

**West Granville Presbyterian Church
Organized April 9, 1860
166th Annual Meeting**

Annual Report for the year 2025 and Congregational Meeting January 25, 2026.



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PASTOR'S ANNUAL REPORT

Welcome to our 2026 Session Elders

Ordination and installation of Elders was held on January 18, 2026.

2026: Mawuena Poovi Alogavi, Ed Kress, Lori Martens, Jo Ann Olson
2027: Hildegarde Essoka, Joy Hartman, Patti Lorbiecki, Marna Tess-Mattner
2028: Linda Annor, Chigozie Okonkwo, Rex Westerman, Patrick Wood

2026 Session Committees

Presbytery: Deb Bascom and Kent Tess-Mattner; Joy Hartman, Session Liaison
Clerk of Session: Amy Mikec

Support Committees

Nominating: Chair Joy Hartman, Marna Tess-Mattner
Finance: *Chair Dorothy Harris-Shuff, Rex Westerman
Personnel: Chair Marna Tess-Mattner, Jo Ann Olson
Property: Co-Chairs, Patti Lorbiecki and Ed Kress

Program Committees

Worship: Chair Hildegarde Essoka, Patti Lorbiecki
Church Education: Chair Mawuena Poovi Alogavi
Member Care: Chair Lori Martens, Patrick Wood, Jo Ann Olson
Mission: Chair Marna Tess-Mattner, Joy Hartman, Lori Martens

*Chairs/Clerk must be Elders, but do not have to be on current Session

WORSHIP IN FEBRUARY

- February 1** Holy Communion
Scripture: Micah 6:1-8; Matthew 5:1-12
Sermon: *Harmony's Gifts*
- February 8** Scripture: Malachi 3:1-4; Luke 2:22-40
Sermon: *Presentation Jesus*
- February 15** *Transfiguration of our Lord*
Scripture: 2 Peter 1:16-21; Matthew 17:1-9
Sermon: *Transformed and Transforming*
- February 18** **Ash Wednesday** ZOOM Evening Prayer at 6:30 PM
- February 22** *1st Sunday in Lent*
Scripture: *Daniel 1* (excerpts); *Matthew 6:1, 5-8, 16-18*
Sermon: *Step 1: Pray*

Live Stream West Granville

Live Stream will open 10 minutes before the start of service

CONCERNS OF THE CHURCH

Military

Kali Grogan & her husband Abraham, United States Navy
Major JT Lorbiecki, Wisconsin Air National Guard 115 Air Wing

Prayers

Lori Hrovat - recovering well from shoulder surgery, and grateful for our support
Chris Pogorzelski - recovering from surgery
Chris and family are also grieving the death of Chris's mom, Marianne.
Ray Mielke, family of Dorothy Harris - recovering from quadruple bypass
Pat Grogan - recovering from shoulder surgery

Long Term Prayers

Nicki Rupke, special care
Ruby Tylenda-Emmons, special needs

DIRECTORY UPDATE

Pat and Harry Reeder, 262-345-1127
N 109 W17075 Ava Circle, Apt 336, Germantown, WI 53022

OPEN CIRCLE

All ladies of the church are invited to a *Valentine Tea and Card-Making* event on Sunday, **February 1, 2026** at 2:00pm at the festive home of Deb Crane. All supplies will be provided. We will create valentine cards to send to our homebound and special friends.

ALL-CHURCH ANNUAL DINNER

The Annual Dinner to support the *Youth Mission Trip* **February 15, 2026** immediately following worship. Donations support our summer youth trip. Watch for a sign up and support our youth.

SERVING OPPORTUNITY

The Presbyterian Coalition 2026 house, at 2020 N 23rd Street [Registration Link](#)

Saturday, February 14th - Flooring (4 spots available)

Registration closes on Thursday, February 5th ; Contact Caroline Martini, 414-316-5620

PERSEVERANCE SCHOLARSHIPS 2026

Scholarship applications are available in the office, in Perseverance Hall, and can also be found on our website under Helpful Links ~ 'Scholarships'.

Applications must be submitted by noon on Monday, **March 2, 2026** and/or may be sent via e-mail.

