

ANNUAL REPORT 2025



THE UNITED CHURCH OF LOS ALAMOS
2525 CANYON ROAD
LOS ALAMOS, NM 87544

THE 2025 ANNUAL REPORT

The United Church of Los Alamos

Senior Pastor	3
Pastor to Youth and Congregation	5
Treasurer	7
Church Council President's Report	10
Church Membership Report	11
Church Attendance Report	12
In Memory	12
Church Staff Directory	13
Board & Committee Members for 2025	13
Minutes of Congregational Meeting (January 26, 2025)	15
BOARD REPORTS	
Christian Education	17
Elders	21
Finance	23
Finance Board Report (Expenditure Budget Requests)	25
Budget Report	26
Designated and Restricted Funds	29
Balance Sheet	30
Annual Financial Review	30
2024-2025 Budget Summary	31
Membership and Evangelism	32
Missions and Service	34
Personnel	38
Trustees	39
COUNCIL COMMITTEE REPORTS	
Endowment Fund and Memorials	41
Fellowship	43
Historical	44
Nominating	45
OTHER ORGANIZATIONS AND COMMITTEES	
Mexico Mission	46
Women's Christian Service Society (WCSS)	47
WCSS Financial Report	48
WCSS Mission Budget Report	49
Thrift Shop	50
LIFT	51
Public Relations	52
Dignity Mission	53
Ushers	54

SENIOR PASTOR

David Elton

The ministry and mission activities of The United Church were in full swing throughout last year. It was a privilege to work with the congregation's President, Jennifer Olsen, in preparing for the annual orientation of the Executive Council and planning the monthly meetings. Thank you to our volunteer leaders for their dedication and work in leading the ministries of this congregation through our boards, committees and the Executive Council. I am also grateful for the dedication and work of the church's staff members and for all they accomplished throughout the year in serving members and resourcing boards and committees. It requires a lot of work each week by staff members and many volunteers (i.e. Sunday worship and the Thrift Shop) to continue the impressive amount of activity of this church!

Throughout last year, I worked with staff members and leaders in planning and leading Sunday worship services, special services and memorials. It was great to work with Suzanne Johnson in planning the services and a special thanks to the United Singers and musicians for their leadership each week! I was the staff resource to several boards and committees which included: Elders, Finance, Missions & Service, Nominating and Personnel. It was a sacred privilege to be able to visit members and friends of this congregation in their hospital and rehabilitation rooms and homes. This was alongside this congregation's faithful prayer ministry for those dealing with health concerns, recovery, treatment, loss and other struggles. My ministry for the greater church involved working with several clergy and leaders of other churches in Los Alamos and White Rock, organizing the Lenten Devotional and the 5-week dinner program that prepared us for Holy Week. I organized the Easter Sunrise service at Ashley Pond that now includes four churches in the community. I also served on the Presbytery of Santa Fe's Commission on Ministry for another year, which involved monthly meetings and assisting Presbyterian churches and pastors during times of transition.

We said "farewell" to Laura Loving last August as she and Bill moved to Oregon to be closer to their children and grandchildren. Even though she continues to be missed, her work with our children, parents and grandparents was inspiring and transforming; and helped carry our children's ministry through the fall semester! This couldn't have been done without the dedicated work of our Bible Quest teachers and nursery volunteers. The Christian Education board is heading up a search committee for a person to lead our children and family ministries this year and beyond. Our hope is to hire a person sometime this semester.

In the United Church's continued commitment to the Church Growth Plan, I worked with Keith Lewis and Yelena Mealy to begin a new monthly service called, Rose Street Worship. The first service was in mid-September and continued throughout the year on Thursday evenings. The style is informal with more contemporary music (and no bulletins!) and held in Graves Hall. Thank you to Pam Meyer and Jan Taylor for providing dinners before the service, and to Matt Michnovicz for organizing the musicians. And special thanks to all our musicians and song leaders for the time they gave for rehearsals and leading the service. We will continue this monthly service in 2026.

As we jump into another year of ministry, this congregation's commitment remains steadfast and hopeful. I find this inspiring and am looking forward to serving with all of you in building upon the good work done last year (and years prior) to God's glory. I know that we recognize how blessed this church is through the commitment and giving of so many. I plan to be more intentional in listening and looking for the leading of God's Spirit around here as, together, we grow in our trust in the words and ways of Christ... and the invitation to live into God's vision before us.

May the grace of God, the peace of Christ, and the wisdom of the Spirit be with us and guide us through another exciting year.

In Christ,

David

PASTOR to YOUTH and CONGREGATION

Keith Lewis

Dear United Church Friends...is there really anything now that we may term “normal?” If so, 2025 was a fairly normal year of ministry at The United Church. Spring Break found a good group of youth and adults from United Church heading to Puerto Penasco to build two homes with Amor Ministries. It felt good to be back working in Mexico and our crew of new young people hustled like veterans as we accomplished our task well within schedule. This marked the 39th year of trips to Mexico and we were very fortunate to have Steven Mabry with us, the original guru for Mexico Mission and former Associate Pastor of United Church with us to work alongside us for the week.

Isotopes Baseball, Bowling and a Back to School Cliff’s Amusement Park trip were a part of our youth activities during the year. We continue to have Sunday Supper on a fairly regular basis, Donuts continue on Tuesdays during the school year as does Pizza at LAHS on Thursdays. Our young people are involved in every imaginable activity whether that be music (choir, orchestra, jazz, mariachi and marching band), sports (cross-country, wrestling, track, football, soccer, rugby) performing arts (dance and theater) and we somehow have chance to catchup on Sunday mornings for Sunday School and Coffee Meet-ups. I don’t think I was ever as busy as our young people. We sent off a good number of our young people off to college in New Mexico and also Arizona, California and New York. Our young people make us proud and remind us often that the future is in good hands.

In adult activities, I lead a complete reading and discussion of the book **Unbinding The Gospel** on Monday evenings during the winter/spring season. Useful thoughts and actions regarding growth at United Church came from these weekly gatherings. The retirement of Laura Loving was both celebrated (for her) and lamented (for us) and we continued her vision both for monthly VBS (June/July/August). Ghost Ranch over Labor Day Weekend was a rousing success again with Professor Luke Gorton from UNM leading the workshops. The vision cast for monthly VBS on Thursdays in the summer was a perfect segue to monthly **Rose Street Worship** spearheaded by David Elton and our outstanding musicians. You will note that this paragraph relates to new opportunities for growth at the United Church. I was personally honored to baptize Joey McCulloch and Pratik Khandegahle and welcome Sam Baty as an active member of our church family.

I feel so fortunate to have served at The United Church for twenty years. My prayer in this New Year of ministry together is that we continue to grow spiritually and numerically as a church family seeking to serve through our actions our savior Jesus Christ.

Respectfully,
Rev. Keith A. Lewis

TREASURER

Ann Cooke

Implementing growth ideas for the church continued:

- The church (Elders, CE, and Trustees) is discussing upgraded audio/visual improvements to the worship experience. The Audio equipment was purchased, is here, and waiting to be installed.
- With Pastor Laura Loving moving, Personnel and CE have put their attention to expanding our capabilities for Christian education with children and families, and soon will post an advertisement for a new director and nursery coordinator.
- The pastoral staff lead an effort to establish Thursday evening Rose Street Worship with greater emphasis on contemporary music. This will move into the Elders budget and will continue this coming year.

The Canyon Road Crosswalk & Culvert Upgrades: The Trustees, lead by Eric Schmierer for this project in cooperation with Los Alamos County, planned a joint effort to extend the new crosswalk located in front of the Montessori School ramp on Canyon Road with a new concrete pad. A small retaining wall of concrete block to delineate the hillside from the walking area between where cars park was added, the concrete collar of the culvert was reinforced with a larger concrete collar and block, and a rail added around the drop area around the culvert. Gravel was added to finish the area. The church portion of the work was paid for by the Regular Endowment and cost ~\$21K.

Landscaping is as follows: Three trees were added in the playground area. Two of them, maples, survived; an oak did not. The apricot tree in the playground semicircle area by the old foundation had its last gasp and will be removed this coming year. If the apricot tree volunteered around 1968 when the original Sunday School building's foundation was cleared, then the tree was 57 years old. The average life span of an apricot tree is only around 30 years, and this one outlived its peers by almost double. Weeding continued generally, but the playground area along the fence line of Rose Street had continuous attention throughout the year.

The Total Mission Giving is summarized in the table below, by all the various efforts of those associated with the United Church. This last year, Mexico Mission returned to Mexico to build houses.

Reading the annual report of 1998, because I had a question about a line item named Mission/Pledge Shortfall Contingency for that year, I found that the board was measuring the amount of mission spending to the amount pledged by donors. They wanted to be over 30% of the total monetary pledges. Currently, our Mission giving exceeds 50% of the amount pledged for 2025.

Unstated is that the Church still provides sermons, classes, fellowship, building space, columbarium, counseling, overflow parking, and beautiful grounds for the enjoyment of the community and members of the United Church of Los Alamos.

Ann Cooke, Treasurer

UCLA Mission Support	Source in 2025	2025 (\$)	2026 (\$)	Recipients
Missions §	Budget	88,200		Various – see Missions' Budget
Mission Contingency	Budget	9,600		Less Dignity Mission (below)
Denom. per Capita	Budget	7,200		Exec. Budget Line
WCSS Thrift Shop §	Earned '24	70,984		~ 30 NM Charities
WCSS Thrift Shop	2024	3,500		Contingency
NM Conf of Churches	Budget	1,800		Exec. Budget Line
Local Needs	12,000	5,439		Individual Short-Term Help
Family Assistance	8,390	6,790		
Aspen School Family	Local Needs	482		
Souper Bowl	1,111	1,111		LA Cares
Change for Change	128	125	4	Self Help
Dignity Mission §	Miss/WCSS	1,883		Hygiene Packages
Mexico Mission	34,070	29,982		AMOR
Mid/Sr Hi meals	Budget	8,422		Burritos & Pizza
OGHS	5,238	5,268	30	Church World Serv. (CWS)
Disaster Relief	10,002	10,062		LA Fires, TX/NM Floods, Alaska, Typhoon, Myanmar Earthquake
Other Designated Mission Gifts	2,760	2,360	400	Various Missionaries & Mission Possible
Mon. Night @ Pit *	Donated	-		Meals for students
Young Adult Outreach	1,252	681		Trunk or Treat
Alternative Giving	12,395	9,655	12,395	LA Cares, MAPS, CWS (animals) Disaster Relief (Alaska/Jamaica)
Xmas Eve Offering	495		495	Self Help
Totals		253,889	12,890	266,779
All Supported Exp.				31.5% of 847,974
Total Budget Exp.				38.3% of 696,417
Non-Mission Budget Expenses	<i>(Budgeted Missions)</i>	<i>(115,222)</i>		45.9% of 581,195 Pledges 50.3% of 530,000

Bold amounts are counted Mission disbursements for the year just past. Un-bold amounts may have been collected this last year, and partial payment made (**bold**), but the remainder to be paid out sometime in the future and counted in the future at that time (e.g. Change for Change). Alternative Giving donations collected in December are counted as part of this last year's effort, though some are slated to be paid out in 2025. All **bold** amounts sum to the **total bold** amount.

§ Dignity Mission was funded from WCSS (\$883) and Mission's Contingency (\$1K). The budgeted WCSS and Missions values were adjusted to reflect what was given for the Dignity Mission effort.

*Monday Night @ the Pit runs on average 12 weeks serving 30-60 young adults, church members and friends. Teams of volunteers provided a meal that runs ~\$300 in food that is largely donated. The total effort is minimally estimated at \$3,600 each summer.

CHURCH COUNCIL PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Jennifer Olsen

It has been a very busy year at the United Church!

We have spent another year seeking to faithfully serve God locally and in the wider world.

As John Bliss said last year, the United Church continues to be guided by our covenant, values, and church growth task force recommendations to improve outreach to the local community and to be a nurturing faith community for all seeking to know God.

