



## First United Presbyterian Church Annual Report 2025

### Mission

*Called to be a light on the hill, we boldly proclaim and serve Christ, the Hope of our changing world.*

### Vision

*Reaching out as a visible expression of God's grace, we will meet people where they are, inviting all into Christ's family through engaging worship, fellowship, learning, and service.*

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### Core Values with Guiding Scripture

#### Inspiring Worship

*Prayerfully praising God together and being touched and changed by the Spirit. O give thanks to the Lord, call on his name, make known his deeds among the peoples. Sing to him, sing praises to him; tell of all his wonderful works. Glory in his holy name; let the hearts of those who seek the Lord rejoice. Psalm 105:1-3.*

#### Spiritual Growth

*Encouraging lifelong growth by prayerfully studying scripture, the Christian faith, and the world around us.. As you therefore have received Christ Jesus the Lord, continue to live your lives in him, rooted and built up in him and established in the faith, just as you were taught, abounding in thanksgiving. Colossians 2:6-7.*

#### Loving Relationships

*Nurturing connections and deepening friendships in a joyful environment. Beloved, since God loved us so much, we also ought to love one another. 1 John 4:11.*

#### Faithful Service

*Working together to reflect and demonstrate God's love to all people. Let us love, not in word or speech, but in truth and action. I John 3:18.*

#### Generous Stewardship

*Sharing our gifts, caring for the earth and community, and cultivating our resources for God's purposes. And God is able to provide you with every blessing in abundance, so that by always having enough of everything, you may share abundantly in every good work. II Corinthians 9:8.*

#### Welcoming Community

*Striving to be an inviting, caring, and supportive Christian family. So deeply do we care for you that we are determined to share with you not only the gospel of God but also ourselves, because you have become dear to us. I Thessalonians 2:8.*

#### Intentional Unity

*Seeking common ground to bridge divides in church, community, and culture. Make every effort to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace. Ephesians 4:3.*

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## Report from the Transitional Pastor

It has been a privilege and joy to serve as your transitional pastor in 2025. The congregation and staff continue their transition period after the retirement of Co-Pastors Phil and Jan Butin in 2024. The work of the church carries on during a time of transition and you will see that reflected in the pages of this report. You will notice that we had a normal year in the life of a congregation with several new members and families joining our congregation and the sad reality that we lost some key members of the congregation by death or transfer who had blessed us with their lives and gifts and talents for decades.

As a transitional pastor, one of my tasks is to provide leadership to keep the worship and program life of the congregation moving as we await the calling of your new pastor. Another is to make observations on what I see and experience, and report those to the session and work with them to make adjustments as needed. I would like to share a few of the adjustments made in 2025.

### **#1 – Moving to One Worship Service**

A task force was formed early in 2025 to analyze the early worship service which changed in the summer of 2024. It was hoped that moving the service to a later time (9:00 am) and utilizing a casual style of worship with contemporary music, that we would attract younger visitors and members to our worship. After a period in the summer when church members committed to attend both services, it was noticed in the fall and winter months that the attendance was pretty much limited to the previous attenders at the 8:30 worship service. Aside from the choral interns and staff, most of the congregation was over the age of 70. On the couple of Sundays that we had a young family visit, they saw a small crowd and no one their age. Had they attended at 11:00 they would have seen a much larger crowd with some families with children. The task force recommended to the session to move to one service, adjust the time to begin at 10:30, with the hope that visitors will experience a sanctuary with more people and more diversity in age. We made the move to one service and a new time during the season of Lent.

### **#2 – Difficulty in finding volunteers to support our committee structure**

It didn't take long for me to observe that we were having difficulty finding volunteers to support a very large structure of committees and task forces. The Nominating Committee had reported having a difficult time finding people willing to serve on Session, Deacons and Trustees in addition to finding people to serve on the First School Board and Butterfield Trail Village Board. Often, committees met without a quorum and I noticed that some needed events might not happen due to a lack of volunteers to pull off the event. Session made a recommendation to reduce the number of elders from 21 to 15 and begin a process of looking at our structure to see if we could streamline some tasks and reduce the number of committees. A congregational meeting was called on August 24, 2025 to vote on the reduction of session members. Additionally, a congregational meeting was called to change the bylaws to allow Tom Verdery to serve another year as church treasurer as we were unable to secure a new treasurer for 2026. It was a one year change, as we continue to look for someone to fill that role in 2027. The session will address the committee structure at its retreat at the beginning of 2026.

**#3 – A major step was taken to begin the search for new pastoral leadership** when the session asked the Nominating Committee to form a Pastor Nominating Committee. A meeting was held on August 24th to elect Ted Belden, Lorraine Brewer, Emily Bridges, Terry Cameron, Amy McCann, Drew Rutledge, and Barbara Verdery. They will make a verbal report during the annual meeting.

**#4 – Staffing Schedule Changes.** We have been fortunate to have continuity with our church staff during this time of transition. Aside from the pastor, all of our staff members work "part-time" and they demonstrate great flexibility in adjusting to changing schedules. Isaac's schedule changes periodically with his dialysis schedule. Amanda's schedule changes depending on the online class times at Dubuque Theological Seminary. Our Office Manager, Beth Benham moved to a part time position where she is in the office 3 days a week. She rotates those days depending on the pastor's weekly schedule so that the office is covered. The rest of the staff covers the phone calls and office visitors on the days when Beth is out. Cathy Hairston, Director of First School, announced her plan to move toward retirement. A succession plan was endorsed by the First School Commission and the Session, that will have First School Teacher, Christian Hornwell, becoming director upon Cathy's retirement. A First School teacher with many years of experience, Christian began serving as Assistant Director in the fall of 2025. Cathy's retirement has been pushed back into at least 2027 allowing for a longer runway for Christian to learn all of the duties of the position. The plan will enable a smooth transition.

I continue to be thankful for the opportunity to serve as your transitional pastor and will look forward to celebrating with you when your new pastor is called.

*Stewart*

## **FUPC Staff**

Rev. Stewart Smith, Interim Pastor

Isaac Thomas, Minister of Music (CRE)

Xiao McCollum, Organist

SungKun Jung, Pianist/Choral Accompanist

Kristi Button, Director of Christian Education

Amanda McDonald, Director of Youth and Young Adult Ministries

Christopher Verdery, Connor Button, and Drew Parker, Audio/Visual Team

Cathy Hairston, Director of First School

Christian Hornwell, Assistant Director of First School

Amy McCann, Membership Coordinator

Stacey Luebker, Financial Administrator

Amy Rossetti, Communications Coordinator

Elizabeth Benham, Office Manager

Lee Pendley, Childcare Coordinator

## **THE SESSION AND BOARD OF DEACONS**

- 2025 Elders
- Clerk of Session Report
- Membership Changes
- Membership Update
- Our Session Structure
- 2025 Deacons
- Board of Deacons Report

## Session Leadership

The FUPC Session is made up of 21 elders in three classes of seven members each.

### **Clerk of Session:**

Roger Koeppe

### **Moderators:**

Interim Pastor Rev. Stewart Smith

### **Class of 2025**

Claudia Driver  
Jim Gilbreath  
Laurie Reh  
Wendy Robbins  
Rebecca Haden  
George Wardlow  
Marti Woodruff

### **Class of 2026**

Jeffrey Kerst  
Sara Koenig  
Mary Mann  
Julie Olsen  
Michelle Price  
Melissa Werner

### **Class of 2027**

Lorraine Brewer  
Tom King  
Bo Morton  
Megan Ober  
Doug Wright

## Clerk of Session

The Clerk of Session serves as clerk for the Session and secretary for congregational meetings.

