

Fifth Avenue Memorial  
United Church  
Annual Report 2025



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## In Memoriam

With thanks to God for their love and fellowship we acknowledge the lives of those of our church and wider community who died last year.

B. Barton\*

J Condon\*

A Krausz\*

## Our Pastoral Ministry

	<u>2024</u>	<u>2025</u>
Number of Households	175	173
Resident Members	244	236
Non Resident Members	72	72
Members Received by Transfer	4	0
Members Received by Confirmation/Profession	8	3
Members Reinstated	0	0
Members Removed by Transfer	1	1
Members Removed by Death	6	10
In-active Members Removed by action of the Board	0	0
Members to Non Active	0	0
Number of Baptisms	1	2
Number of Weddings	3	1
Number of Burials	3	4

**FIFTH AVENUE MEMORIAL UNITED CHURCH**  
Annual Congregational Meeting (ACM) Minutes  
26 January 2025

1. Call to Order Rev. Dave Pollard called the meeting to order at 11:07 am.
2. Election of ACM Chair **MOVED** (Carolyn Freeman, Penny Drysdale) that Geoff Coley act as ACM Chair. Given there for no other nominations, Geoff was elected by acclamation.
3. Election of ACM Secretary **MOVED** (Loreen Piehl Wiedemann, Steve Welling) that Della Kirkham act as ACM Secretary. Given there for no other nominations, Della was elected by acclamation.
4. Prayer of Invocation Prayer was offered by Rev. Dave Pollard.
5. Approval of Agenda with the following additions:
6. Administration Geoff briefly outlined process of making motions to guide discussions and decision-making process.
7. Voting Privileges **MOVED** (Mary Ann Britt, Bob Moston) that adherents of Fifth Avenue Memorial United Church be granted voting privileges on all temporal matters. **CARRIED**
8. Our Vision and Goals No changes.
9. Minutes of previous Annual Congregational Meeting 04 February 2024: **MOVED** (David Gue, Joanne Clark) that Minutes be approved with the following amendments:
  - 9.a. spelling of Bob Moston's name be corrected. **CARRIED**
10. Business Arising from previous ACM None.
11. Financial Statements and Budget Treasurer Steve Welling highlighted key points of Financial Statements as per 2024 Annual Report including significance of passing a 6 month vs 12

month budget.

**MOVED** (Steve Welling, Doug Fleming) that a 6 month budget, for the period from January 1 to

June 30, be adopted based on 50 percent (one half) of the 2025 budget figures in the Annual Report

as amended to reflect the amount of Revenue shown for the Benevolent ACM Fund be increased from \$1,000 to \$7,000.

**CARRIED** 12. Acceptance of Committee Reports Committee reports as per 2024 Annual Report were

received as information. 13. Trustees Doug Fleming, Chair of FAM Board of Trustees, informed

congregation of need to update current list of Trustees.

**MOVED** (Doug Fleming, Gary Watson) that Edna LaBrosse be removed and the following names

added to Fifth Avenue Memorial United Church Board of Trustees: Bob Moston, Miles Thorson,

Heather Smithson.

**CARRIED**

14. Courtesies a. Geoff thanked our Minister for his work and noted Rev. Dave is the only active United Church Minister in SE Alberta. As a result, he is often asked to provide support to other UC congregations in the area. Geoff also thanked the rest of the staff for their dedication to FAM especially in these uncertain and challenging times. Geoff personally thanked the Board for their energy and efforts.

b. Steve Welling thanked Colleen Whidden for all her work organizing the Sacred Service teams.

In addition, Steve thanked the individuals who regardless of team assignment continue to show up in FAM's kitchen Sunday after Sunday to assist our after-service fellowship. 15.

Nominations and Elections

**MOVED** (Kevin Seal/Mike McOuat) that the following list of candidates for Board and Committee positions be accepted:

Chair: Geoff Coley

Co-Chair: vacant

Secretary: Della Kirkham

Treasurer: Steve Welling

Property Steward: Stephanie Lindstedt

Ministry and Personal Committee: Carolyn Freeman

Communications Committee: Loreen Piehl Wiedemann

Outreach and Evangelism: Sharon Hunter

Stewardship: vacant

Worship Committee: John Whidden

Pastoral Care Committee: Brenda McLaren

Congregational Life Committee: Loreen Piehl Wiedemann

Fundraising Committee: Loreen Piehl Wiedemann

Faith Formation and Christian Education: Jana Smith Elford

Chinook Winds Regional Representatives: Sam Bjarnason

**CARRIED**

## 16. Appointment of Auditor

**MOVED** (Marlene Ruff, Heather Smithson) that Cheryl May Thorson be appointed auditor for 2024 fiscal year. **CARRIED**

Brendan Hillson agreed to provide assistance.