In August we did see Laura Loving, our Pastor of Children's Ministries, leave her ministry at the United Church, and follow a call to greater ministry within her own family. We are working to advertise her position as well as the position for Nursery Coordinator in 2026. Church members (Thank You!) have volunteered their time and talents to continue the Children's program and we look forward to who God calls to those positions in 2026.

Youth and young adult programs continue. Whether the youth are house building, wood working, or delivering cookies and carols with the children's program, their challenges, joys, and exuberance continues to remind us of God's presence as we all age, grow, and learn. The Young Adult program continues with Monday Night at the Pit and dinners in the 'off-season'.

Missions continue to be responsive to emerging needs and have been abundantly supported.

Traditional fellowship events have continued with monthly pot-luck luncheons, Easter breakfast burritos and the WCSS Christmas dinner as examples. Rose Street Worship offers us the opportunity to come together one evening a month for a more contemporary music service.

'The Life of the Church' is, as always, made possible by the shared commitment to stewardship and the generous giving of our time, money and talents. The boards and committees of the church worked tirelessly to make everything imagined by the executive council possible. Additional hands are welcome as "friends of the boards".

It has been a year of learning and growth for me personally, as I was given the opportunity to serve this past year as Chair of your Executive Council.

Jennifer Olsen

CHURCH MEMBERSHIP REPORT

TOTAL MEMBERSHIP as of January 1, 2025 235

ASSOCIATE MEMBERSHIP (members of more than one church) (4)

Membership Additions

Confession of Faith (Uniting for the first time)	3
By Baptism	1
Discipleship Class	0
Letter of Transfer in	1
Reaffirmation	0
Non-resident/Inactive to Active status	<u>0</u>
Total Additions	5

Membership Losses

Active to non-resident/Inactive (due to relocation, corrections)	1
Active to resident/Inactive (request of removal from rolls)	4
Letter of Transferred out	1
Active Member Deaths	<u>6</u>
Total Losses	6

TOTAL MEMBERSHIP as of December 31, 2025 234

New Members

James McInroy	Joseph McCulloch	Zach Riedel
Leah Gateley-Riedel	Samuel Baty	

Baptisms

Joseph McCulloch	Pratik Khandegahle	
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SUNDAY MORNING IN-PERSON CHURCH ATTENDANCE FOR 2025

Monthly	January	93	July	91
Averages:	February	95	August	94
	March	97	September	87
	April	114	October	90
	May	97	November	99
	June	107	December	119

Average In-Person Attendance for the year of 2025 is 99.

Average In-Person Attendance for the year of 2024 was 90.

In Memory Of

Remembering our family and friends lost in 2025

Barbara Jean Wilson	January 16, 2025
Barbara Seeger	January 24, 2025
Chuck Klein	August 23, 2025
Margaret Flaugh	November 3, 2025

CHURCH STAFF DIRECTORY – 2025

Senior Pastor
Pastor for Youth Ministries
Director of Music Ministries
Bookkeeper/Treasurer
Custodians
Office Administrator & Director of Communications

Rev. David Elton
Rev. Keith Lewis
Suzanne Johnson
Ann Cooke
Cesar & Ana Maria Ojeda
Tjett Gerdom

BOARD & COMMITTEE MEMBERS – 2025

**(Co-)Chairperson (Y) Youth Member*

EXECUTIVE COUNCIL

President of the Church Council
Vice President of the Church Council
Past President of the Church Council
Member at Large of the Church Council
Member at Large of the Church Council
Secretaries of the Church Council

Jennifer Olsen
Bob Little
John Bliss
Alison Watkins
Anthony Puckett
Laura Erickson

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION BOARD

Quinn McCulloch*
Diana Little
Sheridan Smith
Kara Windler
Keith Lewis

FINANCE BOARD

Matt Michnovicz*
Bob Little
Adda Moldt
Bob Weeks
Steve Stringer
Jeff Whicker
Ann Cooke
Ron Strong

MEMBERSHIP & EVANGELISM BOARD

Jim Cobble*
Marie Michnovicz
Leslie Puckett
Carol Brown
Chuck Tallman

MISSIONS & SERVICE BOARD

John Puckett*
Kim Taylor
Larry Luck
Nina Thayer (WCSS)
Ashley Reader
Larry Brown
Vivien Chen

PERSONNEL BOARD

Heath Watkins*
Jerry Grindstaff
Vicki Cobble
Milan Gadd
Nancy Bliss

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Brad Meyer*
Norma Puckett*
Mark Strong
Mark Crawford
Jim Goforth
Clark de Nevers

BOARD OF ELDERS

Brad Cooke*
Daisy McCulloch (Y)
Pamela Massey
Patricia McCulloch

LIFT COMMITTEE

Norma Puckett
Adda Moldt
Cookie Halsted

FLOWER COMMITTEE

Zena Thomas*
Irene Powell*

NOMINATING COMMITTEE

Randy Erickson
John Charles
John Bliss
Georgia Strickfaden
Pamela Massey

**ENDOWMENT & MEMORIALS
COMMITTEE**

John Puckett*
Terry FitzPatrick
Nancy Lemons

OTHER COMMITTEES AND GROUPS

A/V Booth
Columbarium
Dignity Mission
Fellowship
Historical
IT
Librarians
Public Relations
Thrift Shop

Umbrella
Ushering and Welcoming
W.C.S.S.

Milan Gadd
Elders & Trustees
Nina Thayer
Pam Meyer & Laura Erickson
Laura Erickson
Beth Dermer, Roger Smith & Jack Carter
Jerry and Betsy Grindstaff
Georgia Strickfaden
Norma Puckett, Nina Thayer, Vicki Buley, Carol Brown,
Linda Hardie, Nancy Nunnelley, & Cheryl Warren
Irene Powell
Eric Schmierer
Chris Sierk

The United Church of Los Alamos
Annual Meeting of the Congregation
January 26, 2025

President John Bliss called the meeting to order at 11:05 am

Attendees 62 people attended. See sheets for names.

Senior Pastor's Report Nothing to add

Pastor to Youth and Congregation Not Available

Director of Children's Ministries Not Available

President's Report It has been a rewarding experience to serve as your President. There were two items that were disappointing in this past year – not being able to take high schoolers and their sponsors to Mexico over Spring Break, and not being able to hold All Church Camp at Ghost Ranch.

Treasurer's Report Ann Cooke reported that we finished the financial year with a surplus of \$36,567.25.

Christian Education Board The CE Board is supported by the wonderful staff.

Board of Elders Nothing to add

Finance Board Jen Olsen moved, and Marge Lewis seconded, that the 2025 proposed budget be accepted as presented in the Annual Report.. The motion passed unanimously.

Membership and Evangelism Nothing to add

Missions and Service Board John Puckett pointed out that this is a very generous congregation. Alternative Giving raised almost \$12,000!

Personnel Board Heath Watkins mentioned that we now have volunteers staffing the Nursery. Increases in medical insurance are out of our control, which affects staff salaries. This year they will be examining the Personnel Board policies.

Trustees Board Brad Meyer encouraged people to become Friends of the Trustees.

Endowment & Memorials Committee On Sunday, February 9th at 12 noon there will be a pot luck. John Puckett will be presenting information about Endowments and Memorials. Our church Endowment Fund has reached \$1,200,00.

Fellowship Committee Nothing to add.

MEXICO MISSION Laura Erickson announced that we are planning to take a group of High Schoolers and their adult sponsors back to Puerto Peñasco, Sonora, Mexico over Spring Break (barring unforeseen circumstances). She encouraged folks to attend the Donors' Dessert on Sunday, February 23, at 3 pm and donate toward the trip.

WCSS Women's Christian Service Society has raised \$84,000 in 2024 through the Thrift Shop and Christmas Sale. There will be a meeting next Friday to consider how this money should be allocated.

Dignity Mission The United Church has been working with Dignity Mission for five years. The dignity kits are distributed to people in El Paso/Juarez who are applying to enter the United States legally. This week they are collecting jackets, hoodies, sweatshirts, blankets and throws. Bring them to the church by Thursday. Reported by Nina Thayer.

Church Council All members of boards and committees are invited to attend the Orientation Workshop on Saturday, February 8th from 9am – 12 pm.

David Elton thanked John Bliss for his work in 2024. He blessed the "Souper Bowl of Caring."

Incoming President Jen Olsen was introduced, and she adjourned the meeting at 11:50 am.

Respectfully Submitted,

Laura Erickson, Secretary

BOARD REPORTS

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION BOARD

The CE Board of the United Church of Los Alamos has had a busy and productive year. The board weathered a couple of major changes with Laura Loving and Sam, the nursery attendant, moving out of state. We are so fortunate to have had Laura's leadership and are grateful for her service to the church. A big thanks to Sam for her service too—even though infants rarely appeared in the nursery, Sam was a consistent, friendly presence in the classroom.

A notable change to CE includes the nomination of Quinn McCulloch to the board's chair position. The board had only three official members this year. A few friends of the CE board attended meetings, as well. We are happy to be receiving two additional nominations for the upcoming year to fill out the team.

With two important people leaving, folks have had to fill in to keep the CE program strong. We would like to thank everyone for their help, but in particular, we thank Diana Little, Carol Brown, Nancy Bliss, Edith Stringer, and Irene Powell. Their dedication and support have helped, and are helping, to ease the difficulties we've encountered. They also— simply put— just do a fantastic job, and we are so grateful for their service. The chair would also like to thank Anthony Pucket, the previous CE Board chair, for his mentorship and guidance this year.

Children

Children's activities were guided by Laura during the first half of the year, and momentum from her planning has helped carry us forward into the new year. The Bible Quest model of education has continued, initially with Micah's mandate to seek justice, love, kindness and to walk humbly with God. Bible Quest will remain the planning resource for young education for at least the beginning of 2026. As 2025 progressed, the children's program participated in service-oriented activities like preparing Valentines for Oppenheimer Place and making Christmas cards and cookies for seniors at Los Alamos Assisted Living (formerly Aspen Ridge Lodge), Oppenheimer Condos, and private residences.

Foot traffic in the nursery was light this year. Sam served as the nursery attendant volunteer, and was consistently present in the classroom even without children present. Sam also provided nursery coverage for the Jim Hall MLK-period lecture in February. We are pleased to report that one or two children

have been coming to the nursery in recent months, and we hope that attendance continues to grow next year.

Laura reimagined VBS this year, renaming it as “Vespers, Bible, and Supper”. The series consisted of three, evening events in June, July, and August, and included the music of Musica Antiqua for one of the gatherings. VBS was multi-generational, much like last year. The time and frequency of the gatherings and subject matter were chosen, in part, due to few young children attending church. A more youth-based program was considered, including a partnership with the Bethlehem Lutheran VBS program, but the inter-generational model seemed best for this year. Also of note, Laura organized a nice Shrove Tuesday event on the evening of March 4.

Youth

Youth Ministries planned and participated in numerous events. Keith continued regular Donut Run and Sketchy Lunch activities. Sunday youth suppers were hosted at a variety of households. Kim Taylor and Keith hosted Sunday workshops for youth to build library boxes for neighborhoods in Espanola. The youth helped gather items for Truchas Preschool. The Truchas Christmas party didn’t happen last year due to an unfortunate loss of a preschool employee, but the party was a go for this year. The youth group also attended an Isotopes game, Balloon Fiesta, went bowling, and went for Sunday outings with Keith to local cafes. Most recently, Keith started a “soft-skills” Sunday school program to teach youth social skills and manners— something we all feel they need (just kidding... but it’s true).

The Mexico mission trip was a success and had 32 participants. Plans are underway for the 2026 mission trip. Despite being a short, four-day trip, the group plans to build an extra house, thanks to the pouring of a slab before the group's arrival.

The church celebrated four graduating seniors this year— Claire Bullock, Natalie Crawford, Katie Peterson, and Wendy Shepard.

Adult

2025 had a vibrant ministry program for adults. Several classes and book studies occurred, led by David, volunteers, and Kara, both in person and online. The Chimes, CE Board meeting minutes, and other documents capture the event offerings in their entirety, but we highlight a few things here that were particularly noteworthy.

