



# BESSEMER

## PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

### *2023 Annual Reports* *2024 Budget & Pastor Terms of Call*



29 North Main Street  
Bessemer, PA 16112  
(724) 667-7255

[office@bessemerpresbyterian.org](mailto:office@bessemerpresbyterian.org)  
<http://www.bessemerpresbyterian.org>

*Rev. Nathan R. Leslie, Pastor*

*Bessemer Presbyterian Church is a community of those who follow Jesus Christ. Together, we seek to: Connect people with Jesus and one another; Glorify Him in all we do; Grow as His followers; Serve one another in His love, and; Share the Good News of Jesus with the world.*

## Annual Report from “The Rev.”

As I look back at 2023, I’m struck by how much occurred in the past year. Last year in this publication, I wrote that we may need to seek new and creative ventures for ministry here in Bessemer now that we live in the post-pandemic world. One thing I said was “we would need to have difficult but necessary conversations about the longevity of a full-time called, installed pastor and how we might find creative solutions to ensure we are adequately shepherded in the faith of Jesus Christ while also being faithful stewards of what we have.” At that moment, I already knew what might lie on the horizon, and within a mere six months, I would begin pastoring the Petersburg Church in addition to Bessemer.

I know it may seem like taking on a second church means I’m a lot busier, but the truth is I have just found ways to shuffle my time accordingly, and that has brought me more joy and refreshment in ministry. Granted, it’s hard to keep straight two sessions, two patterns for doing things, two budgets, two presbyteries, two communities and most importantly two congregations with their own history and identity. But on the other hand, I have been immensely blessed by new relationships that have been forged and are being forged. I’m grateful for the way you all have embraced the Petersburg Church, and they you; I’m also grateful to serve both of you, because you are all a blessing to me.

Because of this, I see our congregation in Bessemer taking on a new life. Granted, I’ve had to let some of the less important things fall through the cracks, and yet, I think that has made room for new patterns, new leadership, and new vitality to emerge. We’ve also worked to organize ourselves better, and we’ve continued to successfully engage in multiple existing ministries — including Bingo for Missions which raised a great deal of money for local mission and service projects, and the grant we received to begin a 2 & U program for 2 year olds and their caregivers. We were blessed with a new pavilion we can use for outdoor events, a sealed parking lot, and a refurbished church sign. Sunday school and worship attendance have been steadily recovering from post-pandemic levels, and we are reaching a number of people regularly online who either had not previously been involved, or who for health reasons cannot be present in worship.

We remain a healthy, vibrant, small congregation with energy, intelligence, imagination and love to be used to further the Good News in our community, and to make known the love of Jesus Christ. And I pray that in the coming year, the Spirit will continue to fan the flames of these gifts to embolden and expand the work of this congregation, strengthen our fellowship, and brighten us as a beacon of God’s love in the Bessemer- Mohawk community.

Thank you as always for your partnership in the Gospel. God bless you one and all!

In Christ’s Love and Service,  
Your Pastor and Partner in the Gospel,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Nathan R. Leslie".

*Rev. Nathan R. Leslie*

Bessemer Presbyterian Church Congregation

From: Finance Chair

In the year 2023, for Bessemer Presbyterian Church, it was a very good year. God blessed our congregation with "The Spirit of Giving". I am, as you all should be, very proud of how that "Spirit" inspired us in 2023. With A combination of personal offerings, special gifts, fundraisers, rental income, etc., we exceeded our annual income budget. This is definitely an inspiration for our church moving into 2024, that we might continue to grow. With this inspiration, we can replenish our reserve fund for emergencies and we can continue to develop and expand our education and maintenance programs. Please know that your input is always welcome. I encourage all of us to maintain and build upon our "Spirit of Giving" in 2024. It opens up opportunities for our congregation and church in many ways. Congratulations on 2023, "will you still love BPC in 2024".

Thank you all.

