

Gratitude Report 2024



WALL STREET
UNITED CHURCH
God Loves ALL. So do we.

Gratitude Report 2024

Jan. 1 - Dec. 31, 2024

Message from Pastor Kim



Fearlessly Forward Strategic Plan

In 2024, we completed the Fearlessly Forward Strategic Plan, a roadmap for our future shaped by five key themes: Spiritual Vibrancy, Intergenerational Engagement, Community Outreach, Leadership Empowerment, and Operational Sustainability. After months of discussion, collaboration, and prayer, we celebrated this milestone in September. Now, the real work begins.

Alongside dedicated committees, staff, and leaders, we made significant progress. We established a Newcomers Team, strengthened the Food Ministry and Care & Connect teams, and improved church communications. A Financial Growth team was also formed to ensure long-term stability for future generations.

Beyond the Walls

Our mission to extend Christ's love was evident in community events like the Brockville Cleanup, Ceasefire Pilgrimage in Ottawa, and the Brockville Pride Parade. A special mention goes to Samia Odeh, our music director, who was named Businessperson of the Year, performed at the Presbyterian General Assembly, and spoke at a Pride Brockville event, all while sharing our church's mission.

Additionally, Laura Webb has represented our church at the Community Committee meetings at the Health Unit, collaborating with vital organizations like the Food Bank, Loaves and Fishes, and Connect Youth. Our Sunday Suppers and Friday Breakfasts continue to support those in need, especially as food costs rise. Our community was also deeply impressed by our hosting of the New Year's Concerts, made possible through our investment in sound and A/V improvements.

Looking Ahead

As I let my name stand for Moderator of the United Church of Canada, the future holds uncertainty. Yet, we are called to run with perseverance, trusting God's plan for all of us.

Thank you for your unwavering dedication, your prayers, and your generous hearts. I am honored to serve as your pastor and excited for all that lies ahead. Let us continue to fix our eyes on Jesus, moving boldly forward knowing we are not alone.

With gratitude and blessings,
Pastor Kim

Message from the Board Chair, Laura Webb

2024 saw the completion of our strategic plan. As chair of the board I am thankful for being able to witness this community in action. Thank you Pastor Kim for your leadership on this journey. The following are some key observations I have made!

Wall Street is an amazing community to be a part of! Thanks to each of you for being part of this community.

Accepting - God loves ALL so do we. I see this in action in so many places.

Loving locally - It has been good to attend community partner meetings and have a better sense of what is happening in our community.

Limited Resources but endless possibilities - how do we prioritize? These are decisions we will continue to make in 2025.

Strategic plan, written! Now to continue to implement. This gives us good direction.

Teamwork. Thanks to our amazing Staff: Pastor Kim, Samia, Karen, Joanne and Peter.

Repairs are never ending in a facility this size. Thanks Steve for keeping us on track.

Eating - We love to share food with one another and with others in need. Over 4,124 meals were served in 2024.

Excellent Music! Our music team brings so much passion and purpose every week.

Tea and Coffee served weekly in Heritage Hall to provide space for people to connect

UCW - Has long been a backbone of the church! Thanks for your faithful witness!

New Stoves. Thanks to the NHSP grant money we have new commercial stoves!

Intergenerational activity. It is wonderful to see kids in the music program.

Terrific Volunteers!! Thousands of hours have been shared in so many areas.

Exercise - Thank you Lucie and Peter for leading and encouraging healthy lifestyle.

Deep Cleaning of the church was done by the Worship Team! Thank You!

Connor - we are glad you are here helping with cross generational ministry!

Hard working custodial staff! Rick, Eric and Mark, thanks for all you do!

United in Purpose - Diverse in our giftedness. Makes for a great community!

Recovery Community - We all come with our Hurts, Habits and Hang-ups.

Communications Team - We would be lost without you! Technology has allowed us to reach so far beyond our walls, building community all over! Thank You!

Healthy Church! Overall we are a healthy congregation with exciting things ahead.