The Clerk is an ordained Elder and is elected annually by the Session. Other duties of this position include:

- Coordinating Session meetings with the Pastor to develop the meeting agenda, identify matters requiring Session action, and develop a consent agenda.
- Monitoring unfinished Session business and meeting Presbytery requirements.
- Working with the office staff to document information for church membership rolls and maintain the records of the church.
- Submission of a Clerk's Report for Stated Session meetings that includes members received, transferred, removed, etc., from the church rolls; and noting baptisms, marriages, deaths, or name changes for church members.
- Recording minutes of Stated Session, Called Session, and Congregational meetings.
- Communicating Session-related materials to Session members, Moderators, and staff in advance of monthly Stated Session meetings and as needed throughout the year.
- Submission of approved minutes for the permanent Church Record Book.
- Working with staff to complete an Annual Statistical Report to the Presbytery of Arkansas.

## Membership Changes

Joined at Called Session Meeting on May 4, 2025

- Vicki James, by reaffirmation of faith.
- David James, by reaffirmation of faith.
- Peggy Prevost, by letter of transfer from the Presbyterian Church of Bella Vista, AR.
- Ronnie Prevost, by letter of transfer from the Presbyterian Church of Bella Vista, AR.
- Villeta Scott, by reaffirmation of faith.
- Gary Matthews, affiliate member; member of First Presbyterian Church, Tulsa, OK.

Joined at Called Session Meeting on October 26, 2025

- Mary Ann Vest, by letter of transfer from Westminster Presbyterian Church of Hot Springs, Arkansas.

Joined at Called Session Meeting on November 9, 2025

- Todd Martin, by letter of transfer from Central United Methodist Church, Fayetteville.
- Martha Martin, by letter of transfer from Central United Methodist Church, Fayetteville, Arkansas.

Joined at Called Session Meeting on November 16, 2025

- Hunter Jackson, by reaffirmation of faith.
- Morgan Jackson, by reaffirmation of faith.
- Micah Lee McCollum, by profession of faith.
- Xiao Yang McCollum, by profession of faith.

Joined at Called Session Meeting on November 23, 2025

- Nina Andrews, by profession of faith.
- Mason Blanz, by profession of faith.
- Margaret Bridges, by profession of faith.
- Avery Hawk, by profession of faith.
- Allie Millett, by profession of faith.
- Bentley Ober, by profession of faith.
- Yoselin Perez, by profession of faith.
- Lindley Ramsey, by profession of faith.
- Aiden Thompson, by profession of faith.
- Harper Werner, by profession of faith.

## **Deaths**

Cynthia Lynne Campbell (born March 24, 1951) passed away on February 20, 2025.

Martha Rice Brewer (born August 5, 1936) passed away on April 18, 2025.

Barbara Bolton Green Rutledge (born May 16, 1936) passed away on June 30, 2025.

Craig Randall Andersen (born October 4, 1947) passed away on July 30, 2025.

Thomas James "T.J." Hively (born March 15, 1943) passed away on August 30, 2025.

Susan Elizabeth McRae (born February 26, 1928) passed away on September 22, 2025.

Ann Roberts (born December 23, 1935) passed away on October 25, 2025.

Terry Westmoreland, (born May 5, 1954) passed away on October 25, 2025.

Barbara Wright George (born July 30, 1951) passed away on December 7, 2025.

Constance Joy Nunnally (born August 19, 1928) passed away on November 20, 2025.

Pam Andersen (born October 28, 1948) passed away on December 24, 2025.

## **Transfers**

Christopher Talbert, to First United Methodist Church, Springdale, Arkansas

Kathy Sprouse, to Mount Comfort Presbyterian Church, Fayetteville, Arkansas

Phil Harrington, to Central United Methodist Church, Fayetteville, AR

Melissa Harrington, to Central United Methodist Church, Fayetteville, AR

Charles Cudney, to Central United Methodist Church, Fayetteville, AR

Linda Cudney, to Central United Methodist Church, Fayetteville, AR

## Sacrament of Baptism

Hannah Werner, daughter of Randy and Melissa Werner, was baptized January 12, 2025.

Ava DeWhitt, daughter of Logan and Mary DeWhitt, was baptized January 19, 2025.

Ruby Lepse, daughter of Ben and Carly Lepse, was baptized March 16, 2025.

Rowan Lepse, son of Ben and Carly Lepse, was baptized March 16, 2025.

Blythe Berry, daughter of Wes and Sarah Berry, was baptized March 16, 2025.

Beck Berry, son of Wes and Sarah Berry, was baptized March 16, 2025.

Mason Vonnahme, son of Ethan Vonnahme and Shelby Daniels Vonnahme, was baptized August 31, 2025.

Olivia Biarni Valerio Hernandez, daughter of Luis and Elizabeth Valerio Hernandez, was baptized October 5, 2025.

Murry Curton, son of Jason and Megan Curton, was baptized November 2, 2025.

Xiao Yang McCollum was baptized on November 16, 2025.

Micah Lee McCollum was baptized on November 16, 2025.

Avery Hawk was baptized on November 23, 2025.

Yoselin Perez was baptized on November 23, 2025.

Aiden Thompson was baptized on November 23, 2025.

## Membership Update

### 2025 Membership Update

Total Active Membership on 12/31/2024 375

#### Gains in Membership

Reaffirmation of Faith	5
Profession of Faith	12
Letter of Transfer	5
Total Gains	22

