

Highwater Congregational United Church of Christ



*“Highwater Congregational Church, United Church of Christ, will be an active family of faith in North Central Licking County, dedicated to building awareness of God, Jesus Christ and the Holy Spirit through meaningful worship, diverse service, and genuine fellowship.” -
Mission Statement*

2023 Annual Report

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2022 Leadership

Minister:	Pastor Gladys Davis
Church Administrator:	Eydie Wright Keim
Church Custodian:	Peggy Green
Moderator:	Elli Kalas
Care Ministry:	Mary Jo Layman
Christian Education Ministry:	Stacey Atherton and Dave Snyder
Fellowship Ministry:	Lisa McKimmins and Janet Goodman
Membership and Outreach Ministry:	Ron Hall
Missions Ministry:	Abby Shipley
Music and Worship Ministry:	Sue Steele and Jen Snyder
Stewardship and Finance Ministry:	Bill Goodman
Treasurer:	Pat Hoar
Trustees:	Bob Tucker, Peggy Green, Phyllis Buxton, Jeff Preston, Becky Wright
W.I.S.H.:	Janet Goodman

Letter from Pastor Gladys Davis



Dear Church Family,

This has been an action-packed year for Highwater Church, and together we have accomplished a lot. Here are just some of the Highwater Highlights for 2023:

We invested in our church facilities. Our Hog Roast in April raised \$16,000 and we raised an additional \$9k to recarpet the Legg Center, which will happen Spring 2024. We also invested in a major audio and network upgrade that was completed the week of November 12 under the leadership of the Music and Worship team. We had the typical growing pains associated with that upgrade but much of the learning curve is behind us, and we are just beginning to explore the new capabilities of the system.

God has blessed us with a youth and children's ministry that continues to be a strength at Highwater. We welcome 10-15 children on Sundays during the school year. We hosted 30 kiddos daily for our Vacation Bible School June 27 – 30 that included a curriculum designed by Bekah Kalas, who also led the event, along with numerous volunteers. Five kiddos were baptized at the closing service. We distributed 200 "blessing bags" to 4H and FFA exhibitors on the opening day of the Hartford Fair, Sunday August 6. We worked in partnership with other Newark Area churches to start an ecumenical youth group, which has been very successful with 20+ kids at each monthly event. Highwater hosted the November event, organized by ministry chairs Stacey Atherton and Dave Snyder offering hayrides, hot cocoa, and a very popular night-time glow-in-the-dark kickball game.

We also worked to make our church known to others in our community. We opened 3 new pickleball courts in the Legg Center as an outreach to the community. Ron Hall laid the courts and made wooden paddles to make the court accessible to all. Abby Shipley designed Highwater t-shirts that members could purchase to wear at the Hartford Fair. We hosted a Rally Day Carnival in September that featured two bouncy houses and other games and an ice-cream social, distributing 200 flyers to Utica school children and their parents in August to promote the event. We mailed invitations for Christmas Eve services to 915 households in a 5-mile radius of the church who were either households with children or new residents within 5 years.

By the help of God, we continued to add new members throughout the year. We welcomed eight new members, two who moved their membership to Highwater, Tom Schwartzenger (Dec 2022) and Ron Hall, as well as six new members by baptism: Colbie May Hoar, Christopher Atherton, Olivia Davis, Kaylee Patton, Sawyer Simon and Paige VanKirk. Our church also grieved the loss of several , including Carolyn Blackburn, Dick Hoar, Donna Shipley, Rosalie Baughman, and Ed Hoskinson. Three other members moved their membership to other churches.

Financially, our church has been blessed by a generous bequest from the Claggett family, which our board has designated much of to our Endowment Fund. Eighty percent (80%) of the annual income generated by the Endowment Fund is available to our church for major repairs, capital improvements and new programs. This income has accumulated over the years and will help ease the pain of upcoming capital needs such as the replacement of our six aging HVAC systems. If you have not remembered Highwater in your Will, I hope that you will consider doing so. These kinds of gifts are another way your legacy will live on after your time on earth has drawn to a close. Many of our members support our operations and ministry through regular giving throughout the church year. If you are not currently making regular giving a part of your household budget, I encourage you to prayerfully consider doing so. Our attendance and giving has been lower since the Pandemic, and this year our giving did not cover our expenditures, requiring that we dip into the savings we had built up.