All Church Camp was once again at Ghost Ranch. The church was accompanied by Dr. Luke Gorton of UNM, who is an expert on history and religions of the Mediterranean. His lectures were terrific, well-attended, led to great discussion, and tied into Fall sermons, given in Los Alamos. He expressed interest in returning for another church event, and CE will certainly consider having him back in the future.

If you recall, the 2023 All Church Camp's guest lecturer was Jeff Gill. A book titled Unbinding the Gospel was covered, which initiated discussion about growing a healthy, vibrant church community. During 2025, Keith, Anthony, and others participated in a Tuesday evening class revisiting the book with the intention of applying the ideas to our own community. The class went well, sparked some new prayer partnerships, and led to the creation of a prayer bulletin board, to be implemented in the new year.

As mentioned above, numerous classes and book groups, both in person and online, were held throughout 2025. One of the most popular classes was led by John Pucket and Alison Watkins, titled How the Crusades Changed History. The downstairs meeting room in the CE building was practically overflowing during this class. That class will continue in the spring.

Fall retreat was a success and a throwback for the church, as we invited Kara Windler back to lead the program. The theme for the event was Movies, Munchies & Midrash. Attendees watched and discussed the movie, Stranger than Fiction, had some great discussions, and enjoyed the peace and quiet of the mountains.

Other

The church provided care packages to Many Mothers in Santa Fe, with the aim of providing support for mothers dealing with postpartum depression and other struggles.

Volunteers have been attending Big Brother/Big Sister sessions at Aspen Elementary. Keith provided a gift card to Aspen for them to use for incidental purchases for, for instance, an occasional pair of shoes or a backpack for somebody in need. We're considering extending the Big Brother/Big Sister program to Mountain Elementary school.

AGOG (A Gaggle of Grandparents), which is the grandparents support group started by Laura, has continued after Laura's departure. As of now, the group is self-led, but there is a desire to move to a more formal, instructor-led model next year to help guide discussions.

CE has organized a number of outreach events. These include booths at Los Alamos's Chamber Fest and DiscoveryDay. CE also organized a Trunk or Treat Event on the night of Trick or Treat on Main Street. The purpose of these outreach events was twofold. The events provided advertising and exposure for the church, while providing age-appropriate activities for preschool children. We've learned a lot from these events, and will strategize to do more outreach next year.

Future

This has been a productive year for CE. We are presently working on job ads to find a new nursery attendant and a director of children's ministries. In 2026, we will be focused on growing the Children's and Youth Ministries through outreach and advertising, and will continue to develop meaningful programs for our community.

Sincerely,
Quinn McCulloch
CE Board Chair

BOARD OF ELDERS

According to the United Church of Los Alamos constitution and bylaws, “The Elders shall assist the pastors in caring for the spiritual interest of the church.”

Communion is served on the first Sunday of each month, and gluten-free bread is the only bread that is offered, and as attendance has increased, we are serving more. Also new is that on one Thursday evening each month the church holds Rose Street Worship which emphasizes more contemporary singers, musicians and music. Coming soon will be audio upgrades to the Sanctuary with the help of the trustees to get it installed.

The sign-up board for Altar Flower Donations, Coffee Hosts, Liturgists, and Greeters is in service, and the congregation is encouraged to donate Sunday altar flowers as a memorial or celebration of a person or an event. Irene Powell and Marie Michnovicz shared coordinating duties this year and we added Zena Thomas and were supported by Ann Cooke. The altar has continued to be beautifully decorated throughout the year.

YouTube broadcasting and live streaming continues and is appreciated by those that either are more homebound or live at a distance. The Elders would like to recognize the dedicated service of Milan Gadd and all his Audio/Visual crew (Brad Meyer, Anthony Puckett, John Puckett, Joseph McCulloch, and Quinn McCulloch) in making these broadcasts and recording possible.

Other special services such as Maundy Thursday, Easter, Mother’s and Father’s Day, Outdoor Service, Independence Day Sunday, Anniversary/All Saints Day Sunday, Thanksgiving and Christmas Eve services were successfully accomplished, and members participated in the candle lighting for the Advent services. The handheld Christmas candles and the aisle lamps were lit this Christmas Eve service. We also thank the many musical artists that contributed throughout the year to provide music during our services and especially during the Christmas Season!

Numerous cards and notes of sympathy, encouragement and congratulations to members and friends of the church, both near and far, continue to be sent by the good offices of Larry Luck and recently Alice Mutschlectner. We know how much this ministry is valued by the letters of thanks we receive. “The Upper Room” devotionals are being picked up in the sanctuary and office again, and those that remain unused are passed on to the Board of Mission’s on-going collections for the Kairos Prison Ministry.

The Umbrella Ministry's brings meals to those in need, though we have had no requests this year. Scheduling makes use of an online application, MealTrain.com, that allows interested volunteers to sign up to bring a meal or provide help. WCSS Thrift shop generously forwards the link to the web page sign-up for the needy family to those on its email list. We appreciate the care of all the members of the congregation and others who participate with us in this service.

The Elders would like to thank and recognize the dedicated volunteer service of Alison Griggs, who cares for the gardens in and around the Columbarium. She keeps the flowers blooming.

Respectfully submitted,
Brad & Ann Cooke
Randy Erickson
Pamela Massey
Patricia McCulloch
Daisy McCulloch (youth member)

FINANCE BOARD

The Finance Board had a good year stewarding church finances. The board proposed a 2025 spending budget of \$696,417. This proposed budget had a planned deficit of \$25,417 (3.6%). As the year unfolded, total spending was below budget while giving and income was essentially at budget. At the end of the year, the church wound up with a net budget surplus of \$67,113 which will be moved to the operating reserve.

Below are listed some of the notable items that impacted the operating budget, both in income and spending.

- Pledged income ran ahead of what was pledged, while non-pledge income was a little below our estimate. Overall giving and income exceeded our estimate by \$64,350 (8.5%).
- Trustees under ran their budget by about \$7500. Copier costs, utilities and snow removal cost savings more than offset an increase in building insurance.
- Many church boards under ran their budgets. Membership and Evangelism under ran their budget by about \$1500. Some of their efforts were covered by Church Growth funding, which has been a 3-year, \$60,000 program. These efforts are having an impact, as seen in increased church attendance, MNP and Round Robin dinner participation and several building improvements.
- Christian Education overran their budget by \$2000 with overruns in Mid High/Sr High which we perceive as good news for the effort of supporting our students.

The church maintains an endowment fund, two restricted funds and several designated funds as well as a brokerage fund that accepts gifts in the form of stock donations. One notable event this year regarding these funds:

- Endowments and Memorials committee chair John Puckett provided a detailed explanation of the history and purpose of these funds to the congregation early in the year. John provided handouts showing the fund balances, the sources over the years and discussed how his committee sets a spending target each year and seeks projects for utilizing these funds.

The 2026 donation/income estimate has been completed and an operating budget prepared. Here are the details:

- The board developed a stewardship campaign that culminated in Loyalty Sunday on Nov 14. To date, pledges have increased \$27k from 2025.
- Our Treasurer, Ann Cooke, developed a draft budget with input from the other church boards. We are proposing an operating budget for 2026 of \$712,276. This is an increase from 2025 of \$15,859 (2.2%). The areas of significant increase are (a) building insurance (\$6600); (b) Rose Street Worship (\$6000); (c) planned audit of 5 years of financial records (\$5000). Salaries are increasing 3% and health insurance costs have increased around 20%. As we've done in the past, we are matching the salaries increase with a 3.2% increase in Missions. The salary for a Children's Minister replacement is not included in the budget, but has been set aside, similar to the 3-year Church Growth funds.
- Thus the proposed budget has a planned deficit of \$13,865 (2.0%). However, when third member of the ministry staff is filled, the deficit could increase to a maximum of \$59,665 (8.3%). This deficit, if it comes to pass in 2026, will be funded from the church operating reserves.

Please note that the Finance Board members review the monthly budget report on a rotating schedule, and examine the reconciliations and balance sheet for inconsistencies or errors as the budget report is produced each month. As always, if anyone is interested in examining the financial records of the church, please let a member of the Finance Board know, and we will make the records available for review.

2025 Finance Board

Matt Michnovicz, Chair

Bob Little

Adda Moldt

Steve Stringer

Ron Strong

Robert Weeks

Jeff Whicker

Ann Cooke, Treasurer

Finance Board Report

Annual Report for 2025

The following three tables compare the 2025 and 2026 expense budget requests, and the results of the two pledge drives.

Expense Budget Summary

Board	2025 Amount (\$)	2026 Amount (\$)	% Change
Executive	13,800.00	11,000.00	-20.3
Elders	3,200.00	9,200.00	187.5
Music	12,000.00	12,000.00	0.0
Trustees	117,550.00	123,350.00	4.9
Christian Education	29,800.00	32,000.00	7.4
Finance	1,000.00	6,000.00	500.0
Membership & Evangelism	4,775.00	4,775.00	0.0
Missions	98,800.00	102,000.00	3.2
Personnel §			
Salaries & Benefits	400,937.00	399,296.40	-0.4
Personnel Expenses	14,555.00	12,655.00	-13.1
Total	696,417.00	712,276.40	2.3

§ 3% Raise is proposed and results in \$17,447 total increased costs for pastoral staff: Salaries and Housing increase \$5,233 (3%), Health care cost increase \$11,487 (20%) and retirement costs increase \$514 (3%). While the proposed raise results in a \$4,470 increased costs for support staff Salaries, Health Care, Retirement & FICA Taxes. These increases are offset by a loss of Children's Director associated costs of \$25,240, resulting in a decrease of Personnel budget or nearly flat change in Personnel costs.

Distribution of Pledges for 2026

Average = \$6,841

Range (\$)	Number	Total	% of Total
1-999	7	3,580	0.7
1,000-1,999	14	18,980	3.6
2,000-2,999	7	16,200	3.0
3,000-3,999	8	26,670	5.0
4,000-4,999	2	8,800	1.6
5,000-5,999	4	21,115	4.0
6,000-6,999	5	31,106	5.8
7,000-9,999	11	92,660	17.4
10,000 >	20	314,500	58.9
TOTAL	78	533,611	100.0

Comparison of 2025 and 2026 Pledges

Category *	2026 Number	2025 Amount (\$)	2026 Amount (\$)
New	2		1,800
Increased	25	210,020	236,040
Constant	45	277,016	277,016
Decreased	6	23,460	18,755
Totals	78	510,496	533,611
Unconfirmed ‡	6	8%	23,300
Non - Pledgers ‡	43	55%	67,000
Estimated Upper Potential			623,911

* These category terms are defined as follows:

New: did not submit a pledge card last year, but have submitted one this year.

Increased: submitted a pledge greater than last year's pledge.

Constant: submitted a pledge at the same level as last year's pledge.

Decreased: submitted a pledge less than last year's pledge.

Unconfirmed: a pledger last year, but has not returned a pledge for the coming year.

Non-Pledgers: has not returned a pledge but gave a gift last year and may continue giving.

‡ Percentage of total number of **pledgers** and of total amount which are **unconfirmed** or **non-pledging**.