## 17. New Business

a. Corrections required in Annual report were noted:

i. page 19: Stephanie Lindstedt's surname misspelled;

ii. page 19: Ministry & Personnel Chair listed as Carolyn Boylan when it should be Carolyn

Freeman;

iii. page 19: Judy Morris incorrectly shown as a member of the Board of Trustees as she was removed by a motion at the annual meeting held on 29 January 2023.

b..Affirming congregation

**MOVED** (Keith Drysdale, Kevin Seal) that Fifth Avenue Memorial United Church begin the process to become an affirming church. **CARRIED**

## 18. Adjournment

**MOVED** (Carolyn Freeman, Cheryl May Thorson) that the Annual Congregational Meeting be adjourned. **CARRIED**

Time of adjournment 12:37 pm.

## 19. Blessing and Dismissal

Rev. Dave Pollard closed with a blessing.

## Minutes of 2025 Congregational Meeting

Congregational Meeting  
Fifth Avenue Memorial United Church  
01 June 2025

1. Call to Order by Board Chair Geoff Coley at 11:04 am. Geoff noted that Mel Spence was in attendance as a Chinook Winds Regions appointed representative given planned absence of Rev. David Pollard.
2. Election of Chair & Secretary  
Not required. Geoff Coley and Della Kirkham were elected Chair and Secretary respectively at Annual Congregational Meeting (ACM) in January and assume those positions until the next ACM.
3. Entry & Introduction  
Prayer offered by Brenda McLaren
4. Approval of Agenda  
**MOVED** (Cheryl May Thorson, Bob Moston) **CARRIED**
5. Voting Privileges  
**MOVED** (Terry Lou Bailey, Doug Fleming) that adherents of Fifth Avenue Memorial United Church be granted voting privileges on all temporal matters.  
**CARRIED**

## 6. Presentations

- a. 2025 Six-Month Budget/Stewardship Campaign Update Geoff Coley and Treasurer Steve Welling informed congregation that the brainstorming sessions/discussions undertaken since January ACM regarding deficit still resulted in a significant shortfall.

Incorporating ideas for cutting expenses or increasing revenues in the absence of reducing staff costs will lower annual deficit only \$13,000, bringing the total down from \$120,000 to \$107,000.

- b. Chinook Winds Project

Carolyn Freeman provided background on the May 1st meeting called by Chinook Winds Executive Minister Treena Duncan and Pastoral Relations Minister Karen Medland. Meeting included participants from St. Andrew's (Bow Island), Peace (Irvine), Gordon Memorial (Redcliff), Westminster and FAM (Medicine Hat).

### Purpose

of gathering was to discuss the future of a United Church presence in SE Alberta.

Region extended an invitation to facilitate ongoing discussions with representatives from area congregations

## 7. Motion & Discussion

**MOVED** (Steve Welling, Doug Fleming) that

- i. The Congregation approve FAM participation in the Chinook Winds project with four delegates (Della Kirkham, Steve Welling, Brenda McLaren, Jana Smith Elford), and
- ii. The congregation approve status quo budget for remainder of 2025 while we give the Chinook Winds project a chance to unfold.

## 8. CARRIED

## 9. Blessing provided by John Whidden

## 10. Adjournment

**MOVED** (Loreen Piehl Wiedemann, Heather Smithson) that the Congregational Meeting be adjourned.

**CARRIED**

Time of adjournment 11:26 am.



## Financial Report 2025

At our last annual meeting, a budget for 2025 was approved that had a \$119,800 deficit. This deficit was largely related to the operational costs of keeping our church open: staffing, utilities, insurance and our financial commitments to the United Church of Canada and to Mission and Service. And while we received more than \$37,000 more, in terms of total revenue than was anticipated in the budget, we were still left with a significant deficit of almost \$66,000.

The operational revenue for the year, which includes regular offerings, facility rentals and interest, was \$16,000 over budget, while the committee revenue was \$17,000 more than budgeted, due largely to very successful fundraising and congregational events. And while contributions to the Benevolent Fund of \$5,675 were over \$4,000 above the budgeted amount, this was still considerably lower than in previous years.

The larger picture shows that it is reasonable to expect our annual revenue to be in the order of \$250,000, if we continue with our current level of local support, as well as our other regular sources of income, such as rentals and facility use, as well as fundraising. During the first part of 2025, the Board set up a congregational engagement process to examine options and opportunities to develop a sustainable financial future. All members of the congregation had the opportunity to be part of this conversation and this was an important first step in examining ways to improve our financial situation. An important second step in this process will be to develop an active and successful stewardship program that would set a goal of \$270,000. This figure should probably be our benchmark for future balanced budgets.

