

FIRST MERIDIAN HEIGHTS PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH



ANNUAL REPORT



OUR MISSION

TO SERVE, LOVE, & GROW IN EVER-
WIDENING CIRCLES OF CHRIST'S GRACE

A Note from Kim

Hello Church Family!

I started 2025 with a broken wrist - and surgery - which wasn't much fun. On the upside, it came with jokes from our elders (see picture)! I'm grateful it healed well and the scar doesn't look half bad!

Throughout the year, the Session and Deacons worked with others in the congregation to meet some specific goals for 2025 including:



- **Spiritual Nurture** - Deepen our spiritual lives (individually and as a congregation).
- **Congregational Connections** - Provide opportunities and/or resources that encourage meaningful relationships within the congregation.
- **Community Connections** - Attract/Bring/Invite our neighbors to (and inside) the church. Foster meaningful relationships with neighbors, School 70, others.
- **Member & Leadership Development** - Invite, empower, prepare church members and friends to share their gifts and share ownership of our mission and ministry at FMHPC.
- **Other ongoing goals** included strengthening and supporting Youth and Children's Ministry and educating/empowering the congregation to love the under-loved.

As you read this Annual Report, I trust you will find many examples of our leaders creating opportunities to meet these goals. We tried some new things: Back to School Block Party, Food Insecure Film, New Signage, School Break Food for School 70, and the first Summer Women's Retreat. We also built on some FMHPC traditions like caring for one another and our neighbors, engaging in intergenerational worship, fellowship, and study, and welcoming everyone who comes through our doors.

Our building is not only a space for ministry (FMHPC's and Restoration Baptist's), but also a place of welcome for Parkview Preschool, Girl Scouts, AA, Pitch-In Theology, Y'all, and most recently, NA. You may have noticed a bit of scaffolding around part of the building in the fall (and still). I like to imagine that actual scaffolding is also a metaphor for how God continues to build and strengthen our congregation to be Christ's Body in the world.

Thank you for being a part of this wonderful family of faith!!

Peace and Grace,
Kim

p.s. Shout out and thank you to Restoration Baptist Church for their \$6,000 donation toward our new awnings on 47th Street. What a blessing it has been to share our building with them for almost 7 years!

A Note from Chloe

Hello FMHPC Family!

As we reflect on this past year, I am filled with gratitude for all that God has done among our children, youth, and families. 2025 was a year filled with joy, deepening relationships, and new adventures.

We continued our LIFT and Messy Church programming, maintaining strong participation and welcoming a growing group of families. Throughout the year, more than 85 children and youth came through our doors—what a blessing!

This year we continued programs and tried out some new programs and events, including Youth Group for our 6th–12th graders, PJs & Praise Parent’s Night Out, the Back-to-School Block Party, and more.

In June, we took 8 youth to the Montreat Youth Conference in North Carolina and in July, we took 6 youth to the Massanetta Springs Youth Conference in Virginia. The experience deepened their faith and strengthened the bonds of friendship and community among our group and with other youth in our presbytery.

As we look back on this year, we’re grateful for every moment we shared with our kids, youth, and families—from the loud, holy chaos to the quiet, meaningful conversations. Thank you to every parent, caregiver, volunteer, and young person who helped make this year amazing!

I am excited for the continued growth ahead and look forward to all that God will do through our ministry in the year to come.

Blessings,

Chloe Gabbard

Director of Youth and Children’s Ministries



Buildings & Grounds

The Buildings and Grounds committee worked diligently again this year to maintain and improve the beautiful building God has entrusted to our congregation.

We continue to share our space with Parkview Coop Preschool, Restoration Baptist Church, AA, NA, Girl Scouts, Y'all, and Pitch-In Theology. This year we welcomed Narcotics Anonymous and Amy Thornburg to share space with us.

Thanks to the committee fair, we welcomed Jay Kirkpatrick, Susie Cox and Jim Halsmer to our committee this year. Also, Jennifer Halsmer offered to help with weeding and flower pots.

