

Eastminster Presbyterian Church

East Lansing, Michigan



2025 Annual Report



Annual Meeting of Congregation/Corporation

February 1, 2026

Acknowledgments

This Annual Report reflects the shared work and storytelling of many people across the life of Eastminster.

Rev. Kristin Stroble and Director of Christian Education/Campus Minister Neil Myer each contributed written reports and offered guidance throughout the process. Both consulted on formatting, proofread the document, and offered thoughtful storytelling suggestions.

Committee chairs contributed information and insights that shaped the committee sections of this report: Linda Hardenbergh (Faith Formation), Heather Heitman (Community Connections), Susan Smalley (Infrastructure), and Jason Giddings (Deacons).

Robert Kleine submitted the Treasurer's Report and the Endowment/Investments Report.

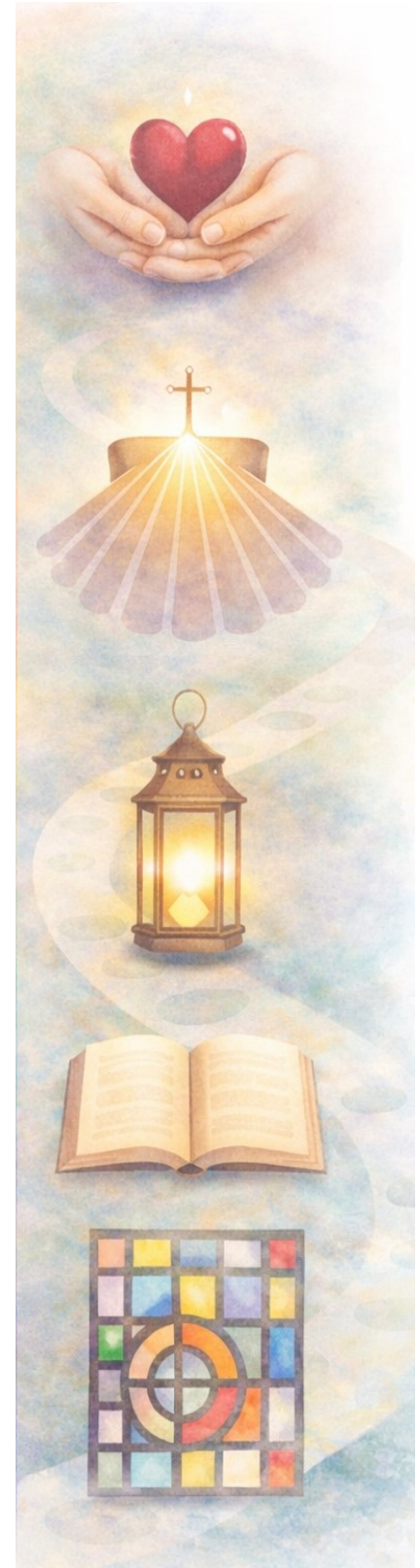
Susan Smalley and Neil Myer carefully proofread each page, and members of Session were given the opportunity to review the report.

The document was compiled, designed, and edited by Bridgette Redman, Office Administrator.

Photo captions are on p. 49.

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From Your Pastor

Reflection and Looking Ahead:

I am filled with gratitude for you as individuals and as a church. I've said this many times and I'll say again we are an extremely healthy, loving community of faith.

A **vital congregation** is one that has healthy systems and structures, thoughtful decision making, responsible finances and strong stewardship. Our Session and committees manage the resources that God has entrusted to us well and you are all generous with your time and wealth. A **vital congregation** has worship that is transformative and challenging, and I'm grateful for your willingness to do new things in worship as well as the lay leadership who stepped forward this year to lead worship. A **vital congregation** serves the community, which we do through Advent House, UKirk, with refugee organizations, and the food bank. A **vital congregation** is continually developing followers of Christ through lifelong discipleship. We provide opportunities for all ages to gather together and separately to wrestle with their faith. A **vital congregation** has caring relationships within their communities and extends hospitality to others. My friends, Eastminster is a **vital congregation**, so as we enter this new year, may we celebrate the gifts we have and continue to discern how God can use us in the community and the world.

*I've said this many times
and I'll say again we are
an extremely healthy,
loving community of faith.*

What's next?

We now have all ages and grade levels in our congregation - elementary, middle & high school and continue to discern how to provide faith formation and fellowship for all ages. Intergenerational worship is at the center of who we are and what we do. We will also continue this year to have all-church lunches on the first Sunday of the month. We look forward to a Women's Retreat this year, continuing the confirmation class, and being open to new opportunities that arise! If you ever have an idea for ways to engage in ministry or mission please reach out to me or one of the elders.

What I've Done for Continuing Education

I attended the Art of Transitional Ministry Training, Week 1 this year.

Some of my favorite books I've read this year:

Grandma Gatewood's Walk - Ben Montgomery
The God of the Woods - Liz Moore
All the Colors of the Dark - Chris Whitaker
Being Jewish After the Destruction of Gaza - Peter Beinart
The Correspondent - Virginia Evans
My Friends: A Novel - Fredrik Backman
The Names - Florence Knapp
Separation of Church and Hate - John Fugelsang



2026 Terms of Call

Terms of Call are approved yearly by the congregation and Session.

The Rev. Kristin Stroble has served as Eastminster's pastor for eight years, and the congregation numbers 89 members. Her 2026 Terms of Call include a cash salary of \$53,828 and a housing/utility allowance of \$25,000, for a total effective salary of \$78,828, with benefits plan dues of \$21,678. Reimbursable allowances include \$1,500 for professional development, \$1,000 for books and professional expenses, \$1,300 for mileage reimbursement, and a SECA offset of \$6,030.

Non-monetary terms include five weeks of vacation (including five Sundays), 14 days for professional development (two Sundays, cumulative for up to three years), and seven days for service to the larger church.

Sermon Series

2025

Learning to Walk in The Dark

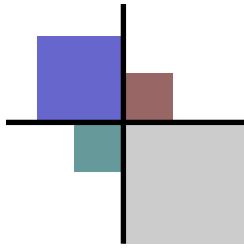
Pause

Spending Lent with the Psalms



What do you fear

The 2025 sermon series invited us to slow down, look inward, and step forward with courage. From learning to walk in the dark to daring to name our fears, we explored what it means to live abundantly as disciples—together and with God's steadfast presence.



How Our Ministry Works

Eastminster's ministry is woven from many hands and callings. Session, our governing body of pastor and elected elders, provides oversight and discernment, meeting monthly to guide the church's mission, care for its resources and support its leaders. From this shared leadership, committees and ministries tend specific dimensions of our common life.

Community Connections attends to fellowship and service. Through meals, fellowship, mission partnerships and community engagement, they remind us that faith is lived not only in worship but at tables, gatherings and acts of care.

Faith Formation stewards the rhythm of worship and the work of learning. This includes liturgical seasons, special services, curriculum for children and adults, youth leadership, and opportunities to explore scripture and Christian life together.

Infrastructure tends the practical stewardship of our resources—finances, buildings, technology, personnel, and long-range planning. Their work may be quiet, but it enables everything else to take shape with transparency and sustainability.

Deacons embody pastoral presence. Through hospitality, greeting, compassion, fellowship, transportation, memorial care and prayer, they help hold the congregation together in times of joy, sorrow, and transition.

UKirk, our campus ministry, extends Eastminster's mission onto the Michigan State University campus. Students gather for conversation, worship, service and support, and they carry those connections into their lives beyond college.



Other committees, including Nominating, Memorial and Endowment/Investment, offer leadership and specialized oversight. Together, these ministries form the framework through which Eastminster worships, learns, serves and responds to God's call.



2025 Milestones Marked Eastminster's Shared Work

- We walked with Rev. Kristin Stroble during a three-month sabbatical, a season of rest and renewal for both pastor and congregation.
- Director of Christian Education and UKirk Campus Minister Neil Myer celebrated his 10th year with Eastminster, a decade of teaching, leadership and care for students and families.
- Volunteers took on new responsibilities across ministries, and their leadership continues to deepen the life of our community.
- New faces of all ages have joined us in worship, events and service. Children and youth ministries are more active than they have been in years, a hopeful sign for the present and future of our congregation.



“God gathers us, forms us, sends us and sustains us.”

Elders and Deacons for 2025-2026

Susan Smalley, Clerk of Session/Robert Kleine, Treasurer

Elders		Deacons	
Robin Bell <i>Class of 2027</i>	Norm Mackay <i>Class of 2027</i>	Jason Giddings <i>Class of 2027</i>	Estelle McGroarty <i>Class of 2026</i>
Frank Boster <i>Class of 2028</i>	Sam O'Neill <i>Class of 2026</i>	Suzanne Hunt <i>Class of 2027</i>	Brenda Ramsby <i>Class of 2026</i>
Dave Duryea <i>Class of 2028</i>	Charlotte Smith <i>Class of 2026</i>	Sue Kalvonjian <i>Class of 2026</i>	Sacha Roennecke <i>Class of 2027</i>
Linda Hardenbergh <i>Class of 2027</i>	Sara Weeden <i>Class of 2028</i>	Jeff Lapinski <i>Class of 2028</i>	Emmanuel Yewah <i>Class of 2028</i>
Heather Heitman <i>Class of 2026</i>			



Kristin's Sabbatical

I remain incredibly grateful for the gift of sabbatical leave in 2025. After fourteen years of ministry without a sabbatical, my mind, body, and spirit needed time to slow down, rest, and reconnect. I spent two of the three months traveling embracing a spirit of wander and wonder.

My main goal was to be fully present in the moment. I value planning, hard work, getting tasks done and on my sabbatical I let myself be a human “being” instead of a human “doing.” Especially while walking the Camino de Santiago, I stayed present in the day, reminding myself to be where my feet are.

As I did that, my eyes opened to the beauty right in front of me, the gift of new friendships and connections, and the delight of simple things like a gentle breeze or a cup of coffee. I felt my mind empty on the camino and entered a meditative state while I walked.

I also set a goal to reconnect with myself, God, and others. During my sabbatical I prayed constantly and I journaled everyday. Traveling in Turkey, Spain, and the Azores, I spent almost every day outside soaking up God's creation and the sunshine. I got back in touch with my deep longings, including my longing for God. I made deep connections with other people from around the world and felt my spirit come alive. Toward the end of the second month of my sabbatical I realized that I felt a profound sense of peace, a peace that did not come from external circumstances, but from the knowledge that I am deeply loved, as is the world. I am so profoundly grateful for the three months to step away from my role as pastor to rest and rejuvenate. It has renewed my sense of call and love of the church as well as reaffirmed, despite the chaos that is the world, that human beings are good and beautiful as is this world that God created.

“On my sabbatical, I let myself be a human “being” instead of a human “doing.”



has refreshed me to keep leading in the church, working with and among God's children.



Walking the Camino

During her sabbatical, Rev. Kristin Stroble walked sections of the Camino de Santiago, a centuries-old network of pilgrimage routes leading to the cathedral in Santiago de Compostela in northwest Spain.

Since the Middle Ages, pilgrims have traveled these ancient paths in devotion, penance, gratitude or spiritual longing. Along the way, they pass through villages, monasteries and cathedrals, share meals in albergues, and collect stamps in their Pilgrim Passport as a record of the journey. Many describe the Camino as a time to slow down, notice beauty in simple things and rediscover God's presence in the rhythms of creation.



Though rooted in Christian history and the legacy of St. James, the Camino attracts pilgrims for many reasons—some seeking healing, others reflection, others companionship and community. One of the great gifts of the Camino is the “Camino family” that forms along the road as strangers become companions. Hospitality becomes a spiritual practice, and shared vulnerability becomes its own kind of prayer.

For Kristin, the Camino offered space to reconnect with God, with herself and with fellow pilgrims, and to embody the sabbatical invitation to rest, renewal and deep listening.

I'm still finding the words to describe the gift of that pilgrimage. The joy and bliss in simple things like the smell of eucalyptus, a breeze and clouds, a small village with an open cafe, and sunrises.

The gift of connections, shared vulnerability, and meaning making with fellow pilgrims. The meditative nature of daily walking, step by step, even when it hurts. The simplicity of carrying only essentials and being removed from daily life. The peace of being fully present in each moment. The time to reconnect with myself and with God. The wisdom of finding beauty each day, sharing pain and joy, practicing faith and to keep walking. — Rev. Kristin Stroble, June 2025

The Way of St. James

Tradition holds that the remains of the Apostle James rest in Santiago. The rediscovery of his tomb in the 9th century made Santiago one of Christianity's most important pilgrimage destinations, second only to Jerusalem and Rome.

Pilgrim Passport and Compostela

Pilgrims collect stamps along the route in a credential book and can receive a Compostela certificate upon reaching Santiago, affirming completion of the pilgrimage.

The Camino Shell

The scallop shell marks the Camino. Once carried home as proof of the journey, it now guides pilgrims from village to village as a symbol of transformation and grace.



When the Pastor Went Walking, the Church Kept Moving

Kristin's sabbatical did not begin with an empty pulpit; it began with careful preparation. In the months leading up to her time away, Kristin, Session and its committees worked to help the congregation understand the purpose and the plan. Sunday presentations framed sabbatical as a gift for pastor and people alike, and a screening of *The Way* invited the church to enter the spirit of pilgrimage. A map adorned the hallway, charting the stages of the Camino so members could walk along in prayer as Kristin moved from village to village.

Shared Ministry

Then the time came for her to go, and Eastminster discovered in new ways what mutual ministry looks like. When health issues prevented the scheduled temporary pastor from serving, the congregation did not panic; it rolled up its sleeves. Guest preachers stepped forward, familiar faces returned to the pulpit, and worship services were carefully planned by committees and staff. Director of Christian Education Neil Myer took a leading role, crafting thoughtful services, guiding a joyful Hymn Sing, preaching on Pentecost and leading outdoor worship. On three Sundays, members shared "Faith Journeys," offering their stories of doubt, trust, call and resilience. It was clear that Eastminster does not have just one storyteller; it has many.