2024 Financial Statement

Revenue

Gifts and donations	\$321,876.31
Rentals	\$55,152.92
Fitness Fundraising	\$3,380.00
Yuletide Fair	\$25,100.35
Other Revenue	\$7,729.04
Interest Earned from Investments	\$7,860.45
Total Operating Fund Revenue	\$421,099.07

Local Operating Fund Expenses

Ministry and Personnel	\$287,791.70
Property	\$68,577.59
Communications	\$8,139.95
Insurance	\$17,050.99
Worship	\$3,545.88
Celebrate Life/Evening Worship	\$676.48
Christian Nurture & Dev.	\$1,597.19
Outreach Projects	\$527.28
Administration	\$20,378.00
Regional U.C. Assessment/Meetings	\$20,685.00
Total Operational Expenses	\$428,970.06
Gain/(Loss) on Operations	(\$7,870.99)
Transfer - MacKenzie bequest	\$2,500.00
2024 Net (Loss) on Operations	(\$5,370.99)

Program Highlights by the Numbers

7+
Thousand People attended
in-person worship

\$11,789 Amount raised by
Outreach Committee
initiatives

23 Number of External
Rental Groups

3,701 Breakfasts served on
Friday mornings

\$287,792 2024 M & P expenditure
for salaries, benefits
and associated costs.

20% Of Yuletide profit
was from pie sales!

17+
Thousand Number of hours by
volunteers at our
church

21,175 Views on our
YouTube Channel

9+
Thousand Watched services
online live or later

13 Recovery Groups
now meet at Wall
Street!

2,100+ Meals served at
Sunday Suppers

\$21,855 Yuletide Fare
net profit

27 Prayer shawls handed
out!

25 People became
members at Wall
Street

2024 Highlights

Food Ministry

A major improvement to our lower kitchen included the purchase of a new commercial oven and stove to support our community food programs and internal events. Our thanks to the Food Ministry Team, Property Committee and Finance for their work on this.

Faith & Fitness

Lucie Stein started Faith & Fitness classes, running in the Fall and Winter semesters, strengthening both bodies and faith while also supporting the church. 50-60 people attend each of her two weekly classes!

Kids & Youth

We welcomed Connor Houle as our new child and youth worker in August. His passion and fresh ideas have been a great blessing. A new in service kids and youth program started in September along with a youth worship group and Youth Worship Services.

Care & Connect

The Pastoral Care group and In Touch Teams formed a new team - Care & Connect - to enable us to provide more support to the congregation through hospital, nursing home and home visits, telephone calls and social gatherings.

Newcomers Team

The newcomers team, led by Cathy Cavanagh and Anne Van Wyck introduced resources to help newer members and attendees feel connected and involved including a newcomer welcome pack, congregation name tags and more help with greeting on Sunday mornings.

2024 Highlights

Indigenous Sub-committee

Donna Greenhorn helped to coordinate National Indigenous Peoples Day events on September 30th and organised an evening with Ted and Maggie Stewart on June 20th. Ted spoke on the early history of Eastern Ontario and Maggie, an art instructor and Indigenous Artist displayed her beautiful artistic creations.

Our Space

Our church is busier than ever! There were 4,850 hours of scheduled activities, worship services, meetings and events. 50% of the total hours were used by 50+ Brockville Activity Group, 12 Step Recovery Groups and Wall Street's Food Ministry.

Rental Partners

The rental committee and leadership team started working with 50+ to look for ways to work together to benefit members and improve our facilities. Other valued rental partners include Special Olympics, Canadian Tai Chi Association, Brockville General Hospital, CNIB VIP Group.

Planning Centre Software

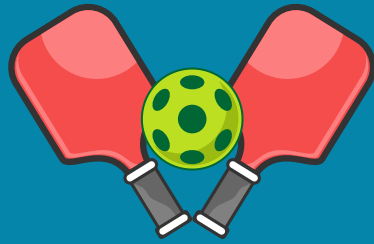
This is a cloud based software we use to manage our records, scheduling, church groups and event registrations. We encourage everyone to download Church Centre on their phones to manage their profile, connect with groups and check out upcoming events and activities.

Spiritual Vibrancy

Rev. Wendy MacLean, one of our Voluntary Associate Ministers and leader of the Tuesday meditation group, led an inspiring workshop on the 'Ways to Pray' and a book launch for her new poetry book, '*Endless Roots*'.

Highlights and Reports

192 Hours
of
Pickleball
Played



42 Bags of
Garbage
Collected for
Earth Day!



Significant maintenance and improvement activities in 2024 by the Property Committee - Steve Lauridsen

Property Committee expenditures in 2024 were \$61,435 versus a budget of \$81,850.

While this looks great, we have encountered additional expenses for the heating system repairs in early 2025 and winter 2024 was not as severe, so fuel consumption was less than normal last year

- Electrical upgrades to lower kitchen (new outlets and repairs to existing outlets)
- Replaced the window beside the main entrance door
- The electric motor drive on the blower for the pipe organ was repaired and cleaned
- Millwork, painting and some stonework on the exterior east side
- Four additional security camera were installed inside the Church
- Replaced the security alarm keypads and controller

MINISTRY AND PERSONNEL COMMITTEE - MARY BEGG

- The 2025 budget approved included a 3% increase in salaries and wages with a total budget for salaries, benefits, travel allowance, continuing education and miscellaneous of \$293,494.
- The fee schedule for weddings and funerals was reviewed and adjusted to reflect the level of service provided.