On a personal note, this was a year of growth for me as a new pastor. I am delighted that the congregation voted to call me as your settled Pastor in June, following my internship as the Designated Pastoral Intern. My studies at Trinity Lutheran Seminary are nearly completed, including a meaningful and moving trip to the Pine Ridge Lakota Indian Reservation in South Dakota. I experimented with how we worship using series designs by Sanctified Art and Worship Design Studio, as well as a series on the Fruits of the Spirit that I designed myself. I enjoyed fellowship and mentoring through my association with the Newark Area Ministerial Association (NAMA) and the Disciples clergy. I also had the privilege of walking with Donna Shipley, Dave & Betty Nash, Mary Jo Layman, Chris Hite, the parents of Zander Thompson and others who each experienced a health crisis during 2023, as well as the families who were grieving the loss of a loved-one. This part of my “job” is something I truly feel God has called me to do and I was honored to walk by your side during these times.

I am deeply thankful for the gifts of time, treasure and talent that have benefited our congregation over the past year, and especially the leadership of our church council. All our accomplishments over the year could not have taken place without the support and leadership of our ministry teams. I am very grateful for Elli Kalas, who has provided excellent leadership to our council during her tenure, which will extend through 2024. Highwater’s church council is one of its strengths and we are truly blessed to have such outstanding leadership. And, of course, I am deeply thankful for the gifts and ministry of Highwater’s staff: Eydie Keim, Peggy Green and Bekah Kalas (through July 2023). These three talented women are a God-send and executed their roles with exceptional care.

As we enter 2024, I look forward with anticipation to see how God will move in our midst again this year. I am especially excited about opportunities for our youth and children’s ministry, and our ecumenical efforts through the Newark Area Ministerial Association (NAMA). I look forward to learning, walking, and growing with you all in the coming year.

Pastor Gladys

Letter from the Moderator

“Dear friends, let us continue to love one another, for love comes from God. Anyone who loves is a child of God and knows God.” 1 John 4:7

Dear Church Family,

Looking back on 2023, I feel like this year has been a year of healing and refocus on the future. For the first time since COVID, we have had the opportunity to take a breath and look to the growth and future of Highwater Congregational Church UCC. However, I would like to take a moment to reflect on a few of the highlights from the past 12 months.

In April 2023, we called Gladys Davis as our Settled Pastor. She has brought a breath of fresh air to our congregation with her bright smile and encouraging words. We welcome Gladys and her family with open arms as we write the next chapter in the story of Highwater Church. A special thank you to Jackie Parrill and all of those who served on the Search committee for all that they did to get us on a path toward growth again.

Hired in 2022, Rebekah Kalas helped us remember that our future is our children and that is where our focus should be. Her enthusiasm brought a renewed energy to the youth programs and with the guidance of the Christian Education Ministry chairs, our youth programs have once again begun to grow and thrive. In September 2023, she had to move on to other ventures to focus on finishing college and beginning life as a professional educator. We appreciate all that she gave to our youth and the value of a dedicated Youth Coordinator. The Congregation voted, in November, to add the position to our annual budget to solidify our commitment to our children.

The Music and Worship Ministry always works tirelessly to ensure that our Sunday mornings are filled with the sights and sounds of the Spirit. They saw the need for a new sound system in the sanctuary and took the lead to secure quotes and funding for the project. Through generous gifts from families of the church, particularly those of Dick Hoar, the new system has been installed allowing us to increase our outreach via online live stream.

