



*Our Mission is to be in partnership with God  
to transform ourselves,  
our communities, and our world.*



*Why?  
To live and act  
with Christ's love  
so that all are  
uplifted,  
supported,  
& connected.*

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## **ANNUAL REPORT**

REVIEWING THE YEAR 2025

MID-COAST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH  
CONGREGATIONAL MEETING JAN 25, 2026

# IN MEMORIAM

*“For All the Saints  
Who From Their Labors Rest”*

*Franklin Daniel MacKenzie  
September 16, 1932 – March 27, 2025*

*Memorial Gifts received in memory of:  
Frank and Isabel Mackenzie  
Mike Hugo*

*“Look at the birds in the sky. They don’t plant or harvest or gather food into barns, and yet God feeds them. Can any of you add a single hour to the length of your life by worrying? So never worry about tomorrow, because tomorrow will worry about itself. Each day has enough trouble of its own.”*

*Excerpts MT 6:26-34 ISV*

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*Thank you to all the contributors to this Annual Report.*

## PASTOR'S REPORT FOR THE YEAR 2025

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*Whenever you cross my mind, I thank my God for you and for the gift of knowing you.  
My spirit is lightened with joy whenever I pray for you (and I do constantly)  
because you have partnered with me to spread the gospel since the first day I preached to you.  
Philippians 1:3-5*

It continues to be a joy to partner with all of you in ministry at MCPC. Some of the most outstanding moments of the past year are in saying farewell to very integral members of this congregation and trying to figure out what to do next. Audrey Grassman and her family relocated to Michigan over the summer. I relied on her quite a bit as she responded to a variety of requests as Office Angel which helped me stay organized and focused. I miss planning sermons and worship services with her as we sought fresh and creative ways to share the Good News throughout the changing seasons of the Church year. I think our office equipment also misses her as it does not function as well as it did. If any of you are tech savvy and could help tame One Drive, please see me! It took more than one person to fill her shoes and I am grateful to everyone who moved in to help (and continue to do so!).

I will truly miss Darryl Johnson's unshakeable faith and steadfast dedication to God's purpose here at MCPC. After many years of hard work managing all it takes to keep our property and building at its best (along with the dedicated Property committee), we truly give thanks and praise to God for sending Darryl to us. He is especially dear to me as he guided the Pastor Nominating Committee in calling me to this church (16+ years ago), oversaw my installation, and then joined our congregation along with his dear, sweet wife Karen who we've missed having in our midst because of health issues.

As the onsite contact between various committees, boards, service providers, and building users, I have a holistic view of the many working parts of MCPC. I've seen many changes in my years here and as the "institutional memory" of so much information, we needed a comprehensive record of how our church has transformed from one of many to a small congregation, few in numbers but mighty in ministry. And so, one of the great projects of this year was the completion of our "Manual of Administrative Operations" also known as "Guidelines and Procedures". George Huggins managed to pull all the information into one cohesive and comprehensive document, drawing on the input of various leaders in the congregation. It is a living document as we will continue to collect best practices, along with the "Who, What, Where, and How?" of all that takes place here.

Not only am I a major point of contact for what happens in our church, I also represent MCPC in the greater community. I serve on the Leadership Commission (LC) of the Presbytery of Northern New England (just being in the right place at the right time, Bright Start now receives regular funding from the PNNE Outreach Committee [OC]), and I liaise between the OC and the LC. My participation with the Maine Council of Churches (MCC) is infrequent, but helping with the great event with Colin Woodard speaking about Democracy in America was a highlight for me. Participation in the Brunswick Area

Interfaith Council (BAIC) enables many small churches to combine for greater effect in addressing various needs in our community and gives the opportunity to share more widely about each faith community's events which included MCPC hosting one of their communal singing events which attempt to bring folks together regardless of political persuasion or affiliation – singing together is unifying.

It was one of my greatest joys to represent the love of MCPC as a member of “Queer Spirit”, a collection of faith communities who sponsored and then made their inclusive presence known at the Annual Brunswick Pride Festival this past June. The artistry of MCPC was well represented in wonderful “wands” with encouraging words and lots of glitter. There was also a wall of rainbow wings painted by Magdalyn which provided a backdrop for many celebratory photographs. For one day, the most diverse collection of human beings gathers to delight in what makes each person unique and treasured. If only every day could be such a joyful experience of loving community, we might better envision the kingdom of God.

At various times throughout the year, I've worn the hat of Deacon moderator, Property Committee scribe, Worship Team minutes maker, bulletin creator and sometimes printer, Zoom meeting provider, occasional key distributor, along with various pastoral cares and visits, including two funerals and a baptism. I am indebted to the mutual care and concern you all provide for each other and am in awe of your volunteerism and commitment to beloved events and activities of MCPC. There are many unsung and unseen heroines and heroes here.

Every year, women from all over the Presbytery gather for inspiration, laughter, meals, singing, and prayer at the Annual PNNE-PW Retreat which is always held Friday to Saturday of Mothers' Day weekend. This year, Maine was the primary host, meaning MCPC provided leadership for planning, executing, and overseeing of the retreat. Magdalyn and I gathered over 30 pine seedlings which were placed in tiny pots for future planting by the retreat goers. In various ways, I supported a very satisfying and delightful retreat, and it is the one time a year when I get to play cards!

For Study Leave, I went on another “Progressive Pilgrimage”, this one a Reconciliation Tour to Scotland and Ireland, two beautiful countries with combative histories. A trip to the community of Iona was the center of the Scotland part. Even as time slows down in spiritual reverie, time on Iona never seems long enough. The Ireland tour included “Dual Narratives” from two personal perspectives on *The Troubles* – one from Shankill (center of the *Loyalist/Unionist/Protestant* side) and one who was from Belfast, (center of the *nationalist/PIRA-Provisional Irish Republican Army; Roman Catholic* side). Both speakers had lost loved ones and had each been in prison. We also toured Derry and saw much that remains of protest artwork on the dividing walls which still stand. The Correymeela Community was our home base. It was first established in 1965 as a place for opposing sides to meet and realize circumstances could have been different and “I could be you/you could be me”; in other words, life circumstances put us on one side when we could just as easily be on the *other* side. The community started with the “Troubles” hoping for movement toward peace, and continue to host a diversity of “opposing” communities. It is

almost entirely staffed by young people from all over the world and it really is one of my favorite places on the planet. We also met one of the last remaining women in the Presbyterian Church in Ireland serving as a minister – only a handful are left as the increasingly conservative denomination there continues to *divest* from ordination of women (not officially, but...). It brought tears to my eyes to see someone fighting so hard to be who God called her to be.

I believe we are all grateful to have this faith community with which to face the disturbing daily news, to try and make sense of the senseless, to pray together and try to respond as the people of God are called to do.

*I thank my God for you and for the gift of knowing you.*

*Pastor Diane*

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## REPORT OF THE SESSION

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*Book of Order (The Constitution of the Presbyterian Church USA) G-2.0301 Ruling Elder Defined: As there were in Old Testament times elders for the government of the people, so the New Testament church provided persons with particular gifts to share in the discernment of God's Spirit and governance of God's people. Accordingly, congregations should elect persons of wisdom and maturity of faith, having demonstrated skills in leadership and being compassionate in spirit. Ruling elders are so named not because they "lord it over" the congregation (Matt. 20:25), but because they are chosen by the congregation to discern and measure its fidelity to the Word of God, and to strengthen and nurture its faith and life. Ruling elders, together with teaching elders [Minister of Word & Sacrament], exercise leadership, government, spiritual discernment, and discipline and have responsibilities for the life of a congregation as well as the whole church, including ecumenical relationships.*

Six elders, chosen by the congregation, constitute the membership of the Session of Mid-Coast Presbyterian Church, as moderated by the pastor. Session meets each month for study and prayer, to receive reports of the ministries of MCPC, and to plan for the worship and life of the congregation.

### KEY SESSION ITEMS OF 2025:

- A. Elected Balinda Washington as MCPC Treasurer and Shirley Reese as Clerk of Session.
- B. Approved the 2025 budget.
- C. Approved the OMNIBUS MOTION authorizing:
  - a. Celebration of the Lord's Supper,
  - b. annual review of the financial records and insurance policies by the Finance Committee,
  - c. preparation and filing of the General Assembly Statistical Reports by the Clerk,
  - d. and other official functions.
- D. Clerk submitted to General Assembly the annual Statistical Report of the year 2024.
- E. Examination and Installation of Deacons Marci Clark, Laura Martin, Richard Reese and John Ingram, and Ruling Elder George Huggins.
- F. Approved the baptism of Maple Anne Cruickshank, daughter of Jessica Wilcox and John Cruickshank and granddaughter of Laurye and Rick Wilcox during worship on Sunday, April 27, 2025.
- G. Approved Bright Start's request to install a washer/dryer in the Women's Room.
- H. Received a Matthew 25 Grant (\$1,000) from the Presbytery of Northern New England and voted to designate it to the Maine Immigrant and Refugee Service (MEIRS) in nearby Lewiston, Maine.
- I. Received recertification as an Earth Care Congregation from PCUSA. (Posted in Fellowship Hall)
- J. Approved a 2025 Pumpkin Patch donation of \$900 to Wabanaki REACH.

- K. Approved Pastor Diane’s Study Leave Proposal Peace for Progressive Pilgrimage October 7-18 in Scotland and Ireland.
- L. Held a joint Officers Retreat with the Board of Deacons and Elder members of Session.
- M. Received Joanne Hardy into the membership of Mid-Coast Presbyterian Church by letter of Transfer from the Brunswick Methodist Church.

*Session 2025: Mark Bergeron, Page Lockhart, Deborah Patterson, George Huggins and Shirley Reese, Clerk of Session.*

*Moderator: The Rev Diane Hoppe Hugo (Pastor)*

**ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP REPORT FOR 2025**

<b>ACTIVE MEMBERSHIP 12/31/2024</b>	<b>50</b>
GAINS	
Affirmation of Faith by Baptism	0
Reaffirmation of Faith	0
Transfer of Membership	1
<b>TOTAL GAINS</b>	<b>1</b>
LOSSES	
Deaths	1
Transfers	1
<b>TOTAL LOSSES</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>ACTIVE MEMBERSHIP 12/31/2025</b>	<b>49</b>
Death of Member Frank MacKenzie, March 27, 2025	
Death of Friend of the Congregation: Judith Dent 12/27 2025	

*Attested, Shirley Reese, Clerk of Session*

**MINUTES MCPC 2025 CONGREGATIONAL MEETING**

**ANNUAL CONGEGATIONAL MEETING MINUTES ~ APPROVED**  
**Zoom and Facebook Live (due to weather)**  
**February 16, 2025 ~ 11:00 am**

**CONVENE with PRAYER and MEMORIAM:** Pastor Diane opened the meeting with prayer and expressed gratitude for the lives of Phyllis Kletzien Campbell, Thomas Dennis Carroll and the Rev. Dr. Fred David Mueller who joined the Church Triumphant in the year 2024.

**VALIDATION of QUORUM:** Though both the service of worship preceding and this Annual Meeting were held via the technology of Zoom and Facebook Live, more than half the membership of Mid-Coast Presbyterian Church was present.

**REPORT of the PASTOR:** In her report, Pastor Diane reflected on the many ways our building continues to provide a “home” and a “safe space” for various groups including Bright Start Childcare Center, MidCoast Youth Theater, numerous scout troops and others. She highlighted learning together through Lectionary Bible Study, and Lenten and Advent Conversations.

Pastor Diane expressed her gratitude to the opportunity to engage in Sabbatical time of rest and retreat, time with family, and an amazing Sabbatical trip to Ireland where she visited the monastery city at Glendalough, Corrymeela Community in Northern Ireland and more. In Italy she visited Padua and Venice and had the opportunity to take in the art and culture of the regions.

Finally, she noted that we both began and ended the year 2024 with a membership of 50.

**REPORT of the SESSION:** Key highlights of the Session report were the designation of the \$1,000 Matthew 25 grant from the Presbytery of Northern New England to Tedford Housing Ministries, receipt of recertification as an Earth Care Congregation, and, of course, the approval of Sabbatical time for our pastor.

**REPORT from the BOARD of DEACONS:** Highlights from the Deacons’ Report include congregational care through the Shepherd program and community care by monthly collections for the MidCoast Hunger Prevention Program. Warm winter gear for the Gathering Place, Tedford Housing and Maine Immigrant and Refugee Services (MEIRS), as well as financial assistance for various individuals in need.

**REPORT of the NOMINATING COMMITTEE:** Submitted by the 2024 committee comprised of John Aliberto, Chair and Session representative, Paul Brown, Deacon representative, Ruth Cook and Carol Ingram Members-at-Large from the congregation and The Rev Diane Hoppe Hugo, Ex Officio

**SESSION (Ruling Elders)**

- George Huggins, to be installed, class of 2027 first term (3-year term)
- TBA, (3-year term)

**BOARD of DEACONS:**

- Marci Clark, to be installed, class of 2027, first term (3-year term)
- Laura Martin, to be ordained and installed, class of 2027, first term (3-year term)

- Richard Reese, to be ordained and installed, class of 2027 first term (3-year term)
- John Ingram, to be ordained and installed, class of 2025 (1-year term)

**NOMINATING COMMITTEE:** Members at Large for 2025

- Ethel Wilkerson
- Balinda Washington

There being no nominations from the floor the slate was **APPROVED** as presented.

**REPORT of the PERSONNEL COMMITTEE:** Elder Ruth Cook presented the report of the Personnel Committee and the proposed terms of call, which must be voted on annually.