PER CAPITA ENVELOPES

Enclosed in each box of offering envelopes is an envelope entitled "Per Capita". The *per capita* for **2026 is \$44.00** per confirmed young person and adult member. A portion goes to the Milwaukee Presbytery, The Synod of Lakes and Prairies and The General Assembly to fund the staff and administrative costs of the church. Your gift supports the mission and work of the whole Presbyterian Church.

We welcome your **Stewardship Pledge or Gift** for 2026 and thank you for responding to God's gracious call by supporting the church. If you use **on-line banking or automatic bill pay**, please remember to re-set your pledge for 2026.

BIRTHDAYS and ANNIVERSARIES in FEBRUARY

4 Jo and Roger Olson, 1989
9 Marna Tess-Mattner
12 Thomas Ramlow
13 Laura & Brad Meyer, 1999
18 Deb & Scott Bascom, 2001
19 Rebecca LaPorte
21 Jacques Sewrey
24 Jodey Ellner
24 Pat Grogan
28 Jordyn Ellner

If your dates are missing or in error, please inform the church office.

WEST GRANVILLE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Elizabeth McCord, *Interim Pastor*

Sara Nygaard, *Administrative Associate*

Carol Buck, *Newsletter Editor*

Please submit March Newsletter articles by Feb. 22; they can be e-mailed to cagbuck@sbcglobal.net

2025 ANNUAL REPORTS

WORSHIP COMMITTEE

Worship Committee meets on the first Monday of the month at 6:30PM in person. It discusses, organizes, and implements worship experiences for the congregation by scheduling Guest Pastors, liturgists, and other special events within the context of worship as well as music planning.

We were privileged to have Amy Mikec as a Choir Director and Bell Choir Director. We were grateful to have Jan Snowden as our organist, Katie Freiberg as our Accompanist, and Akoeba Alogavi as our Children's Choir Director.

This year with Pastor Dee Anderson, we coordinated small groups for a Lenten study, "Pathways to Wisdom" studying the book of Proverbs. We planned the retirement of Pastor Dee Anderson. Thanks to the organization committee for the wonderful job. This year children were baptized.

We had World Communion Sunday and Puff Puff balls were served as communion bread. Also, third graders received their bibles that day. We will have different languages reading next year on World Communion Sunday. The Interfaith Thanksgiving service was held on November 25, 2025.

The Advent theme this year was "*Love is on the Way*". Advent Reader and Christmas Eve readers were chosen. This year, we had a 5PM Christmas Eve Family Worship and a 7PM Traditional Christmas Eve Worship Service of Lessons and Carols. We were blessed to have the Brass Choir.

Interim Pastor Elizabeth McCord would like to have church members recruited for liturgists, and to introduce new hymns and the singing of moving songs.

The Committee reviewed and finalized the Ushers and Communion Schedule and duties for 2026. This will be printed and sent to church members. Other tasks of Worship Committee include preparing the sanctuary for the seasons of worship, facilitating the purchase of Palms, Easter lilies, and Christmas poinsettias in coordination with the Member Care Committee.

Worship Committee members are chair Hildegard Essoka along with Patti Lorbiecki, Tony Anderson, David Lambert, and Pastor Elizabeth McCord.

Respectfully submitted on behalf of Worship Committee by Hildegard Essoka, Chair

MEMBER CARE COMMITTEE

The 2025 Member Care Committee for West Granville Presbyterian Church consisted of Pastor Elizabeth, Linda Ryan, Lil Sullivan, Jane Hockerman, Terri Mikec, Lori Martens, and Scott Prill. Member Care offers opportunities for Christian fellowship throughout the year with its various activities offering companionship, meals, and flowers along with helping those in need through the Family Relief Fund. Member Care sent cards to those in need of a boost, made telephone calls to those in need, and visited many congregants throughout the year. In summary, Member Care did the following:

- Delivered Easter lilies and poinsettias over the holidays
- Hosted the annual golf outing
- Hosted retirement recognition for Reverend Anderson
- Celebrated milestone birthdays and anniversaries