A major concern is on the expense side of the equation, where the costs of operating this church will continue to rise. And while we managed to reduce overall expenses by over \$16,000, compared to the budget, this still left us with total expenses amounting to almost \$330,000 for the year. Operational expenses were reduced by over \$23,000 but Committee expenses were higher than expected, especially for Congregational Life and for Worship. The fact remains that, with a final deficit of \$66,000 at the end of the year, we spent, on average each month, \$5,500 more than we received.

It is important that we seriously consider our options when it comes to the budget in 2026. While we have significant reserves, if we continue to have large deficit budgets each year, it will only be a matter of a few years before our reserves are gone. A major issue this year is the need to address some important building repairs that can no longer be ignored and may cost as much as \$100,000. We are hoping that a significant portion of this costly repair work will be covered by a grant from the province but there are no guarantees. For this reason, the budget for 2026 has an even larger bottom-line deficit of over \$189,000. Finally, please note that there remains the possibility that the continuing work with Chinook Winds Region and the other churches in SE Alberta may result in some financial assistance that would affect this budget. For these reasons, this budget will be considered an “interim” budget while these matters of grant-funding and conversations with our church partners continue.

Respectfully  
Submitted, Steve  
Welling, Treasurer

## Fifth Avenue United Memorial Church

### Balance Sheet December 31 2025

Treasurer Report by Marika Pender

#### ASSET

##### Current Assets

Petty Cash	-106.96	
Petty Cash - CL	100.00	
Petty Cash - Community Kitchen	50.00	
Petty Cash - Benevolent Fund	160.00	
<b>TD: General Operating Account</b>	<b>27,514.65</b>	
<b>TD: Memorial Account</b>	<b>115,300.85</b>	
<b>ATB - Community Spirit Account</b>	<b>8,478.62</b>	
Legacy Fund Invest-FrontierCapital	287,135.18	
TD: Long Term GIC	0.00	
Net: Bank Accounts		<b>438,632.34</b>
MH Coop Shares		200.00
Advances Receivable		0.00
Inventory- Fundscrip		4,530.00
<b>Total Current Assets</b>		<b>443,362.34</b>

##### Capital Assets

Sanctuary & Pews	1,166,022.80	
Furniture, Fixtures & Equip	175,072.12	
Office Furniture & Equipment	23,342.44	
Security & Fire System	2,052.13	
Cassavantes Organ	200,000.00	
Christian Ed. Centre	678,971.65	
Computer Hwr & Sftwr	2,878.35	
Land	5,000.00	
<b>Total Capital Assets</b>		<b>2,253,339.49</b>

**TOTAL ASSET** **2,696,701.83**

#### LIABILITY

##### Current Liabilities

Accounts Payable	1,181.09
Visa Payable	-37.03
GST/HST Owing (Refund)	-591.56

Medicine Hat Sings	12,657.12
<b>Total Current Liabilities</b>	<u>13,209.62</u>
 <b>TOTAL LIABILITY</b>	 <u>13,209.62</u>
 <b>EQUITY</b>	
<b>Owners Equity</b>	
Retained Earnings - Previous Year	2,749,440.99
Current Earnings	<u>-65,948.78</u>
<b>Total Owners Equity</b>	<u>2,683,492.21</u>
 <b>TOTAL EQUITY</b>	 <u>2,683,492.21</u>
 <b>LIABILITIES AND EQUITY</b>	 <u><u>2,696,701.83</u></u>