We saw the return of the Hog Roast, thanks in large part to the work of our wonderful Fellowship Ministry. The money raised from this event will go toward the purchase of new carpet in the Legg Center, replacing the original carpet that was installed in 1998. Our Trustees, with the support of the Carpet Committee, will be working Spring 2024 to determine the specifics, as we did not want to limit the available space for the winter youth basketball programs.

These are only a few of the exciting things that we have been working on and will continue to focus on this coming year but I want to give a deep and sincere thank you to the many wonderful folks who have agreed to continue to serve on the Highwater Church Council. Your steadfast love and guidance may often go unacknowledged, but it is not unnoticed, and you are invaluable as we continue to move forward into 2024 and beyond.

Sincerely,

Elli Kalas

Moderator 2023-2024

Letter from the Treasurer

On July 20, 2023, an audit of the 2022 treasurer's and stewardship records was done by Phyllis Buxton, Ellie Kalas, and Laura Tucker. "Upon examination all records were found to be in good order. No discrepancies were found." Again, in 2023 each month Highwater's financial records (kept on HW's laptop computer using Quicken) were reconciled/matched with Park National Bank's monthly statement of our checking account, this matching is my personal reassurance that all our financials are correct.

At year's end your weekly contributions to the General Fund totaled \$122,124 which was 5% BELOW the 2023 Stewardship Goal of \$128,440. Overall spending of \$135,874 was \$7,449 (6%) OVER budget, due to much needed repairs and upgrades to our building's maintenance.

In summary: Our church is in "good" shape financially with a \$18,278 General Fund (down \$13,730 over 2022)* and just over \$520,000 in restricted funds. Restricted funds relate to giving to designed projects such as: The Building Fund, The Memorial Endowment Fund, our discretionary funds and others. We can all take pride in Highwater's solid fiscal standing.

I have enjoyed being the Treasurer for Highwater the last two years, however, I will not be continuing in this role in 2024, but I know that the next Treasurer will also find much support from the Church Council and the congregation of Highwater Church.

Blessed to be of service,
Pat Hoar

*This drop in the General Fund from 2022 to 2023 resulted from us having a Pastor for the entire 2023 year which was not the case in 2022. The General Fund balance had been \$16,500 to \$17,500 for several years prior to 2022.

YEAR END FUND BALANCES				
Acct #	Name of Account	Year End 2021	Year End 2022	Year End 2023
101	General Fund	\$17,920.00	\$32,008.00	\$18,278.00
105	Building Fund, PNB Ck. Acct,	11,290.00	12,916.02	13,657.31
110	Flower Fund			81.47
115	Memorial Endow, Ck.	1,377.00	3,764.19	11,540.68
116	MEF, VG Star Fund	121,723.00	99,820.16	116,903.00
117	MEF VG Total Stock Index	158,885.00	127,862.33	161,117.00
118	MEF VG Target Ret 45 & 65	108,838.00	120,980.86	145,007.00
119	MEF VG Fed MM	1.00	15,094.87	49,290.00
120	Legg Rental Income	400.00	0.00	0.00
125	Utica Food Pantry Support	0.00	0.00	100.00
131	WISH Dinners			178.00
133	Misc. PNB Ck. Acct. Interest	0.00	204.48	886.60
135	Misc Income			2,570.31
141	Pastoral Discretionary	1,753.00	1,451.91	1,751.91
142	Council Discretionary	8,134.00	15,714.78	22,193.78
143	Missions Discretionary	1,759.00	1,843.61	2,845.32
144	Youth Discretionary	3,286.00	3,764.19	2,541.19
147	Heritage Discretionary	7,808.00	3,225.80	736.11
148	VG Value Seminary Discretionary	5,560.00	5,248.09	5,733.00
150	UCC Mission Support Fund	301.00	301.00	793.00
160	Hog Roast	0.00	345.72	16,327.31
165	Kroger Rebates	0.00	0.00	0.00
172	Special Projects, Maintenance	1,638.00	541.06	541.06
173	Special Projects, Salvtion Army	1,368.00	1,432.27	1,432.27
174	Special Projects, Food Pantry Net	250.00	3,027.00	4,577.00
177	Cleaning Kits			0.00
179	Special Projects, Sabbath/Youth Ld	4,000.00	3,896.00	1,198.26
230	Streaming Fund			5,150.00
263	Carpet Fund			11,338.00
264	Pickle Ball Fund			60.00
181	Finn Fest	25.00	25.00	25.00
193	Tim Shipley			0.00
204	Dick Hoar			0.00
205	Rosalie Baughman			1,475.00
265	Stretton Family Fund			675.00
	Total of HW Funds 12-31-21, 22	\$ 457,822.00	\$ 454,975.19	\$599,002.58
	Total of Vanguard Funds			478.050.00
	Park National Checking Account Balance			\$120,952.58