**PASTOR’S TERMS OF CALL:   *APPROVED***

	<b>2023</b>	<b>2024 (3/4 time)</b>	<b>2025 (3/4 time)</b>
Salary	\$25,430.00	\$19,612.50	\$19,612.50
Housing Allowance	\$25,430.00	\$19,612.50	\$19,612.50
Total Effective Salary	<b>\$50,860.00</b>	<b>\$39,225.00</b>	<b>\$39,225.00</b>
Medical/Pension*	\$19,835.40	\$16,682.00	\$18,922.00
SS Offset	\$3,890.79	\$3,001.00	\$3,001.00
Sabbatical Expenses	\$2,000.00	***	\$0
Travel Expenses	\$2,000.00	\$2,000.00	\$2,000.00
Prof. Exp./Books	\$2,700.00	\$3,700.00	\$3,700.00
Retreat/Study Leave**	\$4,022.00	\$3,000.00	\$3,000.00
Study Leave	2 weeks	2 weeks	2 weeks
Vacation	5 weeks	5 weeks	5 weeks
Package total	\$85,308.19	\$67,608.00****	\$69,848.00

Notes on Terms of Call:

Pastor Diane’s expenses reflect that during her time at MCPC, she has sometimes requested salary increases be added to expense lines instead of salary, and for the year 2013 requested an extra week of vacation in lieu of a pay increase. \*In 2025, medical coverage will be 33% of Effective Salary or a minimum of \$15,000. The rest of the benefits remain the same as 2024. The difference in the cost of medical insurance between 2024 and 2025 is \$2,240 bringing total benefits cost to \$18,922.

\*\*Retreat/Study Leave funds are cumulative across a 3-year period; Study Leave encompasses both formal retreats and workshops, as well as personal retreat time.

\*\*\*In 2024 Sabbatical expenses were redistributed across salary, housing allowance, and medical/pension. \*\*\*\*Adjusted from \$65,439 to correct math error.

**REPORT OF THE WORSHIP TEAM:** This report began with a memorial tribute to the Rev. Fred Mueller, who often worshipped with us, and filled the pulpit when Pastor Diane was away. He was filled with a joyful spirit and lead worship during Pastor Diane’s

Sabbatical in September and October. And in November we were all saddened to learn that on All Saint's Sunday, Fred joined the host of heavenly saints.

With the change of call to three quarter time, and Pastor Diane's Sabbatical, the task of pulpit supply was significant. We were fortunate to have preachers from the pew, retired ministers in our midst, and area clergy who graciously preached for Sunday Worship.

*Glory to God* hymnals were purchased through donation by members of the congregation, with the opportunity to honor or memory of loved ones. Donations were celebrated on Pentecost!

Lenten Conversations focused on an exploration of the biblical texts surrounding the Passion story using Amy-Jill Levine's *Entering the Passion of Jesus – A Beginner's Guide to Holy Week*. Advent Conversations started with the book *The Art of Advent – A Painting a Day from Advent to Epiphany* by Jane Williams.

Pastor Diane expressed her deep gratitude for the members of the Worship Team and specially to Chair Audrey Grassman for their dedication and efforts in supporting and facilitating meaningful and spirit filled worship.

**REPORT of the PROPERTY COMMITTEE:** Charged with the care, maintenance, operation, repairs and improvements of the building interior and exterior as well as the grounds this committee has had a very busy and challenging year!

Darryl Johnson, chair, thanked the many volunteers who assist the committee in keeping the building functional and safe.

**ADULT EDUCATIONAL MINISTRIES:** Reports submitted included the Horizons PW Bible Study held each 4<sup>th</sup> Thursday of the month, Lectionary Bible Study each Tuesday, and the Men's Faith Study and Breakfast held via Zoom.

### **THE CONNECTIONAL CHURCH**

This report detailed some of the ways in which MCPC is connected to PCUSA. MCPC continues to be directly involved in the Presbytery of Northern New England, with several members serving in leadership capacities including:

- Pastor Diane – Leadership Commission, Personnel Committee
- Paul Brown – Outreach Subcommittee
- Dick Reese -Committee for Preparation for Ministry
- Rev. Dr. Kay Huggins – Leadership Commission, Commission on Ministry, and Sudanese fellowship, as well as Commissioner to the 2024 General Assembly

- George Huggins – Communications Subcommittee / the PNNE IT Volunteer (including PNNE webmaster and weekly email publisher)

**Matthew 25 Congregation:** We continue our commitment to actively engage in the world in ways that show a caring concern and work toward dismantling Systemic Poverty, and Structural Racism. MCPC's response to Systemic Poverty included the Pumpkin Patch support of Native American Tribes of Maine and New Mexico, and local agencies including The Gathering Place, MidCoast Hunger prevention Program, Tedford Ministries and Habitat for Humanity.

In 2024 MCPC received a \$1,000 Matthew 25 Grant from the Presbytery of Northern New England and Session voted to direct it to Tedford Housing as they broke ground for a new facility to increase bed capacity by 60%.

MCPC's ongoing response to Structural Racism includes education through Sunday Sermons and continued participation in Sacred Ground dialogue.

**Earth Care Congregation:** 2024 is the eighth year of certification by PCUSA as an Earth Care Congregation. This year's annual summary included activity in all facets of congregational life including worship, education, facilities and outreach.

**Special Offerings:** Four Special Offerings connect us to the ministries of the larger church: One Great Hour of Sharing (Received on Palm Sunday), Pentecost (received on Pentecost Sunday), Peace & Global Witness (received on World Communion Sunday) and Christmas Joy (received on the fourth Sunday of Advent.)

**Sudanese Presbyterian Fellowship of Portland:** Since 2005, The Presbytery of Northern New England, with MCPC as the sponsoring congregation, has nurtured and supported these Sudanese Presbyterians in a variety of ways. A highlight of 2024 was their hosting of a very successful Nuer Youth Conference for Peace and Development with over 100 delegates from the USA and Canadian Provinces. It ended at MCPC with lively worship followed by a meal in Fellowship Hall.

**South African Connections: J.Z.S. Ncevu Memorial Church:** In 2015, MCPC began an ongoing relationship with J.Z.S. Ncevu Memorial Church. Through correspondence, we have shared stories of ourselves and of our MCPC church. Members can learn more through the JZS NCEVU Facebook page or by joining in the pen pal program.

**BRIGHT START EARLY CHILDCARE CENTER:** Bright Start is a non-profit childcare and preschool program serving children from 18-month to 5 year of age. It operates 4 classrooms 5 days per week with a full-time staff of Director, three full-time and two half-

time teachers and two floating teachers. A Board of Directors consists of church members (4 former teachers), the pastor and parent and community representatives. 2024 has been a year of ongoing projects within the classrooms and upgrading playground equipment with a new toddler playset from Cedar Works.

**COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS & OPPORTUNITIES FOR SERVICE:** Mid-Coast Presbyterian Church is active in and supportive of these many community organizations and opportunities for witness and service. The Annual Report details how anyone interested can participate.

**Maine Council of Churches  
Brunswick Area Interfaith Council (BAIC)  
Pumpkin Patch  
Farmers' Market  
Coastal Shores Hymn Sing  
Tedford Housing Meal-A-Month Program  
Mid Coast Hunger Prevention Program  
Alternative Christmas Market  
The Gathering Place  
Habitat for Humanity  
Maine Immigrant & Refugee Services (MEIRS)**

**GENEROSITY TEAM:** Throughout October and November, members and friends of the congregation were invited to send personal stories of generosity and kindness and these were presented from the pulpit or in the Weekly UPDATE. Letters stating our shared devotion to generosity went out and the response reflects the love and teaching of Christ. The campaign was a great success and Pastor Diane expressed gratitude to co-chairs Stan and Mary Ellen Miller.

**FINANCE COMMITTEE REPORT:** The report of the committee reviewed the details of income, expenses and benevolences. A Financial Review for the years for 2023 and 2024 will be completed by the end of March 2025.

**TRESASURER'S REPORT 2024 BALANCE SHEET AND 2025 MCPC BUDGET:** The budget was approved by Session at a Called meeting on February 2, 2025 and was included in the Annual Report. The year ended with a surplus! As a result, Session voted to put the surplus into the Building Reserve Fund for unknown future building expenses. NOTE: an error in the budget will be corrected and made available.

**ADJOURNMENT:** The Annual Meeting of the Congregation was closed with prayer by Moderator the Rev. Diane Hoppe Hugo at 11:51 am.

**Respectfully submitted and attested,**

**Shirley R. Reese,  
Clerk of Session**

**The Rev. Diane Hoppe Hugo  
Pastor**

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## **BOARD OF DEACONS**

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The Board of Deacons seeks to be witnesses of compassion and service to the congregation, the community and beyond. Your donations to the Deacons' Fund enable us to help and support folks both inside and outside our congregation.

### **Congregational Care and Connection**

- Maintain connections with congregation through the shepherding program.
- Provide home communion upon request after 2025 completion of special training.
- Encourage spiritual growth among the Deacons.
- Sponsor special events of the year, e.g., the July 13 Ice Cream Social.
- Provide input to the Deacons' section of the new MCPC Administrative Manual.
- Prepare and distribute meals for anyone recovering at home.
- Provide Greeters for Sunday worship.
- Distribute prayer shawls for comfort and support.
- Maintain attendance records of Sunday worship.
- Distribute blueberry bread to visitors.
- Establish a confidential emergency contact program so selected relatives and friends can be notified of emergency situations.

### **Community Care and Outreach**

- Collect monthly for MCHPP (Mid Coast Hunger Prevention Program); will not be continued into 2026.
- Collect mittens and gloves for the Warming Trellis for distribution to the Bath MidCoast Youth Center.
- Donate coats, vests, and blankets for MEIRS (Maine Immigrant and Refugee Services).
- Provide financial assistance for individuals in need of housing, food, and electricity.
- Contribute to community services including: Maine Council of Churches, Brunswick Interfaith Council, Brunswick Pride Festival, Tedford Housing, Mid Coast Hunger Prevention, Mission at the Eastward, The MLK Jr. Memorial Breakfast, and the Sudanese Fellowship.
- Start a "thank you" bulletin board in the entrance to Fellowship Hall.

The Board of Deacons extends a heartfelt THANK YOU to all who have contributed, and request your continued consideration of support for this demonstration of our congregations' Faith in Action.

Board of Deacons, 2025: Paul Brown (Moderator), Mary Ellen Miller, John Ingram, Nancy Aliberto, Jane Parry, Marci Clark, Laura Martin, Dick Reese and Pastor Diane Hoppe Hugo, Ex Officio

Book of Order (The Constitution of the Presbyterian Church USA) G-2.0201

*The Deacon: A Ministry of Compassion and Service: The ministry of deacon as set forth in Scripture is one of compassion, witness, and service, sharing in the redeeming love of Jesus Christ for the poor, the hungry, the sick, the lost, the friendless, the oppressed, those burdened by unjust policies or structures, or anyone in distress. Persons of spiritual character, honest repute, exemplary lives, brotherly and sisterly love, sincere compassion, and sound judgment should be chosen for this ministry.*

Submitted by Paul Brown

## **DEACONS' FINANCIAL REPORT**

<b>Beginning Balance on January 1, 2025</b>		\$1,320.88
<b>Donations</b>		+\$2,250.00
<b>Expenditures:</b>		
Congregational Care	-\$46.17	
Community Support (individuals)	-714.36	
For rent, electricity and food	-\$834.36	
Correction from 2024	+\$120.00	
Outreach	-\$1,700.00	
Sudanese Fellowship	\$500.00	
ME Council of Churches	\$100.00	
Brunswick Interfaith Council	\$100.00	
Tedford Housing	\$50.00	
Midcoast Hunger Prev	\$50.00	
Mission at the Eastward	\$100.00	
MEIRS Outreach	\$600.00	
Brunswick Local Events	\$200.00	
<b>Total Expenditures</b>		-\$2,460.53
<b>Ending Balance December 31, 2025</b>		\$1,110.35

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## **NOMINATING COMMITTEE**

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The MCPC Administrative Manual provides:

The nominating committee shall present the name of one eligible person for each office to be filled. The committee shall make every effort to ensure that the composition of the session and of the board of deacons with regard to gender, age, race, marital condition or disability corresponds to the composition of the congregation. Full opportunity shall always be given to the congregation for nominations by any active member of the church. A

majority of all the voters present and voting at the congregational meeting shall be required to elect.

The Nominating Committee for 2026 includes Page Lockhart and Deb Patterson, co-chairs, Paul Brown, Ethel Wilkerson, Balinda Washington, and Pastor Diane Hoppe-Hugo *ex officio*. We worked hard to discern who will be our leaders in the coming year, and present this slate:

Nominating Committee Proposed Slate of Officers 2026

Deacons:

Ethel Wilkerson

John Ingram

Session:

Flo MacMullen

Balinda Washington

Nominating Committee Members at Large:

Suzanne Cook

Ruth Cook

*“Now during those days, when the disciples were increasing in number, the Hellenists complained against the Hebrews because their widows were being neglected in the daily distribution of food. And the twelve called together the whole community of the disciples and said, ‘It is not right that we should neglect the word of God in order to wait at tables. Therefore, friends, select from among yourselves seven men of good standing, full of the Spirit and of wisdom, whom we may appoint to this task, while we, for our part, will devote ourselves to prayer and to serving the word.’ What they said pleased the whole community, and they chose Stephen, a man full of faith and the Holy Spirit, together with Philip, Prochorus, Nicanor, Timon, Parmenas, and Nicolaus, a proselyte of Antioch. They had these men stand before the apostles, who prayed and laid their hands on them.” Acts 6: 1-6.*

*SUBMITTED BY PAGE LOCKHART*

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**PERSONNEL COMMITTEE**

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The Personnel Committee is responsible for the oversight and support of the staff at MCPC. The staff currently includes Diane Hoppe Hugo, Pastor; Vaughn Levasseur, Sexton/Custodian; and Ashlynn (Ashley) Palmer, Bookkeeper.