## 2025 Financial Statements and Proposed 2026 Budget

### Proposed

REVENUE	2024 Actual	2025 Actual	2025 Budget	2026 Budget [Interim]
<b>Operational &amp; Maintenance</b>				
Local & Initial	206,107.50	155,323.30	160,000.00	160,000.00
Facility use, honorariums	35,132.40	38,199.75	30,000.00	35,000.00
Interest and Sundry	8,860.11	15,317.27	2,500.00	5,000.00
<b>Subtotal - Operational &amp; Maintenance</b>	<b>250,100.01</b>	<b>208,840.32</b>	<b>192,500.00</b>	<b>200,000.00</b>
<b>Committees</b>				
Congregation Life / Special Events	8,815.30	6,389.35	5,000.00	6,000.00
Faith Formation & Christian Education	1,418.10	475.90	1,000.00	1,000.00
Fund Raising (incl Fundscrip)	6,864.65	21,830.60	8,000.00	15,000.00
Outreach and Evangelism	3,216.41	4,309.00	2,000.00	3,000.00
Pastoral Care	5.00	95.00	-	200.00
Worship		608.20		200.00
Stewardship Fund	80.00	-	-	0.00
Property Committee	1,141.50	-	-	0.00
<b>Subtotal - Committees</b>	<b>21,540.96</b>	<b>33,708.05</b>	<b>16,000.00</b>	<b>25,400.00</b>
<b>Subtotal – Operations &amp; Committees</b>	<b>271,640.97</b>	<b>242,548.37</b>	<b>208,500.00</b>	<b>225,400.00</b>
<b>Special Projects</b>				
SP - Roof & Drainage Rehabilitation				5,000.00
SP - MHART	-		200.00	0.00
SP - Boiler	109.00		-	0.00
<b>Subtotal - Special Projects</b>	<b>109.00</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>200.00</b>	<b>5,000.00</b>
<b>Other Revenue</b>				
Benevolent Fund	8,540.00	5,675.00	1,000.00	4,000.00
Mission & Service	14,092.50	13,937.00	14,000.00	14,000.00
Memorials and Bequests	6,473.29	1,320.00	2,000.00	2,000.00
Fundscrip Commission		273.76		
Gift in Kind	324.04	86.99	500.00	500.00
<b>Subtotal - Other Revenue</b>	<b>29,429.83</b>	<b>21,292.75</b>	<b>17,500.00</b>	<b>20,500.00</b>
<b>Total Revenue</b>	<b>301,179.80</b>	<b>263,841.12</b>	<b>226,200.00</b>	<b>250,900.00</b>

<b>EXPENSE</b>	<b>2024 Actual</b>	<b>2025 Actual</b>	<b>2025 Budget</b>	<b>2026 Budget</b> [Interim]
<b>Operational &amp; Maintenance</b>				
Salaries and Benefits	184,481.77	191,356.62	194,000.00	200,000.00
Administration expense	7,716.53	6,078.18	8,000.00	6,000.00
Insurance, Utility, Telephone and Taxes	52,362.95	50,623.86	55,000.00	52,000.00
UCC Assessment	10,447.43	13,755.08	12,000.00	14,000.00
Bank / Interest Charges	782.30	1,598.81	1,000.00	1,000.00
Contracted & other services	10,099.20	9,516.18	18,600.00	10,000.00
Communications	4,120.56	806.97	1,000.00	500.00
Property and Maintenance	19,051.18	14,229.58	22,000.00	15,000.00
<b>Subtotal - Operational &amp; Maintenance</b>	<b>289,061.92</b>	<b>287,965.28</b>	<b>311,600.00</b>	<b>298,500.00</b>
<b>Committees</b>				
Congregation Life / Special Events	2,114.98	8,131.93	2,000.00	7,500.00
Faith Formation & Christian Education	3,796.30	2,281.65	2,500.00	2,000.00
Fund Raising Events	2,555.64	2,621.20	2,000.00	3,500.00
Outreach and Evangelism	729.91	571.20	500.00	700.00
Pastoral Care	202.83	246.00	500.00	500.00
Worship	4,518.61	6,370.63	3,500.00	5,000.00
Stewardship	-	-	1,000.00	500.00
Ministry and Personnel	715.89	876.25	1,000.00	1,000.00
Sacred Service Teams	123.77	-	200.00	200.00
<b>Subtotal - Committees</b>	<b>14,757.93</b>	<b>21,098.86</b>	<b>13,200.00</b>	<b>20,900.00</b>
<b>Subtotal – Operations &amp; Committees</b>	<b>303,819.85</b>	<b>309,064.14</b>	<b>324,800.00</b>	<b>319,400.00</b>
<b>Special Projects</b>				
SP – Roof & Drainage Rehabilitation	-	-	-	100,000.00
SP - Building & Security	950.23	-	-	-
SP - Boiler	2,271.65	-	-	-
<b>Subtotal - Special Projects</b>	<b>3,221.88</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>100,000.00</b>
<b>Other</b>				
Benevolent Fund	7,412.22	6,788.76	7,000.00	7,000.00
Mission & Service	10,330.00	13,937.00	14,000.00	14,000.00
MHART	-	-	200.00	-
<b>Subtotal - Other Expense</b>	<b>17,742.22</b>	<b>20,725.76</b>	<b>21,200.00</b>	<b>21,000.00</b>
<b>Total Expense</b>	<b>324,783.95</b>	<b>329,789.90</b>	<b>346,000.00</b>	<b>440,400.00</b>
<b>Surplus (+/-)</b>	<b>-23,604.15</b>	<b>-65,948.78</b>	<b>-119,800.00</b>	<b>-189,500.00</b>

## Board Chair Report

Looking back at 2025 brings to mind many wonderful things for which I am deeply grateful. We continue to provide space for the Salvation Army Community Resource Centre, Narcotics Anonymous, a South Sudanese cultural group and many other organizations. Led by Jen Brown, our dedicated choir blesses our Sunday mornings, and Rev Dave works hard to bring us words of inspiration and encouragement, even when times are difficult. Carrie works in the background to keep our building clean and functioning, and Piehl makes sure the business part of FAM gets done while greeting congregants and visitors alike.