**YEAR END FINANCIAL REPORT AS OF 12-31-2023
DETAILS OF INCOME RECEIVED**

Acct #	Name of Account	Income
101	General Fund	\$122,123.68
105	Building Fund, PNB Ck. Acct,	741.29
110	Flower Fund	518.50
115	Memorial Endow, Ck.	50,056.72
120	Legg Rental Income	7,190.00
125	Utica Food Pantry Support	100.00
131	WISH Dinners	178.00
133	Misc. PNB Ck. Acct. Interest	682.12
135	Misc Income	60.00
141	Pastoral Discretionary	300.00
142	Council Discretionary	6,479.00
143	Missions Discretionary	1,001.71
144	Youth Discretionary	0.00
147	Heritage Discretionary	0.00
150	UCC Mission Support Fund	492.00
160	Hog Roast	18,927.00
165	Kroger Rebates	453.72
172	Special Projects, Maintenance	0.00
173	Special Projects, Salvation Army	0.00
174	Special Projects, Food Pantry Net	1,550.00
177	Cleaning Kits	0.00
179	Special Projects, Sabbat/Youth Ld	0.00
230	Streaming Fund	10,150.00
263	Carpet Fund	11,338.00
264	Pickle Ball Fund	60.00
181	Finn Fest	0.00
193	Tim Shipley	0.00
204	Dick Hoar	1,500.00
205	Rosalie Baughman	1,475.00
265	Stretton Family Fund	675.00
TOTAL	As shown on Treasurer's Books	\$236,051.74

Highwater Church General Fund

Acct #	Name of Account	2023 Budget	2023 Spent	2024 Budget
1100	Pastor	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$61,920.00
1200	Administrative Assistant	3,900.00	4,234.02	4,017.00
1300	Custodian	12,200.00	12,071.11	12,566.00
1400	Youth Coordinator	10,880.00 *	7,677.12 *	10,880.00
1500	Musicians	8,100.00	8,250.00	8,100.00
1700	Designated Term Pastor Intern	60,000.00	60,114.81	0.00
1000	Total Staff Expenses	\$84,200.00	\$84,669.94	\$97,483.00
2110	Insurance Property and Liability	\$ 9,621.00	8,992.25	9,000.00
2120	Property Taxes	1,074.00	1,104.14	2,500.00
2130	Building Maintenance	5,000.00	11,090.00	7,000.00
2140	Grounds Maintenance (lawn & snow)	2,000.00	2,725.00	3,500.00
2150	Maintenance Supplies	250.00	410.71	500.00
2100	Total: Physical Plant Expenses	\$ 17,945.00	24,322.10	\$22,000.00
2210	Electric Power	\$ 4,500.00	4,364.00	4,500.00
2220	Propane Gas	10,000.00	8,497.00	10,000.00
2230	Waste Hauling, free service Shackelford	0.00	0.00	0.00
2240	Telephone & High-Speed Internet	2,400.00	2,534.74	2,400.00
2200	Total Utilities & Services	\$ 16,900.00	15,395.74	\$16,900.00
2310	Office Supplies	800.00	1,583.47	1,500.00
2320	Copier Lease & Supplies	1,750.00	2,359.19	1,750.00
2330	Sr. Pastor Expenses	0.00	0.00	3,000.00
2335	Designated Term Pastor Intern Exp	3,000.00	3,000.00	0.00
2350	UCC Assoc. (COSEA)	1,000.00	1,000.00	1,000.00
2300	Total Office & Admin Supplies	\$ 6,550.00	\$7,942.66	\$7,250.00
3100	Care Ministry	\$ 130.00	\$0.00	\$130.00
3225	Christian Ed Materials	500.00	929.03	600.00
3240	Youth Activities	100.00	0.00	100.00
3200	Total Christian Education Ministry	\$ 600.00	\$929.03	\$700.00
3300	Fellowship Ministry	\$ 300.00	\$180.26	\$300.00
3400	Membership & Outreach	\$ 200.00	\$657.98	\$200.00
3500	Mission Ministry	\$500.00	\$189.00	\$500.00
3620	Piano & Organ Maintenance	200.00	0.00	200.00
3630	Supply Pastors & Guest Musicians	400.00	800.00	500.00
3640	Misc. Music & Worship	500.00	710.57	500.00
3600	Total Music & Worship Ministry	\$ 1,100.00	\$1,510.57	\$1,200.00
	TOTALS	\$ 128,425.00 *	\$135,797.28	\$146,663.00