Ministry beyond Sunday mornings continued with depth and steadiness. During Kristin's absence, a long-time pillar of the church died and families of two others with historic ties to Eastminster requested memorial services and interment in the memorial garden. Deacons, staff and volunteers came together to plan services, care for grieving families and welcome old friends home.

Sabbatical didn't pause the ministry of the church; it revealed how many hands already held it.



**Sending
Kristin on
Sabbatical**

**April 27,
2025**

Building Care

Of course, buildings and budgets did not take a sabbatical. Repairs were needed, contracts had to be reviewed, and unexpected issues appeared right on schedule. Infrastructure leaders and Office Administrator Bridgette Redman handled these challenges with patience and diligence, making decisions, reviewing agreements and keeping the day-to-day ministries of the church running smoothly. It was a reminder that ministry includes boiler rooms and balance sheets as much as choir lofts and classrooms.

By the time Kristin returned, the congregation had not simply "held things together" for three months; it had practiced shared leadership in concrete ways. Members preached, taught, led music, organized worship, cared for the grieving, tended the building and prayed for their pastor as she walked. Her sabbatical renewed her for the work of ministry, and it renewed Eastminster's sense that this calling belongs to the whole church.

When one person went walking on the Camino, the rest of the body did what the body of Christ always does: it kept moving together.

Summer Worship

During Kristin's sabbatical, worship was led by a wide circle of pastors and members:

- ◆ Guest preachers, including Rev. Shirley Paxton, Rev. Penny Swartz, Rev. Dr. Fran Lane-Lawrence, Rebecca Mattern, and Rev. Peggy Casteel-Huston.
- ◆ Services planned and led by Neil Myer, including the Hymn Sing, Pentecost, and two outdoor services (one moved indoors).
- ◆ "Faith Journeys" Sundays, with stories shared by members of Men's Bible Study and others, who reflected on how God has been at work in their lives.
- ◆ Neighboring ministers including Rev. Lisa Schrott and Rev. Ben Rumbaugh handled funerals and committals.



Ministry Highlights

- ◆ Two Sunday presentations on sabbatical and pilgrimage and a congregational viewing of *The Way*
- ◆ Camino map in the hallway tracking daily stops
- ◆ Women's Day Tea
- ◆ Music in the Park
- ◆ Church Tour
- ◆ All-Church Lunch Hosted by the Youth
- ◆ Ice Cream Social
- ◆ Massanetta Middle School Conference
- ◆ Congregational Meeting and Bocce Ball Tournament
- ◆ Memorial services and interments in the garden for beloved members and friends
- ◆ A joyful welcome-home Sunday as Kristin returned to Eastminster



A Decade of Care

For 10 years, Neil Myer has helped shape Eastminster into a congregation that learns together, serves together, and seeks to embody Christ's love with hospitality and integrity.

In 2015, Neil Myer joined Eastminster as Director of Christian Education and UKirk Campus Minister, dividing his time between our congregation and growing a ministry to students at Michigan State University. Ten years later, both ministries have flourished.

As Director of Christian Education, Neil has encouraged faith formation across generations. He has created a welcoming space for children and youth during worship, taught confirmation, chaperoned retreats, and launched the Adventures program for school breaks. He supports opportunities for learning that are rooted in curiosity, scripture, and thoughtful conversation. His presence during fellowship time and at the church doors embodies a quiet ministry of hospitality, making sure new and returning worshipers alike feel seen, welcomed, and included.

As Campus Minister, Neil has built UKirk from the ground up into a thriving ministry housed at Eastminster and supported by area partner churches. Through weekly meals, fellowship, study, service, and retreats, students have found a place to belong. During times of joy, Neil has cultivated community with creativity and humor — from trivia nights to Home Kirkin' — and during times of trauma and uncertainty, he has responded with compassion and care. His leadership extends into service, including book drives for "book deserts," food collections, and other community outreach efforts.


Across all his work, Neil's ministry is marked by a deep commitment to inclusivity and the conviction that the Church should be a place where all are welcome. He pays close attention to the words we use and the ways we gather, working to ensure that Eastminster's language and practices are open, affirming, and free from "insider" assumptions. His commitment to social justice is visible in his participation in community activism.

We give thanks for a decade of faithful leadership and look with gratitude toward the years ahead.




Faces of the Church

Every congregation depends on volunteers, but 2025 made that dependence beautifully visible. With Pastor Kristin on sabbatical for three months and a full year of ministry, memorials, celebrations and repairs unfolding, Eastminster discovered again what it means to be a shared ministry: no one person does everything, but together, we do more than we imagine. A few volunteers became especially central to that work.

 **Linda Hardenbergh** quietly anchored the congregation during sabbatical, serving as de facto head of staff. As always, she contributes to everything from financial reporting and worship slides to hanging parame-
ments, children's worship resources, and social events. If there was a puzzle to solve, Linda was already on it.


Susan Smalley, as Clerk of Session, shepherded the administrative and constitutional heartbeat of the church. She tracks memberships, manages records, counts offerings, proposes policies, and attends to the small details that make the larger work possible.



 **Norm Mackay** steered building maintenance and contract logistics. He sourced vendors, gathered quotes, identified solutions, secured legal counsel, and coordinated major work during a year when the boiler room, elevators, and safety systems demanded steady leadership.

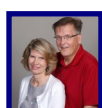
Robert Kleine kept the church's finances transparent and trustworthy alongside Session's oversight. As Treasurer, he monitors spending and income week by week, signs checks, tracks investments, and ensures that every dollar was accounted for with care and clarity. His deep experience and disciplined attention to detail gives the congregation confidence that its resources are being stewarded wisely, allowing ministry to move forward with integrity and foresight.



 **Estelle McGroarty** fed people—spiritually and literally. She coordinated Thanksgiving baskets, refugee collections, and Advent House meals, and ensured memorial receptions were compassionate and well supplied during a year with many farewells.


Barb Stowitts showed up weekly to keep paperwork and logistics humming—stuffing bulletins, preparing mailings, assembling devotionals, cutting cards and labels, and cheerfully absorbing the extra tasks that appear out of thin air in church offices.



 **Jeff Lapinski and Beverly Bonning** seemed to live in every room of the church at once: ushering, managing fellowship hour, driving members, replacing bulbs, organizing storage, and (when Jeff could get away with it) tending gutters and snow.

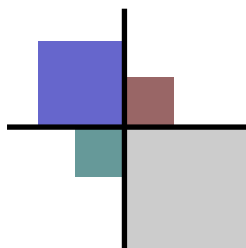
Bob Nees became our resident engineer, designer, and fixer. He documented basement repair work, liaised with contractors, built new pew racks, inventoried lighting for a BWL rebate, and found elegant solutions to practical problems.



 **Heather Heitman and Heather Myer** coordinated both a children's event and a youth lock-in, recruiting volunteers, planning activities, and skillfully wrangling the delightful chaos that comes with a room full of kids. Their behind-the-scenes leadership created space for young people to learn, grow and have fun.



These names represent a fraction of the labor that sustained Eastminster in 2025. For every person listed, there are dozens more who poured coffee, baked cookies, set up communion, washed linens, tended livestreams, created slides, tracked investments, greeted at doors, served as worship leaders and ushers, lit candles, stuffed bulletins, took minutes, and did the quiet work that rarely shows up in reports. To all our unnamed volunteers—your faithfulness is felt and seen. You embody the belief that church is not a product to consume, but a community to build. Thank you for helping us build it well.



Community Connections



Community Connections fostered fellowship, connections, and service throughout 2025, creating opportunities for Eastminster to grow closer as a congregation and engage with our neighbors.

The year began with intergenerational fun during the Mid-Winter Break gathering, where children, youth and adults played games, crafted, and enjoyed time together. Members participated in Hope in Action events with the Presbytery of Lake Michigan, combining worship, learning and advocacy through letter-writing and community connection.

Spring brought celebration with a Women's Day Tea in May. Summer offered opportunities to gather outdoors, beginning with July's ice cream social and followed in August by a church cookout and a congregational outing to see the Lansing Lugnuts. The sunshine cooperated this year, making for an evening of baseball, laughter, and cheering together in the stands.

Monthly church lunches on the first Sunday of each month offered a consistent place for fellowship, story-sharing and community building.

Through these gatherings and acts of service, Community Connections helped Eastminster practice the ministries of hospitality, welcome and care—reminding us that faith is lived together around tables, in shared work, and in showing up for one another and our neighbors.

Committee Members

- Dave Duryea
- Patsy King
- Estelle McGroarty
- Charlotte Smith
- Heather Heitman, Committee Chair
- Rev. Kristin Stroble



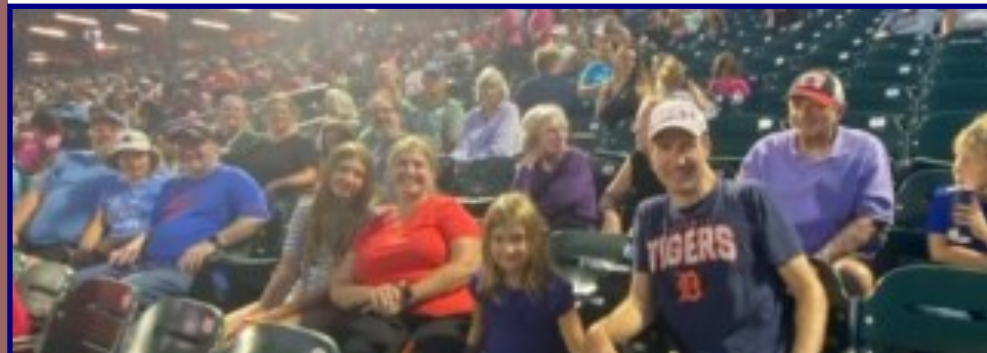
*We gather, we serve, we
show up for one
another.*



As the season turned, Community Connections continued to support meaningful service and mission. Twelve members participated in October's annual CROP Walk raising funds to address hunger locally and globally. With the congregation's generosity, the committee expanded its Thanksgiving outreach, providing 15 food baskets—an increase from previous years—to support families in need. In response to hunger needs in the fall, the congregation increased its giving to the Greater Lansing Food Bank and the MSU Student Food Bank.

Throughout the year, Eastminster continued its longstanding partnership with Advent House Ministries by providing meals on the second Saturdays of each month. Community Connections also hosted a dinner with UKirk, sharing food, games and conversation with Michigan State University students.

When PC(USA) ended funding for mission co-workers, Eastminster found new ways to sup-



port our partners, Jenny Bent and Mark Hare, in Costa Rica. Presbytery of Scioto Valley has taken on their financial support and Eastminster has continued to pledge. In a year where immigrants and refugees were increasingly endangered, Eastminster provided financial support to Afghan refugees at risk of losing their parole status and to local groups working with refugees.

Eastminster quietly assists individuals and families in crisis through a pastor's discretionary fund. These confidential gifts help meet immediate needs such as food, transportation, utilities, and emergency support. This ministry reflects our commitment to loving our neighbors with compassion and dignity.



2025 Actual Expenditures

A congregation is a community that chooses to live more fully together—sharing meals, stories, hospitality and care. Funds in this area support fellowship within the church as well as Eastminster's mission beyond it, including UKirk, Advent House, Christian Services, refugee support and global PC(USA) missions. They help maintain our building as a home for groups such as Alcoholics Anonymous and UKirk. Through these ministries we seek to love our neighbors, alleviate suffering and answer God's call to serve.

Connecting in Fellowship (\$62,940)

- ◆ Community life expenses: \$1,668 (100%)
- ◆ Pastoral leadership and support: \$23,708 (25%)
- ◆ Building use: \$22,565 (30%)
- ◆ Staff support: \$10,330 (25%)
- ◆ Administrative costs: \$4,669 (25%)

Serving Our Neighbors (\$97,482)

- ◆ Mission committee expenses: \$24,956 (100%)
- ◆ Pastoral leadership and support: \$9,483 (10%)
- ◆ Staff support: \$10,330 (25%)
- ◆ Building use: \$18,804 (25%)
- ◆ Administrative cost: \$4,669 (25%)
- ◆ Per capita: \$4,284 (100%)

** Percentages represent the portion of the total operating expenditures allocated to support each activity (connecting in fellowship, serving our neighbors, forming our faith and worshiping God).*

*Community
Connections is a
shared investment in
building relationships
and service to our
neighbors.*

Special Offerings

Beginning in 2026, the PC(USA) has restructured its Special Offerings. The current four offerings (One Great Hour of Sharing, Pentecost, Peace & Global Witness and Christmas Joy) will consolidate into three. This was the final year Eastminster received the legacy offerings in their previous format. The updated offerings beginning in 2026 are:

One Great Hour of Sharing (*Lenten Season*): Supports ministries addressing disaster response, hunger, poverty, climate displacement, immigration and refugee needs.

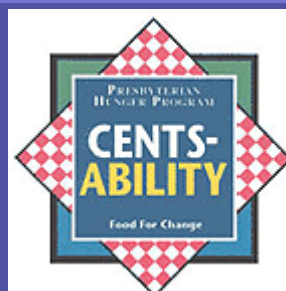
World Communion Offering (*September–October*): Supports racial and gender justice, global witness, ecumenical and interfaith ministry, and peacemaking efforts. A new grant program will allow sessions, presbyteries or synods to apply for funds for their own initiatives.

Christmas Joy Offering (*Advent Season*): Supports children-at-risk; leadership development for youth and young adults; historically Presbyterian-related institutions serving communities of color; and assistance for church workers in need through the Board of Pensions.