Respectfully submitted on behalf of Member Care Committee by Jo Ann Olson, Chair

OPEN CIRCLE

Open Circle is a women's group at West Granville that focuses on mission and fellowship. This year we sponsored a movie night, sent handmade valentines to our homebound and special friends, organized a winter outerwear exchange especially for our friends from warmer climates, arranged a surprise going away party for Cindy Anderson, held a social event at Poppy and Thyme, made no-sew blankets for donation to a shelter, sponsored a flower fund-raiser and a strawberry festival. Open Circle distributed \$600 by donating \$100 each to these missions: Sojourner Family Center, Casa Maria Hospitality House, Jennie and Rev. Edgar Bletcher Scholarship Fund at Carroll University, Lois Bletcher Pearson Scholarship at Carroll University; House of Peace/St. Ben's Meals at Capuchin Community Services, and Tippecanoe Presbyterian Church Divine Intervention Program. We are grateful for all of your support and participation throughout the year.

MISSION COMMITTEE

Mission Committee meets every two months to determine where we will give of West Granville's time and money to support numerous organizations and events in our community. In 2025, those contributions of time, talent and treasure included the following:

Habitat for Humanity – attended the Building on Faith breakfast; organized the transportation and decoration of 2x4s (during Sunday School) to be used in Habitat houses; provided lunch for the final build day of the Presbytery house; donated \$1,000 to Habitat in a presentation to Rev. Brian Sonderman, Habitat's Milwaukee Director; donated \$500 to create welcome baskets with indoor and outdoor supplies for Eloise, the owner of the Presbytery's home.

Carroll Student Ministry Dinner – coordinated food donations and served a dinner to Carroll students in conjunction with a Sunday evening worship service in Humphrey Memorial Chapel.

Maple Tree School – coordinated food donations (including a \$100 donation from Mission funds) and served about 100 teachers and staff for the Teacher Appreciation Luncheon; collected largest-ever amount of school supplies (thanks to Michelle and Chris Pogorzelski for organizing and documenting that); provided tutoring through the Forward Scholars program; and donated \$5,000 to the Forward Scholars program, thanks to a WGPC member's donation.

Youth Service Trip – donated \$3,000 from Mission budget to support WGPC's youth service trip to Appalachia.

District 4 Police Station – collected food donations (and \$100 from Mission funds) and served a meal for about 40 District 4 officers and staff.

Salvation Army Kettle Challenge – donated \$300 from Mission funds and helped with the ringing to raise a record \$5,107.95 for the District 4 group, nearly double what the other six districts raised, combined. All funds remain in the Milwaukee area to provide services.

Blessing Bags – with Worship Committee, coordinated supplies for bags to be given to people who are unhoused, and coordinated with Sunday School to help stuff the bags on Rally Day; donated \$150 to the Interfaith Thanksgiving Project, and helped assemble blessing bags there.

St. Peter-Immanuel Food Pantry – collected an extremely large amount of food for the pantry during the November collection drive, in addition to food collected throughout the year on communion Sundays; donated \$500 from Mission funds.

Other Donations - \$300 to Winnebago Mental Health facility (plus donations of Christmas gifts in December)
- \$150 to Reach a Child organization to provide District 4 police officers with books for children in stressful situations
- \$100 to Faith & Blue event

The Mission Committee is grateful to the congregation for its generous responses to the Committee's requests for food and supplies for various causes throughout the year. We couldn't do all of this without all of you!

Mission Committee members: Deb Bascom, Deb Crane, Joy Hartman, Lori Martens, Tom Ramlow, Sue Skaros, Marna Tess-Mattner, and Tammy Wood

Respectfully submitted on behalf of Mission Committee by Marna Tess-Mattner, Chair

2025 Budgeted Mission Giving \$15,067

Presbyterian Church USA Per Capita	8,944
Presbyterian Church USA Unified Mission	2,000
Youth	2,123
Discretionary Mission	2,000

2025 Extra Mission Giving \$18,885

Christmas Joy Offering	336
Peace Global Witness Offering	130
One Great Hour of Sharing	341
Food Pantry Support	3,335
Perseverance Scholarship	6,000
Maple Tree School/Forward Scholars Tutoring	5,000
Maple Tree School Supplies & donation	2,593
Special Mission Fund	1,150

2025 Open Circle \$600

Jennie and Rev. Edgar Bletcher Scholarship (Carroll University)	100
Lois Bletcher Pearson Scholarship (Carroll University)	100
Casa Maria Hospitality House	100
Capuchin Community Services (House of Peace & St. Ben's Meals)	100
Sojourner Foundation	100
Tippecanoe Presbyterian House	100