*Gary Barr*

# Clerk of Session Report 2023

<b>MEMBERSHIP AS OF JANUARY 1, 2023:</b>	<b>90</b>
	<b>Total Received</b>
Members transferred from inactive roll:	0
Members received by Reaffirmation of Faith <i>Ric Jones, Kelli Meiss, Fred Meiss</i>	3
Members received by Profession of Faith <i>Amber Julian, James Julian, Amy Werhnyak, Joe Werhnyak,</i>	4
Members received by Letter of Transfer <i>Joey Cooper, Jacqueline Cooper, Anita Sainato, Nathan Parrott Ruth Bluedorn</i>	5
<b>TOTAL MEMBERS GAINED:</b>	<b>12</b>
Members lost by death: <i>Sally Martin, Phyllis Penwell, Charlotte Palkovich</i>	3
Members removed by letter of transfer	0
Members moved to inactive:	0
<b>TOTAL MEMBERS REMOVED:</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>MEMBERSHIP AS OF DECEMBER 31, 2023:</b>	<b>99</b>

## STATISTICS

Baptisms:	
Infant/Child	3
<i>Saylor Julian, Zoey Werhnyak, Nola Werhnyak</i>	
Adult	0
Weddings at Church	0
Funerals/Memorials	1
<i>Sally Martin</i>	
Session Meetings:	12
Congregational Meetings:	3
Celebrations of the Lord's Supper:	30
Average Worship Attendance In-Person:	40
Average Worship Attendance Online	8
Christian Education Enrollment:	45
<i>(Bible Studies, Children's Church &amp; Youth Group)</i>	
Special Worship Service Attendance:	
- Ash Wednesday	33
- Maundy Thursday	18
- Easter	60 / 49
- Christmas Eve	82

**Howard Leslie**

**Clerk of Session**

**Balance Sheet as for the period January 1 - December 31, 2023**

	<b>Opening Balance</b>	<b>Income Less Expenses</b>	<b>Closing Balance</b>
<b><u>ASSETS</u></b>			
General Fund	8,173.44	16,184.14	24,357.58
Deacons Fund	3,495.23	2,116.17	5,611.40
Mission & Evangelism Fund	4,249.53	985.02	5,234.55
Presbyterian Women Fund	95.21	260.00	355.21
Youth Fund	1,072.44	-389.02	683.42
Preschool Fund	7,766.60	6,209.25	13,975.85
Preschool Scholarship Fund	1,654.00	587.00	2,241.00
Building Fund	18,099.51	-5,139.06	12,960.45
Reserve Fund	21,176.15	-3,428.64	17,747.51
<b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>	<b>65,782.11</b>	<b>17,384.86</b>	<b>83,166.97</b>
<b><u>LIABILITIES</u></b>	<b>1/1/2023</b>	<b>Change</b>	<b>12/31/2023</b>
Chase Credit Card	-275.26	-970.29	-1,245.55
<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES</b>	<b>-275.26</b>	<b>-970.29</b>	<b>-1,245.55</b>
<b>NET ASSETS</b>	<b>65,506.85</b>	<b>16,414.57</b>	<b>81,921.42</b>

## **BPC Income Statements (1/1/2023-12/31/2023)**

### **GENERAL FUND**

#### **Donations & Offerings**

Envelope Regular Offerings	105,240.30
Loose Cash Offerings	2,277.21
Online Regular Offerings	13,639.12
Other Donations/Offerings	11,177.83
Paypal/Venmo Donations	469.99
Presbyterian Women	177.00
Sunday School Offering	129.42

#### **Fundraisers**

Community Days	450.00
Soup & Pie Auction	1,928.00

#### **Reimbursements**

Miscellaneous Reimbursements	17.07
Pastor Payroll Reimbursement (Petersburg)	23,750.09
Preschool Payroll Reimbursement	35,018.55
Transferred from Reserve Fund (Parking Lot & Expenses)	8,637.50
Transferred from Building Fund (Parking, Sign & Pavilion)	27,292.70

#### **Use of Building**

Alcoholics Anonymous Donation	210.00
Building Rental	350.00
Counselor	2,906.00

**TOTAL INCOME: 233,670.78**

#### **Building & Maintenance**

Certificates of Operation (Boiler & Chairlift)	-579.42
Electric	-2,887.23
Gas	-6,429.00

Insurance	-5,451.43
Lawn Care & Snow Removal	-1,070.00
Other Building/Maintenance	-435.00
Phone/Internet	-4,199.45
Repairs & Maintenance	-1,008.99
Water/Sewage/Garbage	-1,440.00

#### **Discipleship**

Bible Study Books (Reimbursed)	-76.72
Christian Education Supplies	-436.95
Guest Organist	-180.00
Pulpit Supply	-437.61
Subscriptions	-712.81
Worship Supplies	-480.07