Past History: Budget, Actual Spending & Giving

YEAR	BUDGET	ACTUAL SPENDING	ACTUAL GIVING
2011	\$ 117,300	\$ 127,403	\$ 133,455
2012	\$ 141,400	\$ 127,331	\$ 138,370
2013	\$ 149,700	\$ 143,299	\$ 142,868
2014	\$ 155,500	\$ 148,860	\$ 139,383
2015	\$ 145,500	\$ 142,292	\$ 145,873
2016	\$ 150,300	\$ 143,123	\$ 145,738
2017	\$ 151,575	\$ 137,325	\$ 147,044
2018	\$ 154,550	\$ 146,637	\$ 140,012
2019	\$ 155,825	\$ 143,031	\$ 140,795
2020	\$ 153,990	\$ 140,582	\$ 140,713
2021	\$ 153,990	\$ 133,141	\$ 134,845
2022	\$ 143,700	\$ 144,013	\$ 157,936
2023	\$ 128,425	\$ 135,797	\$ 197,116
2024	\$ 146,663		

Since many banks now offer “online bill payment”, please consider using this handy service to support Highwater and make the Stewardship Ministry’s task much easier.

Highwater Memorial Endowment Fund

Annual Report to the Congregation

Kathy Preston and Bill Goodman, Co-Chairs

The mission of the fund is to provide a vehicle for Highwater members and friends to donate monies or other assets to our church that will fund future capital improvement projects, make major repairs to the church's physical plant or provide for the establishment of a major new program. Neither the donated amount nor the earnings are intended for the on-going operating expenses of our church.

On September 25, 2001, the Highwater Church Council approved the establishment of the Highwater Memorial Endowment Fund (HMEF). An advisory council was created to publicize the fund, oversee its investments, and advise the Stewardship and Finance Ministry and Church Council on all matters relating to the HMEF. The current members of the advisory council are Jack Schmidt, Pat Hoar, Brad Patton, and Dave Snyder.

In 2023, \$12,200 was spent from the HMEF to assist in purchasing upgrades to the church sound system and improve wifi applications at the church.

As of 12-31-2023, the details of the HMEF are as follows:

Vanguard Federal Money Market Fund	\$49,290
Vanguard Star Fund	116,903
Vanguard Target Retirement 2045 Fund	62,955
Vanguard Target Retirement 2065 Fund	82,052
Vanguard Total Stock Market Index Fund Admiral Shares	161,117
Vanguard Value Index Fund Admiral Shares	5,733
Total 2023 year-end value of the HMEF	\$478,050

Care Ministry

Mary Jo Layman, Ministry Chair

"God is our protection and our strength. He always helps in time of trouble." Psalm 46

The CARE Ministry provides support to church members in their time of need. We organize volunteers to fix meals, make visits, send cards, and help in any way we can. Members have been wonderful to fix meals ahead and keep our church freezer well stocked. Pastor Gladys has stepped in this past year making many home visits and delivering meals.