2025 saw the continuation of Pastor Diane's schedule for  $\frac{3}{4}$  time, three Sundays in the pulpit and one Sunday off per month (which included the week preceding the scheduled Sunday off). The schedule was adjusted as needed to accommodate for months with five Sundays and for Easter/Christmas celebrations. Regular office hours were continued for those weeks when Pastor Diane was working. With a second year of the revised schedule under her belt, Pastor Diane noted that it gives her a better balance juggling work life with family obligations. The committee and Pastor Diane will continue to assess a list of measurable goals that align with the updated schedule.

Pastor Diane took a two week study leave in October, with a trip to Ireland and Scotland to explore the Celtic roots of Christianity and to learn more about the reconciliation process in Northern Ireland.

In late 2024, the Committee on Ministry (COM) made a decision about increasing the percentage of medical coverage from the 2024 rate of 29% of total effective salary (TES). For 2025, the rate increased to 33%, and will increase to 37% for 2026 and 41% for 2027. Even though Pastor Diane is  $\frac{3}{4}$  time, MCPC is required to pay benefits based on being employed full-time, with a minimum medical amount being determined by the Presbytery of New England (PNNE). Pastor Diane is required to be covered for medical benefits as long as she is an installed pastor. After researching options for family coverage through the healthcare marketplace (and realizing that the Affordable Care Act tax credits would likely not stay in place), Pastor Diane determined that it was more beneficial to keep the entire family on her health care plan. She declined the 3% cost of living adjustment as recommended by PNNE to help offset the increase in medical costs.

Vaughn continues to provide custodial/janitorial services at MCPC and is in regular contact with the Property Committee regarding any building issues that arise. As Bright Start now has their own cleaning service, Vaughn is no longer responsible for maintaining the Bright Start wing. As it has been determined that additional deep-cleaning in the kitchen and adult restrooms is needed on a regular basis, Session approved a motion from Personnel to hire Mandy Madsen (Tidy Nest 207) on a contract basis to take care of those tasks (5-6 hours @ \$35/hour-total \$175-\$210). Unfortunately, due to family circumstances, Mandy was not able to continue with the contracted cleaning. Anne Hautala, who is known to Balinda Washington and Paula Adams/Marie Peaslee, was contracted for November 4<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup>, but is not able to commit to a regular schedule, so Personnel is continuing to search for someone to deep-clean the kitchen and adult restrooms.

Ashley splits her time between Bright Start and MCPC. For MCPC, she provides valuable assistance with checking and routing the voice and emails, keeping track of and ordering supplies as needed, and assisting Balinda Washington, Treasurer, with treasurer's reports and end-of-month financial tasks. Ashley also works closely with Samantha Benner, Director of Bright Start.

For the Committee, Ruth Cook, Chair

Committee Members: Marci Clark, Ruth Cook, John Ingram, Page Lockhart, and Diane Hoppe Hugo, ex officio

**PASTOR’S TERMS OF CALL** (VOTED ON ANNUALLY)

	2023	2024 (3/4 time)	2025 (3/4 time)	2026 (Proposed, 3/4 time)	Change v 2025
Salary	\$25,430	\$19,613	\$19,613	\$19,613	\$0
Housing Allowance	\$25,430	\$19,613	\$19,613	\$19,613	\$0
Total Effective Salary	<b>\$50,860</b>	<b>\$39,225</b>	<b>\$39,225</b>	<b>\$39,225</b>	\$0
Medical/Pension*	\$19,835	\$16,682	\$18,922	\$22,422	\$3,500
SS Offset	\$3,891	\$3,001	\$3,001	\$3,001	\$0
Sabbatical Expenses	\$2,000	***	\$0	\$0	\$0
Travel Expenses	\$2,000	\$2,000	\$2,000	\$2,000	\$0
Prof. Exp./Books	\$2,700	\$3,700	\$3,700	\$3,700	\$0
Retreat/Study Leave**	\$4,022	\$3,000	\$3,000	\$3,000	\$0
Study Leave	2 weeks	2 weeks	2 weeks	2 weeks	0w
Vacation	5 weeks	5 weeks	5 weeks	5 weeks	0w
<b>Package total</b>	<b>\$85,308</b>	<b>\$67,608</b>	<b>\$69,848</b>	<b>\$73,348</b>	\$3,500

NOTE: 2026 has 27 pay periods. For comparison, Terms of Call have been kept to 26 pay periods. The Salary and Housing lines in the 2026 Budget are higher to reflect actual expenditures.

Starting in 2024, the sabbatical expenses were re-distributed across salary, housing allowance, and medical/pension. Retreat/Study Leave funds are cumulative across a 3-year period; Study Leave encompasses both formal retreats and workshops, as well as personal

retreat time. Study Leave is 2 weeks/year and Vacation is 5 weeks/year (use it or lose it-no carry-over).

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## **WORSHIP AND MUSIC**

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MCPC is blessed to have guest preachers and Preachers from the Pews who continue to share the Word of God and fill in during Pastor Diane's monthly Sunday off, vacation and study leave. We are grateful for the gifts of Revs. Bob Beringer, Kay Huggins, Skip MacMullen, Roger Powers, and Barrie Shepherd, along with Preachers from the Pew Ruth Cook, Audrey Grassman, and Balinda Washington. There were several special Sundays with multiple speakers, such as Presbyterian Women's Sunday and Men's Sunday. For Christian Vocation Sunday in August, Worship Chair Audrey Grassman provided the message about faith in work, especially how it related to her volunteer work at MCPC. It was a fitting send-off for Audrey, as she and her family were moving to Michigan to be closer to loved ones. We miss Audrey and all of her organizational skills, but know that she is where she needs to be and will continue to put her talents to good use.

With Audrey's departure, some tasks have been shifted to others. Rev. Dr. Kay Huggins has taken on the responsibility of finding pulpit supply for those Sundays when Pastor Diane is out of the pulpit, and Page Lockhart has agreed to coordinate both the liturgist schedule and Communion servers. The preparation and serving of the Communion elements have shifted to the officers of the church (Elders & Deacons), with Ruth Cook providing support with set-up and clean-up. Jane Parry makes sure that the Communion supplies are stocked, and there are usually several bags with pre-cut bread cubes in the freezer for use. We have been using compostable communion cups (with some glass cups), but as the supply of compostable cups is getting low, we may have to go back to using glass cups, as the search for more compostable cups has not been successful.

Advent 2025 saw the placement of a new banner of the Annunciation, thanks to the talents of Mary Ellen Miller. We are looking forward to once again displaying the banner in the coming Advent season.

Worship in the sanctuary presented some challenges in early 2025 due to cold temperatures. The decision was made by the Worship Team to hold services in Fellowship Hall if the outside temperature fell below a certain threshold; however one Sunday Fellowship Hall was actually colder than the sanctuary, so worship was in the sanctuary. February was especially memorable. Worship was held on-line only on February 9<sup>th</sup>, due to the snow, which postponed the Annual Meeting by one week. The following week (February 16<sup>th</sup>) was also on-line only, with the Annual Meeting being held via Zoom.

Worship Team is especially grateful to our on-line tech gurus Paul Brown and John Wilkerson, who make live streaming available for those who are not able to be in person for worship, as well as posting the readings and sermon to YouTube. For 2026, Session has decided to have worship in Fellowship Hall during the winter months (January-March), which will help save heating costs of trying to keep the sanctuary at a comfortable level. The West Room is used for more sparsely attended services, such as Ash Wednesday and Maundy Thursday, creating a more intimate worship space.

In 2025, we observed and celebrated the special Sundays of the liturgical year: Epiphany; the Baptism of Christ; Transfiguration; Lent (Ash Wednesday through Palm Sunday); Maundy Thursday; Easter and Holy Humor Sunday; Ascension; Pentecost; Trinity Sunday; World Communion; Reformation Sunday; All Saints'; Christ the King; Advent and Christmas.

Our third year of Lenten Intercession prayers offered prayers centered on stories from the headlines, with the prayers being prepared and led by members of the congregation. For Advent, a special liturgy was prepared for each candle lighting during the season, again with various congregants participating in the lighting of the candles each week.

Traditional Sunday services during the year included: the installation of new officers on Transfiguration Sunday; PW and Men's Sundays; Christian Vocation Sunday; and the annual Kirkin' O' The Tartan, celebrating the ties of Scotland and the Presbyterian Church, with guest preacher Rev. Dr. Barrie Shepherd and guest musicians with bagpipes, flute and harp.

MCPC has a designated Flower Fund for purchase of flowers and plants for special occasions. The Flower Fund provides for the eco-friendly palms on Palm Sunday, the memorial roses on All Saints' Sunday, and the poinsettias for Christmas Eve. Our appreciation is extended to Jan Stephens and Suzanne Cook who have been instrumental in ordering and delivering the flowers to enhance the beauty of the sanctuary. Donations to the Flower Fund are always welcome!

For certain Sundays during the year, MCPC had a choir for special anthems. The choir is open to anyone interested in singing, and has anywhere between four and ten members depending on the day. The choir sang March 2 for Transfiguration Sunday, Easter (April 20), Pentecost (June 8), Worldwide Communion (October 5), first Sunday in Advent (November 30), and Advent Week 4 (December 21), which was an antiphonal version of the hymn *Watchmen, Tell Us of the Night*, where the choir split the lines between the watchmen and the travelers. Our appreciation is extended to choir Coordinator Jan Stephens and accompanist Becky Jordan for providing this enhancement to our worship services.

Lenten Conversations were once again offered following worship services, with the resource material *Lift Up Your Voice*, from the Salt Institute. As there was not enough time to prepare a congregational reflection for use during Advent, Rev. Dr. Kay Huggins provided a weekly Advent resource that was emailed to the congregation and posted on the MCPC website, with a few hard copies available for distribution.

The Worship Team is thankful for all the time, talents, and contributions of the congregation, especially our volunteer accompanists Buckley Hugo and Becky Jordan, tech gurus Paul Brown and John Wilkerson, the Sunday door-openers, the greeters, the liturgists, the guest preachers and Preachers from the Pew, the choir members, and all other who serve in various capacities throughout the year to help enrich our understanding and appreciation of God's word. Thanks be to God!

*For the Worship Team, Ruth Cook*

*Worship Team members: Ruth Cook, Audrey Grassman (Chair, January-August), Pat Hudson, Rev. Dr. Kay Huggins, Rev. Diane Hoppe Hugo (Pastor), & Jan Stephens*

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## **COFFEE HOUR**

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The coffee hour teams work hard to provide a welcoming atmosphere of food and drink to facilitate fellowship after worship. This year, Mark and Jana Voigt were welcomed as a new team, along with John and Nancy Aliberto, Ethel and John Wilkerson, Maryellen and Stan Miller, Joanna Damon and Laurye Wilcox, and Shirley and Dick Reese. Our aim is to provide nourishing but not elaborate refreshment as a means not only of sustaining ourselves but of welcoming strangers in our midst; sharing physical sustenance can lead to sharing of spiritual sustenance. *“And they continued steadfastly in the apostles’ doctrine and fellowship, in the breaking of bread, and in prayers.” – Acts 2:42*

*Page Lockhart*

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## **PROPERTY COMMITTEE**

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The Property Committee is entrusted with the care, maintenance, and stewardship of our church building and grounds. This includes responsibility for our 4.1-acre property, the 12,000+ square-foot building, all utilities, life safety systems, inspections, and security. Our mission is to ensure that God’s house remains safe, welcoming, and functional for worship, ministry, and community service.

### **Gratitude for Volunteers:**

2025 was another busy and, at times, challenging year. We extend heartfelt thanks to the many volunteers who gave their time and talents toward:

- **Seasonal cleanups:** Raking, pruning, and brush removal during our Spring and Fall events.
- **Grounds keeping:** Weekly mowing, trimming, and pruning throughout the summer.
- **Winter care:** Shoveling entrances, sanding walkways, and spreading ice melt to keep our building accessible.

Your dedication keeps our property beautiful and inviting throughout the year.

### **Projects and Maintenance Highlights:**

While major exterior projects were completed in prior years, this year focused on essential repairs and upkeep:

- Repaired or replaced broken emergency lights.
- Ensured proper operation of our 30-year-old boiler, including seasonal shutdown/startup.
- Negotiated snow plowing and sanding contract.
- Removed dead trees.
- Installed a new kitchen faucet.
- Replaced the sanctuary thermostat and two heating zone power heads.
- Cleaned, stained, and repaired the shed, including new doors.
- Installed new weather strip on Fellowship Hall exterior doors.
- Repaired a sinkhole in the parking lot.
- Supported planning for a future Boy Scout Eagle Project.
- Reduced attic clutter to improve safety and storage.

Restroom updates remain in the planning stage, and pavement sealing is scheduled for the future.

### **Upcoming Concerns:**

- **Exterior cladding:** Despite being re-stained a few years ago, signs of decay have appeared. In spring 2026, we will evaluate repair or replacement options and consider durable new materials.
- **Life safety systems:** Fire sprinkler inspections and required repairs were completed. The annual fire alarm test was successfully conducted on January 15, 2025.

### **Appreciation:**

We are deeply grateful for the congregation's support in keeping our church safe, functional, and welcoming. Special thanks to each member of the Property Committee and to Rev. Diane Hoppe Hugo for their faithful leadership and commitment.