Where Mission Dollars Went in 2025

Organizations	Gifts
Christmas Joy Offering	\$485
One Great Hour of Sharing Offering	\$1,282
Peace & Global Witness Offering	\$646
Advent House	\$1,512
Mission Co-Workers	\$2,750
St. Vincent Catholic Charities Refugee Services	\$2,161
PCUSA Shared Mission	\$7,250
Christian Services	\$1,000
UKirk at Michigan State	\$8,000
Presbyterian Disaster Assistance/Ukraine	\$633
Global Institute of Lansing	\$1,300
Crop Walk	\$1,920
Greater Lansing Food Bank	\$1,265
MSU Student Food Bank	\$1,098
Haven House	\$1,300
Emergency Community Needs	\$1,738
Total:	\$34,340



FIGHTING HUNGER

Cents-Ability is one way that families, congregations, and presbyteries can support the battle against hunger and poverty. Every member is invited to contribute a few cents at every meal. Funds are used to support local hunger ministries, as well as national and international projects through the Presbyterian Hunger Program.

In 2025, Eastminster gave Cents-Ability funds to the Greater Lansing Food Bank and the MSU Student Food Bank.

Shared Life Beyond Sundays

Community doesn't end at the benediction; it continues in the places we meet one another with curiosity, kindness and humor. Community at Eastminster stretches well beyond Sunday worship. Throughout the week, small groups gather to learn, pray, read, laugh and build friendships that deepen faith and belonging.

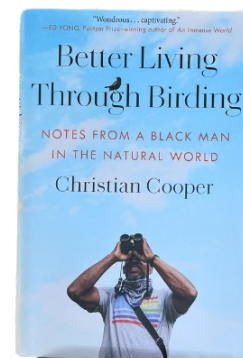
Bible Studies

Wednesday mornings begin with two Bible study groups that meet in person and over Zoom creating space for conversation across ages and schedules. The Men's Bible Study meets at 8 a.m. and the Bible Study (as yet unnamed) meets at 10:30 a.m. Participants enjoy a preview of the upcoming sermon text and the chance to explore scripture and themes together in greater depth. Questions are welcomed, insights are shared and friendships have formed over years of study and prayer.



Book Club

For those who prefer turning pages to turning verses, the PageTurners Book Club meets most months, also in a hybrid format. The group reads widely, choosing fiction and nonfiction that spark conversation about ideas and the world around us. The mix of in-person and online participation keeps the circle open and accessible.



*Belonging is
built one
conversation at a*

Trivia Team

Not all fellowship is quiet. The Merrie Brood of Vipers—Eastminster's trivia team—competes every Monday night at Royal Scot's Triple P Bar & Grill. With spirited camaraderie and good humor, the team twice qualified for the state finals in 2025, proving that knowledge and laughter both make for strong fellowship.

Middle Ground

Each Thursday, Middle Ground Gathering meets for casual socializing. Once known as the "20s/30s/40s," the group wisely rebranded as members aged and friendships deepened. Their conversations are wide-ranging and welcoming, offering a space for connection at mid-week.

Together, these groups demonstrate that church life thrives not only in worship and service, but also in learning, storytelling, humor and friendship—reminding us that faith is strengthened when we share our lives with one another.



Faith Formation

Faith Formation continued to guide the worship and educational life of Eastminster throughout 2025, offering opportunities for learning, reflection and connection.

In late January and February, the congregation explored *Learning to Walk in the Dark* by Barbara Brown Taylor. The sermon series included a night hike at Harris Nature Center, where walkers listened for owls, watched the winter sky and learned about nocturnal birds before ending the evening with s'mores. An after-worship discussion provided time to engage the book more deeply.

Lent began with Ash Wednesday on March 5 and the sermon series *Pause: Spending Lent with the Psalms*. In April, the congregation held its second Interfaith Dinner Night at the Islamic Center, reflecting together on the seasons of Ramadan and Lent/Holy Week and strengthening interfaith relationships. In October, we hosted guests from the Islamic Center to talk about pilgrimages in both traditions.

*Faith is formed in
worship, learning
and story.*

This was the year of Kristin's sabbatical. Throughout March and April, Faith Formation helped prepare the congregation for her three months away. Presentations on March 23 and 30 introduced the concept of sabbatical and its purpose for both pastor and congregation. A screening of *The Way* invited members into the spirit of pilgrimage, and a hallway map traced Kristin's progress along the Camino de Santiago so the congregation could walk with her in prayer.

When health issues prevented the scheduled temporary pastor from leading worship during Kristin's sabbatical, Faith Formation and staff creatively filled thirteen Sundays with guest preachers, lay leadership and student ministry. We are grateful to Rev. Shirley Paxton, Rev. Penny Swartz, Rev. Dr. Fran Lane-Lawrence, Rev. Peggy Casteel-Huston and Rebecca Mattern for leading six of those services. Neil Myer led four worship services, including the Hymn Sing, Pentecost and two outdoor services. On three Sundays, members shared their "Faith Journeys," offering testimony to the ways God has been at work in their lives. The Men's Bible Study (Norm Mackay, Jeff Lapinski, Rick Johnston, Ron Davis and George Miller), along with Frank Boster, Mary Harvey, Suzanne Hunt, Estelle McGroaty, Cindy Mackay and Heather Myer, provided thoughtful reflections that

Webcasting

Since the pandemic, Eastminster has webcast and livestreamed worship. Over time our equipment has improved, our volunteers have grown more confident, and the ministry of online worship has become a cherished part of our life together. We are deeply grateful to Linda Hardenbergh, Susan Smalley, Mike Brown, Robin Bell and Heather Myer for their faithful work behind the camera each week, and to Linda Hardenbergh and Robin Bell for preparing the slides that guide us in song, prayer and scripture. Their gifts allow our worship to reach beyond the sanctuary.

Committee Members

- Robin Bell
- Mike Brown
- Linda Hardenbergh
- Sam O'Neill
- Neil Myer
- Rev. Kristin Stroble



became a meaningful form of worship during the summer months.

Fall worship included World Communion Sunday on Oct. 5 and All Saints on Oct. 26. The sermon series *Abundant Life* concluded later that month, and Sam O'Neill offered a planned giving presentation during the adult education hour. The Advent series, *What Do You Fear?* from A Sanctified Art, was accompanied by two intergenerational workshops in December. While Kristin was on vacation Dec. 28, lay leaders planned and presided over a casual worship service in the Green Room focused on Matthew 2:1–3 and Matthew 25, complete with food and discussion.



We give thanks for the musical gifts that enriched worship this year. Sue Rosser offered three solo musical pieces during the summer, and Sulin Campbell coordinated three Special Music Sundays featuring former choir members and ensembles including Sara Weeden, Jim Engelkes and Sulin herself.

2025 Actual Expenditures

Shaping and nurturing our faith is a lifelong commitment. Jesus calls his followers disciples. Money in this area provides for the faith formation of our different age groups, all-church events, and youth conferences. We are committed to providing opportunities to deepen our faith at every stage of life.

Forming Our Faith (\$107,809)

- ◆ Christian education expenses: \$3,042 (100%)
- ◆ Pastoral leadership and support: \$23,708 (25%)
- ◆ Director of Christian Education: \$47,128 (90%)
- ◆ Staff support: \$10,330 (25%)
- ◆ Session expenses: \$128 (100%)
- ◆ Building use: \$18,804 (25%)
- ◆ Administrative costs: \$4,669 (25%)

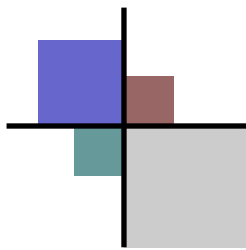
Worshipping God (\$91,547)

- ◆ Worship committee expenses: \$2,661 (100%)
- ◆ Pastoral leadership and support: \$37,934 (40%)
- ◆ Building use: \$15,043 (20%)
- ◆ Staff support: \$10,330 (25%)
- ◆ Director of Christian Education: \$5,237 (10%)
- ◆ Organist and substitutes: \$15,673 (100%)
- ◆ Administrative costs: \$4,669 (25%)

** Percentages represent the portion of the total operating expenditures allocated to support each activity (connecting in fellowship, serving our neighbors, forming our faith and worshipping God).*

*Faith formation is
a shared
investment in
curiosity, learning
and spiritual
growth.*





Children and Youth

Children, youth and intergenerational ministries continued to grow in 2025. In February, the Presidents Day Weekend Adventures program returned for children and youth on February 14 and 17, centered on the theme “Bread of Life.” Parti-

*2025 brought
growth we could
feel.*

cipants baked colorful bread with Kristin and then shared communion in the sanctuary. The program was supported by a dedicated group of volunteers whose assistance made both days a success.



In June, two middle school students attended the Massanetta Middle School Conference, building friendships and exploring faith in a camp setting. August brought the annual Blessing of the Backpacks and the final outdoor service of the season as families prepared for the school year.

A new pattern for children and youth education began in September. Confirmation and youth gatherings were held on the first Sunday of each month from September through December. On second Sundays, Neil visited UKirk partner churches for campus ministry, and we give thanks to Robin Bell, Bev Bonning, Sam O'Neill, Mary Lou Clifton and Charlotte Smith for their thoughtful Children's Sermons in worship on those days. Third Sundays were dedicated to children's education in the fellowship hall and adult education in the Green Room, creating space for intergenerational learning.



On November 2, children and youth led worship, a highlight of the year for many. Their leadership helped close the liturgical year before the congregation entered the Advent season. In December, children and youth attended a special Advent event that included crafting, bowling and baking treats for the Christmas Eve reception, adding joy and energy to the season.

These ministries continue to nurture curiosity, compassion and belonging as our young people learn how faith takes shape in community.



*Backpacks
blessed, bread
baked, bowling
achieved.*



2025 Youth Participation Snapshot	
Age 4 and under	2
K-5 th grade	14
6 th -8 th grade	3
9 th -12 th grade	5

Infrastructure

Building and Grounds

Eastminster's building is more than bricks, boilers, and bulbs. It is a ministry tool: a gathering space, a sanctuary, a home for worship and formation, and a welcoming place for students, neighbors, and visitors. Caring for it requires regular attention, stewardship, and a sense of humor.

A new Building Team formed to help Infrastructure identify priorities and oversee recurring maintenance. Projects included repairing broken lighting, addressing plumbing repairs, and replacing a nonfunctioning disposal in the lower-level kitchen. Annual inspections and code requirements kept the committee busy. When the building failed the state backflow test in June, replacement parts were installed immediately to ensure compliance.

**Caring for our building
is how we care for the
people who gather
within it.**

Spring had us chasing water in places it did not belong. In May, two inches of water was discovered in the boiler room. A professional inspection concluded that ground water was seeping through the foundation wall—a side-effect of the church being built atop a natural bog. Over the years, the pressure increased and the wall was saturated. After evaluating options, Infrastructure engaged Ayers Basement Systems to remediate the issue and better protect the boiler room from future water intrusion. The work was completed for \$6,557. Infrastructure began documenting building care traditions passed down informally over the years, such as remembering to turn off the boiler each spring.

Several projects spoke to the quieter rhythms of ministry and memory. Volunteers tended the Memorial Garden, and conversations began about expansion as interments grow. Ron and Mary Davis tended the plants around the sign and kept the front door planters filled. At the end of the year, Infrastructure endorsed the addition of new pew racks, thoughtfully designed, constructed and installed by Bob Nees.

Eastminster's elevator made demands on the skills and times of committee members. After years of poor service from the current vendor, Infrastructure recommended changing contractors. Unfortunately, Eastminster missed the cancellation deadline for an auto-renewing contract and required legal assistance to exit the agreement. The situation was resolved with a penalty payment, and elevator maintenance is now on a healthier footing.

Finally, 2025 included a pragmatic "Batteries & Bulbs Day," during which volunteers replaced restroom batteries and installed LED bulbs throughout the sanctuary. The transition improved lighting, qualified

Eastminster for energy rebates from the Board of Water and Light, and will reduce electricity use.

Every project — whether visible or tucked away in a boiler room — reflects Eastminster's commitment to caring for the resources entrusted to us. Maintaining a safe, functional, and hospitable building enables ministry to flourish and extends the life of a facility that serves so many.

Committee Members

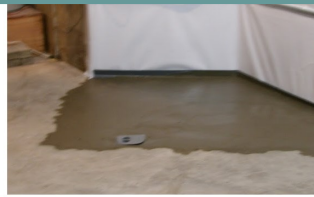
- Norm Mackay, Chair
- Susan Smalley, secretary
- Frank Boster
- Linda Hardenbergh
- Robert Kleine
- Sara Weeden
- Rev. Kristin Stroble
- Bridgette Redman, office administrator





Boiler Room Repairs

Ayers Basement Systems rerouted our drainage to eliminate water leakage problems in the basement and elevator pit.



*Every repair is
a quiet act of
welcome.*

Financials

Infrastructure plays a vital role in Eastminster's life, tending to the church's financial health with diligence and transparency so that our ministry can flourish. Throughout 2025, the committee continued to strengthen financial practices, increase interest income, and plan responsibly for the years ahead.

Early in the year, funds from Endowment Income eliminated a Capital Improvement deficit. In February, Infrastructure moved cash funds into a higher-yield Money Market account, generating meaningful interest throughout the year and making better use of the resources entrusted to the church. Additional transfers followed as this strategy proved beneficial.

Infrastructure partnered with the Presbyterian Foundation to analyze Eastminster's giving trends and worked through recommendations from the recent financial review, including updating the fixed assets list, revising fund descriptions for clarity, and recommending changes to the Endowment and Investment policy to strengthen oversight and governance.

In the fall, Infrastructure supported the stewardship season, offering education on planned giving, participating in worship, and assisting with pledge responses for 2026. Updates to the chart of accounts provided clearer reporting, and the committee concluded the year by preparing the 2026 budget for Session approval.