Our church is very blessed to always have our family of faith be willing to reach out to others. If you know of a family in need, please let Pastor Gladys or Mary Jo Layman know.

Christian Education Ministry

Stacey Atherton and Dave Snyder, Co-Chairs

- ❖ January - A Facebook page was created to communicate upcoming events with parents, to try to recruit more kids. An Instagram page was created to help reach out directly to kids.
- ❖ Bekah Kalas, our Youth Director – Taught a single Sunday School class from January to June each Sunday. We had anywhere from 3 to 15 kids each week. She also had youth group events on Sunday nights 1x/month.
- ❖ March Madness – March 19 – 6 teams participated in this brand new 3 on 3 event. The winning team was Josh and Daniel Bero, Nathan Hite, and Hunter McKinney. Participants ranged in age from 7 to 86.
- ❖ Easter Egg Hunt on Easter Sunday – April 9
- ❖ Vacation Bible School was held June 26-30 from 9am - noon. Bekah Kalas planned an amazing week of Life Camp VBS with over 30 kids participating. The church paid for free t-shirts for all participants and volunteers out of the youth fund.
- ❖ Bekah Kalas stepped down from her position at the end of July to focus on her student teaching in the fall. We started to look for another person to fill this spot – but were unsuccessful through the end of the year.
- ❖ There was no summer Sunday School due to lower attendance in the summer months.
- ❖ Rally Day was September 10 to start off the fall Sunday School year. We had a carnival with bounce houses and popcorn. With no youth director – Sunday School was taught by parent volunteers.
- ❖ Confirmation classes started with Pastor Gladys on September 10 as well. We have 2 in this year's class, Charlie Atherton, and Jason Douglas.
- ❖ Pumpkins and Pancakes (hosted by the Fellowship Committee) on October 29 was a huge success, as we had over 20 kids participate in trick or treat.
- ❖ CONNECT Youth Group held in conjunction with 6 area churches was hosted by Highwater November 5 and was a GREAT success! 25 kids (middle and high school ages) attended an additional 10-15 adults as well from other churches. Everyone was very happy with the event and many compliments were made about our land and facilities. Talk of repeating this event at Highwater in the fall next year was encouraged by members of the other churches. Other Youth Group events like this one are planned for the first Sunday of each month with the location rotating between the participating churches.
- ❖ The Christmas Pageant was on December 10. It was a mixture of a taped and live performance. 17 kids participated. Special thanks to Susie Hatch and Janine Shipley for coordinating and taping, and to Pastor Gladys for editing the video.

Overall, a very successful year for the youth of our church. Highlights were definitely the new events like March Madness and the Connect Youth Group – but also bringing back VBS (which we couldn't have in 2022 due to a lack of leadership for the event). We attribute the majority of the success to our amazing Youth Director that we had in Bekah Kalas. The kids all loved her and she helped spark life back into the youth events that we have been missing since Covid. Our goal for 2024 is to find another Youth Director to help continue what Bekah started.

Fellowship Ministry

Lisa McKimmins & Janet Goodman, Ministry Co-chairs

Let us not neglect our meeting together...but encourage one another especially now that the day of his return is drawing near. Hebrews 10:25

The Fellowship Ministry continued their important role in creating events for the Highwater Church family to come together for times outside of our weekly worship. We accomplished to either lead or assist in thirteen different functions.

The first half of the year, we served a pancake breakfast, organized a Super Sunday tailgate food competition held after church, provided refreshments for the 3 on 3 basketball tournament, assisted WISH with the Easter Brunch, provided soup, sandwiches and dessert for the Maundy Thursday service, organized an outing at Three Oaks Winery and served cake and punch for Graduation Sunday.