#### **Miscellaneous**

Kitchen Supplies	-26.67
MACA Dues	-75.00
Miscellaneous Supplies	-406.37
Per Capita Payment	-3,315.25
Petty Cash	-35.00
Small Games of Chance License	-25.00

#### **Non-Budgeted**

Benevolence & Mission Donations	-50.00
NSF Fees	-65.00
Online Giving Processing Fees	-168.52
Parking Lot Repairs	-7,275.00
Pavilion Construction	-22,000.00
Sanctuary Flowers	-77.76
Smoke/CO2 Alarms	-411.15
Television (Sunday school Room)	-170.79
Sign Repair	-1,655.20

**Office**

Church Management Subscription	-117.00
Copier	-2,241.87
Financial Software Subscription	-1,159.63
Office Supplies	-419.66
Postage	-516.00
Website	-264.85

**Staff Salaries**

Accompanist Salary	-5,139.04
Administrator Salary	-7,976.41
Custodian Salary	-6,114.96

**Pastor Salary**

Pastor Cash Salary	-44,678.30
Pastor Housing Allowance	-18,250.08
Pastor Medical/Pension	-25,496.57
Pastor Professional Expenses	-2,446.93
Pastor SS Offset	-4,546.86
Pastor Study Leave	-291.95

**Preschool Staff Salaries**

Preschool Assistants Salaries	-9,610.98
Preschool Teachers Salaries	-23,787.70

**Tax Liabilities**

FICA (Church Staff)	-1,384.59
FICA (Preschool)	-2,344.51

<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>	<b>-218,369.28</b>
<b>OTHER LIABILITIES</b>	<b>882.64</b>
<b>INCOME LESS EXPENSES &amp; LIABILITIES</b>	<b>16,184.14</b>

## **DEACONS**

### **Deacons Income**

Christmas Flowers (Income)	132.00
Donations (Deacons)	1,993.93
Easter Flowers (Income)	375.00
Fire Fund (Income)	354.00
Loose Offering	556.63
<b>INCOME:</b>	<b>3,411.56</b>

### **Deacons Expenses**

Deacons Supplies	-565.39
Easter Flowers (Expenses)	-380.00
Financial Assistance	-350.00
<b>EXPENSES:</b>	<b>-1,295.39</b>

**INCOME LESS EXPENSES: 2,116.17**

## **MISSION & EVANGELISM**

### **Mission & Evangelism Income**

Bingo Fundraiser (M & E)	4,114.00
Mission Offerings (M & E)	2,879.79
<b>INCOME:</b>	<b>6,993.79</b>

### **Mission & Evangelism Expenses**

Bingo Fundraiser (Expenses)	-1,628.77
Camping Scholarships (M & E)	-1,080.00
Mission Distribution (M & E)	-3,300.00
<b>EXPENSES:</b>	<b>-6,008.77</b>

**INCOME LESS EXPENSES: 985.02**

**PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN**

**Presbyterian Women Income**

PW Dues	15.00
Birthday Offering (PW)	180.00
Christmas Offering 2023	260.00
Doing Without Banks (PW)	110.00
Donations (PW)	311.00
Thank Offering (PW)	70.00
<b>TOTAL INCOME:</b>	<b>946.00</b>

**Presbyterian Women Expenses**

PW Distributions	-686.00
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES:</b>	<b>-686.00</b>

**INCOME LESS EXPENSES: 260.00**

**BESSEMER YOUTH GROUP (BYG)**

**Youth Income**

VBS Donations	296.50
Youth Fundraisers	785.00
<b>TOTAL INCOME:</b>	<b>1,081.50</b>

**Youth Expenses**

VBS Supplies	-1,470.52
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES:</b>	<b>-1,470.52</b>

**INCOME LESS EXPENSES: -389.02**

## **PRESCHOOL**

### **Preschool Income**

Candy Sales Income (Preschool)	3,825.00
Donations (Preschool)	959.68
Preschool Sub Fundraiser	0.00
Preschool Synod Innovation Grant (2&U)	8,000.00
Tuition (Preschool)	52,749.06
<b>TOTAL INCOME:</b>	<b>65,533.74</b>