Much of this work happens quietly—spread across spreadsheets, policies, audits, and long conversations—but its influence is felt everywhere. Thoughtful financial stewardship allows Eastminster to plan boldly, respond faithfully, and continue its mission with confidence.

Reducing Our Debt

As a church, we strive to be responsible stewards—fulfilling our obligations and supporting ministry with integrity. Our debt payments during 2025 included a total of \$717.72 in interest and \$72,967 in principle. Thanks to a generous gift made in memory of a beloved spouse, Eastminster retired its renovation loan and ended the year debt-free. This blessing allows us to direct more of our resources toward ministry, care and community rather than debt service.



Partners in Care

Eastminster's ministry relies on more than committees, volunteers and clergy. It also depends on trusted vendors whose steady work keeps our building safe, clean and welcoming throughout the year. Their expertise is an often-

unseen form of hospitality and stewardship, helping the church fulfill its mission in practical ways.

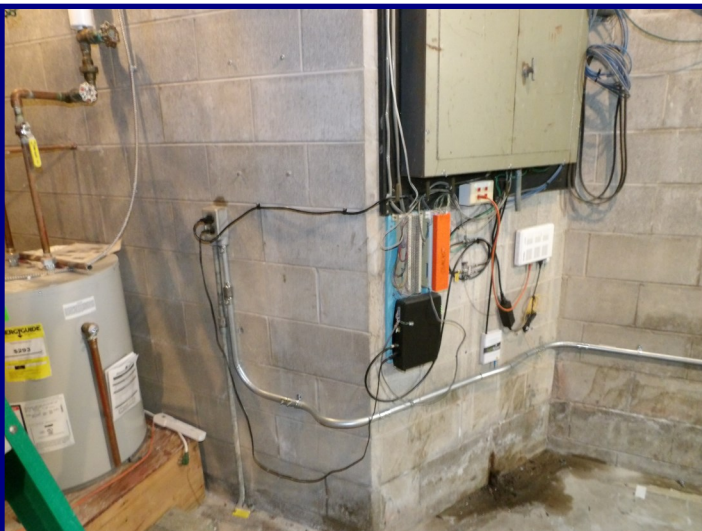
Springer's Cleaning Service has cared for Eastminster's spaces for many years. Twice each week, and more when needs arise, Paul Gomulka arrives to clean, stock supplies, and prepare the building for the next gathering. Paul's attention to detail extends beyond routine cleaning. He alerts us to water on the floor, mechanical concerns, or other issues before they become larger problems. Even the simple act of ensuring recycling is handled well reflects his commitment to creating a facility that serves rather than distracts.



Our chancel is brought to life each week through the artistry of **The Floral Gallery in Perry**. Susie, our florist, provides beautiful arrangements that enhance worship and mark special seasons in the church year. She prepares arrangements for memorial services and special requests from members of the congregation. She sources beautiful Easter lilies and poinsettias. Her flexibility, creativity, and thoughtful collaboration allow Eastminster to celebrate, honor, and remember with dignity and beauty.

*Faithfulness is
sometimes found in
mops, snow shovels,
and furnace checks.*

The grounds outside are entrusted to **Vera Lawn Care**, whose work extends through all seasons. Vera's team mows, clears snow, salts sidewalks, and keeps the campus tidy. Their responsiveness is extraordinary. This year they prepared the Garden ahead of an interment service, removed weeds, and cleared grass from sidewalk cracks. During a winter blizzard, they arrived on short notice before a memorial service to make sure entrances were safe and accessible for all. Their dedication kept our grounds safe and beautiful.



Finally, the unseen but essential systems of the building are maintained by **T.H. Eifert**, who has long serviced Eastminster's boiler and HVAC systems. Their regular inspections, maintenance work, and quick responses to service calls ensure that the building remains warm in winter, cool in summer, and functional year-round. An ongoing maintenance contract provides continuity and peace of mind, allowing ministries to continue without interruption.

These partnerships may not appear in the bulletin on Sunday mornings, yet their faithfulness supports everything from worship to fellowship meals to memorial services. Eastminster is grateful for the care these professionals show to our community.

Administrative Work

Infrastructure coordinates the administrative functions that support Eastminster's ministry and day-to-day operations. Throughout 2025, the committee continued to strengthen our internal processes, review policies, and ensure compliance with best practices.

Early in the year, Infrastructure assisted with Records Day by preparing, organizing and filing documents from 2024 and establishing new records for 2025. In August, Infrastructure completed annual reviews with Eastminster staff, offering feedback, support and encouragement for their ongoing work. The committee is grateful for the dedication and professionalism of Eastminster's employees and the many ways they contribute to the life of the church.

Infrastructure brought several policy recommendations to Session over the course of the year, including updates to Eastminster's bylaws and internal policies. After consultation with the Deacons, Infrastructure recommended resuming the passing of the collection plate during worship. The committee applied for a rebate related to a municipal utility fee, which resulted in a \$3,874 payment to Eastminster. These efforts reflect Infrastructure's commitment to thoughtful governance, administrative clarity and responsible stewardship of church resources.

New and Revised Policies

- Anti-Racism Policy
- Anti-Harassment Policy
- Sexual Misconduct Policy
- Memorial Policy
- Collection Revenue and Weekly Donations and Income Form
- Bylaw change allowing annual meeting to be held within 45 days of year end rather than 30 days

Music and Administrative Staff

Behind the scenes of worship and daily ministry are two roles that help keep Eastminster moving with rhythm and order.

Tamar Mikeladze, DMA

Tamar provides music for worship services throughout the year, shaping the sound of our shared prayer and praise. She plays for most memorial services, offering comfort and beauty during times of grief. Tamar regularly secures guest musicians—often students and professional singers and instrumentalists from Michigan State University—broadening the musical palette of our worship life and helping us welcome new artistic voices into our sanctuary.



Bridgette Redman, Office Administrator

Bridgette manages the administrative, financial, and operational functions of the church, serving as a central point of communication for staff, volunteers, vendors, and ministry leaders. She prepares the weekly bulletin, coordinates accounting and reporting with the treasurer, manages vendors and building use, and supports committees with information and logistics. During Pastor Kristin's sabbatical, Bridgette provided additional coordination across ministries and memorial services and ensured continuity of daily operations in the building. Each January, she produces the Annual Report, gathering stories, data, and photos that reflect the life of the congregation over the past year.

Continuity is its own form of care—keeping the work steady while the journey unfolds.



*Where
worship
meets care,
the Deacons
are already
there.*

Deacons

2025 was a busy year for the Eastminster Deacons; with a focus on dedication, determination, and change.

One major difference from 2024 was the number of memorial services. The Deacons stand ready to help facilitate the services and support families to help ensure a memorable service for those who have passed. One service was for Elaine Cable, who was an active Deacon at the time. Suzanne Hunt stepped in to take Elaine's place in the Deacon Class of 2027.

We said farewell to the Deacon Class of 2025 in August, thanking Sulin Campbell, Jeff Lapinski, and Barb Dalzell for their efforts. We welcomed Emmanuel Yewah as a new Deacon, along with a familiar face in Jeff Lapinski, who returned to serve again. Our goal is to have nine Deacons, which leaves us one Deacon short. We want to fill that spot as soon as possible. We also look forward to welcoming new Deacons later this year.

Alongside other members of the church, we helped support a welcome back gathering for Pastor Kristin as she returned from her sabbatical; and the celebration of her journey on the El Camino trail. We supported a celebration to honor Neil Myer and his 10-year anniversary with Eastminster and the work that he has done.

Michigan weather did a good job this summer as we were able to host outdoor fellowships following outdoor services. Eastminster hosted the March meeting of The Presbytery of Lake Michigan. This required several Deacons to assist in the setup, registration, getting space ready for lunch, and, of course, making lots of coffee!

The normal week-to-week duties of the Deacons remained the same overall in 2025. We ensure those that need transportation can get to church, along with scheduling a smiling face at the door to greet you when you arrive. Preparing fellowship for folks to enjoy after worship is a main responsibility as well as ushering during service. We send greeting cards for various events for members of the church and send gift cards to our college students during exam time. One change in 2025, was the return of the offering plates. These have been re-introduced to worship for the offering, and have also been leveraged for additional aspects of our worship service.

Deacons 2025 expenditures were \$226.29.

The Deacons continue to provide support to our church and look forward to continuing to do so in 2026. —Jason Giddings, Moderator





A House with Open Doors

Hospitality at Eastminster is not limited to fellowship hour or Sunday mornings. Throughout the week our building quietly becomes a gathering place for learning, recovery, music, voting and community life. Five Alcoholics Anonymous groups meet here every week, joined by an Al-Anon leaders group who gathers monthly. Our sanctuary is home to the Lansing Matinee Musicale and their treasured Steinway grand, filling the space

Hospitality is not an event here. It's a way of being.

with rehearsals and four annual concerts by the Morning Glory Singers and other LMM ensembles.

Handbells ring through the hallways as the Capital City Bell Ringers and the Community Handbell Choir rehearse here weekly on Sunday and Monday evenings. A string ensemble practices in the Green Room, and music teachers Penny Draper and Debra Hobart host student recitals throughout the year. In 2025, we welcomed a Girl Scout troop for the first time.

Later in the year, a new SATB ensemble—Queer Heart—asked whether Eastminster could become their home. Session joyfully agreed, and in early 2026 they held auditions and began rehearsals. Beyond the arts, Eastminster also serves as a polling location, helping neighbors participate in our civic life with ease.

Building Use Donations in 2025

- AA groups: \$1,535
- Musical groups: \$2,322
- Other groups: \$200

Church buildings are often overlooked until something breaks, yet these walls quietly bear witness to lives being healed, people being formed, and communities being welcomed. Opening our doors is one of the simplest ministries we practice, and one of the most meaningful.



Eastminster by the Numbers

- Membership Changes:
 - ◆ Membership as of December 2024: 98
 - ◆ Membership as of December 2025: 89
- Average weekly attendance: 71
- There are 38 adult non-members who participate in the life and worship of Eastminster
- 9 funerals/memorial services





**Mary Jo
Shankland**

Jan. 19, 1928-
Jan. 5, 2025



**Thelma
Hadden**

Feb. 3, 1931-
Feb. 15, 2025



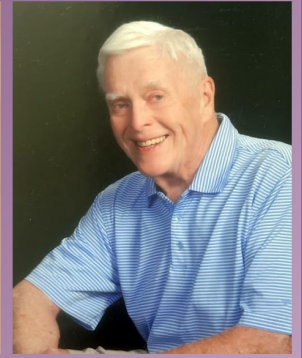
**Elaine
Cable**

Sept. 23, 1937-
May 26, 2025



**Margaret
Pearson**

Oct. 11, 1933-
July 29, 2025



**Edmund "Ted"
Hagan**

April 12, 1930-
Aug. 9, 2025

In Remembrance of Eastminster Saints 2025



**David Arthur
Merchant**

Sept. 18, 1930-
Aug. 24, 2025



**Nancy Jean
Lott Hunter**

Jan. 20, 1939-
Aug. 27, 2025



**Barbara
Dalzell**

May 4, 1943-
Nov. 15, 2025



**Cynthia
Dibello**

April 18, 1931-
Nov. 16, 2026



**Rev. Chase
Hunt**

Aug. 7, 1930-
Dec. 1, 2025

Memorial Committee

The Memorial Committee stewards gifts given in honor and remembrance of loved ones, ensuring they are used thoughtfully and recorded with care. Memorial funds support items that enhance worship, music, and the life of the congregation, and each purchase is documented in Eastminster's Memorial Book.

In 2025, Eastminster received **\$4,100** in memorial donations. At the request of the family, **\$1,705** was designated for the Musician's Fund, supporting guest musicians for worship. An additional **\$76** was used to purchase a new candle holder for the sanctuary. Remaining funds will be held for future memorial requests and needs.

These gifts, given in gratitude and love, continue to strengthen Eastminster's ministry and honor the legacies of those we remember.

Committee Members

- Susan Smalley
- Dave Duryea
- Barb Lowes
- Heather Myer
- Barb Stowitts

Memorial Ministry and Garden Interments

In 2025, Eastminster gathered to remember and give thanks for the lives of ten members and friends who died over the course of the year. Whether the departed were lifelong members, former members, or regular attendees, the church embraced their families in a season of grief and remembrance.

In all of these instances, the deacons were present serving the families, helping memorial services to run smoothly, and administering care to all who needed it.

A distinctive part of this ministry is Eastminster's garden, where ashes may be interred. While individual locations are unmarked, bronze name ribbons are added to communal plaques — a quiet testimony to shared life, love, and faith. The garden has become a place of beauty and welcome for families who seek a sacred resting place for those they cherish.

This year the church also opened its doors — and its garden — to three families whose loved ones were not current members. The first was the family of Otho Otte, son of former member Grace Otte. His family held an outdoor service in the garden. During Pastor Kristin's sabbatical, the service was led by Rev. Lisa Schrott of the Presbyterian Church of Okemos.

***In life and in death, we
belong to God — and to
one another.***

Later in the summer, the children of Don Aschom reached out to ask whether they might inter their father's remains at Eastminster. Don had been an active member decades prior before moving out of state. His family gathered in the garden for a simple outdoor service supported by the Deacons, including Jeff Lapinski who had grown up alongside Don's children.

After Pastor Kristin returned from sabbatical, the congregation welcomed the family of Kelly Cleary, grandson of longtime members Bill and Maxine Cleary. Kelly's tragic death in a motorcycle accident brought family and friends to Eastminster, and his ashes were interred in the garden.

In addition to these three services, the church held six memorial services for members and friends throughout the year, including Thelma Hadden, Elaine Cable, Ted Hagan, Dave Merchant, Barb Dalzell and Chase Hunt. Through prayer, hospitality, and presence, Eastminster sought to honor the departed and surround their families with compassion and care.



EASTMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

UKirk

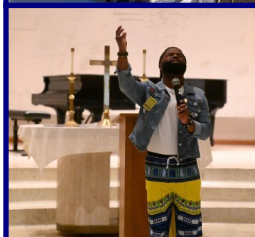


Sharing, Studying, Serving, Showing God's Love

College Conference

One of our favorite annual faith formation events is College Conference at Montreat. We started 2025 in the Blue Ridge Mountains and joined with other UKirk network ministries from around the country for a few days of worship,

keynotes, workshops, critical conversations and more. We shared lodge space with the UKirk groups from Florida State and Arkansas and were grateful for the hospitality of UKirk UTK (Tennessee) who let us stay both on the way there AND on our slightly early return to beat a winter snow and ice storm that was about to blanket Tennessee and Kentucky!



UKirk Book Project rolls over 9000 books distributed!

Our UKirk Book Project partnerships continued and expanded this fall. For the third consecutive year, we were invited by Community Mental Health of Ingham, Clinton and Eaton counties to participate in their day at Potter Park Zoo where our UKirkers distributed book project books. In November, the Green Team from Presbyterian Church of Okemos partnered with UKirk to put into action a grant they received to distribute books about the environment and Earth care at one of our Greater Lansing Food Bank mobile distributions. We appreciate the ways UKirk Book Project continues to serve the community and for the partnerships that have been established. To date, UKirk Book project has distributed over 9,000 new and

gently used books to kids and youth living in book deserts in the Greater Lansing area!

UKirk at Michigan State feeds hungry college students body, mind, soul and Spirit with the radically inclusive love of Jesus Christ so that they may embody that love in the Church and the world.



Jesus and Justice Young Adult Advocacy Conference

In September, UKirk was pleased to partner with the Presbyterian Church (USA) Office of Public Witness in Washington, DC and the United Nations to bring the Jesus and Justice Young Adult Advocacy Conference to Lansing. What a joy it was to connect with our national staff and leaders! Young adults from 14 different states participated in the conference which included worship, workshops on topics like Christian nationalism, LGBTQIA+ issues, im-



migration and reparations. The conference ended with a time of prayer and public witness on the Capitol steps. Rev. Jihyun Oh (Stated Clerk of the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church (USA), Rev. Cece Armstrong (Co-Moderator of General Assembly) and Rev. Jimmie Hawkins (Director of Office of Public Witness) were all part of the event's leadership.

Weekly Gatherings

Our weekly gatherings on Wednesday nights are an anchor of our ministry with a number of our students building their schedules around it. This past year, topics and bible studies have included mental health, interfaith relationships, the (not one) two Genesis accounts of creation, faith and music (sacred, praise, and otherwise), practicing faith in daily life, biblical canonization, the gospels, Isaiah, Micah and more! UKirk continues to be a place to ask, wonder, worship, study, grow, serve, learn and practice faith together in authentic ways!



Partnerships with MSU Student Food Bank/Spartan Shelf and International Day of Peace

In April, UKirk partnered with MSU Student Food Bank (Spartan Shelf) to host an essential needs drive at the East Lansing Kroger. That drive in the course of several hours included collecting over 1100 hygiene and cleaning products and additional baby food and cash donations. In November, UKirkers prepared fall treat bags for a food bank distribution. UKirk took part in MSU's first-ever interfaith celebration of UN's International Day of Peace. Campus Minister Neil Myer currently serves as president of the MSU Religious Advisors Association.

Trivia FUNdraisers

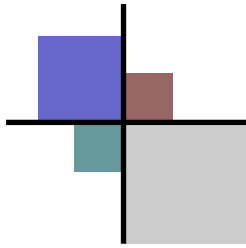
Twice each year, UKirk hosts a spirited Trivia Night fundraiser, with students running the dessert auction and keeping the competition lively. Area churches field teams to compete for bragging rights and the coveted trophy. In 2025, Trivia Nights were held on April 4 and November 14, raising a combined total of \$6,416 to support UKirk's ministry to students.



UKirk Finances

UKirk is funded through partnership giving, grants, presbytery support, and individual donations; its budget is separate from Eastminster's operating budget. Eastminster acts as UKirk's fiduciary.

Account #	Account Name	Period Activity	YTD Balance	Annual Budget	Annual Budget Remaining
Income					
42100	UKirk REVENUE				
42102	UKirk Beginning Balance	0.00	0.00	8,237.00	8,237.00
42105	Presbytery	1,583.33	18,999.96	19,000.00	0.04
42110	Partner Church Support	3,500.00	16,000.00*	15,700.00	(300.00)
42115	Fundraising	295.00	6,416.00*	6,000.00	(416.00)
42120	NWC Grant	0.00	17,758.02*	3,000.00	(14,758.02)
42125	Individual Giving	606.06	10,231.24*	7,000.00	(3,231.24)
	Total UKirk REVENUE	\$5,984.39	\$69,405.22*	58,937.00	(10,468.22)
	Total Income	\$5,984.39	\$69,405.22*	\$58,937.00	(\$10,468.22)
Total Expense					
51100	UKirk Personnel Expenses				
51105	UKirk Director Salary	2,661.26	31,935.12*	31,935.00	(0.12)
51110	PCUSA Benefits	1,550.24	18,602.88	18,603.00	0.12
51115	UKirk FICA	195.32	2,343.84	2,443.00	99.16
51120	UKirk Continuing Education	80.00	918.07	1,000.00	81.93
51125	UKirk Cell Phone Reimbursement	600.00	600.00	600.00	0.00
	Total UKirk Personnel Expenses	\$5,086.82	\$54,399.91	54,581.00	181.09
51200	UKirk Expenses - Fees				
51210	MSU RAA	0.00	80.00	80.00	0.00
51215	UKirk Insurance	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
51220	UKirk Worker's Compensation	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
51230	UKirk National Association	0.00	100.00	100.00	0.00
51235	UKirk Donation Fees/Vanco	9.02	83.90*	50.00	(33.90)
	Total UKirk Expenses - Fees	\$9.02	\$263.90*	230.00	(33.90)
51300	UKirk Promo/Publicity				
51315	UKirk Postage	0.00	0.00	125.00	125.00
51320	UKirk Banners/Publicity	0.00	481.00	500.00	19.00
51325	UKirk Website/email	0.00	343.90*	300.00	(43.90)
	Total UKirk Promo/Publicity	\$0.00	\$824.90	925.00	100.10
51400	UKirk Outreach				
51405	Relationship Building	96.65	876.09	1,000.00	123.91
51410	UKirk Mileage	361.20	361.20	600.00	238.80
51412	UKirk Parking	19.00	103.11	120.00	16.89
51415	UKirk Mission	0.00	20.00	1,500.00	1,480.00
	Total UKirk Outreach	\$476.85	\$1,360.40	3,220.00	1,859.60
51500	UKirk Program				
51505	UKirk Office Supplies	0.00	0.00	75.00	75.00
51515	UKirk Weekly Gathering	164.09	803.31	1,000.00	196.69
51520	UKirk Worship	0.00	0.00	50.00	50.00
51525	UKirk Retreats	0.00	0.00	600.00	600.00
51530	Montreat Conference	1,399.56	1,878.94*	1,800.00	(78.94)
51535	Book Bank	0.00	0.00	50.00	50.00
51545	Graduate Recognition	0.00	0.00	75.00	75.00
	Total UKirk Program	\$1,563.65	\$2,682.25	3,650.00	967.75
	Total Expense	\$7,136.34	\$59,531.36	\$62,606.00	\$3,074.64
	Difference	(\$1,151.95)	\$9,873.86	(\$3,669.00)	



Congregation/Corporation Annual Meeting February 1, 2026 Agenda

Call to Order, Declaration of Quorum, Opening Prayer

Rev. Kristin Stroble, Moderator

Minutes of Prior Congregational Meetings (pp. 34-37)

Susan Smalley, Clerk of Session

Report of the Nominating Committee (p. 37)

Heather Myer, 2026 Nominating Committee

Financial Reports and Budget (pp. 38-47)

Endowment Report (p. 48)

Memorial Report (p. 29)

Robert Kleine, Treasurer

2026 Terms of Call, Pastor (p. 5)

Adjournment and Closing Prayer

Rev. Kristin Stroble, Moderator



Minutes of 2025 Congregational Meetings

Eastminster Presbyterian Church

Annual Meeting of the Congregation/Corporation

January 26, 2025

The annual meeting of the congregation of Eastminster Presbyterian Church, East Lansing, Michigan, was held on Sunday, January 26, 2025, at 10:50 A.M., immediately following worship service, in the church sanctuary. The moderator, Rev. Kristin Stroble, called the meeting to order, declared there was a quorum, and opened with prayer.

There was a motion that this meeting constitute the annual meeting of the corporation of Eastminster Presbyterian Church for 2025, and that its proceedings and conclusions are the actions of the corporation. The motion was supported and was carried.

Minutes of the annual congregational business and program meetings in 2024 were provided in advance electronically and at the meeting, as part of the 2024 Annual Report. Both had been previously approved by the session. There was a motion that the congregation approve the minutes of the meetings. The motion was seconded and carried.

Susan Smalley presented the nominating committee's report and placed in nomination its slate of at-large members: Bruce Augenstein, Jim Engelkes, Mary Harvey and Heather Myer. Rev. Stroble called for additional nominations from the floor; there were none. There was a motion to close nominations and cast a unanimous ballot for these at-large nominees. The motion was seconded and was carried. Smalley also thanked the 2024 committee members: Charlotte Smith, Estelle McGroarty, Rick Johnston, Mary Harvey, Irv Nichols and Elaine Cable.

Treasurer Bob Kleine presented the financial reports and budget. 2024 total ongoing income of \$320,745 exceeded the \$299,600 budgeted income and actual expenses of \$348,809 were lower than the \$363,336 budgeted expenses. That meant that we had to transfer only \$28,064 from reserves and endowment income to balance the budget rather than the \$63,036 budgeted. Reserves at year-end were \$113,379 and endowment funds were \$941,746. Expenses continue to exceed revenue, due mostly to inflation and member losses. Although our current financial position is solid, we continue to face budget challenges. Work is under way to develop a five-year financial plan to deal with these issues.

The 2025 budget was presented. There was a motion to receive the treasurer's report. The motion was seconded and carried.

Rev. Stroble presented an amendment to the Eastminster Bylaws that was recommended by Session, explaining that it allowed additional time to complete the year's financial reports during an extremely busy time of year. Elder Charlotte Smith moved to accept the recommendation as written: There shall be an annual meeting of the Congregation in the church within the forty-five (45) days following the end of the fiscal year as set by the Session for the transaction of any business properly coming before such meeting. The motion was seconded and carried.

Rev. Stroble left the room and the Rev. Jeff O'Neill served as moderator in her absence. Elder Norm McKay presented the Terms of Call for Rev. Stroble as printed in the annual report. There were questions about taxation of the housing allowance and about how the cost of living, which formed the basis for salary adjustments, had been determined. There was a motion to approve the pastor's terms of call. It was seconded and carried.

Cash Salary \$50,796

Housing Allowance \$25,000

Total Effective Salary \$75,796

BOP (26%) \$19,707
SECA Allowance \$5,276
Professional Development: \$1,500
Professional Expenses \$1,000
Auto Reimbursement \$1,300

Vacation: 35 days, including 5 Sundays, annually
Professional Development: 14 days, including 2 Sundays
Service to the larger church: 7 days
Sabbatical: 3 months after seven years consecutive service.

There was a motion to adjourn. The motion was seconded by and carried. The meeting was adjourned with prayer at 11:16 A.M.

Respectfully submitted, Susan Smalley, Clerk of Session Rev. Kristin Stroble

Eastminster Presbyterian Church
Congregational Meeting
Sunday, June 29, 2025

Moderator Rev. Fran Lane-Lawrence called the meeting to order at 11:10 A.M. She opened with prayer and declared that a quorum was present. She reminded us that the meeting had been called for the purpose of receiving the Nominating Committee's report and electing church officers.

There was a motion that this meeting constitute a meeting of the corporation of Eastminster Presbyterian Church and that its proceedings and conclusions are the actions of the corporation. The motion was seconded and carried.

Charlotte Smith, Elder and Chair of the Nominating Committee thanked committee members Elder Sam O'Neill, Deacon Estelle McGroarty, and at-large members Mary Harvey, Bruce Augenstein, Jim Engelkes and Heather Myer. She presented the slate of nominees:

- Frank Boster, Elder, Class of 2028
- David Duryea, Elder, Class of 2028
- Sara Weeden, Elder, Class of 2028
- Jeff Lapinski, Deacon, Class of 2028
- Suzanne Hunt, Deacon, Class of 2027

Two deacon vacancies in the Class of 2028 remain and Charlotte asked anyone interested to contact her.

The moderator invited nominations from the floor. Hearing none, she declared the nominations closed and the slate of nominees elected. There was a nomination to adjourn with a unanimous vote to do so. She then offered a closing prayer and adjourned the meeting at 11:16 A.M.

Respectfully submitted,
Susan Smalley, Clerk of Session Rev. Kristin Stroble

Minutes of 2025 Congregational Meetings

Eastminster Presbyterian Church
Congregational Meeting
August 24, 2025

Moderator the Rev. Kristin Stroble called the meeting to order at 10:45 AM with prayer, sShe declared there was a quorum and reminded all that the purpose of the meeting was to elect an officer and to share information with the congregation about a building issue.

Charlotte Smith, chair of the Nominating committee, presented Emmanuel Yewah as a deacon nominee. Rev. Stroble called for additional nominations from the floor. Hearing none, she invited a motion to close nominations and cast a unanimous ballot for Emmanuel. After a chorus of motions, she called for a vote and the election was unanimous.