Chair of the Board of Trustees - Jim Hanes

The Board of Trustees oversees the investments and accounting of surpluses from previous years, donations and bequests left to the church.

We perform our investment function through a contract with Royal Bank (RBC) investment services.

As of December 31, 2024 the market value of our RBC investment portfolio was \$1,063,144.67. During the year there were withdrawals totalling \$99,142.04 and bequests totalling \$40,000.00. Our portfolio had a gain of \$107,348.42 (10.7%). The investment account earned \$35,434.95 in interest and dividends and we paid \$9,719.53 (plus HST) in management fees. In addition to our RBC investment account we have an additional \$254,490.00 in GIC's at RBC (outside the managed account).

There are different categories of the invested funds, for example Trustees, Building, Memorial, UCW, Outreach, etc.

The Chair of the Board of Trustees signs all contracts entered into by the church and ensures that contracts are properly approved. Also, the Board of Trustees makes sure that the church is properly insured. Our premium for 2025 is \$18,099.00.

Worship Committee - Lynda Blanchard

- Easter and Christmas flowers were distributed to those who experienced loss, major health challenges, nursing home residents and those who are homebound.
- The first annual deep clean of the church was completed by volunteers from the congregation.
- The Worship Committee and other volunteers decorated the church for Christmas and other seasons.

Outreach Committee - Michel Gadoury

Volunteer Highlights

- Canadian Food Grains Bank: Michel Gadoury takes over
- Prayer Shawls: 27 handed out
- Meals on Wheels: 16 drivers from Wall Street Church
- Birthday Cards: An average of 21 handed out monthly to local residences and care agencies
- Sunday Supper and Celebrate Life: 82 hats, 55 scarves and cowls, 33 mittens and gloves, 14 lap afghans, 12 pairs of socks, 10 headbands, 2 shawls distributed
- Indigenous Sub-Committee: Poster display in Hardy Park recapping reconciliation educational program and actions undertaken by members since 2013

Fundraising

- Canadian Food Grains Bank: guest speaker Henry Reinders : \$3,751
- Brockville and Area Food Bank: guest speaker Amanda Petch: \$4,110
- Our Kenyan Kids: Annual Garage Sale : \$9,495
- World Food Day: Fundraiser for Loaves and Fishes: \$1,543
- Meaningful Christmas Gifts: \$2,385

Special Events

- National Indigenous Peoples Day: guest speaker Ted Stewart (Archeological Technician) and his wife Maggie (Indigenous Artist)
- National Day for Truth and Reconciliation: - special Métis guest speaker Deanna Garton, offers her copy of the Apology for the Residential School System signed by PM Stephen Harper in 2008

United Welcome

- The Afghan family has moved to Kingston. Ron Whitehorn repaired 3 bicycles for Afghan Family. Several Ukrainians apply for permanent resident status.

United Church Women

A Review of 2024

February - A devotional focusing on a “*new year*” led by Barb Little.

March - A lenten season program led by Ann Lacey
Presentation relating to The Twelve Step program of Alcoholics Anonymous and how deep faith and prayer can help you through.

April - A Devotional on receiving support led by Shirley Avery. Solar eclipse glasses to be sent to other countries.

May - Three members attended the AGM Four River Presbyterial on April 11, 2024 - guest speaker was Rev. Rodney Smith-Merkley, who spoke about his time learning the indigenous culture.

June - A potluck dinner was followed by the Malala Choir concert at St. Paul’s Church.

August - UCW attended the Blueberry Social in Mallorytown on August 4, 2024.

September - A devotional on God’s Grace led by Kathy Cavanagh.

October - UCW attended the Four Rivers Fall Rally.

November - A devotional titled “*God’s Hand*” led by Lynda Blanchard and a presentation titled “Unexpected Experiences & Remembrances for our 2024 Newfoundland Visit” made by Shirley Avery and Anne Wagner.

December - A devotional titled “*Christmas Preparation*” led by Diane French and a presentation by Dr. Catherine Cavanagh on the impact a small group can make on issues of Justice and Human Dignity.

Yuletide Fare

Sharon McIntosh, Chairperson

Yuletide Fare, the major fundraising event for Wall Street United Church, was once again a success in so many ways. The sales days were November 15 and 16, and also the July summer pie sales.