#### Losses in Membership

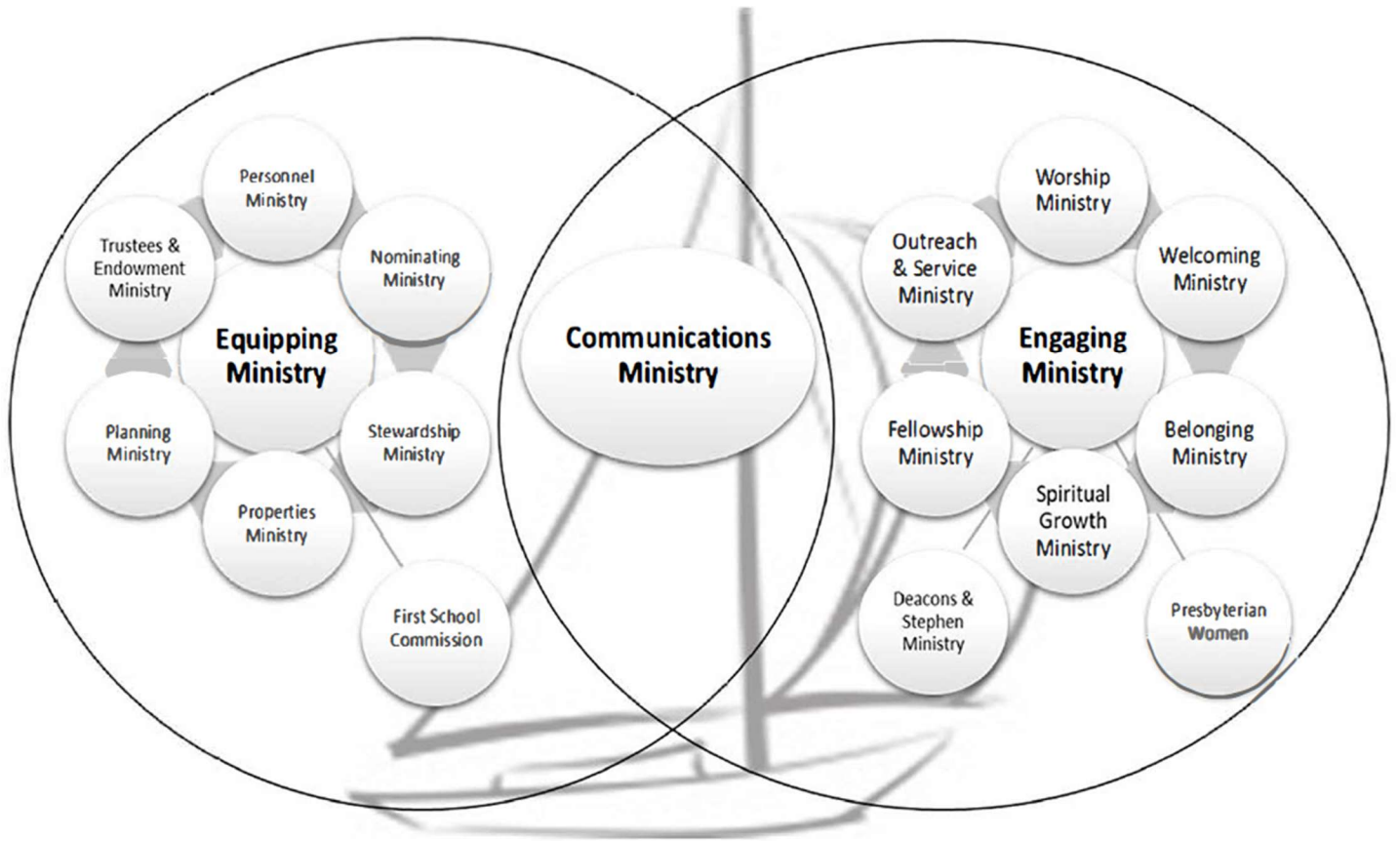
Transfer of Membership	6
Removed from Active Roll by Request	0
Due to Death	11
Total Losses	17

Total Active Membership on 12/31/2025 380

#### Baptisms

Children	9
Adults	5

# Session Structure (2025)



## ENGAGING MINISTRIES

- Board of Deacons
- Belonging
- Welcoming
- Fellowship
  - Men's Prayer Breakfast
- Outreach and Service
- Presbyterian Women
- Spiritual Growth
  - Director of Christian Education
  - Director of Youth and Young Adult Ministries
  - Worship
  - Minister of Music (Commissioned Ruling Elder)

**Moderator**  
LeNelle Cagle

**Support**  
Stewart Smith

## Board of Deacons

### Class of 2025

Liz Blackburn  
LaNelle Cagle  
Eunice Millett  
Debbie Power

### Class of 2026

Dave Edmark  
Carol Hart  
Jessie Koepp  
Larry Stubbs

### Class of 2027

Linda Eichman  
Chris Harris  
Sandra Kuntz  
Ron Warren

The Board of Deacons stands ready to respond to various pastoral needs in the life of the congregations. In 2025 Deacons were active in several areas:

- Deacons visited members of the congregation to care for their well-being in their residences and hospital rooms.
- When health matters intervened in members' lives, deacons delivered meals and provided transportation to medical appointments or other necessary functions.
- Deacons were on hand to provide refreshments for the receptions following memorial services at the church.
- For members of the congregation unable to attend Sunday services in person, deacons delivered bags of communion elements and printed materials from the church.
- Blankets were delivered to families who gave birth to babies in 2025.
- Coordinated birthday cards sent to members of the congregation.
- Coordinated delivery of poinsettias to members of the congregation that had a pastoral need during the year.
- Distributed grief booklets to families who experienced a death in 2025.
- Acted on requests from the Individual Assistance Fund of amounts above the \$500.00 threshold.
- Made connections with church members in a variety of ways via text, email, visits and phone calls.
- The deacons have remained available to meet various congregational needs as they arise and are blessed to perform this important work.

**Moderators**

Lorraine Brewer  
Emily Bridges

**Members**

Angelika Will  
Nancy Cain  
Lupe Gonzalez  
Carrie Wolf  
Amy Bearbower

**Support**

Amy McCann  
Kristi Button

**Belonging Committee**

***The Belonging Committee connects and integrates new members and actively supports their spiritual growth and involvement in the life, mission, and vision of the church.***

Belonging Committee members work to assimilate new members into the life of the church and to support their growth and involvement by visiting new members in their homes and delivering information and gifts to new members, planning new member receptions/dinners, and continuing contacts with new members to ensure they are informed about upcoming events and opportunities for engagement and service. The Belonging Committee provided a Progressive Dinner for visitors and new members in the fall and helped provide a welcome when new members were received in worship. The committee prepared gifts for our young adults, including college students, and explored new ways to support them, encouraging their sense of belonging with our church family even as they move to new locations.

The committee explored how other churches who live-stream worship services connect those engaging in worship virtually with support as needed, with others in the congregation, and ways to engage further. We collaborated with Deacons to ensure that those struggling with technology can access our worship services online. New ideas for strengthening connections effectively were considered at each monthly meeting as we discussed new strategies to fulfill the role described in our committee’s description and objectives outlined in the *Course to 2030* document. The Belonging Committee continued to collaborate with the Welcoming Committee, meeting with them twice during the year to coordinate our efforts.

The committee continues to seek information on expectations and needs of FUPC members and formed a taskforce with a member from each of four committees (Belonging, Welcoming, Fellowship, and Spiritual Growth) to work together on the support and development of small groups. Visitors to our website can now access information using the link <https://www.fupcfay.org/connect/adults/fupc-connections-groups/>. Work continues with FUPC Staff to ensure information about our many existing and varied Connections Groups and upcoming events encourages involvement by all FUPC members in the life, mission, and vision of FUPC.

**Moderator**

Jane Steinkraus

**Members**

Chris Bell  
Claudia Driver  
Jo Rothrock  
Kelly Pearson

**Support**

Amy McCann

## Welcoming Ministry

The Welcoming Committee recruited greeters for all of the worship services in 2025.

FUPC welcomed 23 new members and one affiliate member in 2025. The committee ordered name tags for all new members and for frequent visitors and for grandchildren that attend regularly with grandparents.

On September 21, the Welcoming Committee along with the Belonging Committee hosted a Progressive Dinner that moved from the library to Upper Witherspoon to the Gathering Space in the Sanctuary. Visitors and New Members learned about FUPC, toured the campus, and enjoyed a catered meal with delightful conversations.

The Committee provided punch and cookies for Celebration at the Manger and hot cocoa and cookies for residents and carolers at Butterfield Trail Village. Refreshments were also provided in the Gathering Space before the Christmas Eve Worship Service.

**Moderator**

Diane Warren

**Members**

Carol Van Scyoc  
Mary Ellen Moore  
Libby Lizarraga  
Lanelle Roberts  
Claudia Driver  
Barbara Verdery

**Support**

Kristi Button

## Fellowship

**DESCRIPTION:** The Fellowship Ministry nurtures connections in a safe and joyful environment, striving to be an inviting and supportive Christian family.