As I said at this time last year, we need to remember that Jen, Piehl and Carrie are all employed part-time, so each of them has only a limited amount of time to get everything done; we all need to be gracious, patient, respectful and kind with all of them. Please be especially respectful of the amount of their time you ask for! Rev Dave continues to be the only United Church minister in the area, and works to provide service to the other area United Church congregations.

I am also thankful for all of the volunteer members of our board and committees. We are fortunate to have these folks taking on these responsibilities. Big news this year is that we have a renewed Pastoral Care committee after several years without one. As with staff, your board, committee members and other volunteers deserve only the best we can give them. We are all human, and we will make mistakes while doing the very best we can for FAM. If you find yourself frustrated with something, take a look in the mirror first, then count to ten before you vent at any of those folks.

We started 2025 with a budget shortfall projected to be more than \$100,000. We all knew this would not be sustainable over the long term, and we started several months of conversations about ways to trim expenses and ways to increase revenue. Just as we were preparing for a tough, new, mid-year budget meeting, Chinook Winds Region presented us with a project that would look at ways we might reimagine the United Church presence in this corner of the province, including ways to finance it. While it wouldn't fix the finances for the rest of 2025, this looked like it might give us a reprieve over the longer term and the Board recommended that we stay-the-course to give the project some time to take shape. As of December 2025, we are still optimistic about the project vision but we are concerned about the state of our finances. By year end our projected budget deficit had been cut through some of the ideas generated in the spring finance conversations, through a one-time interest payment from one of our investments, and through a very generous one-time donation. Even with all that, our year-end deficit will still be deeply in the red.

We have continued to defer several big-ticket maintenance and renovation projects due to budget pressures, but we have had to bite the bullet and have had to proceed with a major expense in 2026 to fix roof drainage and attic ventilation problems. Parts of the building are, quite literally, starting to fall down around us, and we simply cannot let this one wait any longer.

Looking ahead, we will have some extremely difficult conversations and decisions in 2026 as we look at our finances. It will take all of us, working together, listening to one another, being respectful and kind with each other, and being creative in how we become the FAM of 2026 and beyond.

Respectfully,  
Geoff Coley  
Board Chair

## Chinook Winds Region

Well, what a year 2025 was. I came into the year with the help of Mary-Anne Britt, FAM's other Chinook Winds Representative. She helped me learn about the position of representing FAM as the Chinook Winds Representative. In March, Joel Den Haan hosted something called a "Cluster" meeting at Gordon Memorial United Church. About 15-20 people across Southern Alberta showed up to discuss issues in their United Churches. One thing that really stuck with me that Joel Den Haan talked about was "The Roller Coaster of Change." How Joel described this concept was about how United Churches are in different phases of change, using the rollercoaster analogy. Then in May, I went to Lacombe for the regional meeting. This was an eye opener to me because it truly showed me how inclusive the United Church is to the point that a guy, I used to skateboard with in Lethbridge all the time is on the youth council. Each day had a different theme, the one that stuck out to me was "a flourishing future." A really great concept that I hope will describe our life here at FAM. A final thanks to Mary-Ann Britt as our Chinook Winds Representative for many years.

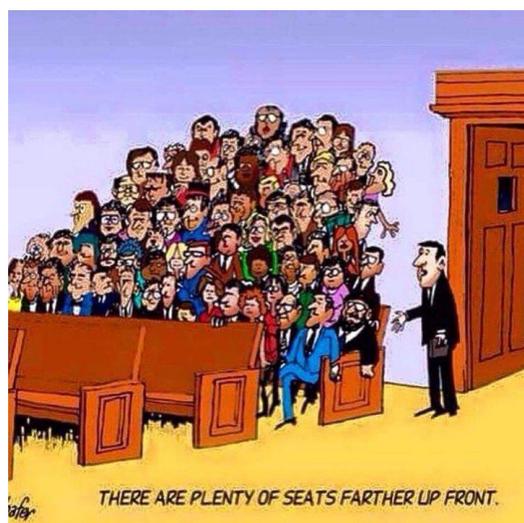
Submitted by Sam Bjarnason

## Communications

FAM's Facebook and website was updated frequently as time allows. Items that Communications produced in 2025: posters, sign up sheets, accessing free advertising venues, radio advertising, plus more.