It is organized by an incredibly dedicated team of 13 individuals who meet four times a year. There are twenty-two areas which require their oversight, planning and organizational skills.

Highlights

- 100 volunteers helped at 138 “shifts” - preparation and “days of sales”
- 71 volunteers from our church and 29 from mainly the Brockville area
- 11 sale areas organized by Yuletide Fare team leaders
- delicious lunches served both days (108 on Friday, 86 on Saturday)
- 15 community vendors who rent table space to sell their product
- uncounted donations of crafts, jewelry, items for Silent Auction, Rosie’s Treasures, Christmas Decor, baking and desserts from our church family and their friends
- many, many shoppers from our church family and the Brockville community
- support from our Pastor, office administrator and custodians

Net profit - \$21,855.51

Break down of sales

- Pies - 20%, Preserves/ Baked Beans 16%, Bake Table -15%, Lunches – 15%, Silent Auction – 9%
- Bling Boutique, Christmas Decor, Rosie’s Treasures, Novel Knits, Indoor and Outdoor Fresh Arrangements, Crafts – 40%

There is a reason why the event is called Yuletide Fare (not Fair).

Our shoppers love to eat!

Director of Music - Samia Odeh

This past year has been a true gift for our music ministry at Wall Street. It's been wonderful to see our team grow, with new youth members stepping forward, a youth band taking shape, and more voices and instruments joining in worship. The Youth Christmas pageant was a special moment, with our young musicians offering their gifts beautifully. I'm grateful to serve as Music Director and to share in music with such a dedicated team. Week after week, I'm moved by the heart and commitment of our musicians as we pray through music together.

Our ministry continues to grow, welcoming more youth and intergenerational participation supported by Connor Houle, our Youth and Ministry leader. With a mix of new and traditional music, we strive to create music that brings people together and strengthens faith. We're thankful for our AV team and for Paul Bullock and Eric Vice who contribute so much to support our team.



I'm grateful for each person who shares their gifts in our music ministry. It's a privilege to be part of this community, and I look forward to another year of music and worship

Bible Study Group - Ann Lacey

Our active Bible Study Group met on Tuesday mornings 35 times during 2024 with an average attendance of 7.2 members. We completed our study of Acts and then continued with a study of First and Second Corinthians. We then started on a study of Proverbs which will be finished in early 2025. We found that this book contains a lot of common sense along with some laughs.

Each session opens at 9:00 with prayer asking for God's guidance as we study His Word. This is followed by reading a few verses with questions for discussion and some historical insight from a guide book. Our discussions can be quite lively and we support each other as we discuss our thoughts on the passage. There are no wrong answers. As we near 10:00 o'clock, we stop for prayer requests. We have a prayer for our concerns and end with the Lord's Prayer.

Communications- John Melville

In August, John was elected Chairperson for the Communications Committee. He has an extensive background in media and broadcasting through his work at AMI, a Canadian broadcast TV channel with a mandate to serve persons with disabilities.

Communications 2024 Review

- New IP phone system and hand-sets installed throughout the church.
- Change of internet service provider from Cogeco to Tru Speed and upgrade of router and switch, to improve internet capacity for communication and broadcasting.
- Installation of WiFi in Serenity Hall.
- New website, including design and web hosting.
- 3 new cameras installed in the sanctuary, including an expanded switch and camera controller.
- 2 new 90” monitors in the sanctuary to replace the projectors and screens.
- New television monitors in Heritage Hall and the Godly Playroom with networking through Apple TV for easy access for presentations and broadcasts.
- Increased “Wall Street Music” presence on YouTube with regular weekly songs from the service published each week.
- YouTube releases of Easter Sunrise and Baptism services.
- Ability to stream or upload to YouTube, any activities in the Church.

Our YouTube presence has been a major focus for the Communications Committee, to make available to at-home viewers, broadcast live services and regular uploads of music and speakers.

YouTube statistics from 2024

- Total actual views: 21,175
- Watch time hours 3,700
- New subscribers 89
- Average watch time 44 minutes (Sunday broadcast)
- Canadian views: 10,512
- Brockville views: 2,617
- Over 65 years of age 89% (watching videos: 51% watching live-stream: 49%)

Care & Connect - Linda Hanes

The Pastoral Care and In Touch Teams joined together under the new name of Care & Connect. Rev. Catherine Oxenford-Grant is also part of the Pastoral Care team in addition to visits made in her capacity as Voluntary Associate Minister.