TOTAL 2025 MISSION GIVING \$34,552

In-Kind Donations

Food Pantry donations
Maple Tree School - hats and mittens
Coats, Hats, Scarves, Gloves, Mittens
Blessing Bags
Furniture for families

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION COMMITTEE

Christian Ed Committee: (chairperson in bold) **Mawuena Alogavi**, Sarah Ramlow, Tom Ramlow,
Logan Cannestra, Akoeba Alogavi

- Superintendent: Todd Cannestra
- Teachers: K3 – 1st Grade: Sarah Ramlow
- 2nd – 5th Grade: Mawuena Alogavi
- Junior & Senior High: Logan Cannestra
- Church Mice Choir Director: Akoeba Alogavi

Among our 2025 children and youth events were the Children's Epiphany Service (January 5), Senior Sunday (May 11), Sunday School Last Day (May 25), Rally Day with Blessing Bag assembly (September 7), and the Advent Breakfast with craft project (December 7). On Reformation Sunday (Oct 26), Third-Grade Bibles were presented to Michelle Akinyiga and Mackinzie Lillian Ntaba. In June, Rev. Dee Anderson and Rev. Eli Henry led the annual Youth Mission Trip to Kentucky with Appalachian Service Project. Church Mice sang several times in worship, including for Pastor Dee's retirement.

Respectfully submitted by Christian Education Committee

PROPERTY COMMITTEE

I would like to send out a thank you to the members of our Property Committee: Scott Prill, Sue Skaros, Roger Olsen, Ed Kress, Logan Cannestra, and Patti Lorbiecki, who has helped chair this committee. I would also like to thank Carol Buck for sharing Steve with us for many years on this committee.

I would like to give a shout out to and thank Roger Olson for his many years on this committee, as he has decided to retire. We will miss you.

There are always things to fix, clean, and repair in our church. In the spring, a great group of members came out one night to get our Spring Cleaning done before Easter. We thank you. Also, the many members who lend a hand when we need to move chairs and tables before the floor can be done. We thank you.

If we are unable to fix our problems, we have vendors that we call upon. We use Noffke Roofing, who does our roof inspections and repairs; Dolphin Cleaners, who do the floors and carpeting; and Tim Scott, our custodian. Also, our Church Administrator, Sara Nygaard, is our very own MVP!

A few of the projects this past year were:

- replacing 24 foot led fixtures,
- new fan and electrical work in the kitchen,
- replacing steeple lights,
- lawn maintenance and snow removal,
- prayer garden and memorial trees care,
- elevator maintenance,
- painted pastor's office,
- crack sealing of driveway, and
- getting bids for a new roof.

Respectfully submitted by Shirley Jaccard, Property Chair

FINANCE COMMITTEE

Committee members: Pastor Elizabeth McCord, Dorothy Harris-Shuff, Darren Hartman, Joe Hrovat, Brad Meyer, Rob Pearson, and Mark Savage.

The Finance Committee meets the second Monday of every month, except July. The primary responsibilities of the Finance Committee are to create the annual budget, manage the pledge drive, monitor the church's assets and monitor the church's financial obligations throughout the year.

2025 Highlights:

- Ministry Resident.
- Began identifying funding resources for the roof replacement; tentatively scheduled for 2030.
- Pastor Dee's retirement celebration.
- Church cellular telephone.
- Interim Pastor.
- New payroll schedule adopted.
- Budget and Financial Review responses were approved by Session.

Respectfully submitted on behalf of the Finance Committee by Dorothy Harris-Shuff

2025 FINANCIAL HIGHLIGHTS

Income

Pledged	\$186,947.00
Non-Pledged	\$28,178.49
Loose	\$2,274.01
Per Capita	\$3,852.00
4% Harvest from Endowment	\$23,982.76
BudgBal carry fwd from previous yr	<u>\$33,965.52</u>
Total:	<u>\$279,199.78</u>

Expenses

Payroll	\$161,840.93
General Operations	\$72,350.45
Programs	\$3,806.73
Mission	<u>\$14,924.75</u>
Total:	<u>\$252,922.86</u>

Assets

Checking	\$16,471.14
Money Market	\$55,954.96
Endowments	\$839,948.62
Fixed	<u>\$3,248,000.00</u>
Total:	<u>\$4,160,374.72</u>

FINANCIAL REVIEW COMMITTEE

The Financial Review Committee of West Granville Presbyterian Church met on Sunday, January 18, 2026. We plan to also conduct interviews of the Financial Secretary and Chair of Financial Committee this week; an interview with the Bookkeeper, Jacques Sewrey, occurred on January 18.