**Property Committee Members:** Darryl Johnson (Chair), John Aliberto, Steve McIntyre, Stan Miller, Russ Riendeau, John Wilkerson, Rev. Diane Hoppe Hugo (Pastor, Ex Officio)

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## BUILDING USE

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What a blessing to be able to show the love of God with our community through our building. Almost every day our building is filled with people engaged in positive activities. In 2025, regular users were five Girl Scout troops, Una Voce (choral group), Midcoast Youth Theater, and the Saturday Morning Book Group. Other private events were held to celebrate birthdays, baby showers, and Eagle Scout ceremonies. Also, our parking lot is the home for the ArtVan when it is “off duty”.

These groups also support MCPC with regular fees, donations and service projects. What a joy to see them helping unload pumpkins at “the Great Unloading”.

Yes, blessings abound! Thank you for continuing to support the ministry of this building.

*Marci Clark*

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## COLUMBARIUM COMMITTEE

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When you walk out the main, parking lot door of the church and keep going straight, you will walk right into the Columbarium. How blessed we are to have such a beautiful and sacred place of rest in a peaceful and intimate setting for remembering those who have gone before us! In the serenity of this intimate area, family and friends may gather for remembrance, meditation and prayer amid a community of faith. Wherever we have come from, MCPC has become our home and we are glad to have our loved ones nearby.

Responsibility for maintaining the grounds and beautiful gardens surrounding the Columbarium is shared jointly by the Columbarium and Property committees. Other duties of the Columbarium committee include the management of documentation, record keeping and physical preparation of the niches for inurnment when needed. The committee maintains files,

available at all times, which include the necessary forms and information, to be given to those who may be interested in purchasing a niche.

Please know that there are Columbarium niches available for purchase and you may contact the church office for more information.

*Debbie Patterson - Chair*

*Nancy Aliberto, Elaine Brown, Debbie Patterson*

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## **ADULT EDUCATION MINISTRIES**

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### **MEN'S BREAKFAST AND FAITH STUDY**

The men of MCPC (and friends) met monthly for a Zoom study. Despite not being able to enjoy personal interactions, we continued sharing joys and concerns via Zoom followed by participating in lively, Christian-oriented studies.

Seventeen men have participated in one or more Saturday mornings during 2025, and thanks to Zoom, men from as far away as Texas, Virginia and even from the wilds of Northern Maine have been joining us. All have enjoyed each other's company and insights. We continue to wrestle with putting our understanding of faith into practical practice in our lives and the life of the congregation.

Different men over the course of the year have led the lively and challenging discussions. Thanks go out to Bob Beringer, Jim Feather, Skip MacMullen, Paul Brown and Carlene Byron (our first female study leader!) for sharing and leading. The year saw a variety of faith, historical and environmental topics raised and discussed. We started off with a continuation of the study series "*Let Justice Roll Down – God's Call to Care for Neighbors and All Creation*". Air quality was the specific topic. A three-month series based on our author friend Adam Hamilton's book *Luke-Jesus and the Outsiders, Outcasts and Outlaws*. We next were treated to Carlene Byron leading us in writing the story of our personal faith journey based on her experiences as a writer and editor. Back to the Bible we then went with a study on Abraham's "not so perfect journey of faith". The following month we were asked the thought-provoking question: How and why do today's divisions, anxieties and temptations occupy our minds, guide our attitudes and behaviors, and dominate and perhaps interfere with our faith and our interactions with others? What do we do about it? We then finished with a traditional Christmas oriented theme. The question was explored: Why did the authors of Matthew and Luke remember the earlier birth stories of Isaac, Ishmael,

Moses, and Samson, and then make the connection with the births of John and Jesus? And the final question: What variety of topics will be tackled in 2026!

The time together also gave us the opportunity to find ways of supporting the various needs of the congregation. What fun and sense of accomplishment the men of MCPC had (Breakfast/Study AND others) while conducting the June 22 Men's Sunday Worship Service, while serving hot drinks and sandwiches at the PW Christmas Fair and while providing "guy power" in various set-up and take-down occasions.

We would love to expand the group and topics for 2026. Geography now does not matter. Come virtually join us 9:00 to 10:30 AM on the third Saturday of each month. What a good way to get to know each other and the context of our living faithfully in our time.

*Submitted by Paul Brown*

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## **PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN (PW)**

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**PRESBYTERIAN  
WOMEN**

In 1987 Presbyterian Women (PW) became an official branch of the national church. At that time some women in the congregations gathered in "circles" as Presbyterian Women and followed guide lines set out by the national church. These circles did not necessarily include all the women in a congregation but at MCPC all women have been and are welcome to join in PW activities.

At one time MCPC followed the guide lines of the wider church which called for holding annual meetings and electing officers. However, as the congregation grew smaller and busy schedules cut back on attendance PW became less formal. The last elected officers became a Coordinating Team which plans and organizes events for each year. The team is no longer elected at a meeting but participation in the team is open to any woman interested in joining.

Some of the usual events were not held this past year but the First Thursday of the Month lunches continued to be well attended. Each month all women are invited to attend the lunch which is held at different restaurants around the area.

The annual Christmas Fair is a PW fundraising event but also offers a way to invite the community into the church. The 2025 fair was a success and raised close to \$5,000. The Coordinating Team voted to make donations to the Presbyterian Disaster Fund, The

Gathering Place, the Warm your Neighbor program run by Tedford, a refrigerator for MEIRS, as well as paying to have the chairs in the sanctuary cleaned and a new garbage disposal in the kitchen. See a full report in the financial information, below.

MCPC PW is very active in the PNNE PW annual retreat, connecting with women from churches around the Presbytery. In 2025 MCPC hosted a very well received retreat presenting a theme of “*All Creation Waits*” using Job 12:7-8.

The last Bible sessions of the Bible study “Let Justice Roll Down”, were held in the spring, and the Christmas Tea was the last event of the year.

The team will be meeting soon to develop a calendar of events for 2026. Suggestions are welcome. Once the calendar is set it will be posted on the PW bulletin board so you can save the dates.

*Submitted by Joanna Damon*

*Members of the team:*

*Marci Clark, Shirley Reese, Joanna Damon, Nancy Aliberto and Debbie Patterson.*

### Presbyterian Women Financial Statement 2025

<b>Balance on hand</b>	01/01/2025	<b>\$8,872.00</b>	
<b>Income</b>	Fair	<b>\$4,839.00</b>	
<b>Expenses</b>			
	Horizons DHH	24.95	
sanctuary chairs	Servpro	1,965.00	Cleaning
Reimbursement	MCPC		131.70
Garbage disposal	Russ Riendu	183.35	
MCPC kitchen	SM Movers	400.00	moved
donated fridge to MEIRS	Presby Disaster	1,000.00	
	PW PNNE	1,200.00	
annual mission pledge	Warm Thy Neighbor	500.00	heating
assistance	Gathering Place	400.00	20 gift
cards for Christmas			
<b>Total Expenses</b>		<b>\$5,385.00</b>	
<b>Ending Balance</b>	12/31/2025		
<b>\$8,326.00</b>			

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## THE CONNECTIONAL CHURCH

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*The Presbyterian Church (USA) is a connectional church—linked from local congregations (MCPC) to regional Presbyteries (Presbytery of Northern New England/PNNE) to Synods (Synod of the Northeast) to the General Assembly (GA), the national church (PCUSA). The connectionalism of the church allows us to support one another with prayer, the sharing of ideas, coming together in ministry, working on things that affect us all, and responding to churches in need.*

As do all PC(USA) congregations, we share financial support for the upper councils of the church through Per Capita, a financial amount based on membership numbers of a congregation. For 2026 PNNE has set per capita at \$60 per member, a \$3 increase over 2025. MCPC invites its members to contribute specifically toward this expense, please mark this contribution “Per Capita”.

We are also connected to the larger church through the following initiatives.

### A MATTHEW 25 CONGREGATION



*Being a Matthew 25 Congregation is a call to “actively engage in the world around us, so our faith comes alive and we wake up to new possibilities” and “recognize Christ’s urgent call to be a church of action, where God’s love, justice and mercy shine forth and are contagious. And we rejoice how our re-energized faith can unite all Presbyterians for a common and holy purpose: our common identity to do mission. ” The three areas of focus in being a Matthew 25 Congregation are Congregational Vitality, Systemic Poverty, and Structural Racism.*

**Congregational Vitality** is evident in this small church’s big-church attitude: in the way we care for one another, engage in ministry together, worship as community. The generosity of the MCPC family in time, talent, and treasure, is a sign of a truly vital congregation.

In 2025, MCPC’s response to **Systemic Poverty** included The Pumpkin Patch’s support of Native American Tribes of Maine and the Southwest United States; support of local agencies including The Gathering Place, Mid Coast Hunger Prevention, Tedford Shelter, and Habitat for Humanity.

As noted in the SESSION REPORT (also noted in MEIRS Report), in 2025 MCPC received a Matthew 25 (\$1,000) Grant from the Presbytery of Northern New England (PNNE) and voted to donate it to the Maine Immigrant & Refugee Services (MEIRS). In June, part-time staff Levi, a young man from Angola, expressed his gratitude on behalf of MEIRS for MCPC’s continued support, especially in light of the funding cuts to programs that have severely hampered their work. The \$1,000 grant from MCPC, as well as the Deacons’

focus on collecting specifically food items has allowed MEIRS to continue with much needed weekly Friday Food Distribution.

MCPC's ongoing response to *Structural Racism* includes continued participation in *Sacred Ground*, a film-based dialogue series on race. Sacred Ground provides for safe and impactful conversation through an 11-session program. The program is ongoing, visit [stpaulsmaine.org/learning-sacred-ground-new](http://stpaulsmaine.org/learning-sacred-ground-new) for more information.

## AN EARTH CARE CONGREGATION



Since 1990, PCUSA has encouraged congregations to learn about and be active in restoring God's creation as a central concern of the church, to be incorporated into its life and mission at every level! MCPC was first certified by PCUSA as an Earth Care congregation in 2017.

As a Certified Earth Care Congregation (one among over 330 others), we annually seek to be recertified through a written on-line summary of how MCPC has integrated EC practices into all facets of congregational life including worship, education (emphasizing the Bright Start child care program), facilities, and outreach. This resulted in our ninth year of EC certification as of April 2025.

John Wilkerson and Dick Reese meet every 2-3 weeks to develop evidence-based bulletin board topics which Mary Ellen kindly displays. Bob Beringer serves as an ad hoc "consultant." **This year's bulletin board topics included:**

- *What we can learn from Indigenous Peoples*
- *Insight of the Indigenous Peoples - their philosophy*
- *Bottled Water versus Tap Water - Know the Facts*
- *Extreme Heat-Related Illnesses*
- *Why the U.S. is leading the world in Extreme Weather Catastrophes!*

The Earth Care Team continues to interact with the Saturday Men's Faith and Study Breakfast Group. **In April 2025, to help celebrate Earth Day, the Men's Group presented a Minute for Ministries emphasizing the "Thanksgiving Address"**, which the group had read and discussed in 2024 when discussing portions of Robin Wall Kimmerer's national bestselling book *Braiding Sweetgrass: Indigenous Wisdom, Scientific Knowledge, and the Teachings of Plants*. The Thanksgiving Address originated in the Onondaga Nation centuries ago. Like most native people, the Onondaga culture is based on its relationship with nature. This is most evident in how they begin every gathering, meeting, or ceremony with the Thanksgiving Address. Typically, a portion of the address is used at

gatherings and Rev. Beringer read a portion of the address which emphasized “The Waters,” “The Birds,” “The Creator” and “Closing Words.” A copy of the entire Thanksgiving Address was provided for everyone as they left the sanctuary. The Men’s Group and EC Team reflected on this thought: “think how different America’s approach to protecting the environment would be if we, as a country, adopted the Indigenous practice of reciting a portion of the Thanksgiving Address before meetings & events!!!”

In the spring, Dick Reese again worked with Bright Start teacher Miss Kenna Collins who brought children from the class of 4 to 5 year-olds to help plant the cherry tomatoes, sweet peppers, snacking cucumbers, carrots and green beans - all veggies which the children eventually harvested and had for snacking! At the Earth Care Conference at Stony Point in 2019, PCUSA leaders had a special afternoon workshop urging congregations to involve young children with “hands-on” activities in veggie gardening - just as Bright Start and MCPC are doing!

With all the federal cutbacks in 2025 involving programs and projects ameliorating climate change, the EC Team struggled at times to make progress and maintain hope. We begin EC meetings with the mantra: *The work will remain the work:*

*To love your neighbor.*

*To be generous with a stranger.*

***To protect the water, the air, the soil.***

*To heal old wounds.*

*To not make new ones.*

*The work remains the work.*

*In fact, it has all become, suddenly, even more important.*

Source: Anonymous on Facebook 11/6/24

If you have specific ideas or suggestions about ways we can improve our environmental stewardship, please let us know.

*Respectfully submitted: Dick Reese and John Wilkerson, Earth Care Team*

*Mary Ellen Miller, Earth Care Bulletin Board Artist*

## **SPECIAL OFFERINGS**

MCPC continues to receive PC(USA) wide Special Offerings which connect us with ministries of the larger church:



- One Great Hour of Sharing (received on Palm Sunday),
- Pentecost (received on Pentecost Sunday),
- Peace and Global Witness (received on World Communion Sunday), and
- Christmas Joy (received on the fourth Sunday of Advent).

Both the Pentecost and Peace and Global Witness Offerings specify that a portion is to be retained by the congregation and used locally.