### **Preschool Expenses**

2&U Grant Expenses	-6,566.28
Candy Sale Expenses (Preschool)	-2,070.00
Classroom Supplies (Preschool)	-8,974.37
Fund Night Expenses	-1,020.00
NAYCE Conference (Preschool)	-30.00
<i>Payroll Reimbursement (Preschool)</i>	-35,018.55
Phone (Preschool)	-222.90
Preschool Office Supplies	-4,157.85
Preschool Pet Supplies	-61.33
Preschool Website & ProCare Subscription	-1,203.21
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES:</b>	<b>-59,324.49</b>
<b>INCOME LESS EXPENSES:</b>	<b>6,209.25</b>

## **PRESCHOOL SCHOLARSHIP**

### **Preschool Scholarship Income**

Preschool Scholarship Donations	608.00
Preschool Scholarship Fundraiser Income	2,389.00
<b>TOTAL INCOME:</b>	<b>2,997.00</b>

### **Preschool Scholarship Expense**

	0.00
Fundraiser Expenses (Preschool Scholarship)	-908.00
Preschool Scholarship Payment	-1,502.00
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES:</b>	<b>-2,410.00</b>
<b>INCOME LESS EXPENSES:</b>	<b>587.00</b>

**BUILDING FUND**

**Building Fund Income**

Building Fund (Donations)	150.00
Interest (Building Fund)	3.64
Pavilion (Donation)	22,000.00
<b>TOTAL INCOME:</b>	<b>22,153.64</b>

**Building Fund Expenses**

Parking Lot	-3,637.50
Pavilion (Expenses)	-22,000.00
Sign Repair	-1,655.20
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES:</b>	<b>-27,292.70</b>

**INCOME LESS EXPENSES: -5,139.06**

**RESERVE FUND**

**Reserve Fund Income**

Reserve Fund Interest	3.86
Reserve Fund Offerings	5,205.00
<b>TOTAL INCOME:</b>	<b>5,208.86</b>

**Reserve Fund Expense**

	0.00
Parking Lot	-3,637.50
General Fund (To Cover Expenses)	-5,000.00
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES:</b>	<b>-8,637.50</b>

**INCOME LESS EXPENSES: -3,428.64**

**BESSEMER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH  
2024 GENERAL FUND BUDGET**

		<u>2023 Budget</u>	<i>Total</i>	<u>2024 Budget</u> <i>54.5% Bessemer Share</i>
<b>PASTOR</b>	Salary	\$40,100	\$49,800	\$27,141
	Housing	\$17,500	\$19,000	\$10,355
	Pension/Medical	\$22,464	\$26,832	\$14,623
	SS Reimbursement	\$4,407	\$5,264	\$2,869
	Auto/Professional Expenses	\$2,500	\$2,500	\$1,363
	Study Leave	<u>\$750</u>	<u>\$1,000</u>	<u>\$545</u>
	<b>TOTAL:</b>	<b>\$87,721</b>	<b>\$104,396</b>	<b>\$56,896</b>
<b>STAFF</b>	Administrator (Secretary-Treas.)	\$8,034		\$8,677
	Custodian	\$6,340		\$6,847
	Accompanist	\$5,190		\$5,605
	S. Security Employer (6.2%)	\$1,213		\$1,310
	Medicare Employer (1.45%)	<u>\$283</u>		<u>\$307</u>
	<b>TOTAL:</b>	<b>\$21,060</b>		<b>\$22,746</b>
<b>OFFICE</b>	Office Supplies	\$1,200		\$600
	Copier	\$2,000		\$2,500
	Postage	\$350		\$500
	Payroll/Finance Subscription	\$750		\$1,000
	Website	<u>\$225</u>		<u>\$300</u>
	<b>TOTAL:</b>	<b>\$4,525</b>		<b>\$4,900</b>
<b>DISCIPLESHP</b>	Christian Education Supplies	\$250		\$300
	Worship Supplies	\$150		\$300
	Licenses/Fees/Subscriptions	\$700		\$700
	Pulpit Supply	<u>\$800</u>		<u>\$700</u>
	<b>TOTAL:</b>	<b>\$1,900</b>		<b>\$2,000</b>
<b>BUILDING/ MAINTENANCE</b>	Repairs/Services/Permits/etc.	\$2,500		\$3,000
	Custodial Supplies	\$250		\$250
	Electric	\$3,000		\$3,200
	Gas	\$7,000		\$7,000
	Sewage, Water & Garbage	\$1,400		\$1,560
	Telephone	\$2,000		\$4,800
	Insurance	<u>\$4,650</u>		<u>\$6,000</u>
	<b>TOTAL:</b>	<b>\$20,840</b>		<b>\$25,810</b>
<b>MISCELLANEOUS</b>	Petty Cash	\$300		\$300
	Per Capita	\$3,316		\$3,528
	MACA Dues	\$75		\$75
	Miscellaneous Supplies	<u>\$250</u>		<u>\$250</u>
	<b>TOTAL:</b>	<b>\$3,941</b>		<b>\$4,153</b>
<b>TOTAL BUDGET</b>		<b>\$139,987</b>		<b>\$116,505</b>