We organized the Easter Brunch from 9 to 10 on Easter. We served between 150 and 160 people.

We held an Ice Cream Social on August 17 after church. We served approximately 150 people. We served cold sandwiches, chips and watermelon and ice cream, of course. We ran out of cheese, chips, and watermelon.

We organized a Fall Festival that was held on October 4 from 4 to 6. Food was served at 5:30. We had a bounce house, slide, photo booth, pool noodle maze, face painting and an insect display. We served chicken strips, mac and cheese, and coleslaw. We planned for about 150 people. Total cost was \$1500. We noticed many new faces, notably some from Circles NWA. We determined that this event does not work as the annual church picnic. While it's a great event, it does not have the same feel and the people who attend are not the same.

Kickoff Sunday – We did not assist. The event was handled by church staff.

Christmas Brunch – the Christmas Brunch was held on December 21, 2025.

Caroling – Fellowship provided cookies and hot chocolate for carolers who ventured out in the afternoon of the 22nd.

Session reorganized the structure of ministries and 2025 was the last year Fellowship was a stand-alone ministry.

**Convener**

James Moore

**Secretary**

James Johnston

**Members**

Chris Boushelle

Dennis Brewer

David Clay

Ronnie Denn

James Harter

Ed Jackson

Kyle Jenner

James Johnston

Bill Martin

James Moore

Conrad Odom

Vic Parkerson

Ron Talbert

**Support**

Stewart Smith

## Men's Prayer Breakfast

On December 31, 2025, the weekly Wednesday Morning Men's Prayer Breakfast met for the 1342nd time with 11 present. We have met every week since our founding and traditionally met at the Village Inn and our waitress knows each person's traditional order, usually communicated by "the same."

James Moore continues to graciously and competently serve as our coordinator and Moderator, organizing the membership each to be responsible for one month's meetings and devotions. We continue to use Ken Mays' library (known as the book bag) and his format, but there is also more individual input. From the beginning the month's presenter has listed significant notable events for that week. More recently following the lead of math professor Dennis Brewer. The monthly presenters have turned the listing of notable events into a quiz and we have a surprising number of our attendees who answer the most obscure questions.

We still officially meet at 6:30 a.m., but all are usually seated by 6:15 a.m., and late comers miss their traditional seat. (Some are there at 6.) We enjoy the personal fellowship. Attendees: Chris Boushelle, Dennis Brewer, David Clay, Ronnie Denn, James Harter, Ed Jackson, Kyle Jenner, James Johnston, Bill Martin, James Moore, Conrad Odom, Vic Parkerson, Stewart Smith, Ron Talbert. We are open for new attendees.

**Moderator**

Sara Koenig

**Members**

Carol Hart

Bill Hart

J.P. Peters

Leigh Woodruff

Elizabeth Houle

David Clay

Rev. Jessie Rodriguez

**Mission and Outreach**

Your Outreach and Service Ministry Team is the steward of funds from congregational giving and from legacy giving. This year we designated a large legacy gift, \$27,000 to New Beginnings, a Fayetteville organization that helps the chronically unhoused find shelter and jobs. This donation was to help fund the two new Places to Heal shelters for our unhoused neighbors to recover in after being discharged from a hospital. These homes have refrigeration for medication, and nutrition and nursing support while patients get back on their feet after a significant illness.

We organized a spring break mission trip to Honduras led by Leigh Woodruff, alongside Reverend Jesse Gonzales and retired pastor Reverend Phil Butin. Together, they escorted 17 students and adults to Guimaca to continue restoration work at the founding Presbyterian Church in Honduras. Our team worked alongside local volunteers to clear construction debris, paint, and repair concrete block walls. Several members brought guitars, sharing music

and fellowship in small community churches. The group spent one morning at a local school, where donated soccer balls and shared music were an instant hit.

In December, we sent money to the Presbytery to support the volunteer Presbyterian Ministers in Honduras, many of whom walk miles through the mountains to tiny churches or homes, sharing the Word of God. Each of the thirty ministers received a gift of a Bible and a food basket for the Christmas holidays, hand delivered by the members of the Honduran Presbytery Office.

FUPC is a founding member of CEO, Cooperative Emergency Outreach, a neighbor-helping-neighbor organization that serves those who would have come to church asking for help. With 20 other area churches, CEO shares food and money for rent, utilities, and medicine. In 2025 CEO assisted 7,165 family members. FUPC donations to CEO totaled \$21,644. CEO is staffed entirely by volunteers from the 21 churches and is open Monday through Friday from 1:00 until 3:00, serving 15 families per day. Due to the Christmas Season generosity of our faith community, CEO is delighted to announce that it can increase giving to \$1,500 per day. FUPC has 10 members who volunteer regularly, and volunteers are always needed.

Our feeding ministry provides monthly meals for the homeless and the food insecure in two locations. This year we have fed approximately 125 people at 7 Hills the third Friday of the month and approximately 30 at Trinity Methodist on the first Sunday. Volunteers are joyfully welcomed both at the church and as servers at the facilities.

We hosted our Hands-On-Mission Project for All Members, All Ages in October. We packed 375 hygiene kits for Presbyterian Disaster Assistance and enjoyed luncheon fellowship after the packing party. The kits were delivered to the PDA warehouse at Ferncliff Camp and Retreat Center.

Our church Session responded in a significant way to Ferncliff's Capital Campaign. The camp needs to upgrade its facilities, remove a dam and return a stream to free-flowing health, and replace its failing sewage treatment facility. The camp is a retreat center for Presbyterian groups nationwide, as well as a sleepaway camp, host for Presbyterian Youth events and a school. It also houses the PDA Warehouse that serves our nation in tornadoes, floods, hurricanes, and fires. The Session has agreed to send \$30,000 to the capital campaign, with a matching donation, so our total impact will be \$60,000.

FUPC benefits the community by providing its building for use. Our facility accommodates First School, a distinguished pre-school program during weekdays; Chinese School on Sundays; and various community organizations throughout the week. Wednesday nights are donated to the work of NWA Circles, a client-led antipoverty program, that the church also supports with volunteers.

Our newest outreach is a series lectures on Social Justice Issues, facilitated by our staff liaison, Amanda McDonald. This is a community event, and we look forward to seeing you there.

**Moderator**

Katie Jackson

**Secretary**

(position open)

**Together in Service**

Amy Rossetti

**Circle Coordinators**

Barbara Verdery

Katie Jackson

Janet Clausen

Jessie Koepp

**Treasurer**

Diane Byars

## Presbyterian Women

Presbyterian Women is a mission-oriented group that donates to the church, community, state, national, and international needs through time and treasures. The organization is open to all women in our congregation and community.

Coordinating Team of 2025 consisted of those listed on the left. The Secretary position is open. Katie Jackson performed those duties, including creating agendas, minutes, and the annual report. Amy Rossetti assisted in adding announcements to church emails and newsletters.

The Tuesday Morning Book Study meets once a month in the church library. In the Spring of 2025, we continued with *Let Justice Roll Down: God's call to care for Neighbors and all Creation* by Patricia Tull. In the fall of 2025 we began *Finding Resilience, Joy, and Our Identity through our Joy in Jesus Christ* by Dr. Rhshell Hunter. This group has 8-12 participants each month.