In 2025 we addressed several issues which have been plaguing our church for a while:

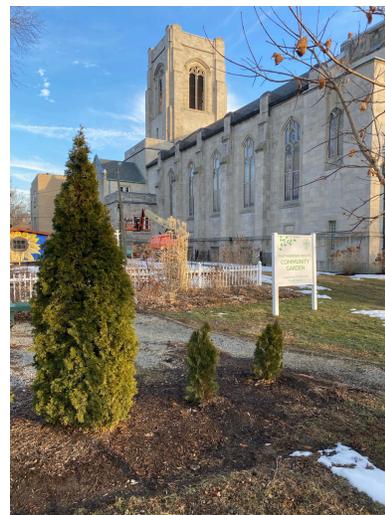
- We hired Nick the Plumber to install a new hot water heater. Nick was also able to help us solve the problem of lack of hot water at our dishwasher, our parlor, and our bathrooms
- We had a new doorbell installed.
- We hired Brandon from CLG Enterprise for our lawn care. He is able to mow on Fridays so our lawn looks great for Sundays. He also replaced our two dead arborvitae around our prayer garden with live ones.
- Jim Halsmer installed new grab bars in the women's Narthex bathroom.
- Jim, Greg Foulke, and Tom Bolyard systematically started making adjustments to our moveable pews which were moving a little too much.
- We hired Vasey Commercial Facility Solutions to keep our HVAC systems maintained and running.

And finally we are getting the transept area of our church repaired! Much needed repairs were done to the stones, mortar joints, roofing transitions, and parapet repair and capping. The contractors found some additional issues to resolve, but they are almost finished. The Buildings and Grounds Committee has so many people for whom to be grateful for finally making this happen: Kim and Bruce MacDonald for their investigative skills, Ben Scholer for his drone pictures, Emily Whelchel at Arsee Engineering for her expertise and patience with us, Smither Roofing and Wells Masonry owners and workers for their professionalism, and the Finance Committee for finding the funds in our endowment for the majority of the cost of the project.

Praise God for all his blessings!

Your B and G Committee,

Jay Kirkpatrick Bruce MacDonald Jim Halsmer
Kim Olson Susie Cox John Fox
Cynn timer Halsmer



Deacons

Submitted by Tamara Hughey - 2025 Moderator

2025 Deacon Goals and Vision

Our 2025 Deacon Priorities centered around assisting Pastor Kim with Congregational Cares and Concerns. This was accomplished through hosting the annual Easter Brunch, sending College Care Packages in late fall and early spring, phone calls, cards, visits, and monetary donations from the Williams Trust to members/non-members in need.

Monthly Deacon Meeting

We meet every month, on the 2nd Sunday, in the Parlor at 9a. We start our discussion by reading the daily devotional from The Upper Room with a brief discussion. It really helps us start the meeting with a "relatable" topic for the day.

Neighborhood Groups

Created during the Pandemic and used for smaller group connection during this time. We decided this platform was no longer sustaining us to help grow and foster meaningful relationships within the congregation, so our plan is to host small dinner groups (not divided by neighborhoods) in early 2026 for those interested in participating.

Stewardship of Deacon Fund

The Deacons continue to discern how God is calling us to be good stewards of the Deacon Fund as we seek to serve, love, and grow into 2026. Written Guidelines were adopted to better serve the congregation with consistency in donations from this fund. The Deacon Fund currently receives \$8,000 annually from the Irving Williams Trust. Our end of year balance = \$25,886.61

Class of 2026

Sandy Fenstermaker
Karin Ogden
Tamara Hughey (2025 Moderator)

Class of 2027

Jim Halsmer
Bruce White

Class of 2028

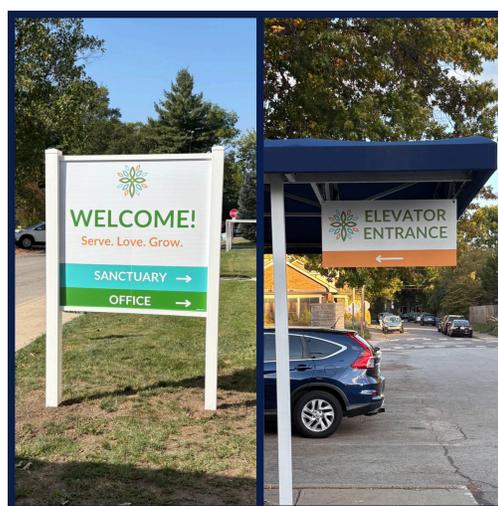
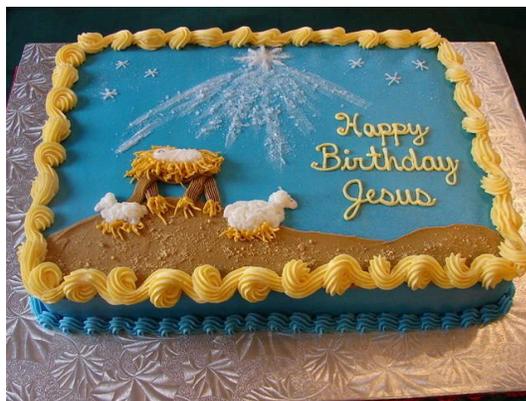
Nathan Halsmer
Jessica Halsmer
Lauren Cannon