Annual Budget Report

January through December 2025

	Jan - Dec 25	Budget **	\$ Over Budget	% of Budget
Income				
92025 - Pledges-2025	572,769.03	530,000.00	42,769.03	108.07%
92024 - Pledges-2024	0.00	1,000.00	-1,000.00	0.00%
40000 - Interest/Dividends	63,033.80	37,000.00	26,033.80	170.36%
41010 - Plate	6,763.00	6,000.00	763.00	112.72%
41030 - Non-pledge income	71,449.38	75,000.00	-3,550.62	95.27%
41040 - Bldg Usage Donations	21,335.00	22,000.00	-665.00	96.98%
41095 - Carryover used CFY	0.00	25,417.00	-25,417.00	0.00%
42910 - Church Growth Income	11,121.93			
Total Income	746,472.14	696,417.00	50,055.14	107.19%
Expense				
50000 - Church Growth Efforts				
50010 - Audio/Visual Upgrade (Elders)	6,930.96			
50030 - Rose St. Worship (Elders)	2,910.53			
50060 - Web Page Development (M&E)				
50061 - Web Page Maintenance (Trustees)	540.45			
50060 - Web Page Development (M&E) - Oth	740.00			
Total 50060 - Web Page Development (M&E)	1,280.45			
Total 50000 - Church Growth Efforts	11,121.94			
51000 - Executive Council				
51010 - Denominational Assessments	7,200.00	7,200.00	0.00	100.00%
51020 - Ecumenical Support	1,800.00	1,800.00	0.00	100.00%
51030 - Local Ecumenical Events	467.35	800.00	-332.65	58.42%
51040 - Exec. Local Needs Allocation	4,000.00	4,000.00	0.00	100.00%
Total 51000 - Executive Council	13,467.35	13,800.00	-332.65	97.59%
51100 - Elders				
51110 - Service Communion Supplies	0.00	300.00	-300.00	0.00%
51115 - Special Services Supplies	40.00	300.00	-260.00	13.33%
51130 - Flowers	364.80	600.00	-235.20	60.80%
51140 - Denominational Meetings	0.00	200.00	-200.00	0.00%
51155 - Pulpit Fill - Substitutes	0.00	600.00	-600.00	0.00%
51165 - Publications				
51167 - Card Ministry	255.66	800.00	-544.34	31.96%
51165 - Publications - Other	191.10	400.00	-208.90	47.78%
Total 51165 - Publications	446.76	1,200.00	-753.24	37.23%
Total 51100 - Elders	851.56	3,200.00	-2,348.44	26.61%
51180 - Music Board				
51184 - Music Purchased	0.00	200.00	-200.00	0.00%
51185 - Tuning and Maintenance	2,500.00	2,500.00	0.00	100.00%
51186 - Soloists	0.00	1,000.00	-1,000.00	0.00%
51187 - Organists/Accompanists	8,430.00	8,300.00	130.00	101.57%
Total 51180 - Music Board	10,930.00	12,000.00	-1,070.00	91.08%
51200 - Trustees				
51210 - Office Supplies and Copier				
51211 - Postage	2,566.50	2,650.00	-83.50	96.85%
51212 - Bulk Mail	388.18	1,200.00	-811.82	32.35%
51213 - Office Supplies-General	3,454.88	3,300.00	154.88	104.69%
51214 - Copier	6,446.68	8,500.00	-2,053.32	75.84%
Total 51210 - Office Supplies and Copier	12,856.24	15,650.00	-2,793.76	82.15%
51230 - Insurance	24,281.60	21,400.00	2,881.60	113.47%
51240 - Computers/Hardware	1,438.58	3,000.00	-1,561.42	47.95%
51245 - Software/Memberships	1,631.83	2,500.00	-868.17	65.27%
51250 - Utilities	32,731.53	35,000.00	-2,268.47	93.52%
51260 - Telephone	4,764.15	5,000.00	-235.85	95.28%

** All budget figures are annual, 100% of the year is complete.

Annual Budget Report

January through December 2025

	Jan - Dec 25	Budget **	\$ Over Budget	% of Budget
51270 · Maintenance				
51271 · Church Vans	1,905.45	2,000.00	-94.55	95.27%
51272 · Snow Removal	560.00	3,500.00	-2,940.00	16.00%
51273 · Maintenance Services	7,514.67	11,500.00	-3,985.33	65.35%
51275 · Custodial Supplies	3,625.65	6,000.00	-2,374.35	60.43%
51277 · Manse	735.75			
51270 · Maintenance - Other	17,975.21	12,000.00	5,975.21	149.79%
Total 51270 · Maintenance	32,316.73	35,000.00	-2,683.27	92.33%
Total 51200 · Trustees	110,020.66	117,550.00	-7,529.34	93.60%
51300 · Christian Education				
51305 · Nursery Operations	101.98	200.00	-98.02	50.99%
51310 · Child CS Operations				
51315 · Children's Fellowship	66.75	500.00	-433.25	13.35%
51310 · Child CS Operations - Other	274.02	700.00	-425.98	39.15%
Total 51310 · Child CS Operations	340.77	1,200.00	-859.23	28.40%
51320 · Presentation Bibles	166.32			
51325 · Vacation Bible School	1,161.64	750.00	411.64	154.89%
51330 · Intergenerational Programs	422.37	400.00	22.37	105.59%
51340 · Youth CS Operations	279.93	500.00	-220.07	55.99%
51350 · Mid/Sr-High Program				
51351 · Tues. Breakfast	4,131.84			
51353 · Thurs Pizza ‡	4,289.91			
51354 · Sunday Fellowship	712.94			
51350 · Mid/Sr-High Program - Other	591.18	8,000.00	-7,408.82	7.39%
Total 51350 · Mid/Sr-High Program	9,725.87	8,000.00	1,725.87	121.57%
51367 · College/Young Adult Ministries	34.42	200.00	-165.58	17.21%
51370 · Adult Programs				
51371 · Curriculum	170.52	200.00	-29.48	85.26%
51373 · Women's Retreat	821.36	200.00	621.36	410.68%
51374 · Women's Retreat Honorarium	450.00	450.00	0.00	100.00%
51376 · Book Group Moderator	15,248.62	15,600.00	-351.38	97.75%
51378 · All Church Camp	1,069.93	400.00	669.93	267.48%
51379 · All Church Camp - Honoraria	1,500.00	1,200.00	300.00	125.00%
Total 51370 · Adult Programs	19,260.43	18,050.00	1,210.43	106.71%
51390 · Library	431.96	500.00	-68.04	86.39%
Total 51300 · Christian Education	31,925.69	29,800.00	2,125.69	107.13%
51400 · Finance				
51410 · Stewardship Campaign	28.44			
51440 · Financial Review (Auditing)	0.00	300.00	-300.00	0.00%
51450 · Offering Fees	745.72	700.00	45.72	106.53%
Total 51400 · Finance	774.16	1,000.00	-225.84	77.42%
51600 · Membership and Evangelism				
51610 · Fellowship				
51615 · MN@P Reimbursements	272.37			
51610 · Fellowship - Other	1,521.45	1,625.00	-103.55	93.63%
Total 51610 · Fellowship	1,793.82	1,625.00	168.82	110.39%
51620 · New Members/Discipleship	135.90	200.00	-64.10	67.95%
51640 · Outreach/Publicity	1,187.96	2,750.00	-1,562.04	43.20%
51670 · Usher/Greeter/Sanct Supplies	96.50	200.00	-103.50	48.25%
Total 51600 · Membership and Evangelism	3,214.18	4,775.00	-1,560.82	67.31%
51800 · Missions				
51810 · Denominational Missions Support	13,200.00	13,200.00	0.00	100.00%
51820 · World and National Missions	24,999.00	25,000.00	-1.00	100.00%
51830 · Direct Missionary Support	25,001.00	25,000.00	1.00	100.00%
51850 · New Mexico Missions	24,999.00	25,000.00	-1.00	100.00%
51880 · Mission Contingency Fund	10,601.00	10,600.00	1.00	100.01%
Total 51800 · Missions	98,800.00	98,800.00	0.00	100.00%

‡ \$600 in donations are included in this line, total expense ~\$4,900.

Annual Budget Report

January through December 2025

	Jan - Dec 25	Budget **	\$ Over Budget	% of Budget
51900 - Personnel Salaries				
51901 - Program Staff Salaries				
51902 - Pastor Salary	67,988.00	67,988.00	0.00	100.00%
51904 - Pastor Youth Min. Salary	49,365.00	49,365.00	0.00	100.00%
51905 - Music Min. Salary	32,488.00	32,488.00	0.00	100.00%
Total 51901 - Program Staff Salaries	149,841.00	149,841.00	0.00	100.00%
51910 - Housing and Utility Allowances				
51912 - Pastor Utility Allowance	1,887.24	2,500.00	-612.76	75.49%
51914 - Pastor Youth Min. HA	24,558.00	24,558.00	0.00	100.00%
51916 - Pastor Children's Min. HA	13,926.78	23,340.00	-9,413.22	59.67%
Total 51910 - Housing and Utility Allowances	40,372.02	50,398.00	-10,025.98	80.11%
51920 - Support Staff Salaries				
51921 - Custodian Wages	42,203.20	42,210.00	-6.80	99.98%
51924 - Office Administrator	44,699.21	44,700.00	-0.79	100.00%
51925 - Treasurer Salary	18,972.00	18,972.00	0.00	100.00%
51927 - Contingency	0.00	1,000.00	-1,000.00	0.00%
Total 51920 - Support Staff Salaries	105,874.41	106,882.00	-1,007.59	99.06%
51935 - Nursery Workers				
51938 - Other Child Care	0.00	2,340.00	-2,340.00	0.00%
Total 51935 - Nursery Workers	0.00	2,340.00	-2,340.00	0.00%
51950 - Retirement				
51952 - Pastor Retirement	7,482.77	7,513.00	-30.23	99.60%
51954 - Pastor Youth Min. Retirement	7,393.00	7,393.00	0.00	100.00%
51955 - Music Ministry Retir.	2,274.06	2,274.00	0.06	100.00%
51957 - Custodian Retirement	2,947.52	2,955.00	-7.48	99.75%
51958 - Office Administrator Retirement	3,121.80	3,129.00	-7.20	99.77%
51959 - Treasurer Retirement	1,327.98	1,328.00	-0.02	100.00%
Total 51950 - Retirement	24,547.13	24,592.00	-44.87	99.82%
51960 - Medical & DD Insurance				
51962 - Pastor Medical	31,976.65	32,282.00	-305.35	99.05%
51964 - Pastor Youth Min. Medical	15,559.98	15,300.00	259.98	101.70%
51965 - Office Admin Medical	7,077.82	7,720.00	-642.18	91.68%
Total 51960 - Medical & DD Insurance	54,614.45	55,302.00	-687.55	98.76%
51969 - Payroll Taxes	10,584.80	11,582.00	-997.20	91.39%
Total 51900 - Personnel Salaries	385,833.81	400,937.00	-15,103.19	96.23%
51970 - Personnel Expenses				
51971 - Continuing Education				
51972 - Pastor Cont. Ed	2,000.00	2,000.00	0.00	100.00%
51974 - Pastor Youth Min. Cont. Ed	2,000.00	2,000.00	0.00	100.00%
51975 - Music Minister Cont. Ed	0.00	715.00	-715.00	0.00%
51976 - Children's Min. Cont. Ed	1,000.00	1,000.00	0.00	100.00%
Total 51971 - Continuing Education	5,000.00	5,715.00	-715.00	87.49%
51981 - Professional Expense				
51982 - Pastor Prof. Exp.	1,500.00	1,500.00	0.00	100.00%
51984 - Pastor Youth Min. Prof. Exp.	600.00	600.00	0.00	100.00%
51985 - Music Min. Prof. Exp.	0.00	500.00	-500.00	0.00%
51986 - Children's Min. Prof. Exp.	146.99	300.00	-153.01	49.00%
Total 51981 - Professional Expense	2,246.99	2,900.00	-653.01	77.48%
51991 - Travel				
51992 - Pastor Travel	1,980.00	1,980.00	0.00	100.00%
51994 - Pastor Youth Min. Travel	1,694.56	1,700.00	-5.44	99.68%
51995 - Music Min. Travel	0.00	660.00	-660.00	0.00%
51996 - Children's Min. Travel	98.00	600.00	-502.00	16.33%
Total 51991 - Travel	3,772.56	4,940.00	-1,167.44	76.37%
51999 - Staff Development	1,400.42	1,000.00	400.42	140.04%
Total 51970 - Personnel Expenses	12,419.97	14,555.00	-2,135.03	85.33%
Total Expense	679,359.32	696,417.00	-17,057.68	97.55%
Net Income	67,112.82			