In 2025, the local portion of the Pentecost Special Offering (40%) was divided evenly between One Tree Society Camp (an overnight camp for kids with physical or developmental disabilities) and the Midcoast Youth Center and Skatepark in Bath. The local portion of the Peace and Global Special Offering (25%) went to Maine Immigrant’s Rights Coalition (MIRC) (the umbrella organization tying together over 100 organizations in Maine related to immigrant support). Giving opportunities that support the PC(USA) Special Offering Ministries are also available year-round through the PC(USA) Giving Catalog ([www.presbyteriangifts.org](http://www.presbyteriangifts.org)).

Our local Christmas Special Offering was directed this year to the Mt. Ararat Student Aid Fund.

Financial dollar details are in the Treasurer’s Report.

*Submitted by Paul Brown*

## **SUDANESE PRESBYTERIAN FELLOWSHIP OF PORTLAND**

A special bond has existed between Mid-Coast Presbyterian Church and the Sudanese Presbyterian Fellowship of Portland ever since two very tall gentleman visited our church in 2005 and stated that they were Presbyterian refugees from Sudan. Since that special Sunday, the Presbytery of Northern New England (PNNE) with MCPC as the main sponsoring congregation has nurtured and supported a group of Presbyterian Sudanese. The form of support has varied over the years, ranging from providing preachers and helping to convert a rented office into a worship space to providing fellowship, worship leadership and financial aid.

This past year has been difficult for a variety of reasons. The civil war in South Sudan has displaced and harmed many of the Fellowship members’ relatives. How Sad! Money and prayers continue to be sent, placing a large psychological and financial burden on all. Participation in a fall demonstration in downtown Portland in support of the peace effort was a highlight in the Fellowship’s response.

Financial aid from the MCPC Deacons Fund and individuals has been most appreciated, as has the contribution of profits earned from Rev. Barrie Shepherd's book sale at our *Kirkin 'O' the Tartan* Sunday. Financial support from the PNNE continues to be essential to provide monthly funds in support of the rental of worship space. The Presbytery continues to provide liability insurance, and at the most recent Presbytery meeting established a procedure for individuals and congregations to provide funds to any member congregation of PNNE, and includes any worshipping fellowship. This may increase the much-needed financial assistance of smaller congregations and immigrant churches.

Other activities include supporting wider Sudanese organizations in Portland and Maine through Fellowship Deacon aid and active Fellowship member participation. Fellowship members also participated in national conferences. Fellowship generosity was particularly evident in their financial support and prayerful presence with the death of Fellowship members and support of churches and family in South Sudan and in surrounding refugee camps. A real highlight and joy of 2025 was the baptism of a number of Sudanese children; baptism is being arranged for two new babies and a few other children of the fellowship. Thanks goes out to Rev. Dr. Kay Huggins, PNNE liaison for the Fellowship, for her worship leadership, regular provision of communion, and pastoral support of lay pastor Matthew Long.

The Fellowship and we at MCPC are very saddened by the civil war in South Sudan and appreciate your prayers for peace throughout the homeland. Prayers are greatly needed for the strengthening of the Fellowship in 2026 for the personal growth of its members, for an expanded congregation and for ministry to the wider Sudanese community in the USA and in Africa.

*Submitted by Paul Brown*

*The MCPC Sudanese Fellowship Team – Paul Brown, Marci Clark and Valerie Enos*

## **SOUTH AFRICA CONNECTION: J.Z.S. NCEVU MEMORIAL CHURCH**



Mid-Coast Presbyterian Church continues to be connected to Presbyterians in South Africa. Our outreach journey began in 2002 when we developed a connection with two Xhosa and one Colored congregation in rural Adelaide, Eastern Cape Province. We have now transitioned to an ongoing connection with J.Z.S Memorial Church in Queenstown (Queenstown now renamed Komani), Eastern Cape Province. Continuing the connection remains our goal.

Through a “pen pal” connection with members of the J.Z.S. Ncevu Memorial, we have shared stories of ourselves and of our MCPC church. We have likewise been brought into the life of this large, Xhosa congregation. Our pen pals have been sharing their struggles and concerns that have been dominating the news from South Africa; the deteriorating political situation, the lack of consistent delivery of electricity, the long-term effects from the COVID epidemic and the poor performance of the postal service. Personal sorrows have also been expressed over deaths sometimes occurring when young men are initiated into manhood.

The pen pal program has lost much of its initial enthusiasm as our busy lives and concerns take up more and more time, but the team sees that the connection can benefit both churches, giving us the opportunity to support one another spiritually and in the love of Christ.

Your Mid-Coast Connection Team is grateful for this relationship with our brothers and sisters in Christ in another part of God's world. The Team needs to meet to determine “next steps”. All are encouraged to join in by volunteering to be a pen pal and/or joining the Connection Team.

*Submitted by: Paul Brown*

*Connection Team: Rev. Bob Beringer, Paul Brown, Joanna Damon and Dick Reese*

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## **BRIGHT START EARLY CHILDHOOD CENTER**

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It is an honor to be a part of a supportive organization, and to be a building block in our community. Yet again, 2025 was a busy and fulfilling year at Bright Start. It was important to us to continue to expand and update our program to be the best it can be. Our enrollment is practically full at all times - serving children from multiple towns and different backgrounds.

### **Family events:**

A partnership with our parents is so important. Coming together as a program for various events is one way we provide community. In April, we celebrated *The Week of the Young Child* - a national celebration in early childhood. During the Week of the Young Child, we hosted a pizza luncheon on Family Friday. In the beginning of June, we hosted a Preschool Graduation/End of the Year celebration. We celebrated with a short ceremony, certificate presentation then an ice cream social! We had 6 students graduate our program this year and went off to kindergarten. We also hosted our annual Pumpkin Night - a Bright Start tradition and a successful thanksgiving lunch for all of the families! Unfortunately, due to

inclement weather, we were unable to hold our Family Cookie Decorating event in December, but look forward to including it again in 2026.

**Extracurriculars:**

Part of our curriculum and goal for the children is for them to prosper in everyday experiences while they learn about themselves, others and their environment around them through play. Every month the children enjoy regular Music and Yoga classes, as well as visits from our weekly readers, Ms. Debbie and Pastor Diane! We also included themed extracurriculars throughout the year. We had a dietician from Hannaford during our healthy eating lesson. During the Week of the Young Child we celebrated Music Monday; Tasty Tuesday, with a smoothie bike from Maine Health; Work Together Wednesday where our oldest fiends helped our youngest friends tie-dye and some went and helped Mr. Dick clean up the courtyard; Artsy Thursday; and Family Friday. In June, we had a very special visitor for all to enjoy - Mr. Drew and his animals too! We also had another veggie garden - thank you Mr. Dick for all his help and mentorship with children in the garden!

**Finances/Program Updates:**

The state continued the Salary Supplement Grant, which is specifically for employees, not the program. This is to help support each worker in the state.

Bright Started received numerous donations and support from different organizations and individuals this year. Thank you to the Presbytery of Northern New England, the Highlands Choral Group, and all of the fantastic individual donors for giving extra support to our program.

We received over \$5,500 in grants this year to update our program in many ways! Our playground has been one of our biggest projects! After the large-scale update to our play structure in 2024, we continued to make improvement by adding new woodchips, and sand for the sand boxes. We added a covered pavilion and picnic tables to offer an outdoor learning space and meeting space. We also added a smaller swing set for the toddlers, a second sandbox and sand toys. The most exciting addition was being able to purchase an individual rain suit for each enrolled child! Now, the wet weather during the warmer months does not affect our outdoor time. Children can go out to play and explore in the rain and mud.

Inside the classrooms, we added many new books, learning toys, alternate seating and many more curriculum additions. For administration and curriculum preparations, we purchased a large-scale laser printer to save on ink purchases, and make lesson planning, portfolios and assessments easier.

After a lot of research and challenges, Bright Start was finally able to purchase and install a washer and dryer in the MCPC women's bathroom. This will help keep our program

cleaner, but also allow the children to get outside more in the winter. Unfortunately, once their winter gear gets wet they cannot go out again. Now, we will be able to dry their gear when needed. This Fall we collaborated with 'Nick's Wicked Tasted Fudge' from York, ME to host a fundraiser to be able to purchase the washer and dryer units. We sold 238 pieces of fudge to do so!

**Collaborations:**

Bright Start continues to collect bottles with Clynk through Hannaford. Green bags are offered in the MCPC Narthex to collect returnables. When full, you can return the "Green Bag" to any Hannaford. This helps Bright Start fund family and fun events.

Our hope is to increase the children's exposure to reading for pleasure. We are encouraging this by hoping to increase the number of books in our children's homes. To facilitate this, we joined a Scholastic program in September. Each month, a flier is sent home where families can purchase books. We receive a percentage back in points to purchase new books for the school. We continued to encourage this goal by purchasing a new book for each student (36 children) for the holidays - and all teachers signed them.

**Continued Education:**

Each year, all employees are required to complete 20-30 hours of training depending on part-time or full-time status. These hours are mandated in spite of a staff members position or educational level. As a team, Bright Start employees completed more than 350 hours of continued education in 2025!

The annual two-day Early Childhood Education conference was hosted in Portland again this year. For the first time, Bright Start closed the center for the day and attended as an entire staff. This proved to be very beneficial for the team to experience as a whole, and we will continue to make it an annual event! Half of the employees stayed overnight and attended again on day two. Trainings consisted of leadership, outdoor play, curriculum building, inclusion and child development. As a whole, we attended over 25 different sessions at the conference, and all got to share what we learned, and what would help strengthen our program.

It is also exciting to announce that I (Sam) received my Director's Credential by completing many trainings hours, creating a lengthy portfolio and an interview.

**Giving back:**

It is important for Bright Start to give back to our families and the community. This year we funded new clothes for children in foster care, food for families in financial need, and offered tuition assistance when need.

Once again, we were able to donate Christmas gifts for 12 children through Adoptive and Foster Families of Maine!

Bright Start would not be so successful if it was not for the dedicated teachers, the Board of Directors and the support of the congregation. We cannot thank everyone enough for the continuous prayers and support of our ever-growing program. We are so excited for everything to come in the new year.

Current Staff as of January 2026

Director - Sam Benner  
Toddler Teacher - Madison Ryder  
Caterpillar Teacher - Alexis Wheeler  
Butterpillar Teacher - Stephanie Jones  
Butterfly Teachers - Makenna Collins and Nadalie Sleeper  
Floating Teachers - Robbin Durney and Kayla Barnes  
Substitutes - Savannah Salinas and Carrie McCormick  
Administrative Assistant and Bookkeeper - Ashley Palmer

*Board of Directors- Mary Ellen Miller, Marci Clark, Shirley Reese, Linda Pappin, Debbie Patterson, Pastor Diane Hoppe-Hugo, and Sojourney Adcox (parent representative)*

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## COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS AND OPPORTUNITIES FOR SERVICE

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### MAINE COUNCIL OF CHURCHES



*The mission of MCC is to speak with a prophetic voice of faith, connecting people within, through, and beyond the church to create a more just, compassionate, and peaceful world.*

Here are a few highlights from 2025:

“Committed to Listen”, observing Martin Luther King, Jr. Day January 20, 2025.

MCC, The BTS Center, and Atlantic Black Box collaborated to host a public performance of Antonio Rocha’s solo show, “The Malaga Ship: A story of Maine and the Middle Passage.” *The Malaga was a 183-ton brig built in 1832 in Brunswick Maine, in a shipyard owned by Joseph Badger. The ship eventually found herself as part of the already illegal transatlantic trade of African captives to the Americas, especially Brazil.*

“Here We Are. Send Us!” resource-sharing series designed to equip congregations and individuals to stand with and for four groups who are especially at risk of being harmed by the new administration - sharing sessions held:

Part 1, on January 14, responding to the threats of harm to the immigrant community.

Part 2, on February 13, responding to the threats of harm to the LGBTQ+ community.

Part 2.5, on March 26, more responses to threats of harm to the LGBTQ+

Part 3, on June 5, a faithful response to threats of harm to Women Seeking Reproductive Healthcare.

Part 4, June 24, Environmental Harm being done by the federal government.

“Crisis in Democracy” with Colin Woodward, September 22, at First Parish, Brunswick, 400 people attended. Maine author and historian Colin Woodard explained what has thrown our democracy into crisis once again and what we can do about it.

“Rule of Law” forum hosted by MCC, Maine ACLU and the Maine Bar Association at USM October 14. *Never in my 40 years as a practicing attorney have I ever seen the Maine Bar Association reach out to the Maine Council of Churches! But now they have. Because they recognize the rule of law has a deeply moral component: that we treat each other equally. We do to others what we would have them to do us. In other words, we love our neighbors as ourselves.* Mark Terison at Maine Conference UCC Annual Meeting.

*Under the Dome Your voice, your values - Faith-based Advocacy in the 132nd Legislature:* this year, MCC testified on bills related to gun safety, LGBTQ+ rights, safe and legal abortion, vaccine requirements, shelter funding, farms and food banks, eviction prevention, climate care, internet safety for youth, the child tax credit, transportation access, Wabanaki rights, SNAP and TANF. Every time we testify, we get to talk about the moral imperative for passing laws that promote justice, compassion, and peace. We get to say we value loving our neighbors. And legislators listen. MCC makes a real difference in the halls of power by making sure legislators hear a progressive voice of faith.

*Appointed Denomination Representatives*

*Marci Clark, Presbyterian Church (USA)*

*Diane Hoppe Hugo, alternate, Presbyterian Church (USA)*

## **BRUNSWICK AREA INTERFAITH COUNCIL**

*The Brunswick Area Interfaith Council (BAIC) is a non-profit organization committed to fostering understanding, respect and cooperation among diverse faith traditions in the Brunswick area.*

BAIC is truly interfaith as members include representatives of the Buddhist, Christian, Jewish, Unitarian, and interfaith backgrounds. The Christian contingency includes representatives from many of the churches in the Brunswick/Bath and beyond area.