Financial Review Committee:

Scott Prill, Class of 2026; Tammy Wood, Class of 2027; and Sue Skaros, Class of 2028

The Financial Review Committee conducted an analysis (by random sampling) of church financial records: Income, Disbursements, Payroll, Bank Statements, Budget Reports, General Ledger, Finance Committee Minutes for 2025, and Accounting Transfer Audit Reports

Findings

- West Granville is served by dedicated and competent finance individuals whose time devoted to their tasks is impressive and much appreciated
- The finances of the church are accurately recorded
- The records are sufficient for a lay person to understand
- Control systems are in place to provide a reasonable assurance that rules and guidelines are followed

Interview

Jacques Sewrey, Bookkeeper, who had no concerns and answered all committee questions for clarification. He recommended that Paul Martens be added to the bank signature card.

Income/Receipts

The Financial Review Committee sampled over 10 offering receipts and matched them to bank statements. The Associated Bank checking account statements/church transaction journal reports as well as the collection plate receipts were checked. All amounts were accurate for the days sampled and checked.

Disbursements

The Financial Review Committee sampled 20 disbursement records and matched them to bank statements.

- All disbursements matched the green routing sheet slips
- All disbursements matched the invoiced amount
- The description of each expense was easily determined

The Committee found one (1) disbursement with a missing receipt, however the amount was correct when matched to the credit card bill.

Payroll and Tax Records

Twenty (20) Payroll records were sampled and found to be in order. It is noted that Payroll time sheets are not kept for all personnel. Salaried employees do not turn in time sheets.

Check Signers

It is noted that the bank no longer issues signature cards, there are none on file. Financial Committee minutes indicate our check signers are:

- Check Signers: Jacques Sewrey and Mark Savage
- New Covenant: Jacques Sewrey, Darren Hartman, and Mark Savage
- Online Banking Access: Mark Savage and Darren Hartman
- From our interview Jacques Sewrey said he is Not on New Covenant account

Review of the Finance Committee Minutes

The meeting minutes were clear, concise, and easily understood. Coordinating for financial stability was evident through the comprehensive mid- and long-term planning, which included provisions for significant capital expenditures such as roof replacement and annual maintenance variability.

Conclusions

- WGPC is served by dedicated and competent individuals who have developed admirable systems and whose work is much appreciated.
- The finances of the church are accurately recorded
- The records are sufficient for a lay person to understand
- Control systems are in place to provide a reasonable assurance that rules and guidelines are followed
- Except for minor deviations of Sunday morning collections, of which, the deviations have been approved by Session, all persons and systems in place appear to follow the Financial Review Guidelines (01/2022 Rev. 5).

Recommendations

The 2025 Financial Review Committee has the following recommendations:

1. We recommend that Session either consider having more than one person complete the counting and related work on Sundays (but understand the limitations of staffing these positions) or at least annually approve having a single Sunday counter.
2. We recommend that the Financial Committee review how directed funds are tracked and confirm if any gifts are subject to restricted funds. If so, these should be reviewed as part of the Financial Audit, with the understanding that details would be kept strictly confidential.
3. We recommend updating the Green Slips with an additional field to track donations when receipts are submitted and no check or reimbursement is necessary.
4. We recommend that the signature cards be reviewed for accuracy; adding Paul Martens this year and ensuring that Jacques Sewrey is not on the New Covenant account.
5. To simplify future audits, the Review Committee recommends a separate binder for payroll from the general disbursement binder.