1/12/2026

The United Church of Los Alamos

Designated and Restricted Funds

Annual Report 2025

	BALANCE 1/1/2025	CURR.MON. RECEIPTS	RECEIPTS YR-TO-DATE	CURR.MON. DISBURSMENTS	DISBURSMENTS YR-TO-DATE	CURR.FUND TRANSFER	FUND TRANS. YR-TO-DATE	BALANCE END OF MONTH
DESIGNATED FUNDS:								
Outside Speaker (CE & Elders)	8,297.31	-	-	-	-	-	-	8,297.31
Youth Sch. Fund (CE)	1,774.08	-	-	-	-	-	-	1,774.08
Young Adult Outreach (M&E)	-	-	400.00	99.79	680.94	-	851.68	570.74
Women's Retreat Sch. Fd. (CE)	1,390.00	-	100.00	-	-	-	-	1,490.00
Mexico Mission (CE)	35,997.79	100.00	34,070.00	11,022.00	29,982.13	-	-	40,085.66
Organ/Music (Elders)	10,776.55	-	-	-	-	-	-	10,776.55
Designated Gifts (Finance)	1,472.74	220.00	16,576.00	1,794.22	14,856.00	-	-	3,192.74
Designated Missions (Missions)	10,783.83	9,877.79	31,225.89	5,485.36	27,628.66	-	-	14,381.06
General Memorials (Memorials)	12,198.29	-	3,050.00	-	250.00	-	(851.68)	14,146.61
Local Needs	(3,113.22)	3,500.00	12,000.00	2,395.44	5,931.49	-	-	2,955.29
Continuing Education Funds:								
- Pastor	-	101.53	101.53	-	-	-	-	101.53
- Dir. of Youth Ministries	591.47	-	-	569.90	569.90	-	-	21.57
- Dir. of Children's Ministries	181.10	1,000.00	2,163.21	-	-	(2,324.31)	(2,324.31)	-
- Dir. of Music Min.	2,145.00	-	-	-	-	-	-	2,145.00
Amortized previous year Prepd Pledges	82,800.00	-	-	6,900.00	82,800.00	-	-	-
Collected Prepd Pledges for next year	-	31,200.00	63,800.00	-	-	-	-	63,800.00
Reserve for current year budget	-	-	25,417.00	2,118.12	25,417.00	-	-	-
Operating Reserve	408,487.43	25,417.00	61,984.25	-	25,417.00	2,324.31	2,644.31	447,686.99
Church Growth (Exec/Finance)	24,855.19	-	-	985.09	11,226.45	-	8,595.17	22,223.81
Estate Gifts (Finance/Exec)	195,642.36	-	-	-	-	-	(8,595.17)	187,047.19
Holding Account	-	1,204.89	1,752.05	474.04	1,752.05	-	-	-
TOTAL DESIGNATED FUNDS	794,259.92	72,621.21	252,639.93	31,843.96	226,511.62	-	320.00	820,708.23
RESTRICTED FUNDS:								
COLUMBARIUM FUND	25,299.85	-	-	-	722.86	-	-	24,589.36
Interest	-	1.04	12.37	-	-	-	-	-
PRITCHARD MEMORIAL FUND	31,701.80	-	-	-	-	-	-	36,055.51
Interest (or Realized Gain)	-	3,699.59	4,353.71	-	-	-	-	-
REGULAR ENDOWMENT FUND	924,786.44	-	-	-	15,041.22	-	-	1,024,189.88
Interest (or Realized Gain)	-	97,088.77	114,464.66	-	5,563.99	-	-	-
TOTAL RESTRICTED FUNDS	981,768.09	100,789.40	118,830.74	-	22,328.07	-	-	1,084,834.75

Quarter ending 12/31/2025 Dividends posted.

Unrealized Gain on Church held Bal. Growth Fds **\$152,040.23**
Balanced Growth fund trading @ **\$124.99**

PRITCHARD MEM. MUTUAL FD

Market Value (415.326 shares) **\$ 51,911.60**
Unrealized Gain **\$ 15,856.09**
Cost/Book Value **\$ 36,055.51**

COLUMBARIUM DETAIL

49500 Columbarium Gifts **\$ 156,930.04**
49501 Columbarium Interest **1,435.42**
49600 Columbarium niche sales **81,800.00**
59500 Expenses **(215,576.10)**
Columbarium balance \$ 24,589.36

REGULAR ENDOW. MUTUAL FD

Market Value (10,899.475 shares) **\$ 1,362,325.38**
Unrealized Gain **\$ 338,135.50**
Cost/Book Value **\$ 1,024,189.88**

BALANCE SHEET, December 31, 2025

ASSETS

CURRENT ASSETS

Cash and cash equivalents		\$ 375,646	
Mutual fund securities, at market value (1); cost=	\$536,765	<u>642,981</u>	\$ 1,018,627

PLANT ASSETS (2)

Buildings (Sanctuary, Christian Education, Craig Hall & Manse)		\$ 6,241,248	
Columbarium		153,824	
Land		2,350,000	
Furniture & Equipment		802,489	
Depreciation @ 7% annually		(448,388)	
Campus Land Improvements		741,255	
Depreciation @ 4% annually		<u>(188,046)</u>	\$ 9,652,382

RESTRICTED ASSETS

Endowment investments, at market value (1); cost =	\$1,060,245	<u>1,414,237</u>	\$ 1,414,237
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TOTAL ASSETS

Total Current plus Restricted Assets =	\$ 2,432,864		<u>\$ 12,085,246</u>
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FUND BALANCES

UNRESTRICTED FUNDS

Surplus or (Loss)		<u>67,113</u>	\$ 67,113
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FUNDS INVESTED IN PLANT ASSETS

\$ 9,652,382

DESIGNATED FUNDS

		\$ 820,708	
Unrealized holding gain/(loss) on mutual fund securities (1)		<u>106,217</u>	\$ 926,925

RESTRICTED FUNDS

		\$ 1,084,835	
Unrealized holding gain/(loss) on endowment investments (1)		<u>353,992</u>	\$ 1,438,826

TOTAL FUND BALANCES

\$ 12,085,246

(1) Investments are carried at cost and reported at market value. Unrealized gain/(loss) is the difference between the cost and market

(2) Plant assets have been capitalized and a simple depreciation schedule implemented.

Financial Review for the Calendar Year 2025

Finance Board members review the Monthly Budget Report on a rotating schedule, and examine the reconciliations and balance sheet for inconsistencies or errors as the budget report is produced each month.

As always, if anyone is interested in examining the financial records of the church, please let the Finance board know, and we will make the records available for review.

2025 - 2026 Budget Summary Comparison

Expense	2025 Budget	2026 Budget	Change	
Executive †	13,800	11,000	-2,800	-20.3%
Elders *	3,200	9,200	6,000	187.5%
Music Board	12,000	12,000	0	0.0%
Trustees	117,550	123,350	5,800	4.9%
Christian Education	29,800	32,000	2,200	7.4%
Finance *	1,000	6,000	5,000	500.0%
Membership and Evangelism	4,775	4,775	0	0.0%
	<u>182,125</u>	<u>198,325</u>	<u>16,200</u>	<u>8.9%</u>
Missions	98,800	102,000	3,200	3.2%
Personnel Board				
Senior Pastor Salary	67,988	70,028	2,040	3.0%
Other salaries/wages	187,545	196,702	9,157	4.9%
Housing and Utility Allowances	50,398	27,795	-22,603	-44.8%
Retirement	24,817	25,328	511	2.1%
Medical & DD Insurance	57,996	67,522	9,526	16.4%
Payroll Taxes	12,193	11,921	-272	-2.2%
Continuing Education	5,715	4,715	-1,000	-17.5%
Professional Expense	2,900	2,600	-300	-10.3%
Travel	4,940	4,340	-600	-12.1%
Staff Development	1,000	1,000	0	0.0%
	<u>415,492</u>	<u>411,951</u>	<u>-3,541</u>	<u>-0.9%</u>
Total Expense	696,417	712,276	15,859	2.3%
Proposed New Staff - Children's & Family's Director		38,000		5.5%
Proposed New Staff - Nursery Coordinator		7,800		1.1%
				8.9%
Income				
Pledges	530,000	533,611	3,611	0.7%
Postpaid Pledges	1,000	1,000	0	0.0%
Non-pledge income	75,000	90,300	15,300	20.4%
Plate	6,000	6,500	500	8.3%
Building Usage Donations	22,000	22,000	0	0.0%
Support for Church Growth§	0	0	0	
Interest/Dividends	37,000	45,000	8,000	21.6%
Total Income	671,000	698,411	27,411	4.1%
Anticipated shortfall	-25,417.00	-13,865.00	-11,552.00	Decrease in
with addition of new staff		-59,665.00	34,248.00	Increase in
Actual 2025 Surplus =	67,112.82			deficit spending.

† Executive budget decrease is due to support for Designated 'Local Needs' at \$1K, which is down \$3K from last year.

* Elders and Finance budget increases are due to the Elders incorporating Rose St. Worship which is budgeted for \$6K, and Finance planning for a more formal review of the books which is budgeted for \$5K.

§ Of the original allocation for Church Growth, \$22,223.91 remains unspent. Executive Council has authorized its continued availability for 2026 church growth efforts.

MEMBERSHIP and EVANGELISM BOARD

Do you like to eat? This is something for which M&E plays a key role in the life of United Church. During 2025, M&E played a pivotal role in prep for the *Shrove Tuesday pancake dinner*, the *Easter Sunday brunch*, the *All-church burgers & dogs picnic* in June, and the *Round-Robin family dinners*. The latter involves multiple groupings of three families each who for three sessions over several months rotated and shared a family dinner in each of their respective homes. The definition of *family* is whomever *the participants chose it to be*: blood kin, friends, spouse, kids, or in-laws. One meets the nicest people in this venue.

Though almost on automatic pilot, M&E is responsible for the Sunday coffee fellowship. Also, as well as coffee/hot chocolate, etc., M&E also provides cookies, cakes, or pastries for new member receptions in the life of our church.

For over twenty years, M&E has sponsored a venue for young adults (YAs) in Los Alamos: *Monday Night at the Pit*. Church volunteers, recruited by M&E, typically put a home-cooked meal on the table for YAs every Monday evening from June to mid August at our volleyball court where all can kick back, socialize, and enjoy one another's company. Some are local laboratory summer interns; some are more seasoned, mostly laboratory staff, some of whom have attended since pre-covid. Typically, we serve five hundred meals per year. Our all-time high last summer was ~ninety-five meals served in one evening. (That includes our volunteers. They get to eat, too.) It's a real blast.*

In addition, twice in 2025 (January and May) M&E hosted an indoor young-adult informal dinner in Graves Hall. Both times, about a dozen YAs and a dozen United facilitators attended. For one of these occasions, the Lord may have been amused to see Jews, Christians, and a Muslim seated together, sharing a meal, and having a good time. One pre-covid attendee of the summer games, now a lab staff member, *non-religious* in her own words, always shows up when we open the doors. United sponsored a baby shower for her in August 2023. The child, Olivia, and her parents are always a fixture at these gatherings. M&E is planning one for the winter of 2026. We shall see.

In October, M&E continued our tradition of sending care packages to our young adults away at college or in the military. In 2025, twenty-three boxes were mailed. Also, last year, we updated the church directory, but our primary charge is to support the United Church membership in multiple venues to widen the circle of God's people. If we didn't have a good time, we wouldn't do it, but we can always use more help. If the reader would like to be a part of this outreach, please step forward. We always appreciate more help – and meet the nicest people.

Last summer, it did not escape notice that *some of our guests* would, after the meal, begin cleaning and folding table clothes, then cleaning and folding serving tables and stashing gear into the storage facility – and carrying off the trash. When asked, one undergraduate lady replied, “It's the least we can do.” Make no mistake. United Church's outreach is appreciated by these YAs. Five joined with us at Ghost Ranch last August.