Hospitality

Kay Holland, Katie Marlowe, Leslie Crist, Emily Hancock, Cynn timer Halsmer, Carol Foulke, Carole Kirkpatrick, & Nancy Sala.

The Hospitality committee looks to see how we can welcome and encourage those seeking to know more about God and our church.

- Narrative Directory has been distributed and is in the pews
- Greeter coverage at 47th St Door
- Signage at 47th St door and Community Garden
- Co-hosted Thanksgiving meal and Easter Brunch with Deacons
- Hosted Happy Birthday Jesus Event
- Helped create the Grace Space with the help of Chloe



Mission & Outreach

In 2025, FMHPC's congregation once again responded generously and faithfully to God's call to serve our neighbors. Activities and events addressed a variety of needs in our community:

- Community garden - Volunteers from our congregation and the neighborhood grew, harvested and delivered hundreds of pounds of nutritious produce to Northwood Christian Church's food pantry. Nearly a dozen gardeners also grew food for their families in plots provided to them in exchange for volunteer support of our garden ministry. Thanks especially to Mark and Deb Zwoyer and Tom Bolyard for their countless hours of planning and tending the garden. Thanks also to neighbor, Jude Mosey, who chose our garden for his Eagle Scout Project. Come check it out!
- Northwood Food Pantry—FMHPC is a full partner of the pantry. We coordinate the pantry two Saturdays a month and support the pantry financially with \$6,000 from the Community Fund. We are grateful to the Muyumba family, Susie and Tom Hacker, and Jon & Allison Ford for their oversight of this ministry in 2025 that served so many of our neighbors who are food-insecure.
- Diaper Daypalooza--Families served by the Indiana Diaper Bank benefit from this annual activity. In 2025, we purchased and bundled 10,000 diapers for 500 babies whose parents were able to work because their children had the diapers required to go to childcare.
- Food-Insecure—Our congregation hosted a screening of this documentary produced by local public television spotlighting the trauma Hoosier families experience because they can not afford to put food on their tables. A panel discussion following the screening allowed us to learn even more about how families cope with food insecurity.
- Day of Caring—Also an annual activity, more than 70 members of our congregation did “worshipful work” on a September Sunday morning, serving neighbors at Dayspring Center for Homeless Families, Changing Footprints, Coburn Center, Home Repairs for Good and Ronald McDonald House.