Thanks to Barry Wiedemann for changing the outdoor size even when it's -30 with a wind. I would also like to recognize Margaret Cook for producing FAM's monthly newsletter. She always makes it look awesome.

Respectfully submitted, Piehl Wiedemann



## From the Minister

Dear Friends,

Once again, we are reflecting on the life and work of our community of faith, and the work we have done together to build God's peaceable commonwealth in our time and place. As we begin reflecting it is appropriate to thank you, and everyone who has contributed to our ministry in 2025. We of course want to thank you for your financial support of our church, but we also know it takes a lot more than money to properly resource the church. We have countless volunteers who spend a lot of time providing hospitality, governing, fixing, cleaning, singing, praying, knitting, greeting. The list of the ways you help us and demonstrate your commitment and deep faith in God lived out among us is endless.

Fifth Avenue Memorial and the United Church of Canada congregations in our area have begun intentional conversations moderated by Chinook Winds Regional Council in 2025. We have been discussing the state of the church and opportunities to work closer together to facilitate ministry in South East Alberta. These are tenuous times for the church in Medicine Hat and in the surrounding communities. Your Board is to be commended for their leadership and their willingness to engage in these conversations but we can always use more help on our leadership teams and we could certainly all benefit from some conversations around stewardship in the coming year because our budget and in fact all of the budgets across the church in South East Alberta are tight.

While the future is as yet unknown the year that has been has seen consistency in our worship and programming. We continue to worship, study, and assist our community. We have helped keep folks fed, make sure they stay housed, helped in crisis situations and worked with a number of community groups to help create, connect and care for our city. All of this work culminated this year in a real celebration of the Centennial of the United Church of Canada that saw a number of Churches gather together to mark this occasion. A very large thank you to all those from Fifth and across our Southeast Alberta Region who made this gathering possible.

So it is that now set out stating the next 100-year journey of this United Church of ours. I am certain that the coming year will be one that will be interesting and challenging for each of us. Whatever unfolds know that "we are not alone"

Every Blessing,

Reverend Dave

## Congregational Life & Works

Con Life had a busy year in 2025. Events that were held are: Men's and Ladies Luncheon. Many thanks to Gary and Launa Watson for organizing every month. Monday Coffee Chat, Time With Friends, thanks to Sharon Siedel, Valentine Dance, Youth Splatter Room, Ukrainian Easter Egg Class, Volunteer Day, Pies for Guys, 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the United Church of Canada, FAMily Picnic, Breakfast With Santa, and Ugly Sweater Contest.

Events that I tried were Painter Girl Painting, Mother's Day Brunch, and Trivia Night but were cancelled due to lack of interest.

I would like to thank everyone that volunteers and supplies items and food to the FAM events. If we didn't have such great volunteer base, none of the above would happen. I would also like to thank the Church Board for their continued support.

Respectfully submitted by Piehl Wiedemann

## Fundraising

Fundraisers for 2025 included:

- Bottle Drives
- Fundscrip
- Spaghetti Supper & Cake Auction
- Spring Tea and Fashion Show
- Election
- FAM Choir Garage Sale
- Turkey Supper
- 

*Gifts n Goodies was cancelled due to a lack of volunteers.*

The projected fundraising revenue for 2025 was set at \$8,000. I am very pleased to report that FAM raised \$21,830.60 this year — significantly exceeding our goal. This tremendous success would not have been possible without the dedication of our Board, the many volunteers who gave their time and energy, and everyone who generously donated items and supported our events throughout the year. Because of your commitment and teamwork, FAM experienced an outstanding year in fundraising. Thank you for helping make 2025 such a success.

Submitted by: Piehl Wiedemann

## Ministry and Personnel

Committee: Carolyn Freeman (chair) and Della Kirkham

According to the United Church of Canada Guidelines, the M&P committee has three distinct roles involving ministry personnel, lay employees, and the community of faith - the consultative and supportive role, the healthy relationships role, and the supervisory role

In this unique role of synergy, Ministry and Personnel works with the FAM staff to build community based on trusting relationships, reciprocal feedback, and creating shared goals. In addition, this committee works to hire and secure employees, write contracts, revise job descriptions, propose salary/benefits budgets, and conduct annual performance reviews of all staff members.