Jim Cobble, board chair for 2025

2025 Board Members: Carol Brown, Leslie Puckett, Marie Michnovicz, Chuck Tallman, Jim Cobble, and friend of M&E Georgia Strickfaden

Heroes of M&E: former members Pam Meyer and Beth Dermer

MISSIONS and SERVICE BOARD

The Missions & Service Board met monthly during 2025 addressing a wide range of responsibilities and challenges. In 2025, we completed five mission reviews, kept the congregation informed through numerous *Chimes* articles, offered several opportunities to support disastrous events, prepared for Alternative Giving, and made some changes in the United Church's missions support.

Mission Reviews:

The board has a thorough review process, assessing 3–5 missions annually. In 2025, we reviewed the following missions:

- **Widow's Friend**
- **Mission Possible**
- **Leith & Carol Fujii** – this was the last year to support the Fujiis and their work in Thailand. They have “retired” and the Presbyterian Church no longer supports them. However, in retirement they are still living in Thailand part of the year and continuing their work. Some church members still provide some support to the Fujiis
- **LA Cares**
- **Truchas Preschool**

This is also the last year we will support the Jicarita Cluster, the Presbyterian Churches in Northern NM. The Jicarita Cluster has been disbanded as an organization. In 2025 we chose to split the planned donation to the Presbyterian Churches of greatest need; United Presbyterian Church – Truchas, United Presbyterian Church – Chimayo, Presbyterian Church – Embudo and Emmanuel Presbyterian Church – Penasco.

Missionary Visits

- **Lyn Westman**, from Lighthouse, visited and shared with us her work on mental health around the world.
- **Leith & Carol Fujii**, brought us up to date on their plans.

Special Donations:

The congregation made special contributions to the following organizations or special events:

- **One Great Hour of Sharing**, sent to Church World Service (CWS)
- **Texas Flood**, sent to the Community Foundation of the of the Texas Hill Country
- **Ruidoso Flood**, sent to the Community Foundation of Lincoln County, NM

- **California Fires**, sent to CWS
- **Myanmar Earthquake**, sent to CWS
- **Alaska-Typhoon Halong**, sent to Alaska Community Foundation
- **Hurricane Melissa**, sent to CWS

Note: The last two were also part of Alternative Giving - Disaster Relief

Interfaith Coalition for Homelessness

The Interfaith Coalition for Homelessness, which involves eight houses of worship, including the United Church, the Jewish Center, WR Presbyterian Church, Unitarian Church, United Methodist Church, Mormon Church, and others, remained active during the year. The focus has been on the Espanola Pathways Shelter but efforts of the Coalition also include the Inside Out Recovery Center and McCurdy. The Board split the final contingency funds to these three organizations. As the year ends, collections of warm clothes were being made into January to support the Coalition's efforts.

Alternative Giving

The board chose the following charities for Alternative Giving.

- **Map International**
- **Church World Service**
- **LA Cares**
- **Disaster Relief** – for Typhoon Halong and Hurricane Melissa

Continuing Local Support

Ongoing projects continued to make a meaningful impact:

- **“Don't Forget the Shampoo” Project:** Originally started by Debra Church, this initiative collects small toiletry items—such as soaps, shampoos, and lotions—donated by travelers. These items are now shared with St. Elizabeth Casa Familia in Santa Fe and the Española Pathways Shelter. The project has expanded to include other toiletry donations as well. Donations are left in cubicles located just inside the CE Building's parking lot entrance.
- **LA Cares Donations:** Contributions of food and other necessities continue to be received in the donation cubicles located just inside the CE Building's parking lot entrance.

Financial Overview

A detailed financial summary of contributions to each mission, along with all special gifts, is included on the Missions & Service Board's financial page.

Board Member Update

We extend our heartfelt thanks to **Kim Taylor** as he must transition from being a board member to a friend of the board, he is term limited as we go into 2026.

Respectively Submitted,

John Puckett, Kim Taylor, Larry Luck, Vivien Chen, Larry Brown.

Missions	Score	Correspondent	2025 (\$)	2026 (\$)
American Baptist Church (USA)			2,200	2,300
Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)			2,200	2,300
Moravian Church		Suzanne Johnson	2,200	2,300
Presbyterian Church USA			2,200	2,300
Reformed Church in America		Norma Puckett	2,200	2,300
United Church of Christ			2,200	2,300
subtotal Denominational Missions			13,200	13,800
Emmaus/Bethania High School, Palau	1.03	Irene Powell	4,764	5,009
Kenya: Burke-Kibwezi Partnership	1.10	Open	5,104	5,367
Mission Possible	1.08	Leigh & Gloria Gilmore House	4,469	5,271
Widows' Friend (Friends of Bangladesh)	1.20	Alice Mutschlecner	5,558	5,844
Kids Alive	1.13	Larry Luck	5,104	5,510
subtotal World & National Missions			24,999	27,000
Carol & Leith Fujii	0.00	Alice Mutschlecner	4,929	
International(Congo): Wayne & Katherine Niles	0.88	Beth Johnson	3,549	4,774
Mental Health: Lyn Westman	1.07	Betty Nance Smith	4,338	5,835
South Africa: Stephen Zimmerman	1.07	Georgia Strickfaden	4,338	5,835
Wycliffe Bible: Louis & Karen Rose	0.98	Betty Nance Smith	3,943	5,305
Land of the Living, South Africa: Scott Worley	0.97	Chris Worley	3,904	5,251
subtotal Direct Missionary Support			25,001	27,000
Group Home Development	0.76	Norma Puckett	2,575	3,147
Kairos New Mexico	1.07	Open	3,654	4,466
LA Cares	0.98	Gary Thayer	2,907	4,060
La Jicarita Cluster	0.00	Doris Ford & Jack Carter	3,322	
Los Alamos Young Life	0.81	Irene Powell	2,741	3,350
Four Corners Home for Children	0.98	Open	3,322	4,060
The Ranches (NM Boys & Girls)	0.98	Georgia Strickfaden	3,322	4,060
Truchas Pre-School	0.93	Open	3,156	3,857
subtotal New Mexico Missions			24,999	27,000
Contingency and Service Fund			10,600	7,200
subtotal Contingency				7,200
BUDGET TOTAL			\$ 98,799	102,000

Contingency Funds (2025) - Detail

Postage for Bible Shipment	119	✓
Mission Possible US - Vans in Albania & Krasnoyarsk	2,000	✓
Dignity Mission	1,000	✓
United Way of NNM - phone project	1,500	✓
Local Needs	3,100	✓
Espanola Pathways Shelter	961	✓
McCurdy Ministries	961	✓
Inside our Recovery Center	961	✓
	10,601	

Designated Mission Gifts

	Received	Paid in 2025
Church World Service - One Great Hour of Sharing balance at end of 2024	60	✓
Church World Service - One Great Hour of Sharing - collected & paid in 2025	5,268	✓
Church World Service - One Great Hour of Sharing - remaining, yet to be paid 2025	30	
Disaster Relief		
Los Angeles, CA Fires - Church World Service	5,115	✓
Texas Floods - Community Foundation of the Texas Hill Country	1,830	✓
Ruidoso Floods - Community Foundation of Lincoln County	2,670	✓
Alaska Typhoon - Alaska Community Foundation	450	✓
Leith & Carol Fujii Mission - Designated Gift	300	
Land of the Living - Scott Worley Missionary Work - Designated Gift	100	✓
S. African Christian Mission - Niles Missionary Work - Designated Gift	260	✓
Change for Change - Self Help (collected in 2025)	125	✓
Mission Possible - Designated Gift	2,000	✓
Missions - Designated Gift	100	

Alternative Giving (2025)

Los Alamos Cares	2,861
MAP International	2,895
Church World Service - Animals	3,439
Disaster Relief 50/50 to:	3,000
Alaska Typhoon - Alaska Community Foundation	
Jamaica Hurricane - Church World Service	

Christmas Eve Offering: Self Help

495

MISSIONS TOTALS for 2025

\$ 129,597

PERSONNEL BOARD

The personnel board provided an exit interview for Laura after her resignation.

The personnel board will have a representative on the hiring committee for her replacement.

The personnel board met separately with Church staff members to discuss their yearly performance reviews and the job descriptions for each of their respective positions. This review is used as an opportunity to provide a direct line of communication from the staff members to the personnel board.

The personnel board took on a number of challenges with the budget it oversees to support the staff.

Increases to the budget were recommended for staff salaries and medical insurance. The details of those increases can be seen in the proposed 2026 budget.

The personnel board updates the personnel regulations to change the carry over vacation policy to a carry over and borrow policy.

Sincerely
Heath Watkins

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Expenses and Projects completed with oversight by the trustees in 2025 include:
Expenses

1. 51200: Trustees \$110,020.66 Total
2. 51210: Office Supplies and Copier \$12,856.24
 - a. 51211: Postage \$2,566.50
 - b. 51212: Bulk Mail \$388.18
 - c. 51213: Office Supplies-General \$3,454.88
 - d. 51214: Copier \$6,446.68
3. 51230: Insurance \$24,281.60
4. 51240: Computers/Hardware \$1,438.58
5. 51245: Software/Memberships \$1,631.83
6. 51250: Utilities \$32,731.53
7. 51260: Telephone \$4,764.15
8. 51270: Maintenance \$32,316.73
 - a. 51271: Church Vans \$1,905.45
 - b. 51272: Snow Removal \$560
 - c. 51273: Maintenance Services \$7,514.67
 - d. 51275: Custodial Supplies \$3,625.65
 - e. 51277: Manse \$735.75
 - f. 51278: Maintenance – Other \$17,975.21

Projects completed

1. Sanctuary Boiler Work
2. Various cameras and Ring service system installed for monitoring
3. Phone System Switch box - problems diagnosed and repaired
4. 'Safety' brick maintenance and water drainage for thrift shop.
5. Retaining wall and lighting completed on Canyon Road
6. Crosswalk connection to CE building ramp and upgrades to drainage area
7. Interior emergency lighting
 - a. Checked every month and batteries replaced as needed
8. Month Defibrillator (AED) and Fire extinguisher maintenance as required and installation of a 3rd AED in Craig Hall upper floor
9. All-Church campus spring and fall clean up
10. Training
 - a. Collaboration with Ushers to arrive at an Active shooter safety plan
 - b. AED orientation
11. Electrical safety assessment
12. Planted 2 shade trees in the playground
13. Landscaping
- Thrift Store Front (w/water management)
- Irrigation Repair for Columbarium and Manse

- Russian Olive and Siberian Elm removal
- Tree pruning and dead tree removal
- 14. Ongoing care of landscaping
- Cesar Ojeda (lawns)
- Norma & John Puckett (gopher control)
- Georgia Strickfaden (Rose St.)
- Mary Venable (around Sanctuary area)
- Irene Powell (Rose St. Plaza area)
- Nancy Nunnelley (Long raised bed, lower level below playground).

Our “normal” activities include pruning, sweeping leaves/pine needles, removing snow from sidewalks, and building maintenance.

The Trustees generally hold a monthly Work Party. These are usually on the Saturday morning of the Board Meeting weekend (usually the 2nd Saturday of the month). We start at 8:30 AM. All members and friends of United Church are welcome to join us!

We have established an email list of “Friends of the Trustees.” We will email occasionally if there is a large job to do. We welcome new “Friends.” Please let us know your email address. In the winter, we may be contacting you to help with snow removal on the sidewalks. We contract with Cesar Ojeda to plow our parking lots. That leaves all the sidewalks around campus for Trustees and other volunteers. On a snowy morning, after you have shoveled your own driveways, please consider stopping by the church to see if help is needed. We have a power sweeper and 2 snow throwers, along with shovels.

The board thanks members of the Trustees and Friends of the Trustees for all their work and dedication to keeping our church campus beautiful and safe.

Board of Trustees

Brad Meyer, chair
 Mark Crawford
 Jim Goforth
 Clark de Nevers
 Mark Strong

COUNCIL COMMITTEE REPORTS

ENDOWMENT FUND and MEMORIALS

Endowment and Memorial contributions to the church are generally bequeaths or gifts in memory of someone but can also be just a gift to either fund. However, the two funds are treated differently. Endowment gifts become part of a corpus from which only the earnings can be spent. Memorial gifts can be spent in total.