- Giving Tree—Our congregation and members of Restoration Baptist Church provided holiday cheer and Christmas gifts to more than 120 children, young adults and parents at Coburn Place, Dayspring Center, Phalen Academy #103, IPS #70 and 91 Place. Individual families were also recipients of Giving Tree gifts. For the first time, stars on the Giving Tree also suggested ideas for folks to “pay it forward” through nonmonetary acts of kindness and generosity.
- Childcare—After a slow start, our ministry of funding care for children of parents attending AA meetings in our building took off in 2025 with as many as eight children receiving care during a meeting. Sometimes faithful mission takes time to reap results. Funded by \$5,351 from the Community Fund.
- Sponsorship support—Member giving and \$10,250 from our Community Fund made it possible for us to sponsor fundraising events at Genesserat Free Clinics, 91 Place, Exodus Refugee, Family Promise, Ronald McDonald House, IPS #70, Shortridge High School, Independence Academy and more.
- School-break food—After hearing from parents that feeding their kids over school breaks creates a true financial hardship for them, our congregation responded by donating food that students-in-need at IPS #70 took home to eat during holiday breaks.
- Indy Pride—For the first time, members of our congregation joined with other congregations in our presbytery to march in the Indy Pride Parade, sharing a message of inclusion, welcome, love and the truth that All Means All!
- Pi Day—The Mission & Outreach Committee delivered mini pies to teachers and staff at IPS #70 with the message that FMHPC is grateful for all they do to help educate, form and love our next generation.
- Prayer chimes—Member giving helps to fund the cost of supplies for our prayer chime ministry that has become a well-known invitation and welcome to neighbors who stroll by our building and through our garden.
- Community Matching Grants—Thanks to the blessing of our Community Fund, FMHPC was able to match dollar-for-dollar contributions (up to \$500/family) to organizations that provide critical human services in our community. In 2025, FMHPC matched \$9,695.07 in gifts made by 26 FMH families to 25 organizations in central Indiana. Those organizations received a total of \$19,390.14 thanks to our congregation’s generosity.
- Back-2-School Block Party—In August, FMHPC hosted our first Back-to-School Block Party! We enjoyed fellowship with our neighbors, shared a meal, played games, and distributed school supplies to help students prepare for the new school year. It was a joyful opportunity to connect with our community and extend hospitality beyond our church walls. Thank you to Chloe for her hard work coordinating this!



Throughout the year, the Mission & Outreach Committee provided \$12,000 from the Community Fund in benevolences to help many of our neighbors in need. We are so grateful for the legacy of Vivian Smith and the Community Fund that she provided.

We have much to be grateful for, which is why the faithful people of FMHPC will continue to respond to God's call to us to be a blessing to others.

Respectfully,

Your Mission & Outreach Committee

Anne Chamness, Cynn timer Halsmer, Karen Smollen, Cindy Madrick, Katie Marlowe, Kim Olson and former members Dan Tomson, Rebecca Zirnheld and Jenny Melind



Personnel Committee

Purpose

The Personnel Committee serves the Session of the church and the Pastor in an advisory capacity on matters related to personnel administration. The committee exists to advise and support the Pastor in alignment with the goals of the Session and to review policies and procedures related to staffing and all church employees.

2025 Committee Transition and Progress

The 2025 calendar year included a complete transition of committee members. New members were identified, and the committee held its first meeting in November to review current priorities.

In collaboration with the Pastor, roles and responsibilities were updated, and annual performance reviews were scheduled and are nearing completion. These reviews have already provided helpful insight, affirming the strong work being done while also identifying opportunities to strengthen alignment with our 2025 key objectives moving into 2026.

We are very grateful for our three full-time employees – Kim, Chloe, and Randi – and the dedication they bring to their ministries.

2026 Key Objectives

- Spiritual Nurture
- Congregational Connections
- Community Connections
- Member and Leadership Development
- Strengthen and Support Youth and Children's Ministry

Current Priority: Building Manager Position

Our current priority is filling a part-time Building Manager position. This role is intended to help shift some operational responsibilities from the Pastor, allowing greater focus on pastoral leadership.

Please refer to the Building Manager Position Description in the weekly email for details. We would appreciate your help in sharing this opportunity so we can begin interviewing candidates as soon as possible.

Always Grateful for the support of the FMHPC Congregation,

Kathy Schoettmer, Carol Kirkpatrick, Jim Halsmer

Nominating Committee

Nominating Committee: Rick Beam, Nathan Halsmer, Kay Holland, and Sarah Manion. The Nominating Committee reported to the congregation at the congregational meeting on August 17, 2025. The committee recommended that

- Brooke Kile, Elisabeth McNinch, and Phil Votaw be elected to serve as elders in the class of 2028.
- And that Lauren Cannon, Nathan Halsmer, and Jessica Halsmer be elected to serve as deacons in the class of 2028.
- And that Rick Beam, Katie England, Nathan Halsmer, Kay Holland, & Sarah Manion be elected to serve as the Nominating Committee for 2026.

The congregation unanimously elected this slate of nominees.

Clerk of Session

Clerk's Annual Report for 2025

The Session met twelve times for its monthly meeting and met on 1 occasion for special meetings to welcome new members and approve special proposals. Session and Deacons met for a joint planning meeting September 28, 2025. Pastor Kim Olson moderated all of these meetings.