**Weekly Budget: \$2,241**

**2024 Pastor's Terms of Call**  
*Effective January 1–December 31, 2024*

	<b>2023*</b>	<b><u>2024</u></b>	<b>Bessemer (54.5%)</b>	<b>Petersburg (45.5%)</b>
Base Salary	\$ 49,800.00	\$ 49,800.00	\$ 27,141.00	\$ 22,659.00
Housing	\$ 19,000.00	\$ 19,000.00	\$ 10,355.00	\$ 8,645.00
FICA	\$ 5,264.00	\$ 5,264.00	\$ 2,868.88	\$ 2,395.12
Continuing Ed.	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 545.00	\$ 455.00
Professional Expenses	\$ 2,000.00	\$ 2,000.00	\$ 1,090.00	\$ 910.00
Auto/Mileage	\$ 500.00	\$ 500.00	\$ 272.50	\$ 227.50
Board of Pensions Dues	\$ 26,832.00	\$ 26,832.00	\$ 14,623.44	\$ 12,208.18
<b>TOTAL COST:</b>	<b>\$ 104,396.00</b>	<b>\$ 104,396.00</b>	<b><u>\$ 56,895.82</u></b>	<b>\$ 47,500.18</b>

\* The revised TOC as approved by congregational vote on May 21, 2023, effective 7/1–12/31/23, and prorated for the six month period.



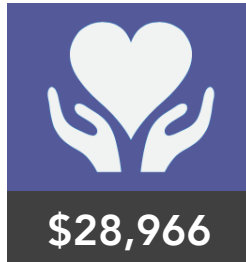
## Grow: Discipleship

Jesus' great commission calls us to make disciples, or followers. In addition to worship, we provide a Sunday school program with Bible study gatherings for all ages. We provide mid-week Bible study opportunities at various times throughout the month and year. Our youth group (BYG) meets periodically to nurture children in the Gospel.

Pastoral education in preparation for baptism, first communion, confirmation, and marriage provide instruction on the journey of faith. Finally, we provide printed materials and other resources for the spiritual growth of our people.

## Serve: Pastoral Care

By maintaining a full-time pastor, one of the privileges we enjoy is having a pastor who can attend to the various needs of our members and those in our community. He makes himself available for visitation, pastoral counseling, and fellowship with members of the church and community. In addition, our board of Deacons assists in the care of those who are in hospitals, to families in bereavement, as well as those members who are home-bound, in care facilities, or have financial or other emergencies. The Deacons also assist in various servant roles, including securing and training ushers to welcome attendees to worship, setting the tone of hospitality for the church, and preparing for the celebration of the Lord's Supper. Finally, they serve free community meals as a service and means of caring for our greater community.



## You Can Support Our Ministry!

You can contribute by placing cash or checks in the offering plates on Sunday, or by mailing checks to the church address listed on the front page. Additionally, you can donate online by going to our website, and clicking the link "Give Online" to visit our Presbyterian Foundation portal, or pay by PayPal and Venmo.

Scan the QR code to the right on your smartphone to donate online  
Or interact with our ministries through our ChurchTrac App.