Rev. Stroble then introduced Norman Mackay, chair of Infrastructure, who read the following:

Friends,

We are faced with another chapter in Eastminster's ongoing building maintenance saga. As you may know, Eastminster has contracted with Schindler Elevator Co to maintain our elevator since its installation. Over the past few years, we have been frustrated with their service. The inspection visits were sporadic during Covid. The situation came to a head in December 2024, when Schindler tried to upgrade our push button board at the cost of \$6,904. Our push button board was (and still is) working just fine and despite Schindler's pressure, we declined.

Knowing that our current Schindler contract would end on 4/30/2025, we requested quotes from other elevator maintenance companies. We erroneously believed that the Schindler contract would renew unless we gave notice 30 days in advance of its end date. We selected Great Lakes Elevator for our new contract, signed with them, and notified Schindler on 3/4/2025 that we decided not to renew their contract. However, Schindler informed us that the contract required 90 days' prior notification to avoid automatic renewal, meaning we should have notified them on or around the end of January 2025.

We contacted both companies about our situation, learning that early cancellation would be costly. The best settlement was to pay off Schindler ½ of the total contract for the sum of \$8,202.84. We also consulted with three attorneys. They all agreed that in court such penalties for early contract termination almost always resulted in the company's winning.

Infrastructure took this issue to Session. With two contracts, it was clear that we needed to end one of them. There was discussion about whether to engage an attorney. One elder reported that their company experienced many difficulties working with Schindler and ended their contract with them. Session voted to hire an attorney to negotiate and compose a separation agreement to end our contract with Schindler at a cost of \$8,202.84. The funds will come from the Capital Improvements account. Recent money received from the Employee Retention Credit will replenish the account. This will result in having no effect on our annual budget.

How did this happen and how can we avoid similar situations in the future? Eastminster did not have a policy or process for reviewing and signing contracts. A defined process in the future will assure due diligence, i.e. checking the company's background, reviewing key dates, clarifying contacts and obligations, double-checking finances, and understanding risks. Going forward, we now have a list of all contracts with their end dates and notification requirements. Contract reviews will be added to the monthly Infrastructure meetings We will also discuss whether

we keep an attorney on retainer for future issues.

Rev. Stroble invited anyone with questions to speak to herself or a member of Session. She then closed with prayer. The meeting was adjourned at 11:00 AM.

Respectfully submitted,

Rev. Kristin Stroble, Moderator Susan Smalley, Clerk of Session

2026 Nominating Committee Report

Purpose

To nominate persons to serve the church as ordained elders on the Session, ordained deacons on the Board of Deacons, and to serve as congregational representatives on the Nominating Committee.

Members

The Nominating Committee will be composed of two elders designated by the Session and one deacon as designated by the Board of Deacons and four active members of the congregation as elected by the congregation. The pastor shall serve as an ex-officio member of the committee. All members of the Committee will be elected annually for a one-year term, and may serve up to three consecutive terms. The Chair of this committee will be an elder serving currently on the Session of the church.

2025 Nominating Committee

Designated Members

Charlotte Smith, chairperson

Estelle McGroarty, deacon

Sam O'Neill, elder

At-Large Members

Bruce Augenstein

Jim Engelkes

Mary Harvey

Heather Myer

2026 Nominating Committee

Designated Members

Frank Boster, elder

Norm Mackay, elder

Slate of At-Large Members

Jim Engelkes

Heather Myer

2025 Financial Overview

With gratitude for our congregation's faithful giving and careful stewardship, Treasurer Robert Kleine offers the following summary of Eastminster's 2025 finances.

The 2025 budget turned out better than expected as income exceeded projections for the sixth consecutive year, and expenditures were less than projected.

INCOME

Ongoing income for 2025 was **\$356,953**, which was **\$36,953** more than estimated. Pledged giving exceeded the adjusted estimate by **\$2,234** and plate revenue exceeded budgeted estimates by **\$53,739**. (Adjustment accounts for a budgeted non-received pledge that was recorded in non-pledged giving.) This was largely due to significant contributions from individuals who did not pledge, which is counted as non-pledged giving, as well as several memorial/estate contributions.

Total income was **\$361,051**.

The church also received federal COVID-related employee retention credit payments totaling **\$68,188**, which was allocated to an off-budget fund. Of this amount, **\$11,268** was transferred to UKirk as their portion of employee withholdings, **\$933** was used for the piano removal, **\$8,502** was transferred to the capital improvement fund (to cover unexpected elevator-related costs) and **\$13,607** was paid in fees to the ERC preparation company. The current balance in the fund is **\$29,883**. There is no restriction on the use of these funds and they are currently earmarked for budget shortfalls in 2026.

EXPENSES

The adopted 2025 budget was **\$365,054**. Actual expenses were **\$349,559**, **\$15,494** less than budgeted. The major changes were: saving of **\$2,922** in PILP loan payments, made possible by a **\$73,000** member contribution used to pay off the loan, savings of **\$4,600** on electric service due to a class action settlement payment from BWL, and saving of **\$4,550** in the cost of the pastor's health care insurance. The largest over-expenditures were **\$3,854** for mechanical maintenance and repair and **\$2,400** for elevator maintenance and testing.

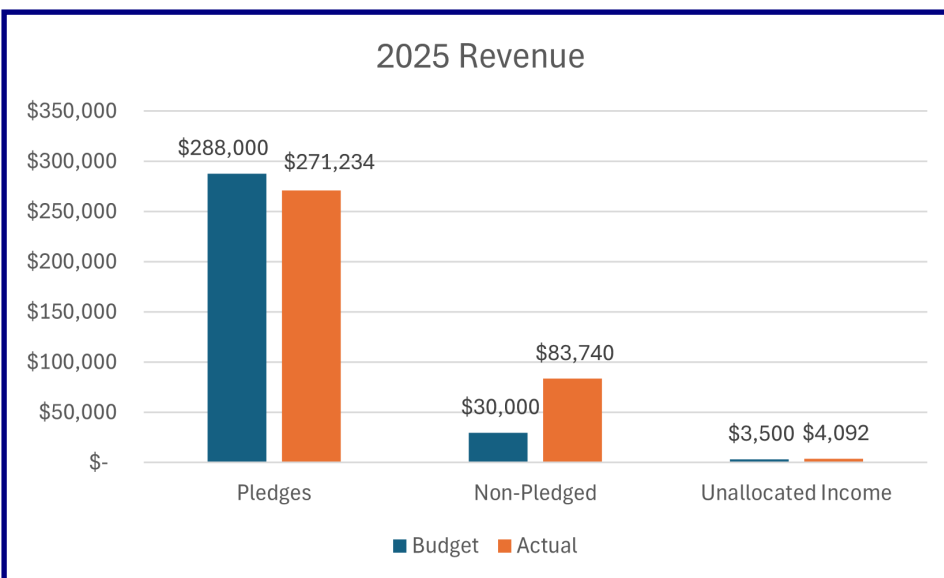
Expenditures for 2025 were 0.2% more than 2024 expenditures.

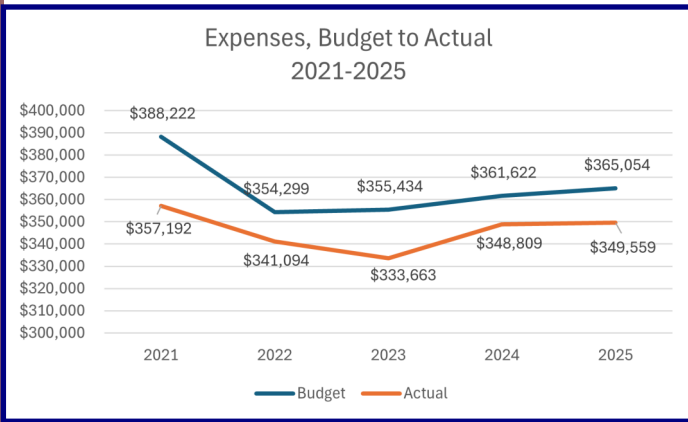
OUTCOME

The ending balance for 2025 was a positive **\$11,491**. The budget shortfall was originally estimated at **\$40,954**. This meant we did not have to tap into any of the budgeted reserve or endowment monies.

As noted, this was a much better outcome than expected, but we continue to face budget challenges in the future. We are

The ending balance for 2025 was a positive **\$11,491**. Session originally estimated a shortfall of **\$40,954**.





*Generosity remains one of
Eastminster's quiet strengths.*

projecting a budget shortfall of **\$39,746** for the 2026 budget. The projected shortfall can be covered by a transfer of **\$29,884** from the Employee Retention Credit Fund and **\$9,863** from the Endowment Income Fund. Overall, the church's finances are strong. Our reserves at the end of 2025 were **\$114,757**, and our endowment funds were **\$1,054,327**.

Our expenditures continue to exceed ongoing revenue, due in large part to declining membership and inflation.

There is little room for significant budget cuts, as we have already made substantial cuts in the budget in the past few years. Personnel accounts for 65% of the budget and building and grounds for almost 19%, leaving little room for significant budget cuts. Also, we have reduced our budget by about 23%, adjusted for inflation, over the past five years.

The generous support of our congregation continues to be a blessing.

Submitted by: Robert Kleine, Treasurer

Employee Retention Credit (ERC)

During the pandemic, many employers, including Eastminster, became eligible for a federal program called the Employee Retention Credit. The ERC was designed to help organizations who kept employees on payroll when workplaces and revenue were disrupted.

Eastminster applied for the credit in 2023 with the help of a preparation company called Innovation Refunds, which handled the tax filings for a 25% fee. The IRS issued two payments before the program was temporarily paused nationwide. In 2025, the IRS resumed processing claims. Although the IRS ultimately reduced the amount Innovation Refunds requested on our behalf, the credit still provided a significant benefit to the church.

Eastminster received **\$15,331.42** in 2023 before the program was paused. In 2025, Eastminster received **\$68,188**. These funds were placed in an off-budget account so that Session could consider how best to use them for the life and work of the church. A portion was distributed to UKirk to reflect their payroll participation; some covered a piano removal and elevator repair needs; and a required fee was paid to the preparation company. As of the publication of this report, the remaining balance is **\$29,883**, with no restrictions on how it may be used.

ERC Money Received in 2025:

Date	Refund	Period	Interest	Fee	UKirk portion	EPC portion
2/18/25	\$23,069.53	Q2 2021	\$4,487.33	\$4,645.55	\$5,158.43	\$13,265.55
2/24/25	\$24,812.67	Q1 2021	\$4,987.27	\$4,985.64	\$5,353.29	\$14,473.74
3/3/25	\$3,376.87	Q4 2020	\$682.38	\$673.62	\$756.91	\$1,946.34
6/17/25	\$16,929.61	Q3 2021	\$905.91	\$4,005.93	\$3,489.39	\$9,434.29
TOTALS	\$68,188.68			\$14,310.74	\$14,758.02	\$39,119.92

Balance Sheet

Assets		
10200	Checking - Horizon Bank	62,931.72
10220	Money Market	76,976.95
11025	dfcu financial--CD account	0.00
	Total Current Assets	\$139,908.67
10270	Endowment Fund/New Covenant Trust	1,058,263.64
10760	LPL Financial Investments	116,280.86
10765	LPL Trading Account	915.30
	Total Investments	\$1,175,459.80
11000	Furniture and Equipment	309,548.74
12000	Property and Buildings	1,519,455.00
13000	Hand Bells	4,795.26
	Total Fixed Assets	\$1,833,799.00
	Total Assets	\$3,149,167.47
Liabilities		
20000	Accounts Payable/Vendors	50.19
20200	Federal Income Tax	0.00
20210	FICA Withholding	0.00
20230	Michigan Income Tax	0.00
20240	Pledges Payable	37,100.00
20242	Per Capita Payable	169.68
20246	PILP Renovations Loan Amount	0.00
20250	Local Income Tax	0.00
20300	Payroll Clearing Account	325.00
	Total Liabilities	\$37,644.87
Fund Balances		
30100	General Operating Fund Balance	332,648.40
31000	Capital Improvement Balance	0.00
31050	Endowment Fund Balance	1,058,263.64
31060	Investment Fund Balance	117,163.51
31085	In-Out / Passthrough Account Balance	0.00
31100	Christmas Joy Offering Fund Balance	340.06
31200	One Great Hour of Sharing Fund Balance	0.00
31300	Peace & Global Witness Fund Balance	450.86
31400	Centsability Fund Balance	0.00
31500	Deacons Fund Balance	1,929.62
31600	Musicians Fund Balance	4,141.85
31800	PILP Renovations Loan Balance	0.00
32000	Pentecost Offering Fund Balance	50.12
32100	Organ Fund Balance	0.00
33100	Interfaith Security Fund Balance	0.00
34100	Christian Ed. Restricted Fund Balance	1,044.39
35200	EE Health Savings Account Balance	0.00
35700	Memorial Fund Balance	21,272.93
35800	All Faith Alliance Balance	300.00
36500	Employee Retention Credit Balance	29,883.75
37100	Special Mission Fund Balance	3,109.47
37200	Pastor Discretionary Balance	4,583.36
38100	Chancel Flowers Fund Balance	848.04
39100	Garden Fund Balance	3,903.50
39200	UKirk Fund Balance	18,111.20
39700	Endowment Interest Balance	40,620.32
39990	Net Assets Balance	1,472,857.58
	Total Fund Balances	\$3,111,522.60
	Total Liabilities and Fund Balances	\$3,149,167.47

Consolidated Fund Report

Eastminster Presbyterian Church - East Lansing MI Consolidated Fund Activity Report as of 12/31/2025

