke and fire alarms, was completed in November. Minor problems have been noted and will be corrected during 2026.
- ELK Air Conditioning and Heating serviced our lounge air conditioner during the summer.
- In the winter, ELK provided extensive repairs and maintenance on our sanctuary boilers, correcting problems of insufficient heat. Brian Kerr continues to program the sanctuary thermostat to provide heating for worship service and irregular events while reducing temperature during vacant times.
- Jungle Jim's tree service removed a second tree on the same hillside that was damaged. Remaining from these two trees is the uprooted stump, and a portion of trunk, both of which will require excavating equipment to remove. The hillside is stable and there appears to be no immediate danger.
- Also on the Briarcliff side, a windstorm took down a large tree, most of which was removed by volunteers, especially Dan Fisher, Tom's son. Thankfully, there was only minimal damage to the lounge roof.
- Volunteers provided landscaping, gardening, snow removal and internal maintenance and improvements, especially to the kitchen and lounge, throughout the year. The Property committee is coordinating with Wild Indigo to make Waverly's external environment more attractive, supportive and sustainable.

During 2026, Property committee will address the following tasks required under our new property insurance policy:

1. Full inspection of block/stone by a licensed mason and repairs to be completed.
2. Trim/remove overgrown foliage near the rear of the building.
3. Clean white staining along the interior fireplace and determine what caused the staining and complete necessary repairs.

We are grateful for our many physical resources in our highly visible location, and thank all those who help us keep them up in support of our ministry and mission.

Respectfully submitted by Bill Vandivier
Property Committee Co-Chair
1/8/2026

Stewardship & Finance Committee

Personnel Committee Members:

Co-Chairs: John Wray

Treasurer: Jim Lenkner

Members: Holly Wray, Tom Glightly

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

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

In 2025, Waverly's mission and ministry (General Fund), 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.

Waverly has three primary investment funds. These include a protected fixed annuity fund of \$401,270 at year end, yielding a 5.4% return for 7 years which began in 2024 (\$21,600/year). \$509,012 is in Brown Advisory investments at year end, after a \$35,000 amount was taken from this fund to help defer the cost of repairing the stained-glass windows in the sanctuary in 2026. Also, a Delaware Life annuity fund of \$309,802 at year end, yielding a 5.15% return for 5 years (14,600/year) began in 2025. A monthly dividend from this fund (approximately \$1,220) will be used to help balance the 2026 budget. Additionally, Waverly receives an annual dividend from the Bisel endowment fund of approximately \$1,500 per year. Waverly cannot invade the principle of this fund. All investments are made in accordance with PC(U.S.A.) and Waverly investment guidelines.

Report on Financial Commitments to our General Fund (GF) in 2025 (as of 1/14/26)

2025 Total Number of Households contributing to the General Fund:	56	
2025 Pledging Households	44	\$187,985
Actual Amount Received		\$185,888
Difference between pledged and contributed dollars	negative	\$ (2,097)
2025 Pledging Households fulfilling (23), or surpassing pledge (9)	32	
2025 Pledging Households not completing pledge	12	
2025 Households Contributing to GF but not Pledging	14	\$15,325
2025 Loose Contributions to GF including anonymous	21	\$5,563
2025 TOTAL GENERAL FUND (GF) RECEIVED		\$206,776

2025 Stewardship Campaign Results for 2026 Budget

44 Pledges - \$174,225: 16 increases; 14 same; 8 decreases; 6 new; 6 ended pledges

\$10,000 or more: 4 pledges

\$ 9,999 - \$5,000: 3 pledges

\$ 4,999 - \$2,500: 14 pledges

\$ 2,499 - \$1,000: 16 pledges

\$ 999 - \$ 240: 7 pledges

Top 3 pledges totaled \$73,400 or 42.1% of total dollars pledged

Top 7 pledges totaled \$89,500 or 51.4% of total dollars pledged

As Waverly proceeds into 2026, 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.

Respectfully submitted by John Wray
Co-Chair Stewardship
1/12/2026

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 2026, worship and music is continuing to evolve and reinvent our space to provide opportunities for:

1. Weekly Worship Life

a. Sunday Worship Services

Our regular worship services continued weekly at **11:00 AM** (10am June-August), offering consistent opportunities for corporate praise, teaching, and sacramental life. Worship centered around the lectionary and included the Lord's Supper each week. Participation included preaching, congregational singing of diverse music, and contributions from our members as liturgists, acolytes, and musicians.

b. Sunday School

Sunday School was offered each Sunday at 10 AM (September–May) and included **music integration in children's programs** as part of Christian education with our Youth. Our groups meet in the nursery (younger ages) and in the Wonka Room (for school age and Youth).

c. Choir and Special Music

The **Chancel Choir** continued to rehearse regularly and lead music during worship, spanning traditional choral pieces, spirituals, and contemporary anthems.

Multiple musicians offered **special music** throughout the year, including guitar, piano, voice, violin, and flute

2. Special Worship Services & Liturgical Celebrations

Waverly's creative worship team continued to offer a rich palette of special services aligned with the church year and life events. We continue to offer yearly Retreats, Friday Fellowships, and small group gatherings for community and learning.

a. Seasonal and Holy Week Services

- i. **Palm Sunday Worship** – Liturgy marking Christ's entry into Jerusalem with congregational and choral music.
- ii. **Maundy Thursday Service & Potluck** – Communion and foot-washing, emphasizing community and remembrance.
- iii. **Good Friday Services** – Included a **Stations of the Cross Walk** and an evening **Tenebrae service** in the sanctuary.
- iv. **Easter Sunday Worship** – Festive celebration of the Resurrection with music and joyful worship.

b. Other Special Worship Services

- i. **World Communion Sunday** – Celebrating global unity in Christ.
- ii. **Blue Christmas Service** – A contemplative service recognizing grief and hope during Advent.
- iii. **Christmas Eve Service with Pageant** – A joyful evening service featuring the nativity play and special music.
- iv. **Black History Month and United Against Hate Services for Peace** - These services celebrated opportunities for inclusion, working towards equity and against oppression, and solidarity with other churches in the local community.

These services provided spiritual depth and meaningful contexts for diverse musical expressions and congregational participation.

3. Music Ministries & Community Participation

a. Music at Waverly

The church's music ministry continued its mission of **inclusive musical expression**, ranging from traditional hymnody to contemporary worship and community performances. The ministry encouraged participation across ages and styles (gospel, classical, Christian pop, bluegrass) and included opportunities for:

- i. Adult and youth choral participation
- ii. Soloists, duets, and instrumental ensembles during worship
- iii. Music presentations by children through Sunday School and other programming

b. Children & Youth Music

Children's music was regularly included in Sunday School and worship programming, fostering early engagement in worship arts. Families and youth were invited to participate in acolyte roles, the Christmas pageant, and seasonal music presentations.

c. Blessing of the Bicycles and Blessing of the Animals

These are offered annually as a way to engage with members of the church community, the community at large, and with those who are not able to come to church on a more consistent basis.

d. Christmas Caroling at Presbyterian Senior Care

Each year, a group from Waverly heads to Presbyterian Senior Care to lead a sing-a-long to residents of two of their long-term care locations.

4. Worship and Music Leadership

- a. Music Direction** — Under the leadership of our Music Director (Jennifer Geibel), the choir, soloists, and ensembles continued to grow in skill, diversity, and participation. Music at Waverly celebrated collaborative music-making as a means to deepen faith and community.
- b. Integration with Education** — Music was a core component of Christian education programming, with children participating through singing, storytelling, and dramatized worship elements.

Respectfully submitted by Kellie Skweres
Worship and Music Committee Chair
1/13/2026