The following is a summary of M&P activities:

- In January, 2025, the working hours for the Director of Music Ministry were increased from 15 to 18 hours/week.
- Annual Performance Reviews (APR) and Goal-setting was completed - discussions were held regarding:
  - The process of creating SMART goals (as required by the United Church of Canada) and reviewing progress throughout the year, and
  - The performance review process - gathering information and engaging in meaningful and productive conversations regarding the work at FAM
  - Job descriptions (these will be reviewed and updated in 2026)
  - The APR process will be reviewed in Jan 2026
- Rentals at FAM have increased and requests for rentals continue to come. Because of this, the Rental Agreement Policy was reviewed and updated. Staff expectations were discussed.
- Rev Dave Pollard participated in a United Church of Canada Pilgrimage to the Philippines with the Global Mission Unit. He was away May 18 - 31, 2025.
- For every service in May, congregational members and guest ministers led the worship services.
- The UCC Centennial Celebration was held at FAM in June. This was a huge undertaking for the staff at FAM. Thanks to them for making this event successful and meaningful.
- Summer Services:
  - Worship services were held at Westminster United Church during the month of July
  - FAM hosted and led worship services for the month of August
  - The church office was closed for the month of July
- In September a shared Google calendar that focussed on worship planning was started. Although this is primarily for the minister and Office Administrator, it is available to all staff. To date, this seems to be working well to improve communication

- Street parking has been problematic for staff members as they must move their vehicles every two hours to avoid being ticketed. It was discovered that, if a letter was received from the Board, FAM could apply to Municipal Works to obtain street parking passes.
- All church office doors have been re-keyed

Thank you to our staff for their continued dedication to the life and work of FAM!

Carolyn Freeman,  
Chair, M&P

## Outreach and Evangelism Committee

Thank you to all who have donated through the year for our hamper program. This year we gave out over 30 hampers. The Reverse Advent donations have helped replenish our cupboard. Our Benevolent Fund has made it possible to help with rent, gift cards, utilities, air tickets and fuel.

Contributions are made to St. Stephens College, Alma Reynolds Bursary Fund and Clara Thompson Internship Fund, St Andrews College and Mission & Service.

We collected scarves, mitt, gloves & toques for the Mitten Tree. These items were given out at the Salvation Army Christmas dinner which we hosted on Dec.19,2025

Prayer Shawl Ministry continue to make shawls that are provided for bereaved or patients in the hospital. Thank you to the ladies who knit & crochet and the Pastoral Care committee who visit and take our shawls. We also supply Baby Blankets for Baptism.

This year we had a request for Baby blankets from the YMCA Parent program. They help young mothers in need. They were very grateful for our donations.

Respectfully submitted  
Sharon Hunter



## Pastoral Care Committee

In February 2025 a Pastoral Care Committee was established after several years of not having a committee in place. The purpose of this committee is to work with the Minister to ensure that the care needs of the congregation are met.

As of early 2026, Annabel Welling and Brenda McLaren comprise the committee and have enjoyed working together to visit congregants who need support. We maintain a long-term list of those who cannot regularly attend church but want to remain connected to the congregation. Some reside in congregating living, and some remain in their own homes. We also maintain a list of those who are experiencing crises who require short-term support.

We began our work by sending letters or emails to all those on the long-term list, introducing ourselves and indicating that we would soon be calling to check in. All those on the list were contacted in March, June, September and December and personal visits were offered. Several people on the list requested regular visits, and some requested regular phone calls. In June we provided bulletins from the Anniversary Service and in December we provided Christmas cards signed by members of the congregation.

Two of our long-term members – Joyce Condon and Arlene Krausz - died this year and we will miss our regular visits with them.

We always welcome suggestions from the congregation about additions to our list. We have worked on an ongoing basis with Rev Dave to ensure the pastoral needs of the congregation are met and plan to meet monthly in the new year to further enhance this collaboration.

Sincerely,  
Brenda McLaren and Annabel Welling



## Property Report

In my second year as Property Steward, we had many successes. My goals for 2025 were to pursue repointing of the NE tower and to reinvigorate the gardens. While the gardens have come back to life with the help of Sharon Seidel, Pat Ward, Brenda McLaren, and Brendan Hillson, the repointing of the NE tower has transitioned to focus on renewed priorities around drainage. Thank you to all those who donated plants, and I offer my great appreciation for the ongoing lawn maintenance done by Barry Wiedemann. I would like to extend my thanks to our caretaker, Carrie Matis, who does a wonderful job of maintaining the cleanliness of our church.