The sacrament of Holy Communion was celebrated monthly and on 2 special occasions:

Maundy Thursday

Women's Retreat

Session Members (as of September 2025): Kay Holland, Hidi Gardner, Cynn timer Halsmer, Brooke Kile, Katie Marlowe, Bruce MacDonald, Elisabeth McNinch, Phil Votaw, and Rebecca Zirnheld; Those serving in 2025 before September are: Pam Guernsey, Dan Tomson, B. J. Lippert.

Church Membership January 1, 2025: 149

Transfer of Membership: 0

Removed from Church Roll (to Friends list): 17

Deaths: 2

New Members: 17

Church Membership December 31, 2025: 147

Infant / Child baptisms: 0

Adult / Confirmand baptisms: 4

Respectfully submitted,

Phil Votaw, Clerk of Session

Presbyterian Women

The Presbyterian Women's Purpose:

Forgiven and freed by God in Jesus Christ and empowered by the Holy Spirit, we commit ourselves: to nurture our faith through prayer and Bible study, to support the mission of the church worldwide, to work for justice and peace, and to build an inclusive, caring community of women that strengthens the Presbyterian church (U.S.A.) and witnesses to the promise of God's kingdom.



The Presbyterian Women's Organization (PWO) continues to serve and grow by:

- Gathering baby items for our Eskenazi baby shower in April. These gifts of clothing and baby accessories support needy families in our community. Our favorite nurses were unable to attend the shower this year, so Karen Licht and Dawn Doup kindly took our gifts to Eskenazi Hospital;
- Continuing our long-term project of making puppy pillows. Many thanks go to our small band of sewers who craft pillows of comfort for patients and families in need. These 'puppy pillows' are sent to the St. Luke's Diaper Bank for distribution. Thanks go to Karen Licht, who delivered the completed products to St. Luke's. This year we also expanded our pillow ministry by creating heart pillows for patients and families at The Ronald McDonald House. The fabulous Kathy Schoettmer added her amazing skills to these heart pillows. In addition, we distributed pillows to members of our own FMHPC community who were ill or in need of support/comfort. We prayed over these special pillows before sending them out;
- Continuing our mission to collect funds for the nationwide Presbyterian Women Birthday Offering (in June) and the Thank Offering (in November), led by the efforts of Janet Clark. Thanks to all contributed to these worthy causes that support women and children across the U.S. and beyond;
- Continuing to support local, national and international missions that benefit women and children. We are blessed to receive endowment funds from the FMH Williams Trust and made significant contributions to the following local organizations this year: Gennesaret Free Clinics, Indy Steelers Youth Football team, Exodus Refugee Immigration of Indianapolis, and Dayspring Center. Substantial gifts were also given to the Presbyterian Church USA for international missions that support and empower women in need throughout the world; and
- Supporting our own congregation by giving funds to make improvements to our building and grounds.



The PWO continues to show love by gathering in fellowship:

- In June, at Daddy Jack's.
- In December, at the home of Carol Foulke for our annual Christmas luncheon and white elephant gift exchange

The PWO is blessed to receive funds quarterly from the Irving Williams Trust. From those accumulated funds, we gave the following in 2025:

- \$7,250 for International Mission through the PC(USA)
- \$11,000 to local organizations - Food Pantry, Second Helpings, Exodus, Gennesaret, Indy Steelers - and National Mission through the PC(USA).
- \$2,610 in rent support for local families
- \$4,750 to the FMHPC Building Reserve for heating upgrades in the Sanctuary

Our dream is to continue to support these projects and be a blessing to those in need.
Thank you for your support.

Carol Rader, PWO Moderator



Stewardship

In 2025, our Stewardship theme was “Our Money Story: Release, Remember, Re-Imagine, and Restore.” Everyone was encouraged to bring their own money stories to God in worship to give thanks and seek healing. We also reflected on the congregation’s money story as we remembered with gratitude those who have come before us and made it possible for us to continue ministry in this building and in this neighborhood.

We enjoyed a wonderful Gratitude Sunday Thanksgiving Brunch when, after offering our Giving Cards to God, we gathered in the Community Room for food and fellowship. (We continued to receive Giving Cards after that Sunday as well.)