Monthly meetings and bimonthly meetings of the board help to build relationships, trust and a cooperative spirit, as do the regular and special emails about upcoming events for member organizations and the community at large.

In January of 2025, Martin Luther King Day (also Inauguration Day), was observed with a *Community Sing for Love, Peace, Justice, Together*. Over 200 people gathered at the Unitarian Universalist Church in Brunswick to sing inspiring songs together, interspersed with readings from MLK, Jr, followed by refreshments.

*Community Song Circles for Love, Peace, Justice, Together* offer opportunities for people to connect through simple, easy to learn uplifting songs. Song circles were held at the UU Church in Brunswick, MCPC (PCUSA), First Parish Church in Brunswick, Beth Israel Congregation in Bath, and The Neighborhood in Bath.

BAIC, along with Bowdoin College Student Wellness and Bowdoin's Rachel Lord Center for Religious and Spiritual Life, held a half day contemplation and action retreat on Sat February 8. Over 60 people gathered for an opening speaker, breakout sessions to try an array of contemplative practices, and a dinner with conversation and speakers.

BAIC helped organize faith communities to collect and provide necessities for the Warming Center. Each month will be covered by a different community. BAIC Members celebrated with the Tedford Shelter as they opened their new overnight shelter in Brunswick.

In December the Board wrote and released a statement condemning anti-Semitic violence after the violent attack in Sydney, Australia.

BAIC gave \$1,000 to support the Martin Luther King Jr. breakfast 2026, at Brunswick United Methodist Church. BAIC gave \$200 to the Gathering Place to support their holiday meal.

If anyone is interested in participating in the BAIC monthly meetings or wants to know more, please speak with Pastor Diane.

*Submitted by Pastor Diane*

## **PUMPKIN PATCH**

The 2025 Pumpkin Patch Project was another successful event for Mid-Coast Presbyterian Church despite the bridge closing challenges of traveling between Topsham and Brunswick. Neighbors and friends look forward each year to the arrival of the pumpkins, and our church's visibility in the area has increased as folks identify our church by the display of different colored pumpkins and a variety of gourds on our lawn.

On Wednesday, October 8, with the assistance once again of a 3-person crew from



Southern Maine Movers, the Great Pumpkin Brigade began. We were assisted by members of the congregation, friends and neighbors, Midcoast Youth Theater and others who use our building, and a fabulous group of youth from the Men's and Women's Mt. Ararat Cross Country Teams, along with their coaches. In a little under an hour and a half, more than 1,150 bulk pumpkins, weebies, mini pumpkins and assorted gourds, including Swan Gourds, Wing Gourds and Gizmo Gourds were unloaded and placed on pallets ready for sale to the many repeat and new customers in the community.

MCPC's Pumpkin Patch each October benefits the Indigenous population in the Farmington area of New Mexico where the growing and harvesting of the pumpkins employs over 700 Navajo, Zuni, and Pueblo people, providing a sustainable income for families where the unemployment rate is over 40%.

Repeat customers express appreciation to MCPC for hosting the Pumpkin Patch, and they thank us especially for the Indigenous farmer partnership. They have spread the word about our Patch to friends and family, and others learn about us through Facebook. Local farmers are also part of the partnership as they collect slightly damaged and leftover pumpkins for animal feed. Did you know that pumpkins are a natural de-wormer?.

Thank you to all who helped unload, staff the patch, and tell the story of the pumpkins and the Indigenous farmers to make our October Pumpkin Patch endeavor so successful!

Total Pumpkin Sales	=	\$10,772.25
Total "other" sales (crafts, baked goods & donation)	=	\$ 602.50
Total sales	=	\$11,374.75
Total due Pumpkin Patch Fundraisers	=	\$ 7,185.42
Profit to MCPC	=	\$ 3,587.33

NOTE: Session voted to send \$900 from our profits to Wabanaki REACH to benefit the Indigenous People of Maine.

*Darryl Johnson, Dick and Shirley Reese, Co-Chairs*

## **THE FARMERS' MARKET AND CRAFTING**

The table at the Brunswick Farmers' market began as a way for us to be seen in the community. We had a change in location this year. We are now in front of the Pejepscot Historical Society. There is definitely more foot traffic. Our expectation each week is just to interact with the people at the market and to be a bright spot in other's lives. The table was filled with many crafted items this year: knitted children's sweaters, knitted eco-bags, simple backpacks, kitchen towels, stuffed owls, potholders, and always the colorful jar openers. We have been blessed with people outside the church donating items from their abundance. It is a joy to serve in this ministry each year.

*Submitted by Balinda Washington*

*Balinda Washington, Marie Peasley, Paula Adam, Trish Thebault, and Deb Rafnell*

## **TEDFORD HOUSING AND MEAL-A-MONTH MINISTRY**

Tedford Housing was founded by the Maine Council of Churches and Brunswick Area Interfaith Council in 1987, the same year MCPC was chartered! Tedford's mission is to empower people to move from homelessness to home - - solving housing crises one household at a time. The five Tedford programs create a holistic approach to reducing homelessness: 1. Emergency shelter, 2. Homelessness Prevention and Outreach, 3. Permanent Supportive Housing, 4. Warm Thy Neighbor winter heating /fuel assistance, and 5. the new overnight Warming Center.



In November 2025 the newly built facility on Thomas Point Road in Brunswick combined the administrative and homeless prevention offices with an expanded Adult Wing (from 16 to 24 beds) and ten Family Units in another wing. MCPC supported this expansion with the gift of our \$1000 Matthew 25 Grant from the Presbytery of Northern New England.

In 1990, the Meal-a-Month program was begun and Mid-Coast Presbyterian Church joined this volunteer program. Each 4<sup>th</sup> Monday of the month we have the opportunity to provide a wholesome meal for the adults residing at the Tedford Adult Shelter. Through this volunteer program Tedford, with the help of volunteers like MCPC, provides 112 meals per week, 480 per month and 5840 per year!

During the past year we have prepared a variety of different meals including Fancy Pasta with Marinara Sauce and meatballs, Chicken Tetrazzini, American Chop Suey, Mac 'n Cheese, Chicken or Spinach & Mushroom Enchiladas with Refried Beans and Rice, Lemon Orzo Chicken Salad, Rigatoni Bolognese, Pumpkin Patch Pumpkin Soup and a special Christmas week dinner of Barbequed Beef Brisket with Holiday Potatoes.

Sign-up sheets are posted in the Fellowship Hall 2 weeks before the meal and members and friends are encouraged to sign up to provide salads, bread, desserts, or other parts of the meal.

You can be a part of this local ministry by helping to prepare meals, by donating ingredients, or by helping with delivery to the Tedford Shelter. This truly is an opportunity to serve neighbors in need. Thank you to the many who have prepared and contributed food and helped with deliveries this year.

*Shirley Reese, coordinator*

### **MID COAST HUNGER PREVENTION PROGRAM (MCHPP)**

*Their Mission: "MCHPP is a 501(c)3 nonprofit organization. Our mission is to provide hungry people with access to healthy food, work to improve the quality of their lives by partnering with others, and serve them in a manner that recognizes their dignity." MCHPP consists of many parts including a Food Bank, Soup Kitchen, and Food Pantry, all located at 84A Union Street, Brunswick, just behind Hannaford.*

The MCPC Board of Deacons coordinated our involvement with MCHPP, staying up to date on their needs and delivering MCPC's donations to MCHPP each month. The Deacons publicized the monthly focus for contributions through MCPC's Weekly Update (peanut/nut butters, breakfast cereal, canned soups & stews, etc.). Such support will not continue into 2026 because of the redoubled effort of supporting the Maine Immigrant and Refugee Services organization (see separate article on MEIRS). Food and material support efforts will now be shifted to that organization.

*Submitted by Paul Brown*

## MAINE IMMIGRANT AND REFUGEE SERVICES



Maine Immigrant and Refugee Services (**MEIRS**) is a non-profit organization, based in the Lewiston-Auburn area, whose mission is to unite immigrants and refugees with their new Maine communities by providing the skills, support, and opportunities necessary to succeed.

MCPC has an historical connection with MEIRS—it grew out of a 2016 Somali-Bantu Community (Lewiston/ Auburn, ME) project supported by a PCUSA Self-Development of People grant that Pastor Diane and Shirley Reese helped evaluate and approve with a grant to lease land for farming and growing their own produce.

In 2025, the MCPC Session voted to donate the \$1000 of the Matthew 25 Grant from the Presbytery of Northern New England to MEIRS. We continue to partner with MEIRS in a variety of ways, from much needed household items, warm winter clothing and non-perishable foods.

In June of 2025, part-time staffer Levi, a young man from Angola, visited MCPC and gave a Minute for Ministry from the pulpit about the extreme needs, especially in light of the cuts to programs such as MEIRS. In response, Deacons have focused their shopping cart collections to specifically requested food items for MEIRS’s weekly Friday Food Pantry. **Members and friends of the congregation are encouraged to develop the habit of adding MEIRS-requested food items to their own weekly shopping list as they are able.** We also thank those who donate cash, to be used specifically to purchase non-perishable foods from the MEIRS “needs-list!” In this way, we are living out our Matthew 25 ministry of feeding the hungry and welcoming immigrants and refugees.

In November, a donated refrigerator from an MCPC member was delivered to MEIRS, thus allowing for donations of fresh meat and produce for the food pantry to be temporarily stored, as well as for snacks and beverages to nourish the after school youth who gather there to study and receive tutorial help.

When Dick delivers the collected non-perishable food items most Thursdays, Levi always thanks and expresses MEIRS’ appreciation for the donations saying, “Your continued support of MEIRS gives us Hope.”

*Dick and Shirley Reese*

## ALTERNATIVE CHRISTMAS MARKET

For many years, MCPC's Christmas tradition has provided an opportunity to support outreach and mission work through donations and purchases. Instead of giving tangible gifts for friends and family, gifts to various organizations and causes are made possible in the name of those friends and family.

The 2025 Christmas Market took place on the two Sundays before Christmas. Everyone had the opportunity to:

- Donate money for our local 7 Rivers Chapter of Habitat for Humanity.
- Purchase jams, jellies and crafts from PW for mission support.
- Donate for the purpose of sending funds to Heifer Project International.
- Donate to PC(USA) Giving Catalogue projects.
- Purchase Shenaini Crafts, blessing the Miao Unreached Peoples Group of rural China.
- Purchase CEOLI cards made by disabled children and youth in rural Cochabamba, Bolivia.

What a great way to spread Christmas joy to those close to us and to those we have only met through prayer!

*Submitted by Paul Brown*

## THE GATHERING PLACE

### The Gathering Place

WELCOME IS OUR MISSION

“When you're homeless or deeply poor, almost every place can feel, not safe, unfriendly, where you don't belong, or where you don't know what is expected of you. When you're carrying everything you own in a backpack you can stick out like a snowball in July. It's impossible to feel safe.” *Chick Carroll*

The Gathering Place (TGP) fills a critical gap in our social safety net. One guest said, “TGP is more than a sanctuary. Without it some of us would be going back to gas stations to use the bathroom. There are things you can't experience and can't talk about unless you have to live on the edge.” Another guest says, “I am 60 years old living with my husband and two sons in my car.” TGP is the safe, uncritical space serving seniors on fixed incomes, people with disabilities, the lonely poor and the homeless, where anyone can come and find help, to find a job, a place to live, understanding friends or just have a cup of coffee.

MCPC joining with other churches was instrumental in establishing TGP. If you look at *The Founder's Circle* on the TGP web site (<http://brunswickgatheringplace.org>) you will see familiar names, Rev. George Hardy, Dana Cary (members of MCPC when TGP was founded), Paul Brown, Joanna Damon, Rev. Diane Hoppe Hugo and Linda Pappin.

Since the founding of TGP in 2010, MCPC has continued to provide support in many ways. Check out the PW report to see a few ways we have helped in 2025. And check out the TGP web site to learn more about this truly important part of our community.

*Joanna Damon*

### **HABITAT FOR HUMANITY: 7 RIVERS CHAPTER**



MCPC has built on a covenant we formed with Habitat for Humanity since 1989. To that end we have taken an active role in Habitat's major fundraiser, the Spring Walk, on a two-mile

route laid out through the streets of Bath.

We worked with Chris Wolff, Habitat's walk coordinator, and nine church members did the actual walking. They were financially supported by many church members, and MCPC raised a total of \$1,540 to help Habitat with its extremely important work. The walk surpassed its \$50,000 goal by raising more than \$58,000.

Additionally, MCPC raised \$275 dollars for Habitat during its "Alternative Christmas Fair." It seems clear that we at MCPC take our covenant role with Habitat very seriously.

The new location of Habitat's ReStore (Shaw's Plaza, Route 1) makes it possible to expand its mission. Its larger space and open design help the many volunteers who work at the ReStore provide a crucial income stream for Habitat's work. The annual art auction and donations from individuals and corporate sponsors also raise important funds.

Due to the spiraling costs of homes and land, a significant part of Habitat's efforts in 2025 were channeled into the repair of existing homes and the construction of improvements that would allow people to stay in their homes. Winterization is a crucial part of these efforts.