The second half of the year we organized an outing to a Columbus Clippers baseball game attended by 19 members and friends. A beanbag baseball game was held, and refreshments served (good fun!), organized food and inflatables for Rally Day, served a pumpkin pancake breakfast after church, provided snacks for Connect Youth and assisted WISH with a church Christmas potluck dinner at Timbuk.

Why is fellowship so important? God gives us the opportunity to come together to learn and grow in fellowship. Each of us has gifts to share and God has given us those gifts to strengthen one another.

Missions Ministry

Abby Shipley, Ministry Chair

In 2023 the Missions Committee supported a number of initiatives that benefited the larger community.

We kicked the year off with a toiletry drive for Newton Elementary. This was coordinated through the guidance counselor and was a great initiative to help provide students with things like deodorant, toothpaste, toothbrush, socks, new underwear, shampoo/soap, hairbrush, pads, band aids, toilet paper, tissues, chapstick.

Our next project was through The United Way for their emergency warming shelters. We did a collection of items like men's and women's underwear, long underwear, and heavy-duty gloves.

We also coordinated with the youth to do tie fleece blankets for My Very Own Blanket, an organization that provides soft blankets for children in foster care. We purchased 12 kits for this, and the youth group worked to make them to ship back.

Through the summer we had a few church members volunteer to serve lunches through the Summer lunch program in Utica. This was organized by the Village of Utica and other local churches around the community.

One of our larger projects was the kit drive for hygiene kits with Church World Services. We collected materials to create 28 hygiene kits and 13 period packs. This was done from donations from other church members. These kits are used to hand out to communities where the need is great.

For the holiday season we were able to support two organizations. Our congregation filled 25 angel tree tags for the Salvation Army and had one volunteer participate in the gift hand out process on December 15. We also added The Village Network, an organization who supports kids in foster care

but adopting a child for Christmas, we spent \$150 of the missions' budget as well as an additional donated \$20 on buying Christmas gifts for a young girl.

I am looking forward to 2024 and continuing to support local initiatives as a Congregation. I would like to thank the congregation for their support in these worthy projects!

Music and Worship Ministry

Sue Steele and Jen Snyder, Ministry Co-chairs

In 2023 the Music and Worship continued many of the church traditions, revived some old traditions and made a major change with respect to the technology used during our services.

The annual Easter Lily and Christmas poinsettia plants were purchased and used to decorate the sanctuary. In addition, the practice of having flowers on the altar was restarted. We want to thank Cindy Campbell for her lovely altar arrangements. The team also celebrated Mothers' Day with carnations, Fathers' Day with candy and Graduation Sunday. The electric piano was replaced this year, thanks to a donation from Shipley Farms.

The major change was to the audio and video equipment. After many failed attempts to resolve the issues on our own, we hired Clearpoint Technology & Design to update and upgrade the equipment. We are still working out the kinks, but we have successfully streamed services and the audio quality is much improved.

With respect to the music, we thank the outstanding musicians and Praise Team for their invaluable contributions to music and song. Special thanks to Cathy Bero for leading the Bell Choir.

Members of Music and Worship Ministry for 2023 were Cathy Bero, Laura Laughlin, Patsy Farmer, Janine Shipley, Susie Hatch, Mary Miller, Jen Snyder and Sue Steele.

Stewardship and Finance Ministry

Kathy Preston and Bill Goodman, Ministry Co-chairs

"We make a living by what we get, but we make a life by what we give." – Winston Churchill

The Stewardship and Finance Ministry at Highwater Church serves to encourage members and friends to return a portion of their time, talents, and treasures to the Lord, for God loves a willing and cheerful giver.