Thursday, January 22, 2026

Account #	Account Name	Beg Balance	Receipts	Disbursements	Transfers/JE's	End Balance
31000	Capital Improvement Balance	(13,200.68)	95,202.92	82,002.24	0.00	0.00
31085	In-Out / Passthrough Account Balance	(5,086.17)	77,922.44	75,385.10	2,548.83	0.00
31100	Christmas Joy Offering Fund Balance	485.00	340.06	485.00	0.00	340.06
31200	One Great Hour of Sharing Fund Balance	0.00	1,282.08	1,282.08	0.00	0.00
31300	Peace & Global Witness Fund Balance	646.00	450.86	646.00	0.00	450.86
31400	Centsability Fund Balance	521.85	407.77	929.62	0.00	0.00
31500	Deacons Fund Balance	1,928.69	200.00	199.07	0.00	1,929.62
31600	Musicians Fund Balance	2,986.84	1,755.01	600.00	0.00	4,141.85
31800	PILP Renovations Loan Balance	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
32000	Pentecost Offering Fund Balance	0.00	50.12	0.00	0.00	50.12
32100	Organ Fund Balance	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
34100	Christian Ed. Restricted Fund Balance	684.99	1,006.00	21.09	(625.51)	1,044.39
35200	EE Health Savings Account Balance	0.00	1,366.64	1,366.64	0.00	0.00
35700	Memorial Fund Balance	19,205.90	4,100.12	2,033.09	0.00	21,272.93
35800	All Faith Alliance Balance	0.00	300.00	0.00	0.00	300.00
36500	Employee Retention Credit Balance	170.67	68,188.68	16,882.08	(21,593.52)	29,883.75
37100	Special Mission Fund Balance	2,803.22	6,538.77	3,479.30	(2,753.22)	3,109.47
37200	Pastor Discretionary Balance	963.40	5,458.00	1,738.04	(100.00)	4,583.36
38100	Chancel Flowers Fund Balance	1,251.36	1,349.18	1,752.50	0.00	848.04
39100	Garden Fund Balance	3,660.14	999.00	755.64	0.00	3,903.50
39200	UKirk Fund Balance	8,237.34	69,405.22	59,531.36	0.00	18,111.20
39700	Endowment Interest Balance	45,244.28	18,713.43	23,587.40	250.01	40,620.32
Total		<u>\$70,502.83</u>	<u>\$355,036.30</u>	<u>\$272,676.25</u>	<u>(\$22,273.41)</u>	<u>\$130,589.47</u>

Understanding Our Funds

In addition to Eastminster's annual operating budget, the church maintains a number of designated funds. These funds work differently than the operating budget:

- **They roll over from year to year.** There is no annual "use it or lose it" requirement. Balances remain until gifts are spent for their intended purpose.
- **They are not budgeted.** We do not estimate or plan income and expenses for these funds in advance. Gifts arrive as they are given, and expenses are recorded when they occur.
- **They serve specific ministries or purposes.** Each fund is designated for a particular use. Most of the funds are governed by policy designating what they can be spent for and who can authorize expenses.
- **Giving is direct and purpose-driven.** When members or friends contribute to these funds, the money remains available until it is used for that ministry. For example, PC(USA) special offerings are passed through in full to the denomination; mission gifts are directed to their mission purpose; memorial gifts support designated needs; and music funds support worship and the arts.
- **Sub-funds within UKirk.** UKirk's finances are represented in a line of this report, and their income and expenses are tracked through sub-funds within the overall UKirk line.

Money in these funds has helped us deal with periodic unanticipated expenses such as the water in our boiler room and elevator shaft and unbudgeted needs and ministry ideas. They allow Eastminster to support ministries, projects, and mission opportunities that fall outside the annual operating budget while giving members the option to direct gifts toward the work they care most about.

Treasurer's Report

Eastminster Presbyterian Church - East Lansing MI Treasurer's Report as of December 2025 for General Operating Fund

Thursday, January 22, 2026

Page 1 of 3

Account #	Account Name	Period Activity	YTD Balance	Annual Budget	Annual Budget Remaining
Income					
40100	Pledged Giving	23,608.37	271,234.44	288,000.00	16,765.56
40300	Non-pledged Giving	14,173.68	83,739.98*	30,000.00	(53,739.98)
40600	Pre-paid Pledges	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
40750	Per-Capita Income	250.49	1,979.01	2,000.00	20.99
	Total General Contributions	\$38,032.54	\$356,953.43*	\$320,000.00	(\$36,953.43)
40700	Investment & Interest Income	0.73	5.57	600.00	594.43
40900	Unallocated Income	490.00	4,092.50*	3,500.00	(592.50)
	Total Misc. Income	\$490.73	\$4,098.07	\$4,100.00	\$1.93
40950	Transfer from Reserves	0.00	0.00	20,477.00	20,477.00
40970	Endowment Income - Program Support	0.00	0.00	20,477.00	20,477.00
	Total Transfers	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$40,954.00	\$40,954.00
40050	Beginning Balance	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
40975	In-Kind Donations	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
	Total Income	\$38,523.27	\$361,051.50	\$365,054.00	\$4,002.50
Total Expense					
52001	ADMINISTRATION AND FINANCE				
52010	Kitchen Supplies	563.84	1,166.89	1,300.00	133.11
52015	Office Supplies	262.28	1.56	1,500.00	1,498.44
52020	Postage	0.00	807.55*	800.00	(7.55)
52050	Telephone and Internet	422.09	4,176.11	4,200.00	23.89
52075	Church Windows Support	218.00	1,308.00	1,308.00	0.00
52100	Copier Maintenance and Supplies	1,209.95	6,530.78*	6,200.00	(330.78)
52105	Computer Maintenance and Supplies	0.00	311.27*	150.00	(161.27)
52150	Per-Capita Apportionment, Presbytery	0.00	4,284.00	4,284.00	0.00
52160	Vanco Donation Fees	388.98	1,423.48*	1,000.00	(423.48)
52250	PILP Renovations Loan, Interest	0.00	717.72	2,101.00	1,383.28
52260	PILP Renovations Loan, Principle	0.00	4,552.85	6,092.00	1,539.15
52300	Virtual Connectivity (Website Hosting)	44.19	478.89*	250.00	(228.89)
	Total ADMINISTRATION AND FINANCE	\$3,109.33	\$25,759.10	29,185.00	3,425.90
53001	BUILDING AND GROUNDS				
53005	Insurance	9,381.00	9,381.00	9,900.00	519.00
53025	Mechanical Maintenance & Repair	690.00	9,854.19*	6,000.00	(3,854.19)
53030	Elevator Maintenance / Testing	900.00	5,200.00*	2,800.00	(2,400.00)
53040	Electric Service	1,850.00	8,119.86	12,720.00	4,600.14
53045	Gas Service	768.20	9,434.97*	8,820.00	(614.97)
53050	Water & Sewer Service	706.91	2,394.46*	2,071.00	(323.46)
53060	Structural Maintenance & Repair	0.00	0.00	2,000.00	2,000.00
53070	Custodial Service & Supplies	2,960.99	14,975.62	15,480.00	504.38
53075	Trash, Security & Permits	162.18	2,876.58*	2,811.00	(65.58)
53110	Lawn	0.00	5,700.00*	5,500.00	(200.00)
53120	Snow	4,244.00	6,605.45*	5,500.00	(1,105.45)
53130	Trees	0.00	0.00	1,000.00	1,000.00
53140	Parking Lot	0.00	0.00	1,500.00	1,500.00
53150	Landscape	0.00	675.00	800.00	125.00
	Total BUILDING AND GROUNDS	\$21,663.28	\$75,217.13	76,902.00	1,684.87
54001	CHRISTIAN EDUCATION				
54010	Curriculum	26.75	748.47*	600.00	(148.47)
54020	Supplies	205.57	353.04	450.00	96.96

Account #	Account Name	Period Activity	YTD Balance	Annual Budget	Annual Budget Remaining
54030	Honoraria	0.00	200.00	300.00	100.00
54040	Equipment	79.08	109.07	200.00	90.93
54050	Children in Worship	15.00	130.04	200.00	69.96
54060	Youth Conferences	175.00	1,350.06	1,500.00	149.94
54070	Library	0.00	0.00	50.00	50.00
54080	Christian Education Fellowship	100.00	142.19	150.00	7.81
54100	Background Checks	9.45	9.45	175.00	165.55
	<i>Total CHRISTIAN EDUCATION</i>	<i>\$610.85</i>	<i>\$3,042.32</i>	<i>3,625.00</i>	<i>582.68</i>
55110	COMMUNITY LIFE				
55100	Church Dinners	0.00	1,167.64	1,200.00	32.36
55200	Community Outreach	0.00	500.00	500.00	0.00
55300	Community Life Fellowship	0.00	0.00	500.00	500.00
55400	Retreats	0.00	0.00	300.00	300.00
	<i>Total COMMUNITY LIFE</i>	<i>\$0.00</i>	<i>\$1,667.64</i>	<i>2,500.00</i>	<i>832.36</i>
56001	PERSONNEL				
56010	Pastor's Salary	4,233.00	50,796.00	50,796.00	0.00
56020	Pastor's Housing Allowance	2,083.34	25,000.08*	25,000.00	(0.08)
56025	Pastor's Pension and Insurance	1,610.19	15,157.00	19,707.00	4,550.00
56030	Pastor's Mileage	116.60	442.10	1,300.00	857.90
56035	Pastor's Professional Development	145.05	1,078.13	1,500.00	421.87
56040	Pastor's Expenses	16.82	994.39	1,000.00	5.61
56045	Pastor's SECA	439.66	5,275.92	5,276.00	0.08
56100	Organist Salary	1,268.58	15,222.96	15,223.00	0.04
56130	Director of Christian Education Salary	2,687.34	32,248.08*	32,248.00	(0.08)
56131	DCE Insurance	1,550.24	18,519.56*	17,225.00	(1,294.56)
56132	DCE Professional Development	905.00	999.16	1,000.00	0.84
56133	DCE Mileage	180.60	180.60	200.00	19.40
56134	DCE Expenses	0.00	419.32*	400.00	(19.32)
56150	Office Administrator Salary	2,640.58	31,686.96	31,687.00	0.04
56155	Office Administrator Insurance	706.16	8,265.58*	7,716.00	(549.58)
56200	Employer FICA and Medicare	455.72	5,468.64	6,974.00	1,505.36
56300	Guest Ministers	0.00	680.92	1,200.00	519.08
56310	Guest Organists	0.00	450.00	450.00	0.00
56350	Misc. Personnel Expense	39.55	475.80*	350.00	(125.80)
56360	Sabbatical Expenses	251.30	2,539.80	4,300.00	1,760.20
	<i>Total PERSONNEL</i>	<i>\$19,329.73</i>	<i>\$215,901.00</i>	<i>223,552.00</i>	<i>7,651.00</i>
57001	MISSION COMMITTEE				
57010	Local	2,600.00	14,956.18	15,000.00	43.82
57020	Denominational	0.00	2,750.00	2,750.00	0.00
57030	Global	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
57060	PCUSA Shared Mission	1,750.00	7,250.00*	7,000.00	(250.00)
	<i>Total MISSION COMMITTEE</i>	<i>\$4,350.00</i>	<i>\$24,956.18*</i>	<i>24,750.00</i>	<i>(206.18)</i>
58001	WORSHIP AND MUSIC				
58010	Chancel Supplies	152.97	227.97*	200.00	(27.97)
58020	Worship Resources	5.30	557.42	700.00	142.58
58030	Adult Choir	0.00	0.00	100.00	100.00
58050	Guest Musicians	200.00	965.00	1,000.00	35.00
58060	Instrument Maintenance	0.00	0.00	500.00	500.00
58065	Music Copyright	309.00	599.00*	300.00	(299.00)
58070	Worship Technology	125.00	311.49*	200.00	(111.49)

Eastminster Presbyterian Church - East Lansing MI
Treasurer's Report as of December 2025 for General Operating Fund

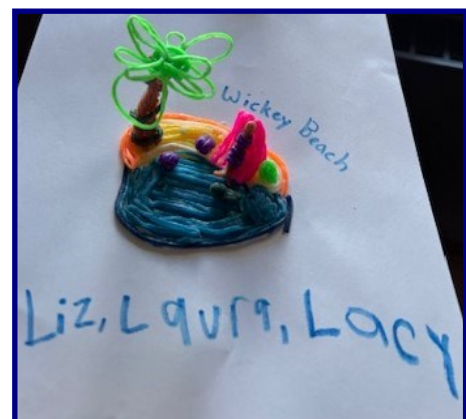
Thursday, January 22, 2026

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Account #	Account Name	Period Activity	YTD Balance	Annual Budget	Annual Budget Remaining
<i>Total WORSHIP AND MUSIC</i>		\$792.27	\$2,660.88	3,000.00	339.12
59001	SESSION				
59010	Misc. Expenses	0.00	101.66*	100.00	(1.66)
59020	New Members	0.00	0.00	100.00	100.00
59030	Officer Training	0.00	26.99	100.00	73.01
59040	Leadership Development	0.00	0.00	100.00	100.00
<i>Total SESSION</i>		\$0.00	\$128.65	400.00	271.35
59900	DEACONS	50.21	226.69	1,140.00	913.31
Total Expense		\$49,905.67	\$349,559.59	\$365,054.00	\$15,494.41
Difference		(\$11,382.40)	\$11,491.91	\$0.00	

* = Income/Expense exceeds amount budgeted to date

***Financial resources are
dedicated to care and space-
making***



2026 Budget

Thursday, January 22, 2026

Page 1 of 3

Account # Account Name

Yr Beg

01/2026

Income

40100	Pledged Giving	275,624.00
40300	Non-pledged Giving	30,000.00
40750	Per-Capita Income	2,000.00

Total General Contributions \$307,624.00

40900	Unallocated Income	3,500.00
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Total Misc. Income \$3,500.00

40951	Transfer from Funds	29,884.00
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40970	Endowment Income - Program Support	20,406.00
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Total Transfers \$50,290.00