In 2026, MCPC, as a covenant church, has committed to continue our active support of Habitat's mission. Toward that end, there are many different ways MCPC members can pitch in:

- Work on at least one new home build a year. If Habitat decides that it has sufficient funds to launch a “full build” in 2026, MCPC will look for men and women volunteers for this fun and rewarding work. No prior experience is required!
- Continue the support of the elderly and the economically poor in our community.
- Support the Restore. This support can take a variety of forms, including volunteering to work at the Restore itself, working behind the counter as cashier, stocking shelves, and helping shoppers. Additionally, we can help by collecting needed articles for sale and promoting the annual art auction.
- Working either at the Bath store or at home with office projects such as preparing mailings and collecting/organizing data. The ReStore can only succeed if folks from covenant churches pitch in and work.
- Again, no experience is needed.

The Spring Walk, the major fundraiser for the year, is tentatively scheduled for early May of 2026. Come join us in raising money for a very good cause and experiencing fun, exercise and food treats. Volunteers to work during the Walk and folks providing those food treats will also be needed.

If any of these volunteer opportunities are of interest to you, please contact the new *Donor and Volunteer Engagement Specialist*, Chris Wolf, at (207) 504-9334. She would love to chat and “sign you up”!

*Submitted by Mark Stephens*



## REPORTS ON FINANCIAL MATTERS

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### GENEROSITY CAMPAIGN

A list of members and friends was prepared as recipients of the 2025 stewardship letter sent out by Session. The results of this are contained in the reports regarding the 2026 budget.

*“He [Jesus] sat down opposite the treasury and watched the crowd putting money into the treasury. Many rich people put in large sums. A poor widow came and put in two small copper coins, which are worth a penny. Then he called his disciples and said to them, “Truly I tell you, this poor widow has put in more than all those who are contributing to the treasury. For all of them have contributed out of their abundance, but she out of her poverty has put in everything she had, all she had to live on.”*

Mark 12:41-44

Page Lockhart

### FINANCE COMMITTEE

The Mid-Coast Presbyterian Church Finance Committee met several times by video conference or in person in its role of supporting the Treasurer and of providing input to the Session on financial matters. Ongoing updates in income, expenses and the balance sheet were reviewed to evaluate results, trends, and to try to ensure accuracy.

One trend noted in recent years is that contributions do not track consistently month to month. Some offerings are made for the entire year, often early in the year. Others do not make an upfront pledge but nevertheless are consistent contributors, with some making a larger contribution late in the year. As a result, predictability with offering amounts vs. operating expenses is difficult up front and subject to change during any given year.

- The committee cited a need for a stable building fund with an adequate balance to cover anticipated expenses, such as a new boiler on the horizon and some window replacements.
- A financial review of our books for 2024 for accuracy was conducted later in 2025 by two parishioners outside of the Finance Committee.
- Ministry giving of \$2,000 to the Presbytery of Northern New England was maintained during the year with an additional \$2,940 in per capita contribution.
- Bright Start’s church rent assessment was \$8,000 for 2025 and will continue at that level for 2026. In addition to this, Bright Start covers a percentage of liability/property insurance premiums and workers’ compensation costs.
- The October Pumpkin Patch event as well as the craft sales from the Farmer’s Market in Brunswick in the summer provided outreach and financial supplement.

- Employee expenses are due to increase notably in 2026 compared to the prior couple years. This results from increases in expenses of a bookkeeper and higher pension/medical payroll costs for the pastor. Utilities and building expenses are expected to increase also.

We would like to invite anyone with a possible interest in joining our committee to assist us. We typically meet by Zoom in the early evening for 1 to 1 ½ hours. We're a welcoming group with lively discussions.

We count ourselves blessed to be able to maintain many activities of outreach and sharing due to the energy and generosity of parishioners.

*Respectfully submitted,*

*Rick Wilcox, Committee chair*

Committee:   *Balinda Washington—Treasurer*           *Paul Brown*  
                  *John Aliberto*   *Sarah Dalton*

## **MCPC TREASURER'S REPORT AND SPREADSHEETS**

### **Treasurer's Report for year ending December 31, 2025**

#### **General Operating Report**

MCPC has had a busy year. As we have adjusted to Diane's three-quarter time schedule, we have welcomed many new faces into our pulpit. Each visiting pastor has offered fresh perspectives on various biblical concepts and passages. This year, we also faced the challenge of repairing a costly building asset (the boiler) which has now been expertly repaired and continues to provide reliable heat throughout the building. In addition, our sanctuary has been enhanced by beautiful flowers (roses and poinsettias). All of these efforts and blessings are made possible through the faithful financial support of the people of this church.

The table at the Brunswick Farmers' Market, which sells all donated items, brought in \$1,634.00 and the portion of the Pumpkin Patch fundraiser which stayed with us was \$3,187.52.

Our building is getting older and the repair and maintenance budget is always a guess at what we will have to fix in the year. This year we underestimated the cost of fixing things: the catch basin in the parking lot, sprinkler repairs, and more. Many of the utilities like electricity and heating, ended over budget, with heating being the most. In the end we were able to finance the building reserve (just in case that expert boiler repair fails) and end the year in the black.

#### **Memorial giving**

Our congregation celebrated our wonderful saints this year and donations were received in their names. Those donations total \$1,578.99.

### **Special Offerings**

The giving people of our congregation gave to:

- One Great Hour of Sharing \$1,040,
- The Pentecost offering of \$1,040 with \$520 to PCUSA, \$260 to PNNE, and \$260 to MRIC,
- The Peace and Global Witness Offering was \$640 with \$384 going to PCUSA, \$128 to Midcoast Youth Center, and \$128 to Pine Tree Society, and
- \$537 to the Christmas Joy offering.

We also collected \$70 for the Christmas Eve offering which we donate to the local schools.

### **Other Fundraising**

The Alternative Market during Advent meant we were able to donate to Habitat for Humanity, Shenaini, Presbyterian Women and the Brunswick Area Interfaith Council. We received donations for Bright Start (\$250), Habitat for Humanity(\$210), and for The Sudanese Fellowship(\$375) all of those donations were forwarded.

Thank you to everyone in our congregation for all you do to support our church. May 2026 be a year filled with hope, peace, and continued blessings for all.

*Your Faithful Treasurer – Balinda Washington (duly elected 10/15/2018)*

**Mid-Coast Presbyterian Church  
Treasurer's Report thru December 31, 2025**

	YTD 2024	YTD 2025	Annual Budget 2025	Difference Actual YTD - YTD Budg
<b>Income</b>				
Offerings - Pledged and Nonpledged	141,194.01	140,973.00	140,700.00	273.00
Offering	141,194.01	140,973.00	140,700.00	273.00
<b>Other income</b>				
Farmer's market	1,310.30	1,634.00	1,200.00	434.00
Pumpkin Patch	3,015.53	3,187.52	3,100.00	87.52
Other Donations	225.25		-	-
Rental Income	3,330.00	2,790.00	3,200.00	(410.00)
Other Income	7,881.08	7,611.52	7,500.00	111.52
Bright Start Assessment	7,000.00	8,000.00	8,000.00	-
Interest Income	546.98	660.79	550.00	110.79
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>156,622.07</b>	<b>157,245.31</b>	<b>156,750.00</b>	<b>495.31</b>
<b>Expenses</b>				
Pastor Salary	22,871.45	23,483.25	22,613.50	869.75
Pastor Housing	19,836.27	20,366.91	19,612.50	754.41
Pension/Medical	15,729.94	18,969.12	18,922.00	47.12
Travel Expense	1,921.49	1,071.24	2,000.00	(928.76)
Professional Exp/ Books	2,686.55	2,236.31	3,700.00	(1,463.69)
Retreat/Study Leave	-	2,885.22	3,000.00	(114.78)
Custodian - Wages	2,692.11	3,422.02	4,783.00	(1,360.98)
Bookkeeper - Wages	11,470.00	11,510.00	11,642.00	(132.00)
MCPC portion of Taxes	1,113.53	1,293.51	1,131.22	162.29
Outside Payroll Service	2,032.07	2,396.80	2,000.00	396.80
Workers Comp	212.75	270.50	1,200.00	(929.50)
<b>Total Pastor/Employee Expense</b>	<b>80,566.16</b>	<b>87,904.88</b>	<b>90,604.22</b>	<b>(2,699.34)</b>
<b>Worship Expenses</b>				
Pulpit Supply	2,800.00	1,400.00	2,000.00	(600.00)
Piano Tuning	120.00	-	220.00	(220.00)
Worship Supply	332.24	409.88	450.00	(40.12)
<b>Total Worship Expense</b>	<b>3,252.24</b>	<b>1,809.88</b>	<b>2,670.00</b>	<b>(860.12)</b>
<b>Building</b>				
Snow Plowing	12,000.00	11,250.00	11,000.00	250.00
Sprinkler Inspection	290.00	200.00	380.00	(180.00)
Extinguisher Inspection	324.00	344.00	340.00	4.00
Cunningham Yearly Contract	300.00	412.56	1,250.00	(837.44)
<b>Contract Services</b>	<b>12,914.00</b>	<b>12,206.56</b>	<b>12,970.00</b>	<b>1,236.56</b>
Maintenance and Repair	5,633.99	8,411.14	6,000.00	2,411.14
Property/Liability Insurance	12,660.40	12,817.05	12,670.00	147.05
Electricity	3,507.02	4,030.54	3,900.00	130.54
Water	2,296.50	2,492.52	2,200.00	292.52
Sewer	694.75	795.96	600.00	195.96
Heating	6,366.41	9,294.85	7,400.00	1,894.85
<b>Utilities Sub total</b>	<b>12,864.68</b>	<b>16,613.87</b>	<b>14,100.00</b>	<b>2,513.87</b>
Dumpster Expense	1,649.61	1,652.25	1,700.00	(47.75)
Building Reserve	12,086.16	3,000.00	3,000.00	-
<b>Total Building Expense</b>	<b>57,808.84</b>	<b>54,700.87</b>	<b>50,440.00</b>	<b>6,260.87</b>
<b>Administration</b>				
Copier Agreement	620.49	833.58	680.00	153.58
Postage	441.00	526.00	400.00	126.00
Supply Expense	501.53	522.61	550.00	(27.39)
<b>Total Office Supplies</b>	<b>1,563.02</b>	<b>1,882.19</b>	<b>1,630.00</b>	<b>252.19</b>

*Mid-Coast Presbyterian Church 2025 Annual Report*

	YTD 2024	YTD 2025	Annual Budget 2025	Difference Actual YTD - YTD Budg
Legal/Publicity Expense				
Legal Expense	35.00	35.00	35.00	-
Publicity	60.00	-	120.00	(120.00)
Bank Fees	133.53	131.00	140.00	(9.00)
Legal/Publicity Expense	<u>228.53</u>	<u>166.00</u>	<u>295.00</u>	<u>(22.00)</u>
Total Administration	1,791.55	2,048.19	1,925.00	230.19
Information Technology				
Website and Domain	96.00	412.96	150.00	262.96
Software and Hardware	318.48	-	620.00	(620.00)
Internet and Telephone	3,277.85	3,330.01	3,400.00	(69.99)
Total Information Technology	<u>3,692.33</u>	<u>3,742.97</u>	<u>4,170.00</u>	<u>(427.03)</u>
Housekeeping	1,390.95	2,011.12	1,200.00	811.12
Ministry Giving				
Giving Per Capita	3,120.00	2,940.00	2,940.00	-
Ministry Giving to PNNE	2,000.00	2,000.00	2,000.00	-
Total Ministry Giving	<u>5,120.00</u>	<u>4,940.00</u>	<u>4,940.00</u>	<u>-</u>
Total Expenses	<u>153,622.07</u>	<u>157,157.91</u>	<u>155,949.22</u>	<u>1,208.69</u>
Income minus Expense	<u>3,000.00</u>	<u>87.40</u>	<u>800.78</u>	<u>(713.38)</u>

*Mid-Coast Presbyterian Church 2025 Annual Report*

	YTD 2024	YTD 2025	Annual Budget 2025	Difference Actual YTD - YTD Budg
<b>Non-Operating Accounts</b>				
Deacon Income	1,630.00	2,250.00		
Flower Fund	489.00	328.95		
Worship Connections	1,440.00			
Event and Memorial				
Special Offerings	4,435.00	3,792.00		
Outreach Income	937.43	1,600.43		
Pumpkin Patch	10,300.29	11,272.94		
In Memorium income	2,200.00	1,578.99		
Matthew 25 Income	1,000.00	1,000.00		
Building Fund (Pay Off)	13,086.16	3,000.00		
Columbarium Income	0.45	0.68		
Total Non-Operating Income	35,518.33	24,823.99		
<b>Deacon Expenditures</b>				
Congregational Care	74.36	46.17		
Community Support	620.00	814.36		
Outreach	900.00	1,600.00		
Total Deacon Expenditures	1,594.36	2,460.53		
Special Offering Expenditure	4,817.43	5,335.43		
Matthews Outreach Check Sent	1,000.00	1,000.00		
Events & Memorials Exp		69.00		
Flower Fund Expense	475.53	263.28		
Worship Connections Expense	1,449.86			
Pumpkin Patch Exp	10,300.29	11,272.94		
Building Fund Exp	1,905.42			
Outreach Check	305.00	100.00		
Nuturing Spiritual Expenditures	1,121.00			
Memorial Gifts Expenditure	20.12			
Retreat Study Leave Accr Exps.		2,414.78		
Sabbatical Expenses	10,000.00			
Columbarium Expenditures	2,611.42			
Total Non-Operating Expenditures	35,600.43	22,915.96		
Non Operating income-expenses	(82.10)	1,908.03		
Net Gain or Loss	2,917.90	1,995.43		