Responsibilities:

- To provide support and encouragement to members of our church family
- Focus on others through active listening

Activities:

- Connected with members of WSUC through phone calls and emails
- Visited WSUC members in retirement/nursing homes and hospital
- Five members completed a 10 week course on Pastoral Care offered through the Ottawa Pastoral Care
- Four members attended a session on Challenges of MAID offered through Bruyere Continuing Care at St Vincent Hospital - November 5, 2024
- Five members attended an information session on Dementia presented by Sean McFadden at Addison United Church - November 20, 2024

Knit & Chat - Janice Penney

A lively group of ladies, numbering as many as 14 at times, meets every Thursday morning in the lower hall, from 9am - 11:30am.

Anyone is welcome to join and we have lots of yarn and needles to supply the newbie. Problems? Well there is lots of experience sitting at the tables to help.

These ladies contribute a major amount of the items which are given out at the December Sunday Supper and Celebrate Life Service.



Food Ministry - Joan Johnson

Sunday Morning Coffee Time, Sunday Supper and Friday Morning Breakfast keep all of our wonderful volunteers very busy!

- Sunday Morning Coffee Time is graciously supplied by so many people providing treats each week. We have a wonderful team of volunteers who help with tea and coffee time.
- Sunday Supper in Brockville is now entering its 18th year of operation. Sunday Supper is presently serving approximately 200 meals the 2nd Sunday of the month with Reunion Church handling the 5th Sundays with the help of our volunteers.
- Friday Breakfast serves between 75-110 breakfasts each week and we are blessed with the donation of cases of eggs from Burnbrae Farms.
- The Library lunch program ended in December and we now provide sandwiches and fruit to the Drop In Centre held at 25 Front Ave one Saturday a month.
- We also have had the opportunity for fundraising by providing coffee and snacks to different groups who meet in our church.
- In 2024 we had the task of researching and getting ready for our new range and convection oven which meant many meetings, lots of research and lively discussions but finally resulted in the purchase and installation of our new stoves made possible through a grant from New Horizons Senior Program.

Thank you to all our volunteers!

Faith & Fitness - Lucie Stein, Certified Instructor

The Faith & Fitness Exercise initiative, launched in September 2024, combines physical exercise with spiritual nourishment. The program features a blend of devotional time, prayer, Christian and contemporary music, and a variety of exercises designed to strengthen every part of the body. It is intentionally designed to be inclusive, allowing participants of all capability levels to engage. The goal is to nurture both spiritual and physical well-being in an atmosphere filled with joy and grace.

Open to all members of the church and the broader community, the initiative has been warmly received. Through the grace of God, this program has come to fruition, with all funds generated supporting the work of the church.

Wall Street United Church Leadership Team

Slated Executives of the Official Board for 2025

Chair of the Board	Laura Webb
Vice Chair of the Board	Open
Secretary	Karen Melville
Treasurer	Jim Hanes
Past-Chair	Paul Bullock
Clergy	Rev. Dr. Kimberly Heath

Trustees

Jim Hanes , Gordon Lane, Lucie Stein, Linda Hanes, Jane Mitton

Slated Board Members for 2025

UCW	Shirley Avery
Ministry and Personnel	Mary Begg
Worship and Congregational Life	Lynda Blanchard
EOORC Representative	Paul Bullock
Outreach	Michel Gadoury
Communications	John Melville
Property	Steve Lauridsen
Care & Connect	Linda Hanes
Evening Worship Service	Jason Holmes

Members at Large : Sharon McIntosh, Gail Fournier, Nancy Nicholson

The Team, In Memoriam

Staff Members

Rev. Dr. Kimberly Heath
Samia O'Day
Karen Melville
Joanne Pearce
Peter Geertsema
Connor Houle
Rick Thompson
Eric Richards
Mark Conroy

Minister
Director of Music
Church Administrator
Book Keeper
Broadcast Operations
Child & Youth Worker
Full Time Custodian
Part Time Custodian
Support Custodian

Voluntary Associate Ministers

Rev. Catherine Oxenford-Grant
Rev. Wendy Maclean
Rev. Donald Wachenschwanz
Rev. Daniel Hayward

Licensed Lay Worship Leaders

Lynda Blanchard
Laura Webb
Cathie Kelso

In Memoriam

We are grateful for the lives of those who have gone before us.

Mary Golledge
Heidemarie Powell
Betty Halladay
Evangeline Mc Gillivray
Ted Abbot
Rebeckah Robar

Barbara Little
Rene Forget
Joe Clai
Peter Matthews
Ernest Jackson



2024 Statistics

25 New Church Members
2 Weddings
2 Child Baptisms (under 12 years)
1 Adult Baptism
5 Celebration of Life and Memorial Services



Silent night holy night



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