We are grateful for the 48 giving units (individuals or families) who turned in Giving Cards this year including the 12 who hadn’t turned in cards last year. 7 of those 12 have never turned in a Giving Card here before (so they are either new to FMH or have given offering in the past without filling out a card to share an estimate of their giving ahead of time). We’re also grateful for those who were able to increase their giving estimates AND that those who needed to decrease their giving estimates shared that information with us and are still including FMH in their money stories! We are also grateful to everyone who shared their time and talents in the life of the congregation last year. We are all called to be stewards of the gifts God has given us – including the skills and time we have to share.

Bruce MacDonald, chair

Katie Marlowe

Cynn timer Halsmer

Leslie Crist

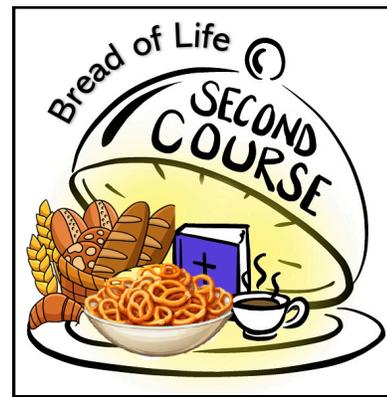
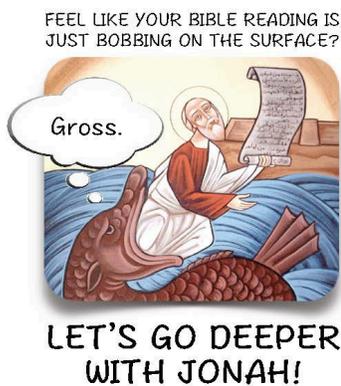


Spiritual Nurture & Christian Education

Adults

During 2025, Adult Spiritual Formation at First Meridian Heights included the continuation of Second Course programming, and the annual Winter Women's retreat held at Camp PYOCA this year in February. Second Course opportunities included a curated study of Tim McNinch's translation of the Book of Jonah and our study on the Bread of life.

2025's Adult Second Course Programs Included:



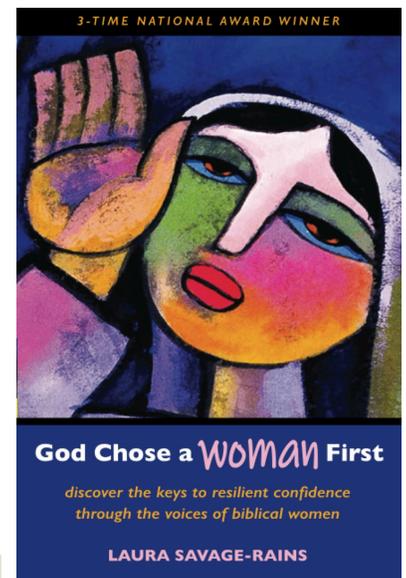
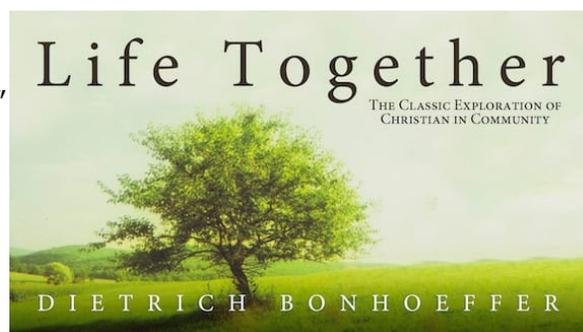
Throughout the year, **Women of Grace** continued to meet two Wednesdays a month. Much of the year they focused on the book, "God Chose a Woman First." All women are welcome!

Coffee and Conversation continued to meet on Tuesday evenings at 5 pm to discuss the scripture passage for the upcoming Sunday. This past year we celebrated 5 years of coffee & conversation! Everyone is welcome to the Zoom gathering.

Kim, Carol Foulke, and Katie Marlowe continued to lead a weekday **Morning Prayer time at 8 am on Facebook**. Everyone is welcome to participate!

The Fishermen men's group met several times in 2025 and hope to continue gathering more frequently in the year ahead.

Rebecca Zirnheld started and led a **Book Study** on Dietrich Bonhoeffer's book, "Life Together" on Sunday mornings in the winter and spring of this year.



For the first time, a local two-day **Summer Women's Retreat** was offered at Seton Cove in July and we explored the theme: Scattered and Sown.