**MCPC BALANCE SHEET**

**Midcoast Presbyterian Church  
Balance Sheet for December 31, 2025**

	Balance as of Dec 31, 2024	Balance as of Dec 31, 2025
<b>Assets</b>		
M&T Checking	\$ 67,515.76	\$ 67,634.72
M&T Columbarium Savings	\$ 3,357.58	\$ 3,358.26
Presbyterian I&L	\$ 18,747.00	\$ 19,407.79
	<u>\$ 89,620.34</u>	<u>\$ 90,400.77</u>
<b>Liabilities</b>		
Accrued Sabbatical	\$ -	\$ -
Accrued Retreat / Study Leave	\$ 2,414.78	\$ -
Building Reserve	\$ 18,291.19	\$ 21,291.19
	<u>\$ 20,705.97</u>	<u>\$ 21,291.19</u>
<b>Fund Balances</b>		
Operating Fund	\$ 20,625.18	\$ 20,202.58
Noyes Fund	\$ 17,603.50	\$ 17,603.50
Columbarium	\$ 3,357.58	\$ 3,358.26
Memorial Gifts	\$ 12,073.07	\$ 13,652.06
Other Undesignated	\$ 1,684.86	\$ 1,684.86
Subtotal	<u>\$ 55,344.19</u>	<u>\$ 56,501.26</u>
Deacons Fund	\$ 1,320.88	\$ 1,110.35
Events & Memorials	\$ 300.12	\$ 231.12
Flowers	\$ 509.51	\$ 575.18
Outreach Pass Thru	\$ 250.00	\$ -
Nuturing Spiritual Gifts	\$ 10,484.67	\$ 10,484.67
Special Offering Pass Thru	\$ 705.00	\$ 207.00
Matthew 25 Outreach Pass Thru	\$ -	\$ -
Worship Connections	\$ -	\$ -
Subtotal of above Funds	<u>\$ 13,570.18</u>	<u>\$ 12,608.32</u>
	<u>\$ 89,620.34</u>	<u>\$ 90,400.77</u>
<b>Total Liabilities &amp; Fund Balances</b>	<u>\$ 89,620.34</u>	<u>\$ 90,400.77</u>

**MCPC BUDGET FOR 2026 (2 PAGES)**

<b>Budget for Operating Fund - 2026</b>					
<b>Mid-Coast Presbyterian Church</b>					
	Final 2025	Budget 2025	Budget 2026	Diff (2026-2025)	Budget 2026 -Final 2025
<b>Income</b>					
Offerings - Pledged and Nonpledged Offering	\$140,973.00	\$140,700.00	\$148,999.38	\$8,299.38	\$8,026.38
	<u>\$140,973.00</u>	<u>\$140,700.00</u>	<u>\$148,999.38</u>	\$8,299.38	\$8,026.38
<b>Other income</b>					
Farmer's market	\$1,634.00	\$1,200.00	\$1,300.00	\$100.00	-\$334.00
Pumpkin Patch	\$3,187.52	\$3,100.00	\$3,100.00	\$0.00	-\$87.52
Rental Income	\$2,790.00	\$3,200.00	\$4,800.00	\$1,600.00	\$2,010.00
Other Income	<u>\$7,611.52</u>	<u>\$7,500.00</u>	<u>\$9,200.00</u>	\$1,700.00	\$1,588.48
Bright Start Assessment	\$8,000.00	\$8,000.00	\$9,000.00	\$1,000.00	\$1,000.00
Interest Income	\$660.79	\$550.00	\$800.00	\$250.00	\$139.21
<b>Total Income</b>	<u>\$157,245.31</u>	<u>\$156,750.00</u>	<u>\$167,999.38</u>	\$11,249.38	\$10,754.07
<b>Expenses</b>					
<b>Pastor /Employee</b>					
Pastor Salary	\$23,483.25	\$22,613.50	\$23,483.25	\$869.75	\$0.00
Pastor Housing	\$20,366.91	\$19,612.50	\$20,366.91	\$754.41	\$0.00
Pension/Medical	\$18,969.12	\$18,922.00	\$22,422.00	\$3,500.00	\$3,452.88
Travel Expense	\$1,071.24	\$2,000.00	\$2,000.00	\$0.00	\$928.76
Professional Exp/ Books	\$2,236.31	\$3,700.00	\$3,700.00	\$0.00	\$1,463.69
Retreat/Study Leave	\$2,885.22	\$3,000.00	\$3,000.00	\$0.00	\$114.78
Custodian - Wages	\$3,422.02	\$4,783.00	\$5,103.80	\$320.80	\$1,681.78
Taxes -Custodian & Bookkeeper	\$1,293.51	\$1,131.22	\$1,343.00	\$211.78	\$49.49
Bookkeeper - Wages	\$11,510.00	\$11,642.00	\$12,563.20	\$921.20	\$1,053.20
Outside Payroll Service	\$2,396.80	\$2,000.00	\$2,500.00	\$500.00	\$103.20
Workers Comp	\$270.50	\$1,200.00	\$800.00	-\$400.00	\$529.50
<b>Pastor/Employee Expense</b>	<u>\$87,904.88</u>	<u>\$90,604.22</u>	<u>\$97,282.16</u>	\$6,677.94	\$9,377.28
<b>Worship Expenses</b>					
Pulpit Supply	\$1,400.00	\$2,000.00	\$2,925.00	\$925.00	\$1,525.00
Worship Supplies	\$409.88	\$450.00	\$500.00	\$50.00	\$90.12
Piano Tuning	\$0.00	\$220.00	\$220.00	\$0.00	\$220.00
<b>Total Worship Expense</b>	<u>\$1,809.88</u>	<u>\$2,670.00</u>	<u>\$3,645.00</u>	\$975.00	\$1,835.12
<b>Building</b>					
Snow Plowing	\$11,250.00	\$11,000.00	\$12,000.00	\$1,000.00	\$750.00
Sprinkler Inspection	\$200.00	\$380.00	\$200.00	-\$180.00	\$0.00
Extinguisher Inspection	\$344.00	\$340.00	\$350.00	\$10.00	\$6.00
Cunningham Yearly Contract	<u>\$412.56</u>	<u>\$1,250.00</u>	<u>\$450.00</u>	-\$800.00	\$37.44
<b>Contract Services</b>	<u>\$12,206.56</u>	<u>\$12,970.00</u>	<u>\$13,000.00</u>	\$30.00	\$793.44
Maintenance and Repair	\$8,411.14	\$6,000.00	\$6,000.00	\$0.00	-\$2,411.14
Property/Liability Insurance	\$12,817.05	\$12,670.00	\$12,923.40	\$253.40	\$106.35
<b>Utilities</b>					
Electricity	\$4,030.54	\$3,900.00	\$4,200.00	\$300.00	\$169.46
Water	\$2,492.52	\$2,200.00	\$2,600.00	\$400.00	\$107.48
Sewer	\$795.96	\$600.00	\$1,000.00	\$400.00	\$204.04
Heating	<u>\$9,294.85</u>	<u>\$7,400.00</u>	<u>\$10,000.00</u>	\$2,600.00	\$705.15
<b>Utilities</b>	<u>\$16,613.87</u>	<u>\$14,100.00</u>	<u>\$17,800.00</u>	\$3,700.00	\$1,186.13

*Mid-Coast Presbyterian Church 2025 Annual Report*

	Final 2025	Budget 2025	Budget 2026	Diff (2026-2025)	Budget 2026 -Final 2025
Dumpster Expense	\$1,652.25	\$1,700.00	\$1,700.00	\$0.00	\$47.75
Building Reserve	\$3,000.00	\$3,000.00	\$3,000.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Total Building Expense	<u>\$54,700.87</u>	<u>\$50,440.00</u>	<u>\$54,423.40</u>	\$3,983.40	-\$277.47
<b>Administration</b>					
<b>Office Supplies</b>					
Copier Agreement	\$833.58	\$680.00	\$900.00	\$220.00	\$66.42
Postage	\$526.00	\$400.00	\$500.00	\$100.00	-\$26.00
Supply Expense	\$522.61	\$550.00	\$600.00	\$50.00	\$77.39
Office Supplies	<u>\$1,882.19</u>	<u>\$1,630.00</u>	<u>\$2,000.00</u>	\$370.00	\$117.81
Legal Expense	\$35.00	\$35.00	\$40.00	\$5.00	\$5.00
Publicity	\$0.00	\$120.00	\$120.00	\$0.00	\$120.00
Miscellaneous Expense (bank fee)	\$131.00	\$140.00	\$175.00	\$35.00	\$44.00
Total Admin Expense	<u>\$166.00</u>	<u>\$295.00</u>	<u>\$335.00</u>	\$40.00	\$169.00
Total Administration	<u>\$2,048.19</u>	<u>\$1,925.00</u>	<u>\$2,335.00</u>	\$410.00	\$286.81
<b>Information Technology</b>					
Website and Domain	\$412.96	\$150.00	\$250.00	\$100.00	-\$162.96
Internet and Telephone	\$3,330.01	\$3,400.00	\$3,600.00	\$200.00	\$269.99
Software and Hardware	\$0.00	\$420.00	\$400.00	-\$20.00	\$400.00
Technology (subscriptions, etc)	\$0.00	\$200.00	\$200.00	\$0.00	\$200.00
Total Information Technology	<u>\$3,742.97</u>	<u>\$4,170.00</u>	<u>\$4,450.00</u>	\$280.00	\$707.03
<b>Hospitality</b>					
Housekeeping Supplies	\$2,011.12	\$1,200.00	\$1,800.00	\$600.00	-\$211.12
Total Hospitality	<u>\$2,011.12</u>	<u>\$1,200.00</u>	<u>\$1,800.00</u>	\$600.00	-\$211.12
<b>Ministry Giving</b>					
Giving Per Capita	\$2,940.00	\$2,940.00	\$3,000.00	\$60.00	\$60.00
Ministry Giving to PNNE	\$2,000.00	\$2,000.00	\$2,000.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Total Ministry Giving	<u>\$4,940.00</u>	<u>\$4,940.00</u>	<u>\$5,000.00</u>	\$60.00	\$60.00
Total Expenses	<u>\$157,157.91</u>	<u>\$155,949.22</u>	<u>\$168,935.56</u>	\$12,986.34	\$11,777.65
Income minus Expense	<u>\$87.40</u>	<u>\$800.78</u>	<u>-\$936.18</u>	\$1,736.96	-\$1,023.58

**BRIGHT START BUDGETARY STATEMENT**

**2025 Annual Budget vs. Actual and 2026 Projections**

	2025 Budget	2025 Actual	2026 Projection
<b>Income</b>			
<b>Tuition</b>	\$ 447,400	\$ 440,913	\$ 439,450
Grant from the State of ME for teachers	\$ 12,000	\$ 48,762	\$ 18,000
<b>Fundraising &amp; Event Income</b>	\$ 3,000	\$ 3,659	\$ 7,500
<b>Donations &amp; Gifts</b>	\$ 1,000	\$ 1,694	\$ 2,000
<b>Miscellaneous Income &amp; Interest</b>	\$ 4,000	\$ 6,779	\$ 3,360
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>\$ 467,400</b>	<b>\$ 501,807</b>	<b>\$ 470,310</b>
<b>Expenses</b>			
<b>Administrative Expenses</b>			
Admin Supply	\$ 1,200	\$ 2,674	\$ 1,200
Advertising	\$ 500	\$ 87	\$ 500
Staff Enrichment	\$ 2,000	\$ 2,724	\$ 2,500
Telephone	\$ 600	\$ 600	\$ 600
Training & Cont'd Ed	\$ 2,000	\$ 2,258	\$ 3,000
<b>Total Administrative Expenses</b>	<b>\$ 6,300</b>	<b>\$ 8,343</b>	<b>\$ 7,800</b>
<b>Child Enrichment Expense</b>			
Classroom Supply	\$ 1,500	\$ 1,307	\$ 1,000
Equipment	\$ 8,000	\$ 11,912	\$ 12,000
Extra Curriculum Activity	\$ 3,500	\$ 3,010	\$ 4,000
Food Expense	\$ 3,000	\$ 2,890	\$ 3,000
Miscellaneous Classroom	\$ 500	\$ -	\$ 500
<b>Total Child Enrichment Expenses</b>	<b>\$ 16,500</b>	<b>\$ 19,119</b>	<b>\$ 20,500</b>
<b>Employee Expenses</b>	<b>\$ 398,850</b>	<b>\$ 364,873</b>	<b>\$ 414,500</b>
<b>(includes salary, grants, fica charges, insurance, payroll services &amp; workers comp)</b>			
<b>Overhead Expenses</b>			
Bank Fees	\$ 150	\$ 37	\$ 100
Cleaning Supplies & Sanitary Needs	\$ 2,000	\$ 2,513	\$ 2,000
Contract Services & Licensing Fees	\$ 1,000	\$ 1,282	\$ 1,400
Fundraising & Special Events	\$ 1,500	\$ 3,329	\$ 2,000
Liability Insurance	\$ 6,600	\$ 7,471	\$ 7,750
MCPC Assessment	\$ 8,000	\$ 8,000	\$ 9,000
Maintenance & Repair	\$ 8,000	\$ 7,220	\$ 10,000
Transportation	\$ 250	\$ 235	\$ -
Misc. Overhead & Tuition Aid**	\$ 7,500	\$ 1,790	\$ 2,000
Misc. Community Support	\$ 7,500	\$ 1,790	\$ 1,200
<b>Total Overhead Expenses</b>	<b>\$ 35,000</b>	<b>\$ 31,877</b>	<b>\$ 35,450</b>
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>\$ 456,650</b>	<b>\$ 424,212</b>	<b>\$ 478,250</b>
<b>Net Income</b>	<b>\$ 10,750</b>	<b>\$ 77,595</b>	<b>\$ (7,940)</b>