I anticipate the regular 2026 costs will be similar to this year. We didn't spend as much on preventative maintenance projects as expected, but the preparation done this year will support the Drainage Rehabilitation Project. We have hired engineers to design the systems and coordinate the contractors that will be needed to implement connection to the underground drain system, installation of a larger drainage system on the roof, and making the changes needed to keep the attic cold. This does not mean we are fully committed to the project yet, but the decision will be a major factor in our budget and priorities. Please see the January newsletter for more details, or contact me at [propertysteward@famunitedchurch.ca](mailto:propertysteward@famunitedchurch.ca) to receive the Project Brief or discuss the project.

From January 2025 to December 2025, many tasks have been completed. We sought out and accepted a generous donation of an AED, replaced Narcan kits, completed all annual inspections (backflow, boiler, fire safety, standpipe system, hoses, fire extinguishers, fire alarm panel, gas well), completed monthly fire safety checks, repaired several toilets, repaired the south basement window, replaced lobby lights, insulated some windows, and the internet was checked by Rogers.

Our partnership with Salvation Army Resource Centre is running smoothly and we regularly meet with the SA staff. We increased their security by procuring and installing security bars on the doors.

Our ongoing items of concern are planning long term conservation projects for the next 5-10 years, as described in the McNally Report of 2018. We also are concerned about the failing mortar and missing bricks on the main entrance steps (quoted at \$15,000 for full repair), along with the persistent graffiti that is very difficult to remove from brick and unpainted surfaces. The downstairs toilet has hopefully ended its series of troubles, but roots will continue to infiltrate the pipes. We should plan to clear this biannually.

Some ideas for the future include a historical tour and/or slide show to raise funds.

Thank you for your ongoing support of the Property Committee's work.

Submitted by Stephanie Lindstedt, Property Steward

## Worship Report

The members of the Worship Committee this year have been:

Jean Dirk, Lynn Seal, Jire Nzeyimana, Jen Brown,,Rev. David Pollard, John Whidden (chair)

A big thank you to Jean Dirk who retired from Worship Committee service this year. She has offered great wisdom to our committee over the years!

We welcomed Jire Nzeyimana as a more permanent member and appreciate his youthful perspective.

Jen Brown continued to inspire all those around her as Director of Music Ministry this year. Feedback from the choir tells us that she is brimming with energy, enthusiasm, and vocal training skills. Rehearsal is never dull with Jen at the helm! Choristers and congregants are enjoying her musical choices. Jen has organized Christmas music, the entire special advent choir service, many special musical guests, and has been working with the children in Sunday School.

Thank you to all in the congregation who so willingly assisted with the many important aspects of our music ministry, including many of our young congregants. Special thanks to Pat Ward, Travis Boser, Brian Echelbaum, Mark Ward, and Colleen Whidden who regularly shared their musical talents in services and rehearsals.

Without the tech team, worship would be quiet, not to mention difficult. David Gue led the way with the assistance of Sam Bjarnason, Geoff Coley, John Whidden, and several young FAM regulars who are learning about our PowerPoint slideshows. We continue to use these slideshows regularly in Sunday worship, and we thank Geoff Coley, Piehl Wiedemann, and Jen Brown for making them happen!

Sacred Service, thanks to the leadership of Colleen Whidden, has continued to be a success this year. Many folks have learned how to make things run smoothly around the church, from the collection to the dish sanitizer. Congregants are also getting to know each other better through this initiative. A big thank you to all the Sacred Service leaders: Piehl Wiedemann, Jana Smith-Elford, Ian Elford, Annabel Welling, Steve Welling, Carole Hillson, Brendan Hillson, Terri Lou Bailey, Art Lecuyer, Cheryl May-Thorson, Miles Thorson, Sandra Wilson, Brenda McLaren, Geoff Coley, and Joanne Clark.

Last but not least, our committee would like to recognize Rev. Dave Pollard. Being a minister is never an easy job as there are huge expectations from home visits to weddings to funerals to social leadership to preaching a great sermon. The Worship Committee receives regular positive feedback about his thought-provoking sermons.

We always welcome new members and new ideas, so if you are interested in contributing to worship in either way, please get in touch with any of our members!

John Whidden, Chair of Worship Committee

## Official Board for 2024

### **Executive:**

Chairperson	Geoff Coley
Vice Chair	_____
Secretary	Della Kirkham
Treasurer	Steve Welling
Property Steward	Stephanie Lindstaedt

### **Committee Chairs: Representatives**

Communications	Piehl Wiedemann
Congregational Life	Piehl Wiedemann
Faith Formation & Christian Education	_____
Fundraising	Piehl Wiedemann
Ministry & Personnel	Carolyn Freeman
Outreach & Evangelism	Sharon Hunter
Pastoral Care	Brenda McLaren & Annabel Welling
Stewardship	_____
Worship	John Whidden
Chinook Winds Region Reps.	Sam Bjarnason

### **Board of Trustees**

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