The Tuesday evening book group (coordinator: Katie Jackson) meets in members' homes. For the spring this group was studying *Hope: A User's guide*, by Dana McKibben. In the fall, this group decided to use the Horizon study by Dr. Rhshell Hunter mentioned above. This group has 8-10 participants monthly. The Covenant Group (coordinator: Jesse Koepp) has a new book every two-three months, and meets the fourth Tuesday of the month at the church. This group frequently has members joining over zoom. Hooks and Needles (coordinator: Janet Clausen) meets weekly at the church on Fridays. The Hooks and Needles group has 14 on their email list, and 5-7 participants each week.

The FUPC Presbyterian Women dedicated much of 2025 toward hosting the Synod of the Sun Gathering at FUPC July 23-26, 2026. Katie Jackson and Barbara Verdery served as co-directors for the event. They worked with the Synod of the Sun Coordinating team and the Gathering committee to organize the event which includes Presbyterian Women from Texas, Oklahoma, Louisiana, and Arkansas. FUPC members came together to create a very successful 3 ½ day event. The Synod participants repeatedly remarked how beautiful the church campus is, and how very welcoming the people are at FUPC. We were pleased to have hosted:

- 139 participants plus 10-15 non-registered worship leaders and vendors
- 50 FUPC volunteers, plus staff, worked together for this event
- 160 people attended the Thursday evening worship service (open to men/ women)

We are forever grateful to the FUPC staff, session, ministries, musicians, and congregants that participated and volunteered their time toward the Synod Gathering. Hooks and Needles prepared many items for the Synod event, including a raffle for a handmade infant layette. The raffle raised \$48 which was donated to CEO. In addition to hosting the Synod Gathering, Presbyterian Women of FUPC continue to serve our own church family and community. PW members annually help with decorating/undecorating the Chrismon tree and Hat/mitten tree. The donations of hats, mittens, and socks were gathered and delivered to the Fayetteville Public Schools Outback program, which benefits all families in Fayetteville Schools. At the Presbytery, national, and international level, PW contributed \$1,000 to promote an inclusive, caring community for women worldwide. At the end of 2025, PW gifted a floral arrangement to worship in honor of the women of FUPC that passed away in 2025: Cindy Campbell, Susan McRae, Barbara Rutledge, Martha Brewer, Connie Nunnally, Barbara George, Ann Roberts, and Pam Andersen. In August 2025, we were pleased to award PW Honorary Lifetime membership awards to Jessie Koepp and Kristi Button. The FUPC website page for Presbyterian Women now has a list of PW Honorary Lifetime award recipients. Thank you to Amy Rossetti for making this available.

Ornament kits were made by Hooks and Needles that were used by the Sunday Morning children/youth during their outreach time during the advent season.

**Director**

Kristi Button

**Christian Education**

In 2025 we enjoyed a good year with the Joy-us group for 3 years to 1st grade and Older Elementary for 2<sup>nd</sup> -5<sup>th</sup>. Both groups flourished. We added an outreach time from 9 to 9:30 to give children and youth who come earlier with family the opportunity to participate in meaningful projects for our community. This allows extra time for some families to arrive for Sunday School at 9:30 and more time for the teachers to prepare. We added chimes for the older elementary and youth, led by Katie Jackson, for four Wednesday evenings in October and then they shared a song in worship in November. This was a good step back into music for our young people. The Joy-us group was led by Ruth Rodgers and Lora Horne. The Older Elementary was led by Gayl Lippert in the Spring and Kristi Button in the fall. The 6th-12<sup>th</sup> group was led by Amanda McDonald. The Present Word Class continued for adults. The Thoughtful Christians explored the music of our worship in the fall, which was well received. A Gospel According to Ted Lasso class was offered in the fall and it was well received, so much that season two is being explored in 2026.

The weekly Mailchimp emails for families continue and have been a wonderful way to get specific information out to children and families. Many of these articles are then shared in the Friday all-church email. We also added the free texting platform called Gloop to allow text messages to be sent to families with children and also sometimes to youth parents. As we look into using Shelby for such texting, this free option was a very helpful addition this year.

We sent five children and youth to Ferncliff over the summer.

As a Spiritual Director, I continue to meet with a group that includes four other people from my co-hort. Noticing the congregation and sharing these insights in this time of pastor transition has been a primary way my Spiritual Direction has been helpful.

This year we focused on gathering together on Ash Wednesday rather than having a Shrove Tuesday meal. We had a wonderful soup supper both before and after the Ash Wednesday service.

We combined with First Presbyterian, Springdale for a VBS in July 2025. It was a very wonderful combination of volunteers and children from both churches. The VBS was at the Springdale church and in 2026 we are planning to combine again with the campus of FUPC being the location. We used the Augsburg curriculum, based on Daniel Erlandeer illustrations, in 2025.

We continued our annual search for the Wandering Wisemen this year. We had resources from Illustrated Ministry to enrich Advent at home.

The annual Celebration at the Manger was the message in the worship service this year and that was a wonderful experience for all and church members encouraged us to have it part of worship every year. We were still able to involve some current and former First School families and had several friends of church members participate. We enjoyed cookies in the Gathering Place after, which continues to be a wonderful tradition.

**Director**

Amanda McDonald

**Youth and Young Adults****Scheduling:**

In 2025, we had regularly scheduled youth meetings on Wednesday nights as well as 3 lock-ins, various combined 479 events, youthquake, and a mission trip. For the young adults, we had bi-weekly meetings with additional seasonal events as the group was interested in participating.

**Weekly Meetings:**

In the spring, the youth used a purchased curriculum from Orange. It was ok, but had to be modified and didn't seem worth it for the cost. For the fall, we used a curriculum I wrote that looked at the story arc of the whole Old Testament. We have had 15-20 regular attendees, and in the fall of 2026, we are planning to split into Jr. High and Sr. High groups.

In young adult meetings, we have been discussing Presbyterian theology and church history. Many of the young adults were asking questions about what it meant to be presbyterian and what we believe. I have used the book of confessions to explain what we believe. We have 5-10 regular attendees.

**Fun Events:** The youth have been active in presbytery events as well as other fun additions. We took a mission trip to Colorado Springs, CO, had lock-ins, attended YouthQuake, and participated in "479" (NWA Presbytery Cluster) events.

\*\*In January 2026 session reorganized to roll the Spiritual Growth Committee under the Worship Committee. Additionally, since there are two staff members dedicated to Christian Education, most of the 2025 work by the Spiritual Growth committee was done as a result of direction from the DCE (Kristi Button) and Youth and Young Adult Director (Amanda McDonald). Since the committee structure has changed, it has been decided that the DCE and Youth and Young Adult Director's reports will stand as the 2025 Spiritual Growth Committee report.

**Moderator**

Bo Morton

**Members:**

Barbara Verdery

Itrel Monroe

Margaret Taylor

Elizabeth Houle

Don Steinkraus

Rob Button

**Support**

Stewart Smith

Isaac Thomas

## Worship

FUPC modified its Sunday worship schedule to one service at 10:30.