40050	Beginning Balance	11,422.00
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Total Income \$372,836.00

Total Expense

52010	Kitchen Supplies	1,300.00
52015	Office Supplies	1,000.00
52020	Postage	850.00
52050	Telephone	1,465.00
52055	Internet	2,400.00
52075	Church Windows Support	1,310.00
52100	Copier Maintenance and Supplies	6,200.00
52105	Computer Maintenance and Supplies	150.00
52150	Per-Capita Apportionment, Presbytery	4,157.00
52160	Vanco Donation Fees	1,500.00
52300	Virtual Connectivity (Website Hosting)	1,090.00

Total ADMINISTRATION AND FINANCE 21,422.00

53005	Insurance	10,400.00
53025	Mechanical Maintenance & Repair	10,000.00
53030	Elevator Maintenance / Testing	2,500.00
53040	Electric Service	14,000.00
53045	Gas Service	9,500.00
53050	Water & Sewer Service	2,700.00
53060	Structural Maintenance & Repair	2,200.00
53070	Custodial Service & Supplies	15,900.00
53075	Trash, Security & Permits	2,060.00
53110	Lawn	5,700.00
53120	Snow	5,700.00
53130	Trees	1,000.00
53140	Parking Lot	1,200.00
53150	Landscape	1,000.00

Total BUILDING AND GROUNDS 83,860.00

54010	Curriculum	600.00
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Eastminster Presbyterian Church - East Lansing MI
Presentation Budget Report for General Operating Fund

Thursday, January 22, 2026

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Account #	Account Name	Yr Beg
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01/2026

54020	Equipment and Supplies	600.00
54030	Honoraria	300.00
54050	Children in Worship	150.00
54060	Youth Conferences	2,500.00
54070	Library	50.00
54080	Christian Education Fellowship	150.00
54100	Background Checks	175.00
	<i>Total CHRISTIAN EDUCATION</i>	4,525.00
55100	Church Dinners	1,200.00
55200	Community Outreach	500.00
55400	Retreats	300.00
	<i>Total COMMUNITY LIFE</i>	2,000.00
56010	Pastor's Salary	53,828.00
56020	Pastor's Housing Allowance	25,000.00
56025	Pastor's Pension and Insurance	21,678.00
56030	Pastor's Mileage	1,300.00
56035	Pastor's Professional Development	1,500.00
56040	Pastor's Expenses	1,000.00
56045	Pastor's SECA	6,030.00
56100	Organist Salary	15,832.00
56130	Director of Christian Education Salary	33,538.00
56131	DCE Insurance	20,248.00
56132	DCE Professional Development	1,000.00
56133	DCE Mileage	200.00
56134	DCE Expenses	400.00
56150	Office Administrator Salary	32,954.00
56155	Office Administrator Insurance	9,152.00
56200	Employer FICA and Medicare	5,694.00
56300	Guest Ministers	1,200.00
56310	Guest Organists	450.00
56340	Payroll Fees	525.00
56350	Misc. Personnel Expense	100.00
	<i>Total PERSONNEL</i>	231,629.00
57010	Local	15,000.00
57020	Denominational	3,000.00
57030	Global	0.00
57060	PCUSA Shared Mission	7,000.00
	<i>Total MISSION COMMITTEE</i>	25,000.00
58010	Chancel Supplies	200.00
58020	Worship Resources	700.00
58030	Adult Choir	100.00
58050	Guest Musicians	1,000.00
58060	Instrument Maintenance	500.00
58065	Music Copyright	300.00

**Eastminster Presbyterian Church - East Lansing MI
Presentation Budget Report for General Operating Fund**

Thursday, January 22, 2026

Page 3 of 3

Account # Account Name

Yr Beg
01/2026

58070	Worship Technology	200.00
	<i>Total WORSHIP AND MUSIC</i>	<i>3,000.00</i>
59010	Misc. Expenses	100.00
59020	New Members	100.00
59030	Officer Training	100.00
59040	Leadership Development	100.00
	<i>Total SESSION</i>	<i>400.00</i>
59900	DEACONS	1,000.00
	Total Expense	\$372,836.00



***Growing in
Community***



Endowment/Investments Report

Eastminster began 2025 with an endowment fund balance of \$943,880. Over the course of the year, the church withdrew 2 percent of the fund (\$18,713) for ministry support, and paid \$9,402 in investment fees (1 percent). The fund experienced an overall investment gain of \$129,455, including \$25,472 in dividends and interest and \$103,982 in capital gains. The year closed with a balance of \$1,054,327, reflecting a 14 percent increase from the previous year.

Committee Members

- Mike Jones, chair
- Rick Johnston
- Charlotte Smith
- Robert Kleine, ex-officio

Healthy reserves give Eastminster the flexibility to meet needs as they arise.

At year-end, the endowment was invested 59 percent in stocks and 41 percent in bonds and cash, well within the ranges set by Eastminster's investment policy (40–65 percent stocks and 30–50 percent bonds).

The Endowment Income Fund, which holds unspent disbursements for ongoing needs, ended the year with a balance of \$40,370. Expenditures in 2025 totaled \$23,586, including \$18,586 toward repairs to the basement and \$5,000 to the Pastor's Discretionary Fund.

In addition to the endowment, Eastminster continues to maintain healthy operating reserves through LPL Financial and BlackRock Investment. The Growth with Income reserve portfolio began the year at \$113,379 and ended at \$114,757, reflecting investment gains of \$15,024 and adjusted for a \$10,000 withdrawal to balance the 2024 operating budget. The 2025 return was 15.2%. These reserves are invested 62.7 percent in stocks and 37.3 percent in bonds and cash. The church also maintains a small trading account used for stock donations, which ended the year with a balance of \$915.

In 2025, the church invested \$75,000 that was not needed for immediate cash flow purposes into a money market fund managed by LPL Financial. That investment ended the year at \$76,908, earning \$2,700 in interest—a 3.6 percent return.

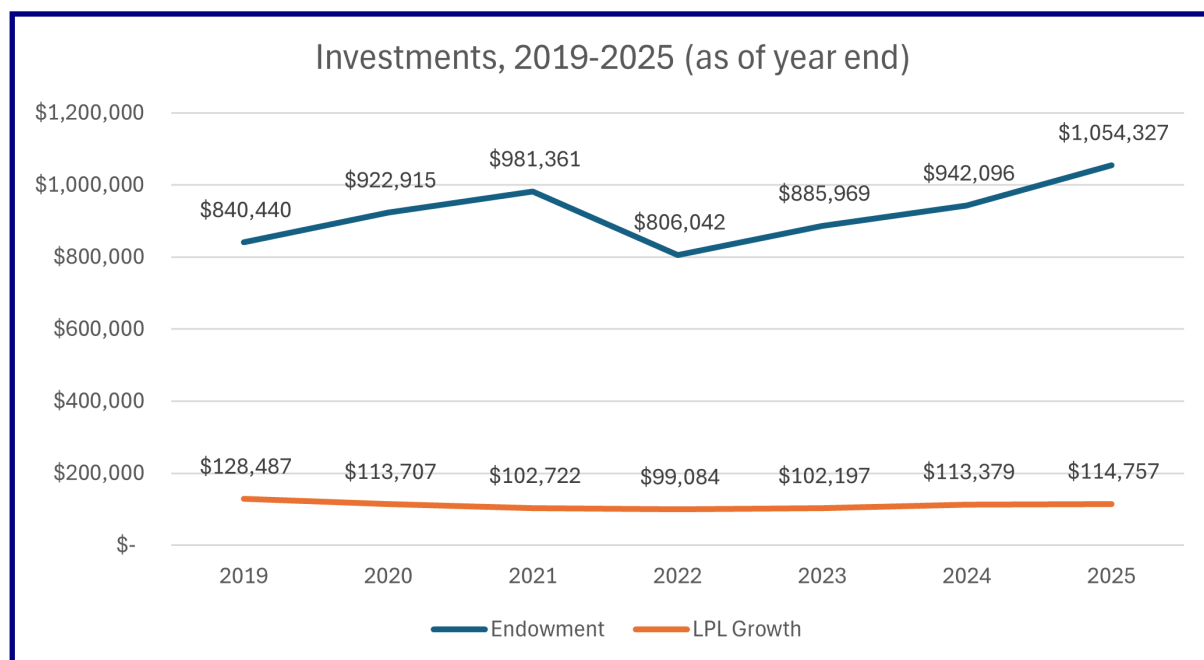



Photo Captions


P. 3 Eastminster worships indoors on a rainy July day.
P. 4 (top left) Rev. Kristin Stroble
P. 4 (bottom right) Beverly Bonning helps bid Rev. Stroble farewell before her sabbatical.
P. 6 (middle) Rev. Jimmie Hawkins preaches as Rev. Stroble looks on.
P. 6 (bottom left) Night hike at Harris Nature Center.
P. 6 (bottom right) Neil Myer leading prayer on Capitol Steps during Jesus and Justice.
P. 7 Eastminster youth during Midwinter Adventures.
P. 8 (top left) Kristin in Goreme, Turkey
P. 8 (top right) Kristin in Goreme, Turkey
P. 8 (bottom left) Kristin in Azores, Portugal
P. 8 (bottom center) Kristin and Rebecca Mattern at Cappadocia, Turkey
P. 8 (bottom right) The Camino shell could be found throughout the Camino de Santiago pilgrimage.
P. 9 (upper left) Rev. Stroble arrives at the cathedral in Santiago de Compostela at the end of her pilgrimage.
P. 9 (middle left) Rev. Stroble, Jolene Griffin and Rebecca Mattern on the Camino de Santiago trail.
P. 9 (lower left) Rev. Stroble baked a Tarta de Santiago for her welcome-back party.
P. 9 (lower middle) Map showing some of the Camino walks.
P. 10 (upper right) Collage showing the summer bocce ball tournament organized by Jacob Giddings.
P. 10 (lower left) Collage of the congregation sending Rev. Stroble on sabbatical.
P. 11 (upper right) Outdoor worship in June 2025.
P. 11 (middle) Congregation worshipping in the Green Room.
P. 11 (lower right) Scarlett Heitman, Heather Heitman and Lacy Myer at Massanetta Middle School Conference.
P. 12 (upper left) Neil, Lacy, Heather and Larua Myer on their arrival at Eastminster in 2015.
P. 12 (middle left) Neil leading outdoor worship in 2016.
P. 12 (middle lower) Neil Myer
P. 12 (lower middle) Neil Myer and Eastminster children leading worship.
P. 12 (lower right) Neil and Lacy Myer, Lawson Temples, Scarlett and Heather Heitman sharing youth conference experiences in 2024.
P. 12 (upper right) Neil Myer and past UKirk board member Nancy Corner.
P. 12 (middle right) Neil Myer and Sam O'Neill in outdoor worship.
P. 12 (lower middle right) Tom Hardenbergh, Jesse Turner, Neil Myer, Norm Mackay at Hope in One golf outing.
P. 14 (middle left) Neil and the Giddings family at Advent House.
P. 14 (lower left) Eastminster folks at a Lugnuts game.
P. 14 (upper right) Crop Walk participants
P. 15 Women's Day tea.
P. 17 Men's Bible Study participants: Norm Mackay, George Miller, Jeff Lapinski, Ron Davis, Rick Johnston
P. 17 Merrie Brood of Vipers: Tom and Linda Hardenbergh, Heather and Lacy Myer, Ruth Hartwig, Robin Bell, Mike Brown and Sue Kalvonjian


P. 18 (middle right) Night hike at Harris Nature Center
P. 18 Charlotte Smith and Kristin during outdoor worship
P. 19 (upper right) Installation: Rev. Kristin, Frank Boster, Emmanuel Yewah, Sara Weeden, Susan Smalley, Sue Hunt, Jeff Lapinski, Dave Duryea
P. 19 (lower right) Iman Solhail and Rev. Kristin at Islamic Center
P. 20 (upper right) Advent event
P. 20 (middle left) Kristin teaches children about communion
P. 20 (lower left) Youth-led worship
P. 21 Collage of children and youth throughout 2025.
P. 22 (middle right) Volunteers changing lightbulbs in the sanctuary.
P. 22 (lower left) New pew racks made by Bob Nees
P. 24 (upper left) Flowers by Suzy at Floral Gallery
P. 24 (upper right) Snowy picture of Eastminster garden
P. 24 (lower left) Boiler maintained by T.H. Eifert
P. 26 (upper left) Jeff Lapinski welcomes attendees to Presbytery Meeting at Eastminster
P. 26 (upper right) Indoor worship in the Green Room
P. 26 (middle right) Barb Dalzell helps at Presbytery Meeting
P. 27 (upper left) Debra Hobart's recital group
P. 27 (middle right) Morning Glory singers visit after rehearsing
P. 27 (lower right) Christmas Eve service
P. 30 (upper left) Montreat College Conference
P. 30 (middle left) MSU Book Project distribution
P. 30 (middle left) Jesus and Justice
P. 30 (lower left) Rev. Jimmie Hawkins
P. 31 (upper right) Community Connections game night with UKirk
P. 31 (middle right) Fall trivia
P. 31 (lower left) International Day of Peace at MSU Chapel
P. 31 (lower right) Spring trivia
P. 33 (upper right) Congregation enjoys outdoor worship in June.
P. 33 (lower right) Heather and Brian Heitman grill hamburgers after outdoor worship.
P. 47 (left side photos) Youth and children at winter events.
P. 47 (right) Tom Hardenbergh shovels the sidewalk.
Back cover (upper right) Robin Bell and Heather Myer
Back cover (middle) World Communion Sunday
Back cover (lower) Outdoor worship

The church is not a building or a budget, but a people learning to love God and one another in ordinary, faithful ways.

Stay Connected with Eastminster


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