Respectfully submitted on behalf of Financial Review Committee by Tammy Wood

2025 Statistical Information

Total Membership as of January 2025: 208 (Females 116)

Additions: 8

- **by Certificate of Transfer or Profession of Faith: 8**
Thompson Asiedu and Linda Annor; Enoch Pusu; John Carpenter and Evan Carpenter;
Jeannette Bell and Chet Bell; Jim Ashton

Removals: 15

- **Certificate of Transfer: 4**
Billie Alderden, Ken Alderden, Alison Alderden, Trevor Alderden
- **Member Deaths: 4**
June Herman (3/20/2025), Mary Roberts (3/22/2025), Stephen Buck (9/14/2025),
Steven Otten (10/16/2025)
- **Other Deletions: 7**
Reine de Souza Alogavi, Liz Tylenda, Arnie Gutkowski, Carol Scott;
3 additional removed as correction prior to Rev. Dee Anderson's retirement

Record Information

Baptisms: 6

<i>Officiated by Rev. Dee Anderson</i>	<u>Born</u>	<u>Baptized</u>
Evan John Carpenter	3/7/2006	1/12/2025
Marlo Dillon Smith	3/3/2025	5/25/2025
Beatrice Esther Denise Ndongue	11/24/2022	8/31/2025
Bennett Christian Kamuiru Ndongue	11/24/2022	8/31/2025
Josie Marie Hohl	8/11/2025	9/1/2025
<i>Officiated by Rev. Elizabeth McCord</i>		
Jack Thomas Lorbiecki	12/3/2025	12/28/2025

Wedding: 1

Officiated by Rev. Dee Anderson
Angela Rosina Snowden & Christopher James Anderson – 4/7/2025

Funerals, Deaths & Committals: 7

<i>Officiated by Rev. Dee Anderson</i>	<u>Born</u>	<u>Died</u>	<u>Service</u>
Cyrus Peterson	3/22/1932	02/25/2025	03/08/2025
June Herman	6/17/1928	03/20/2025	03/27/2025
Mary Roberts	2/4/1943	03/22/2025	04/11/2025
Shirley Lash	9/1/1925	05/18/2025	05/29/2025
Marty Suyama	3/18/1926	07/28/2020	08/09/2025
Steven Henry Otten	4/14/1948	10/16/2025	11/01/2025
<i>Officiated by Rev. Elizabeth McCord</i>			
D. Stephen Buck	1/17/1945	09/14/2025	10/18/2025

FEBRUARY 2026

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p>Communion Team: Patti Lorbiecki, Jean Casey, Katie Freiberg Ushers: Jo and Roger Olson Coffee Hour Hosts: 1: Mikec family 8: Cannestra family 22: Daniel family</p> <p>Recorded sermons and videos may be found at our YouTube channel https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCNPrOpTv3k_4JE8gYRM4-Dw Zoom links may be found on our www.Westgranville.org website under the <i>Events</i> tab. *Meetings may be via Zoom or may have been date- and/or time-changed, please stay tuned.</p>						
<p>1 –4th Sunday after Epiphany 9:15 Sunday School, Adult Bible Study 10:30 Worship Holy Communion 2:00 Open Circle Valentine Tea and Cards</p>	<p>2 7 - Worship *</p>	<p>3 Pastor Elizabeth gone 3-7 TN</p>	<p>4 6:30 Bell Choir</p>	<p>5</p>	<p>6</p>	<p>7 Pastor Elizabeth Returns</p>
<p>8 – 5th Sunday after Epiphany 9:15 Sunday School, Adult Bible Study 10:30 Worship</p>	<p>9 7 - Finance * 7 – Mission *</p>	<p>10</p>	<p>11 6:30 Bell Choir</p>	<p>12</p>	<p>13</p>	<p>14</p>
<p>15 –Transfiguration of our Lord Sunday 9:15 Sunday School, Adult Bible Study 10:30 Worship 11:30 Youth-sponsored Dinner for all- Chicago Style meal</p>	<p>16 7 - Session *</p>	<p>17</p>	<p>18 6:30 via Zoom Ash Wednesday Prayer Service</p>	<p>19</p>	<p>20</p>	<p>21 March Newsletter deadline tomorrow</p>
<p>22 – 1st Sunday in Lent 9:15 Sunday School, Adult Bible Study 10:30 Worship</p>	<p>23</p>	<p>24 7 – Property *</p>	<p>25 6:30 Bell Choir</p>	<p>26</p>	<p>27</p>	<p>28</p>