Among special worship services were: For the first time, we incorporated the Celebration at the Manger play into a Sunday worship service, rather than at a separate setting. A “Backpack Blessing and Kick-off” Sunday, celebrating all students and educators, and included special recognition of First School. We initiated a “Blue Christmas Grief Service” for people who experienced loss of a loved one in the past year. Finally, four “A Time for Peace” prayer services were organized and led by Isaac and were held on Sunday evenings in October. Advent included traditional Ash Wednesday, Maundy Thursday, and Easter services. For Ash Wednesday, we offered optional glitter ashes, and a light meal both before and after the service. Maundy Thursday and Easter included light meals as well.

**Minister of Music (CRE)**  
Isaac Thomas

## Music

This year was a fantastic year for our music ministry. In the spring, for Good Friday, our choir presented Heather Sorenson's choral work titled, "Tenebrae" which featured cellist Tom King, pianist SungKun Jung, organist Xiao McCollum, narrators, and soloists.

To celebrate the 1700th anniversary of the Nicene Creed (325 CE), our choir combined with choirs from St. Paul's Episcopal, Grace Episcopal (Siloam Springs), and Central United Methodist to present Schubert's "Mass in G".

In the summer, we offered a "pick-up choir" which allowed congregation members an opportunity to experience singing in the choir. We were very pleased to gain some new choir members from that endeavor.

We also participated in the Presbyterian Women Synod Gathering in July. A special thank you to Barbara Verdery and Katie Jackson for organizing our church so that we were ready for the event. On Thursday, July 24 for the opening worship service, we had a massed choir with members from our church and other local churches. We sang an anthem titled, "For This Joy" (conducted by Katie Jackson and featuring a guest clarinetist).

On November 8, our handbells (under the direction of Pam Gilbreath) combined forces with First Presbyterian Springdale to present our first annual Handbell Festival. The ensemble rehearsed together the morning, had lunch in the Fellowship Hall, and then presented a concert of five beautiful anthems. Additionally, our handbell choir (Bells on the Hill) graced us with beautiful anthems in worship each month. We are grateful for their contribution to our worship services.

In the Fall, our choir again combined with choirs from St. Paul's Episcopal, Grace Episcopal (Siloam Springs), and Central United Methodist to present John Rutter's "Requiem." The choir was accompanied by a chamber orchestra comprised of students and faculty from the University of Arkansas.

Our worship band enhanced our services throughout the year. We also added two additional youth members to the band: Nina Andrews (percussion) and Ella Ramsey (guitar). Dennis Brewer, Rob Button, and Jeffrey Kerst comprise the other members of the worship band.

We are grateful to choral interns: Amelia Booker, Cole Jackson, Jeffrey Kerst, Verna Labitad, and Will Trotter-Wright.

We wrapped up the year with our second annual concert featuring guest pianist Garth Smith and his choir and orchestra as they presented "A Sacred Christmas." A special thank you to Christopher Verdery and Connor Button for helping with the A/V for the event.

We extend a special thank you to any volunteers who played instruments in worship, sang solos, duets, or trios, and accompanied our choir.

**Moderator**  
Mary Mann

**Members**  
Jill King  
Jim Gilbreath  
Renee Brandon  
Darren Gould  
Leslie Johnson  
Amy Bearbower  
Rebecca Haden  
Amy McCann  
Christopher Verdery

**Church Notes in  
Local Paper:**  
Sally King

**Staff**  
Amy Rossetti

## Communications

**Moderator, Mary Mann:** Following Rebecca Haden's (the former committee chair for Communications) transplant surgery, the Nominating Committee asked me to assume the role of Communication Chair in August 2024. The committee met monthly to discuss its overall role as a supporting arm for the church's Communications Coordinator, Amy Rosetti, and how the committee should be operating to help all other church ministries. It was determined late in the year that the committee's structure needed to be modified to fit the communication needs of the church. At the same time, the Planning Committee also brought to Session the opinion that, because the church now had a paid communications staff member, the church no longer needed a separate Communications Committee going forward. Session and Communication committee members agreed that, beginning in January 2026, the Communications committee would become a sub-committee or task force to be constructed and utilized when and if needed.

**Communications Coordinator, Amy Rosetti:** During 2025, the church's communications efforts focused on keeping both the congregation and the wider community informed about events and programs. A mix of print and digital channels ensured accessible communication for all.

Weekly communications included an email newsletter, printed and online announcements, campus flyers, social media posts, and submissions to the local newspaper. Three print newsletters were mailed during the year to highlight Lent and Easter, the Fall Kick-off, and Advent and Christmas.

Communications also supported ministry-specific initiatives. For the Outreach and Service ministry a webpage for giving and serving opportunities was launched, special offerings were promoted and a bulletin board was created featuring supported organizations. A campaign logo and brochure were developed for the Stewardship ministry, and two congregation-wide mailings were sent. Spiritual Growth partnered with Communications to offer church T-shirts. Incentives were offered to encourage the congregation to wear the church T-shirts.

Support for the Worship Ministry included publicizing the new worship time and promoting Holy Week services and the Sacred Christmas Concert through social media advertising. For the Presbyterian Women Synod meeting, registration materials, mailings, and event signage were created.

Ongoing efforts included sharing updates about the Presbytery of Arkansas Honduras Mission online and through social media, along with creating a bulletin board on the partnership's history. Fellowship events were promoted and supported with online volunteer sign-ups, flyers and social media advertising for the Fall Festival. To strengthen connection with online worshippers, a dedicated email for the Belonging Ministry was established and shared during livestream services.

## **EQUIPPING MINISTRIES**

- First School Commission
- Nominating
- Personnel
- Planning
- Properties
- Earth Care Task Force
- Garden and Grounds Subcommittee
- Stewardship
- Trustees and Endowment

**Director**

Cathy Hairston  
Christian Hornwell (A.D.)

**Moderators**

Melissa Werner

**Church Members**

Michelle Price  
Lora Horne  
Quetta Wardlow  
Dee Merrill  
Lea Millett

**Teacher Representatives**

Christian Hornwell (spring)  
Lee Pendley (fall)  
Emily Griffins (fall)

**Parent Representatives**

Kristen Mormon (spring)  
Lauren Hudson (fall)  
Mandy McClelland (fall)

**Support**

Kristi Button  
Stacey Luebker  
Stewart Smith

**First School Commission**

First School employs 25 school year teachers and 17 summer teachers. The enrollment in December 2025 was 157. The summer program's enrollment was 151 including elementary-aged students.

First School Commission is the governing board of parents, teachers, FUPC congregants and supported by staff. The Church members have been Michelle Price, Lora Horne, Quetta Wardlow, Dee Merrill, and Lea Millett. Teacher representatives Christian Hornwell (spring), Lee Pendley, Emily Griffins (fall), and Parent Representative Kirsten Mormon (spring), Lauren Hudson, and Mandy McClelland (fall). Cathy Hairston, Director, Christian Hornwell, assistant director (summer), Kristi Button, Stacey Luebker, and Stewart Smith, with Melissa Werner as moderator.

In January we had the grand opening of the nature playground. In the spring we held monthly talent shows/Grandparent's Days in the Fellowship Hall beginning with the kindergarten class and ending in May with the 2-year-old classes. Each month was filled with fun activities like classroom holiday parties, Trike Rally, Dr. Suess Day, Scholastic book fair, family Thanksgiving luncheon, graduation and the end of the year picnic & auction which raised over \$4,000.