The Endowment Fund:

All endowment funds are invested in the New Covenant Balanced Growth Fund

Corpus Value on January 1, 2025	\$547,680.00
Additions	0.00
Corpus Value on December 31, 2025	\$547,680.00

Market Value on January 1, 2025 (Invested with New Covenant)	\$1,230,408.25
Disbursements during 2025 Canyon Road Culvert, Wall and Railing.	\$21,605.21
Total Disbursements from Endowment Fund	\$21,605.21

Market Value on December 31, 2025	\$1,362,325.38
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The Church Policy on the use of Endowment Funds specifies that the maximum amount that can be spent in any given year is 5% the average of the market value at the close of the four quarters of the previous year. However, we can never spend below the corpus value. Based on the average market value of the Endowment Fund for the four quarters of 2025 and the 5% rule, we have the option to use about \$65,000 in 2026.

The Memorial Funds

Memorial gifts are often designated, e.g., missions, capital improvements or music; however, with no designation, the funds remain in the Memorials General Fund.

Within the memorials there are two identified “pots” of money.

The General Memorial Fund, which is kept as cash in the church's bank accounts.

The Pritchard Memorial Fund is invested with New Covenant Balanced Growth Fund. While it is called a memorial fund, it is treated like an endowment per the Pritchard family and the primary focus is on nursery, children and youth activities. When we want to use some of the Pritchard funds, we redeem the amount needed and transfer those funds to the General Memorial Fund. There were no withdrawals from the Pritchard Fund in 2025. On December 31, 2025, the Pritchard Memorial Fund has a market value of \$51,911.60

The Memorial Committee received donations in 2025 in memory of the following individuals:

Marlene Henins	Mark Bjorklund	Elizabeth Orndoff
Jim Stapp	Barbara Seeger	
Jean Merson	Jean Wilson	

The Financial Report for all Memorial activities is as follows:

Balance January 1, 2025*	\$ 11,346.61
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Income:

General Memorial donations received in 2025	\$ 3,050.00
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Disbursements:

	\$
Transfer to Mexico Mission	100.00
	\$
Memorial Preparation	150.00
	\$
Total Disbursements	250.00
Balance December 31, 2025	\$ 14,146.61

* Includes Trustee Capital Improvement Funds moved to Memorials

Respectfully Submitted:

John Puckett, Terry FitzPatrick, and Nancy Lemons

FELLOWSHIP COMMITTEE

The Fellowship Committee is available to support your fellowship activities. We make sure we have adequate supplies for coffee fellowship and other food-related activities. We try to keep the Prep Room (in the Sanctuary) and the Graves Hall kitchen (in the Christian Education building) in good shape. Please feel free to contact us if there are any problems or shortages.

Looking forward to more good food and fellowship in 2026!

Laura Erickson
Pam Meyer

HISTORICAL COMMITTEE

Historical Highlights for 2025

- The congregation celebrated Suzanne Johnson for her 50 years of service at The United Church
- The Spring Break mission trip returned to Puerto Peñasco, Mexico
- All Church Camp returned to Ghost Ranch
- Laura Loving moved to the Northwest, to be closer to family
- The Church celebrated Keith Lewis and Cesar Ojeda, having been on staff for 20 years!
- Leith and Carol Fuji visited and shared their mission experiences. Our church supports them through the Mission budget.
- The Thrift Shop brought in over \$82,000 in 2025. Adda Moldt reported that the Thrift Shop has donated over \$1,000,000 to charitable causes since she became Treasurer.
- Musica Antiqua de Albuquerque performed at The United Church. Their music demonstrated the liturgical calendar of the church.
- Rose Street Worship was held one Sunday evening each month beginning in the Fall. A supper was offered, followed by worship with contemporary music in Graves Hall.

Submitted By,
Laura Erickson

NOMINATING COMMITTEE REPORT

Nominating Committee Report for 2026

21-Dec-25

President

2026 Bob Little

President-Elect

2026 Beth Dermer

Past President

2026 Jennifer Olsen

Secretary

2026 TBD

Treasurer

2026 Ann Cooke

Member-at-Large

2025-26 Anthony Puckett

2026-27 Alison Watkins

Christian Education

2025-26 Quinn McCulloch

2026 Diana Little

2026-27 Sheriden Smith

2026-27 Bob Weeks

2026-27 Jennifer Olsen

Elders

2025-26 Pamela Massey

2025-26 Randy Erickson

2026 Daisy McCulloch (Y)

2026-27 Brad Cooke

2026-27 Tricia McCulloch

Finance

2025-26 Matt Michnovicz

2025-26 Steve Stringer

2025-26 Jeff Whicker

2025-26 Ron Strong

2026-27 Adda Moldt

2024-25 Nancy Lemons

Membership and Evangelism

2025-26 Marie Michnovicz

2025-26 Leslie Puckett

2026-27 Carol Brown

2026-27 Jim Cobble

2026-27 Georgia Strickfaden

Missions and Service

2025-26 Larry Luck

2025-26 John Puckett

2025-26 Vivien Chen

2025-26 Larry Brown

2026-27 John Fitzpatrick

2026-27 Beth Johnson

2026 TBD (WCSS Rep)

Personnel

2025-26 Heath Watkins

2025-26 Vicki Cobble

2025-26 Nancy Bliss

2026-27 Milan Gadd

2026-27 Chris Sierk

Trustees

2025-26 Mark Strong

2026-27 Mark Crawford

2026-27 Brad Meyer

2026-27 Jim Goforth

2026-27 Eric Schmierer

Endow & Mem. John Puckett

Fellowship Pam Meyer, Laura Erickson

Historical Laura Erickson

Public Rel. Georgia Strickfaden

Audio/Video Milan Gadd

Ushering Eric Schmierer

Nominating

2025-26 Pamela Massey

2025-26 Georgia Strickfaden

2026-27 John Charles

2026-27 Randy Erickson

2026 Jennifer Olsen

Names in Bold Font are up for election
in December 2025 congregational meeting

OTHER ORGANIZATIONS AND COMMITTEES

MEXICO MISSION

After spending Spring Break 2024 building decks at Sonlight Christian Camp in Pagosa Springs, Colorado, our group returned to Mexico in 2025!

Everything went smoothly with the travel and border crossing at Lukeville, Arizona. We set up camp on the outskirts of Puerto Peñasco, Sonora, Mexico. We had a shortened work week because Easter Sunday was the next weekend. We planned to be back in Los Alamos for the holiday.

Our two worksites were very close to each other – there was just one house in between. It turned out that the mothers of both families were related. These women set up a coffee station outside the worksite for us. They used an extension cord, and even had a Keurig!

The women made a meal of homemade fish stew for our whole group on the last day. It was delicious!

Everyone worked hard, and we found time to visit the market street – “The Rodeo Drive of Puerto Peñasco.” We also spent a little time at the beach!

A highlight of our week was a visit to our campfire by one of the local Amor Ministries pastors.

He told us about his church and how Amor Ministries works. At one point, he mentioned playing guitar and singing. One of our youths handed him a guitar, and we had a song fest!

The two houses were finished and dedicated on Thursday afternoon. Friday we broke camp and headed across the border. While in Phoenix we visited the Musical Instrument Museum, and had Chicago style pizza for supper afterwards. The trip back to Los Alamos was uneventful. We left behind two happy families, and returned with 32 proud but tired campers!

Submitted By,
Laura Erickson

WOMEN'S CHRISTIAN SERVICE SOCIETY (WCSS)

WCSS is open to any woman affiliated in any way with the United Church and we encourage participation and involvement by anyone interested in our missions and activities.

As always, the United Church and all those who have lost loved ones during the year are grateful to **LIFT** and all the efforts by Adda Moldt and her team to provide and serve refreshments after memorial services. Lift served food and beverages for five receptions in 2025.

Lunch Bunch will continue next year under the leadership of Vicki Cobble. This is a purely social, fun, and easy way to get to know and/or reconnect with other women associated with the church. Different small groups are put together randomly each month, with one person assigned to arrange for all in the group to go out to lunch one time during the month. If you wish to be a part of Lunch Bunch in 2026 and have not signed up, or just want more information, contact Vicki.

Once again, thanks to the efforts of many volunteers spending many hours, the **Thrift Shop** has been extremely successful this year. We have almost \$90,000 to donate in 2026, which will be distributed to charities benefiting women and children. If you are interested in helping with this very worthwhile and successful work please contact Carol Brown, Vicki Buley, Norma Puckett, Nina Thayer, Nancy Nunnelley, Cheryl Warren, or anyone you may know who works in the Thrift Shop. We will be very happy to have you join us as we are always looking for volunteers to help with the ever-increasing volume of work to be done.

Again this year, under the very capable leadership of Georgia Strickfaden, we had a successful and fun Christmas Potluck. More than fifty women, plus a number of very special male workers helping with serving and clean up, enjoyed the evening. Many thanks to Lads and Lasses of Enchantment for providing our entertainment.

Finally, I want to thank Vicki Cobble and Adda Moldt for their continued work as Secretary and Treasurer, respectively, of WCSS. I so appreciate their efforts to keep us organized and on track.

We are still looking for ideas for other WCSS activities and are always happy to have more women joining us!

Respectfully submitted,
Christina Sierk WCSS Chair

WCSS FINANCIAL REPORT - December 31, 2025

GENERAL BUDGET RECEIPTS AND EXPENSES

	Curr. Mon. Receipts	Receipts Y-T-D	Curr. Mon. Expenses	Expenses Y-T-D	Balance
Balance 1/1/2025					220.21
Fellowship	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	
Misc.	0.00	0.00	0.00	27.95	
Totals	0.00	0.00	0.00	27.95	
Balance in Non-Missions Acct.					192.26

LIFT COMMITTEE

	Curr. Mon. Receipts	Receipts Y-T-D	Curr. Mon. Expenses	Expenses Y-T-D	
Balance 1/1/2025					7,305.70
Receipts and Expenses	0.00	300.00	0.00	666.69	
Totals	0.00	300.00	0.00	666.69	
Balance in LIFT Committee Fund					6,939.01

MISSIONS BUDGET IN 2025

	Curr. Mon. Receipts	Receipts Y-T-D	Curr. Mon. Expenses	Expenses Y-T-D	
Balance 1/1/2025					83,288.28
Budgeted Missions paid in 2025			1,111.41	72,978.57	
Contingency Fund paid in 2025			2,000.00	5,500.00	
Balance transfer to Miss. 2026			4,809.71	4,809.71	
Totals			7,921.12	83,288.28	
Balance in Missions 2025 budget					0.00

MISSIONS BUDGET FOR 2026

	Curr. Mon. Receipts	Receipts Y-T-D	Curr. Mon. Expenses	Expenses Y-T-D	
Balance 1/1/2025					0.00
Thrift Shop	6,355.49	81,052.63	0.00	267.06	
Christmas Sale	4,214.66	4,214.66	400.00	400.00	
Missions Donation	300.00	300.00			
EBT - Savings Account Interest	0.28	6.41			
EBT - Checking Account Interest	21.81	185.69			
Balance transfer from Miss. 2025	4,809.71	4,809.71			
Totals	15,701.95	90,569.10	400.00	667.06	
Net Income for Missions 2026					89,902.04
BALANCE IN ALL ACCOUNTS 12/31/2025:					97,033.31

2025 WCSS MISSIONS BUDGET

Total Budget for 2025	83,288.28
Missions	
SFPS Adelante Program (Homeless Child.- SFe)	2,000.00
CASA (Court Appointed Special Advocate)	4,000.00
Casa Esperanza (Alb.)	3,000.00
Champions of Youth (B. Lauritzen)	1,000.00
Crisis Center of No. New Mexico	4,000.00
Cuidando Los Ninos (Alb.)	2,500.00
Dignity Missions	1,478.57
Esperanza Shelter (SFe)	3,500.00
Family Strengths Network	4,000.00
First Born Program of Los Alamos	1,000.00
Four Corners Home for Children (Navajo Miss.)	2,000.00
Life Link - La Luz (SFe)	3,000.00
Los Alamos Family Council	1,800.00
Los Alamos Group Homes	4,000.00
Los Alamos Visiting Nurses	3,200.00
Many Mothers	1,500.00
Mesa to Mesa (fka. Somos Amigos of No. NM)	2,500.00
St. Elizabeth Emergency Shelter	2,000.00
St. John the Baptist Soup Kitchen (SFe)	2,500.00
San Martin de Porres Soup Kitchen (Esp.)	2,500.00
Self Help, Inc.	4,000.00
Solace Crisis Treatment Center (SFe)	3,500.00
The Ranches	2,000.00
Truchas Pre-School	2,000.00
Kiwanis Club (African Libe Project -Sharon Allen)	2,000.00
Transgender Resource Center of NM	1,000.00
Espanola Pathways Shelter	2,000.00
All Individuals First	500.00
United Church - Local Needs	1,500.00
Los Alamos Retired & Senior Org.- Sr. Meals Prog.	<u>4,000.00</u>
Total Budgeted Missions	73,978.57
Contingency Fund	4,500.00
Balance transferred to 2026 Missions Budget	4,809.71
TOTAL 2025 MISSIONS BUDGET	83,288.28

THRIFT SHOP

We had a successful year at the Thrift Shop with record-breaking sales.