The **Winter Women's Retreat**, led by Hidi Gardner, allowed participants to study the book of Ruth and to deepen relationships with each other and with God through worship, study, creative projects, and time for renewal in nature.



Children & Youth

LIFT & Messy Church

In 2025, we continued our Wednesday night programming. We had 15 LIFTs and 8 Messy Churches. During LIFT in the Spring, we learned about what it means to be a good friend and how Jesus is our very best friend, and in the Fall, we used the "Hey-O" Bible to start learning New Testament stories. Each week, we have a dedicated group of volunteers that share their time and talents with our students. These programs could not happen without our faithful volunteers!



Montreat Youth Conference

In June 2025, several churches from our presbytery traveled together to the Montreat Youth Conference in Montreat, North Carolina, bringing a total of 23 youth. Chloe and Carol Foulke accompanied and led 8 of those participants from our congregation. During the week, our youth experienced God through worship, small groups, music, and time in the beauty of creation. They also formed meaningful new friendships and deepened connections with one another and with youth from across the presbytery.



Massanetta Springs

In July of 2025, Chloe partnered with Emma Moore from Northminster and took 9 middle school students (5 from FMHPC) to the Massanetta Springs Middle School Conference in Virginia. What a great way to grow in faith, make new friends, strengthen existing friendships, enjoy God's creation, learn new songs, try new games, enjoy creative worship, and more!

We also encouraged and financially supported children and youth who went to Camp Pyoca in the summer of 2025.



Youth Group

Our Youth Group continued to grow in both numbers and connection as we spent time building relationships and having fun together. In the spring, we visited Adrenaline Adventure Park and hosted two overnight lock-ins filled with games, fellowship, and faith-building time. In the fall, we enjoyed seasonal activities and time together at Piney Acres. Throughout the year, we also gathered for Youth Group on select Sunday evenings, continuing to nurture community and spiritual growth.



Confirmation

In the spring, we completed our Confirmation class with five students affirming their faith. Four of these students were baptized, including three who chose to be baptized by immersion. It was a joyful and meaningful milestone as these young people publicly claimed their faith and their place in the life of the church.

Our confirmands and their mentors were:
Chloe Hash, Mentor is Kay Holland
Lydia McNinch, Mentor is Dan Tomson
Oli Muyumba, Mentor is Chris Baker
Chase Payne, Mentor is Carol Foulke
Laila Trueblood, Mentor is Tamara Hughey



PJs & Praise: Parent's Night Out

Christmas Cookie Decorating Party



Worship & Music

In 2025, our Sunday morning worship services continued to provide meaningful messages, uplifting music, and inspiring liturgical art. Our theme for Lent was "Bread of Life" as we focused on Jesus Christ who is the Bread of Life and provides all that we need for our journeys. In May, we held tie dye parties to prepare for the season of Pentecost. Everyone enjoyed the bright fabric banners and tablecloth that reminded us of the presence of God's Holy Spirit. The Stewardship theme, "Our Money Story," provided several opportunities for creative expression during the worship services. Our Advent theme, "The Will to Dream," provided still more opportunities for creativity as we prepared to make banners out of origami stars and paper silhouettes. Throughout the year (during special and ordinary seasons), our goal has been to encourage the congregation to express praise and gratitude to God, listen for God's voice, grow stronger in faith, wrestle honestly with questions and doubts, and prepare to be Christ's body out in the world - and to do all of that in community!



Many folks from our church community have participated in reading Scripture, making our Sanctuary a beautiful and welcoming place, greeting worshipers, assisting with technology, helping with the Christmas pageant and other special events, and sharing their musical gifts. We are grateful to everyone who has played a role in providing meaningful, Spirit-filled worship at FMHPC.

We're grateful that we could purchase a new mixer in 2025 and thankful to all who helped get it connected and working well! We continue to make improvements in our speakers and other equipment in order to improve the overall worship experience.



We're grateful for the partnership of the Hospitality Committee in providing the "Grace Space" for our youngest worshipers, coffee and snacks (thanks, Nancy!) for everyone, and welcome bags for visitors. Special thanks to the Deacons for their commitment to serving as greeters.

We invite you to join us each week as we offer our gifts of time and talent, support one another in prayer, and prepare to live out our faith journeys as part of this welcoming, inclusive community of faith.