This year events blending our students and their families and our church family included chapel in person with pastor Stewart Smith, Kristi Button, and Amanda McDonald. Many First School families enjoyed the fall festival and performed in the Celebration at the Manger. Several Church Members

came to the opening of the Nature Play Space and came to family playdate on the playground. Pastor Stewart attended the Trike Rally in full biker costume! He also attended monthly classroom talent shows in the Spring, and the First School picnic, Family Thanksgiving Family Luncheons, and the Christmas programs.

First School participated in the Educational Freedom Act for our kindergarten class. Quarterly parents received \$1,716. Church member Lea Millett is the kindergarten teacher. First School outreach collected coats for Outback for Fayetteville Public School, food drives for Seven Hills and CEO.

The teachers are the heart of the program; in recognition teachers were given an additional \$1 hourly raise in addition to their yearly and merit raise beginning in August. We were also able to pay the teachers when school is not in session for spring break, Thanksgiving, and 2-weeks of Christmas break. We had monthly staff meetings and treated them to lunch. We had team building events of Bingo night, bread making class with Kristi, an evening out dinner, and a crafter-noon.

For the protection of all we initiated all students must be fully vaccinated to be admitted.

The financial position of the school is strong. We ended the year with tuition over expenses of \$55,542.13. Considering such a strong financial position, First School was able to give \$25,000 to the Church for overhead and able to move \$30,542.13 to investments. We provided scholarships to 11 families to assist with tuition expenses totaling \$13,866.25. FUPC CE contributed \$4,200 to aid in scholarships for the year and First School contributed \$9,666.25.

In June Christian Hornwell stepped into the position of assistant director in preparation for Cathy Hairston retiring. Cathy will remain as director until May 2027. Christian will become the director.

**Moderator**

Laurie Reh

**Members**

Chris Boushelle  
 Barbara Brown  
 Sara Eichmann  
 Eunice Millett (Deacons)  
 Megan Ober  
 Jim Price  
 Barbara Verdery  
 Doug Wright

**Support**

Stewart Smith

**Nominating**

Through prayerful discernment, the committee filled each of the positions listed below.

**FUPC 7-member Pastor Nominating Committee (elected in August 2025)**

- Ted Belden
- Lorraine Brewer
- Emily Bridges
- Terry Cameron
- Amy McCann
- Drew Rutledge
- Barbara Verdery

**Elders (Class of 2028)**

- John Burks
- Pam Gilbreath
- Jana Hemphill
- Vickie James
- David Rodgers

**Young Adult Elder (Class of 2026)**

- Jeffrey Kerst

**Deacon (Class of 2026)**

- Carol Hart

**Deacon (Class of 2028)**

- Mary Boushelle
- Lynn Burks
- Rebecca Haden
- Kelly Pearson

**2026 Congregational Nominating Committee**

- Dennis Brewer – new, 2026
- Mark Power – new, 2026
- Ron Woodruff – new, 2026
- Chris Boushelle - continuing
- Barbara Brown - continuing
- Sara Eichmann – continuing
- Deacon Representative, to be appointed by Deacons in 2026
- Session Representative, to be appointed by Session in 2026
- Session Representative, to be appointed by Session in 2026

**Treasurer (2026)**

- Tom Verdery

**Clerk of Session (2026)**

- Roger Koeppe

**Personnel Committee – 1 At-large Member, Class of 2028**

- Terry Cameron

**First School Commission – 1 At-large Member, Class of 2028**

- Erin Wilson

**Endowment – 1 Congregational Member, Class of 2028**

- TBD by Session

**Trustee – Appointed from within the Session, Class of 2028**

- TBD by Session

**Butterfield Trail Village Corporate Members - 5 Members (and two alternates), 1 year renewable**

- Lyle Gohn - continuing
- Thermon Crocker - continuing
- Diane Warren – continuing
- David Rodgers – continuing
- Anne Booth – continuing
- Howard Higgins (Alternate) – continuing
- Karen Crocker (Alternate) - continuing

As outgoing moderator of the Congregational Nominating Committee, I want to express my deepest appreciation to the committee members for their sincere and dedicated service in filling many important positions in 2025! Thank you! Respectfully submitted, Laurie Reh, Moderator

**Moderator**  
Michelle Price

**Members**  
Emily Bridges  
LeNelle Cagle  
Jim Pickett  
Lisa Talbert  
Randy Werner

**Support**  
Stewart Smith

## Personnel

Throughout 2025, Rev. Stewart Smith, FUPC's Interim Pastor, has continued to support and guide our church through this transition time as we prepare to search for a new Head Pastor. Stewart has given support and guidance for the church staff during this transition time.

FUPC's staff of Kristi Button (Director of Christian Education), Amanda McDonald (Youth and Young Adult Director), Isaac Thomas (Minister of Music/Commissioned Ruling Elder), Cathy Hairston (Director of First School), Stacey Luebker (Financial Administrator), Amy Rossetti (Communications Coordinator), Amy McCann (Membership Coordinator), Beth Benham (Office Manager), and Christopher Verdery (Audio/Visual Coordinator) has been so amazing in their respective positions in continuing the programs that make up FUPC and allow our church to be "A Light on the Hill" during our transition of finding a new Head Pastor.

Our new addition to our church staff has been LeNelle Cagle as our new Kitchen Coordinator. Lenelle will be the staff liaison for church committees having events that require use of the kitchen facilities. This will be another way of bringing our church family together. LeNelle will also be assisting in our Coffee Bar on Sunday mornings.

**Moderators**

Julie Olsen

**Members**Ted Belden  
Mark Power  
Jim Price  
Doug Wright**Support**

Stewart Smith

## Planning

In 2025, the Planning Ministry focused on two key activities. The ministry team, through the direction of Session, reviewed the current Session class size and ministry team structure and presented a recommendation to reduce the Session class size to 5 members each year and a restructuring of ministry teams (committees) to encourage greater collaboration and reduce the number of committee assignments held by Session elders. In particular, our ministry team members proposed that the Planning Ministry be dissolved and strategic visioning and planning responsibilities return to the full Session with the flexibility of convening ad hoc committees to address specific activities and strategic planning (e.g., Session Retreat planning) as needed.

These recommendations were discussed by Session and initial changes approved in November 2025. A final committee structure will be discussed and voted upon by Session at its January 2026 retreat.

Second, Planning Ministry members Steve Adair and Jim Price continued to assist Office Manager Beth Benham in the digitization and final review of FUPC's Policy and Procedures Manual to ensure policies, forms and other documents are current and available electronically to staff, Session elders and Ministry teams via SharePoint. We expect this process to be completed by the end of 2026.

Lastly, the Planning Ministry, in consultation with Transitional Pastor Rev. Stewart Smith and the Session, facilitated a Session Retreat in February 2025 to review the *Course to 2030*, assess First Worship's successes and challenges, and provide feedback on our Pathway to **Strengthen Connections with First School and Church Families** that supported our Key Result area of **Attracting, Nurturing, and Serving Younger Generations**. At the retreat's conclusion, it was determined that further changes to our *Course to 2030* document would be paused until a new Head of Staff/Senior Pastor is called, allowing this individual to actively participate with Session, staff, ministry teams and the congregation at large in further visioning and strategic planning to ensure and sustain FUPC's long-term vitality and growth.