We have approximately 50 regular volunteers who are involved with various aspects of the thrift shop, from sorting and pricing, advertising, working the sales on Wednesdays, and more. We have volunteers dedicated to working with books, jewelry, watches, electronics, vintage, shoes, and an assortment of items in the men's corner. We greatly appreciate Cesar and Ana Maria Ojeda for all the work they do for the Thrift Shop. They are responsible for distributing the items that we do not put out on the racks and shelves to those in need in Northern New Mexico. We have several new, very dedicated volunteers who have significantly increased our ability to process the ever-increasing donations. We thank Georgia Strickfaden for advertising our sales with the local newspapers.

When items have not sold in a few months, we cull them from the racks and shelves, and they are sent to several appropriate charities. This year our "in kind" donations totaled more than \$2650 given to 27 charities. A new recipient this year was the McCurdy Family Center in Espanola to whom we gave clothes, shoes and books. Others include clothes, and Christmas toys to Dignity Mission, clothes to St. Elizabeth Shelters in Santa Fe and a nursing home in Las Vegas, NM, Truchas Preschool, and a few individuals who were suggested to us by our pastors.

The two-week Christmas break was used to deep clean all the shelves, cull and organize areas, and move items off the floors. Cesar and Ana Maria moved furniture and swept and mopped the entire floor. We are all set for the new year.

The thrift shop was open for a total of 50 Wednesdays this year and one Saturday for our huge All Things Christmas sale filling Graves Hall and another classroom. The Leadership Team concluded that the special Saturday Halloween sale did not bring in enough revenue to offset the time in setup, sales and cleanup, so Halloween items were included in the five sale days before the end of October. The net income for this year including the extra sales was \$85,092.33 (total revenue \$85,359.39 minus expenses of \$267.06). This reflects a 2% increase over last year. The WCSS will be making decisions about the recipients of the Missions budget in the next few weeks.

With kudos to our fabulous volunteers,
The Thrift Shop Leadership Team, Carol Brown, Vicki Buley, Linda Hardie,
Nancy Nunnelley, Norma Puckett, Nina Thayer, and Cheryl Warren

LIFT COMMITTEE

The LIFT Committee is part of the Women's Christian Service Society. LIFT provides refreshments after memorial services and funerals with the help of many members who bake cookies, make sandwiches and assist with food preparation at the service.

In 2025 the LIFT Committee served refreshments for 5 funeral/memorial services for the families and friends of Barbara Jean Wilson, Barbara Seeger, Jeanne Butler, Jean Merson, & Mark David Bjorklund. About 440 people were served refreshments in 2025 following the services held from February through June.

The Committee would like to thank all those who made food and monetary contributions, especially all the wonderful cookies and other baked goods made by 26 different people several times. Also, we thank the 32 people who assisted with food preparation and serving several times. Special thanks to Carol Watanabe who provided flower bouquets for the serving tables when needed.

The LIFT Committee does not charge for providing refreshments after memorial services, but some families do make donations to offset the cost of the food. The financial report for the year is part of the WCSS Finance Report found elsewhere in this annual report.

Respectfully submitted,

The LIFT Committee
Adda Moldt
Norma Puckett
Cookie Halsted

PUBLIC RELATIONS

In line with the Church Growth Plan's call for a new website, the Public Relations Committee was involved with the Website Team convened by Rev. Laura Loving in order to better promote Childrens' Ministries at The United Church. More details about the website refurbishment can be found in the Membership and Evangelism report.

The Church Growth Plan recommends that the church become more visible and findable. Having been a member of the Chamber of Commerce for a number of years leveraging, the church is now better leveraging our profile by participating in Chamber and County sponsored events, as a member of the community of Los Alamos. Also, the Los Alamos Community Foundation instituted a web-based volunteer recruitment site for local non-profits: volunteerlosalamos.org. The Thrift Shop is using the site for additional volunteer recruitment. This also gives The United Church exposure to the community of Los Alamos, especially volunteers looking for opportunities to be of service to humanity and the environment.

As a designated Los Alamos Historic Landmark, The United Church now appears on the renewed Los Alamos Historic Walking Tour. The County has placed, at their expense and effort, an official way-finding sign about our Historic WW II Army Chapel (our Sanctuary building) at the Rose Street entrance.

The budget, guidance, and help for Public Relations has come from the M&E Board, along with articles by former PR chair, Bernadette Lauritzen, and assistance from church members in reaching out via social media and print journalism on behalf of the church. It is a team effort.

Thanks to cooperation by the local online and print news media, losalamosreporter.com, LADailyPost.com, and Boomtown, many news releases about church services and activities received broad coverage.

By this time next year, it is hoped that the church will have completed signage on our campus confirming our location to new residents and visitors.

Georgia Strickfaden, Public Relations Committee chair

DIGNITY MISSION

This is United Church's sixth year of involvement with the Dignity Mission, a border mission, supplying hygiene products and other necessities to immigrants on the Mexico-New Mexico border. Conditions at the border changed dramatically with the new administration, which closed the border on Jan. 20. Currently, the immigrant facilities in El Paso are empty, while the facilities in Juarez house those denied entry to the US and those deported through El Paso. Immigrant needs for 2026 are unknown. Dignity Mission will remain vigilant and provide support to immigrants where needed.

We packed and delivered:

- 300 dignity kits, each containing a dozen hygiene products,
- 202 children's backpacks with school supplies,
- 128 colorful holiday-themed fabric bags, which we filled with small stuffed animals and other toys, many collected throughout the year from our own Thrift Shop,
- 18 large garbage bags with sweatshirts, hoodies, jackets, underwear and socks,
- 3 large boxes of disposable diapers.

All of these were transported to the collection point in Placitas, NM by Pastor Keith, and delivered to El Paso by Jack and Cheryl Ferrell, volunteers from First Presbyterian Church of Placitas. Dr. Eva Moya, a sociology professor at UTEP, coordinates the distribution of all the donations at facilities in Ciudad Juarez.

This year the mission was supported jointly by both the WCSS and Mission and Service Board of United Church and many donations from our volunteers.

With deep appreciation for everyone who helped make this Christian mission possible in 2025,

Nina Thayer, Dignity Mission Coordinator

USHERS

There are fifteen ushers that rotate through each month.

Eric Bjorklund

John Charles

Milan Gadd

Gloria Gilmore-House

Leigh House

John FitzPatrick

Bob Little

Brad Meyer

Anthony Puckett

John Puckett

Leslie Puckett

Norma Puckett

Eric Schmierer (head usher)

Steve Stringer

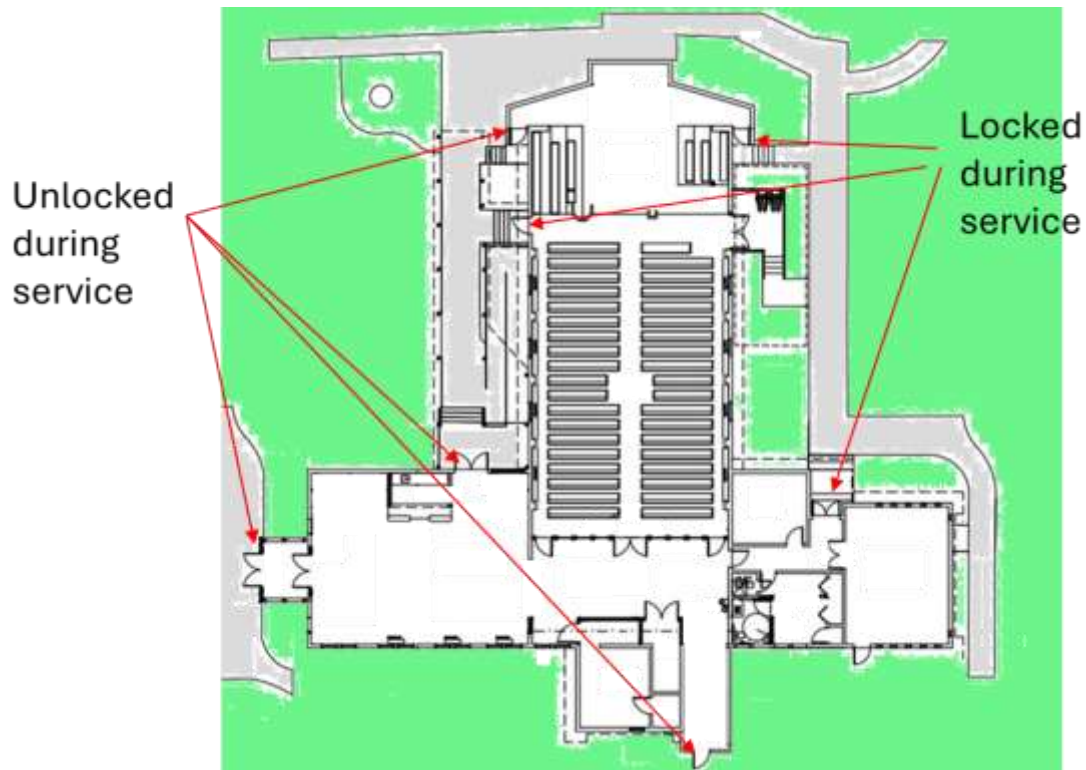
Kim Taylor

Bob Weeks

This allows 3 ushers on the schedule each Sunday. Ideally, we would have 4 more to fully cover the services each week. Typically, an usher that is not working that day will jump in to help with the passing of the plates. Once again, we gave an overview of the AED use to the ushers this year. The AED is located in the Sanctuary Prep room.

An active shooter presentation was given to the ushers and pastors in December 2024. Based on that information, a plan was developed to address the threat of an assailant during the regular services. The ushers are the first line of defense during a service, and they are integral to the plan. This resulted in some procedural changes this year.

1. Ensure sound booth persons have a cell phone (Ushers, Soundboothers)
2. Walk around Sanctuary space looking for anything unusual (Ushers)
3. Verify that doors are in the correct locked/unlocked state (Ushers, Trustees, Pastors)
4. Close large wooden doors just before the Call to Worship, continue to assist with doors as people enter late (Ushers)
5. An usher sit or stand to be able to observe the back parking lot door
6. Open center wooden door for offering
7. Open wooden doors right after the benediction



Ushering is an important, but not very difficult task. It's a good way to meet people from the congregation, and an important function for the church both for service and for safety. If you don't want to commit to any specific Sunday, you can also sign up to be a "Substitute Usher" on an as needed basis. So please consider becoming an usher, and then give a call at to Eric Schmierer at 505-660-9936 or send an e-mail to eschmierer@msn.com.

Respectfully Submitted,
Eric Schmierer, Head Usher