Our budget called for the General Fund to raise \$128,440 in 2023. The overall giving for 2023 was \$124,154. We thank the members and friends of Highwater Church for their generosity and support to the church and encourage all to continue to meet our projected goals. Offsetting some of the costs this year were \$7,190 in Legg rentals and netting \$16,000 from renewing our annual hog roast and auction in April. A goal for our church in 2023 was to raise money to replace the carpet in the Legg Center which was installed in 1998. The necessary monies were raised, and we are happy to report that new carpet will be installed in 2024. The need for help in our community continued in 2023, and the Highwater Church contributed \$1,550 to the Newark Food Pantry Network.

The attendance was comparable to last year's attendance, and our pastor and congregation are hoping for higher numbers in the years to come.

At this time, we must mention that stewardship continues after our loved ones have moved on to their heavenly home. There are not enough words to fully express our heartfelt thanks for the love and

support extended to the Highwater Church family through our Memorial Gifts. The impact of their lives will always remain alive in the building, the music, and the hearts of the church family.

Trustees

Bob Tucker, Chair

2023 has been a major year for the Trustees that so far has had little to show for it. The major project is and will be the replacement of the carpet in the Legg Center which is scheduled to be completed after boys' basketball and before the spring Hog Roast so we can show everyone where their donations went.

The noticeable repair was the re-seal and striping of the parking lot. Other than those two major projects there were many minor repairs that had been past due that we had taken care of throughout the year.

Looking forward to 2024 we are planning on a new swing set to replace the one we removed last year. We are also hoping and praying that the five HVAC's on the roof of the Narthex and the Legg Center that are now over twenty-five years old will hold on for a few more years

W.I.S.H.

Janet Goodman

"Happy is she who believed that the Lord would fulfill the promised he made to her." Luke 1:45

WISH serves the church in many ways that include serving meals, donating to charities, aiding in funds for the church building and providing social activities. The group had a significant increase in activities from the previous year.

- ❖ Sponsored a presentation on "Blue Zones" by Shari Gallup from the Licking County Extension Service.
- ❖ Provided desserts for the Northridge boys' basketball banquet which was held at the church.
- ❖ Sponsored a CPR class March 4 taught by Eric Burgess of Event Medical Staffing of Ohio. Ten people took advantage of the updated training.
- ❖ Assisted Fellowship with the Easter Brunch that was held between the two services on Easter morning.
- ❖ A Basket raffle was organized by the group for the Hog Roast. It raised \$526.00.
- ❖ Sponsored a program by Doug Stout, Veteran Project Coordinator at the Licking County Library, entitled "Missing in Action...Licking County's Forgotten Men". All church and community members were invited.
- ❖ WISH also served two banquets in May, the Ohio State Grange Deputies and Officers and the Homer Alumni banquet. Approximately 50 people were served with each group.
- ❖ Donated \$2,402 to the purchase of a new carpet in the Legg Center.
- ❖ Served the Licking County Professional Agrarian Club four times in 2023.
- ❖ WISH members Cindy Campbell and Patsy Farmer organized another wonderful Mystery Bus trip in September.

- ❖ Organized a visit to Denison University to tour the Spiritual Life Center guided by Stephanie McLemore, University Chaplain and Director of Religious & Spiritual Life. Nine members of the church attended and dined at the university's cafeteria.
- ❖ Served Austin and Jenny Campbell's rehearsal dinner.
- ❖ Four different families received gifts at Christmas funded by WISH. Two families were from the Salvation Army Angel Tree, one from Newton School and another local family.
- ❖ Assisted Fellowship with the church Christmas dinner held at Timbuk.
- ❖ Master Gardener Sheila Geiling hosted the group to tour her beautiful flower gardens. She shared some of her flower pounding samples and served delicious lavender cookies.
- ❖ Bereavement meals were served for the families of Donna Shipley, Rosalie Baughman, Richard Hoar, Doug Snyder and Nancy Buerger, (the mother of Lisa McKimmins).

Officers for the year were President-Janet Goodman; Vice-President-Marcie Williams; Secretary-Eydie Keim filling in for Mary Jo Layman; Treasurer- Phyllis Buxton



The table at Highwater extends beyond our doors and welcomes everyone!

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