**Moderator**

George Wardlow

**Members**

Mark Brandon

David Clay

Sabra Martin

Greg Merrell

James Moore

Philip Talbert

Charles Williams

Alan Wolf

**Support**

Stewart Smith

**Properties**

The properties committee has the ongoing task of keeping up with maintenance needs, keeping the campus in good working condition and keeping the grounds beautifully maintained. Among the projects the committee accomplished in 2025 are:

- Repaired 2 frozen outside faucets of the Sanctuary by installing shut-off valves inside the walls.
- Replaced the large bulb for the spotlight on the cross above the Sanctuary.
- Removed deteriorated ceiling joists over the Dumpster Enclosure Building, approving, and constructing a complete roof over the structure to protect the dumpster and the recycling bins. The work was done by Jason Werner, and the total cost was \$5,500. Painting labor and supplies also cost an additional \$800.
- Undertook completion of eradication of the rodent problem in Lower Witherspoon by Rid-a-Pest.
- Repaired the Kitchen Aire refrigerator in the Calvin Kitchen by Stephenson Refrigeration.
- Planned the FUPC Spring Clean Up Day for April 20<sup>th</sup>. Much was accomplished, thanks to the many Church members who participated.

- Replaced burned out lights as needed during the year, and made minor plumbing repairs as members of Properties were able to do.
- Replaced the booster pump on the main water line to the church property, which cost over \$9,000.
- Documented and helped remove items in the Lower Witherspoon Storage and Mechanical Room.
- Contracted with Tree Climbers for removal of a large dead oak beside stairs from the east parking lot, grinding of the stump, and other needed pruning of dead limbs in other trees around the campus. The cost was \$2,085, but some additional pruning of the Maple trees west of Knox was added.
- Made many small repairs around the campus.
- Made repairs to the Nativity figures, moved the figures up to the Courtyard, and assisted Amanda McDonald in the installation.
- Gardens and Grounds, which is a Subcommittee of Properties , continued to care for the many beds and gardens around the campus. Sabra Martin and her workers constructed a new bed along the west side of Witherspoon, addressed several erosion problems east of the kitchen area and near the steps to the Labyrinth, pruned many shrubs and plants as needed, and watered when water was available. Sabra and other volunteers worked many hours preparing for the Synod of the Sun Presbyterian Women Annual Gathering which was held in FUPC in July.
- David Clay continued to keep the Columbarium in perfect condition on a weekly basis.
- Philip Talbert and James Moore worked to keep the irrigation system in working order and repair/replace underground lines and sprinkler heads.
- Matt Wantland continues as the contracted mower/leaf removal company year-round.

**Moderator**

Rebecca Haden  
J.P. Peters

**Members**

Sabra Martin  
James Moore  
Leslie Reeves  
Denny Nelson

**Support**

Stewart Smith

## Earth Care Task Force

During 2025 the Earth Care Task Force tried to improve the church's success at recycling by focusing on educating our members about the details of recycling in our community. This has been accomplished by preparing displays on our web site and in pamphlets explaining the different categories of recycling. We have educated ourselves and our members about the available pick-up locations as well as encouraging more recycling on campus. We rebuilt a dumpster enclosure building creating a new roof with a dry area for our recycling bins. We had an electronics recycling day where the congregation brought all manner of electronics which we delivered to an organization which works with rebuilding and reusing electronic devices or disposes of them safely. The ECTF participated in our church-wide Spring Clean-Up Day which resulted in removing dead limbs, pruning where needed, cleaning gutters, weeding, leaf removal, and removal of some invasive species. Shortly following that day, the youth planted two Serviceberry bushes in an area to help stop erosion as well as provide a source of berries to wildlife.

The ECTF participated in a Sunday Creation Care Service where the music, scriptures, and the sermon focused on God's wonderful creation and our part in preserving it. We had display tables in the narthex full of recycling

information and also had a leader in the City of Fayetteville Recycling who was present to answer questions. She participated in the church service providing recycling details and tales of accomplishment, which was well received.

We have continued to care for our 52 panel Solar Array which quietly and unobtrusively provided 18,270 kWh (kilowatt hours) of electric power through our grid-connected system during the entire year of 2025. This provided over 10% of the electrical usage of the church and school campus. That system has fully paid for itself and we are now studying to install a second solar array of similar size on the south facing roof of another building. We continue to change older lighting to LED lighting when the opportunity presents itself. We work through our Properties Committee to choose energy efficient appliances when the opportunity presents itself.

**Moderator**  
Don Johnson

**Members**  
Chris Bell  
Howard Higgins  
Lisa Higgins  
Lyle Gohn  
Mark Power  
Amy Rosetti  
Tom King

**Support**  
Stewart Smith  
Tom Verdery, Treasurer

**Stewardship Campaign Co-Chairs**  
Terry and Melinda Cameron

## Stewardship

The Stewardship Committee gave oversight and direction of the 2025 operating budget and the assets that are held by First United Presbyterian Church.

Thanks to the generosity of members and frequent visitors of FUPC, pledges to the 2025 Stewardship Campaign allowed the challenge budget to be adopted as the operating budget for 2025.

Due to the reduction in staff of moving from 2 co-pastors to one transitional pastor, funds were able to be set aside for the work of the Pastoral Nominating Committee and for maintenance/replacement of HVAC units on campus. Thankfully, no HVAC units needed to be replaced and the budgeted line item was able to be moved to the New HVAC Replacements account. It was moved FROM this line in Operating to the Restricted line FUPC Properties which was depleted during the sanctuary HVAC replacement project in 2023. There was no spending from that account so the full \$20,000 was moved to the Restricted line: FUPC Properties 2393 and sent to TPF to invest.

Terry and Melinda Cameron led the 2026 Stewardship campaign with the theme of *“Forever Church, Forever in Christ”*. *Trust in the Lord forever, for in the Lord God you have an everlasting rock. Isaiah 26:4*

The 2026 campaign goal set a challenge budget of \$25,000 to the Building and Maintenance Fund and \$660,000 to the operating fund. 32 pledges were received for the Building and Maintenance Fund totaling \$33,559.56. 114 pledges were received for the Operating budget totaling \$664,342.43. In early 2026 the session adopted the challenge budget as the operating budget.

The Ellen Smith Birthday fund received \$5,951.60 in contributions in 2025 from 36 family units.

The Stewardship Committee thanks each individual and family who contributed funds toward the mission and ministry of First United Presbyterian Church in 2025.

**Trustees**

Marsha Woodruff (Chair)  
Julie Olsen  
Tom King

**Endowment Committee**

Liz Fulton  
Mark Power

**Trustees and Endowment Committee**

The FUPC Trustees met four times during 2025. Tom Verdery, Church Treasurer, also attended these meetings to present financial reports and updates on FUPC financial accounts and restricted funds managed by the Texas Presbyterian Foundation.

The church continues to maintain strong cash flow as we continue to address replacement of older HVAC units and other required maintenance of campus facilities.

We awarded the Lee Power Scholarship to Amanda McDonald for seminary expenses. The Grace Vawter Scholarship was awarded to one college applicant.

We thank Marti Woodruff for her service as our Trustee chair.

Respectfully submitted,  
Julie Olsen, Trustee Class of 2026

## FINANCIAL REPORTS

- Treasurer's Report
- Treasurer's Report Ending December 31, 2025
- Budgeted Financial Statement and Disbursements
- Designated Fund Summary for December
- Statement of Cash Flow
- Restricted Assets Through December