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## Narrative Budget 2024



Pastor: Rev. Nathan R. Leslie – (724)-651-5333 – [nleslie822@gmail.com](mailto:nleslie822@gmail.com)

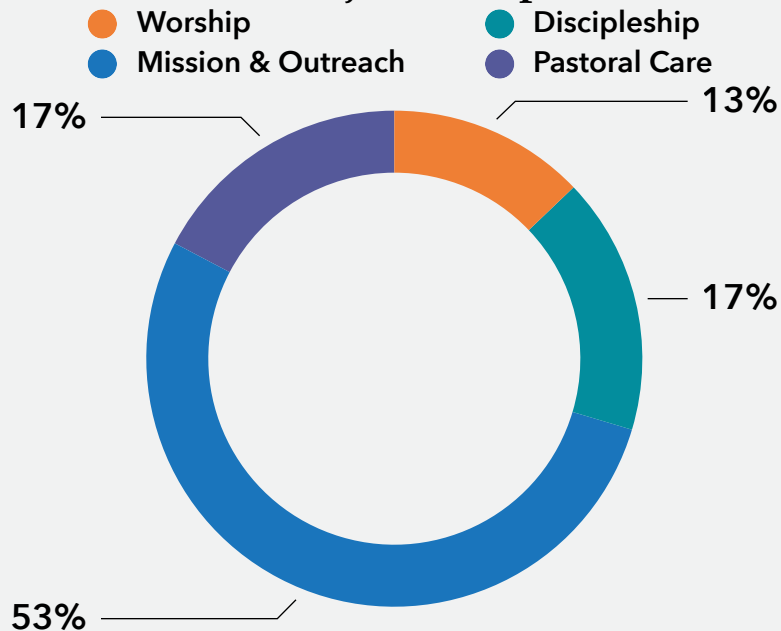
Administrator: Mrs. Kelly Masone

(724) 667-7255 – [office@bessemerpresbyterian.org](mailto:office@bessemerpresbyterian.org)

## Who We Are

"The Bessemer Presbyterian Church is a community of those who follow Jesus Christ. Together, we seek to: connect people with Jesus and one another; glorify Him in all we do; grow as His followers; serve one another in His love; and share the Good News of Jesus with the world."

### 2024 Projected Expenses

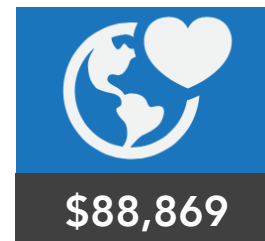


### Why a Narrative Budget?

This narrative budget describes our intentions for carrying out the mission and ministry to which we have been called. By incorporating all the income and expenses as they relate to four key areas of ministry in our congregation, this narrative allows us to see and celebrate what God has done in 2023. It also gives us a glimpse of the vision God has given for our future. As members of the church, God has called each and every one of us to take a role in fulfilling our mission and ministry by managing the resources God has given to us. This is one key opportunity for us to express our gratitude for God's goodness. Giving to the church also challenges us to organize our financial priorities around supporting an inclusive community for vulnerable people whom we regularly encounter. While the total of all our ministries are projected to need \$168,000 for 2024, 30% of this is raised Independently (preschool tuition, fundraisers,

special offerings, mission offerings, etc.). **That means 70% of this comes from regular contributions to the General Fund (which pays the majority of our bills and salaries).** In 2023, we began sharing our pastor with Petersburg Presbyterian Church as a means of saving costs, improving our stewardship, and building relationships for the sake of ministry. So far, this has had an immensely positive impact on our ministry. And yet, in order for us to accomplish the mission we believe God has before us, the financial partnership of every member and friend is vital to the continuation of our ministries. These ministries include:

### Connect & Share: Missions and Outreach



Vital to our ministry is sharing Jesus Christ beyond the walls of the church. The Pastor is regularly engaged in various aspects of the community's life. We also provide an online presence through our website and various social media. Through our Mission and Evangelism committee and Presbyterian Women, we not only engage our community in various ways, but we raise awareness and funding for our mission partners through various projects (like the Community Garden at MoCo House) and special offerings. Especially helpful in 2023 has been our monthly Bingo for Missions fundraisers. Our preschool offers a much needed, affordable education to the youngest members of our community. Per capita contributions support the work of the Presbyterian Church (USA) locally (presbytery), regionally (synod), and nationally (General Assembly).

### Glorify: Worship

At the heart of our ministry is coming together to praise the Triune God and be transformed by the Spirit's presence. This happens chiefly in worship, where the Word of God is proclaimed in Scripture, song and sermon, and is enacted in our prayers, the Sacraments, and the offering. Worship has the most direct and regular impact on the entire church community. Yet there is much that goes on behind the scenes, including planning, research, writing sermons, rehearsals, and lots of prayer; not to mention our online streaming ministry which continues to grow.

