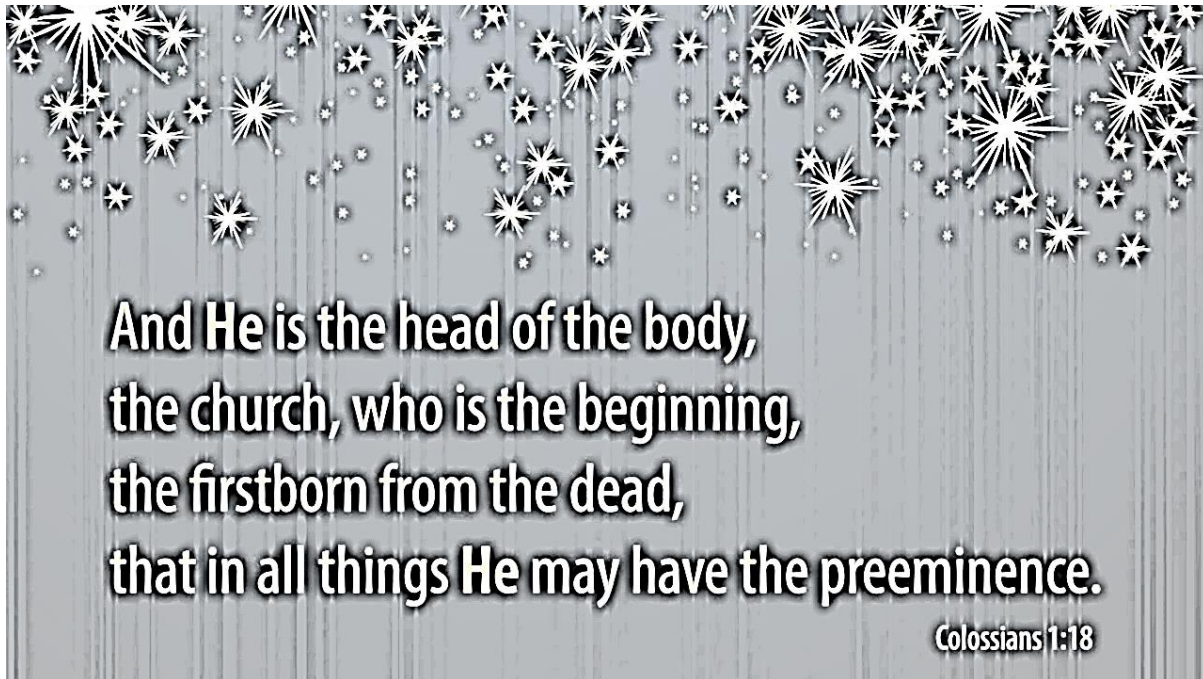




BEACON FALLS CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH



**Our Mission:
To glorify God through
the faithful preaching of His Word,
the making of disciples,
and reaching the world for Jesus Christ.**

**2023
Annual Meeting Reports
Sunday, January 21st, 2024**

Table of Contents

Report Name	Page#
Admin & Ministry Coordinator Update	10
Annual Meeting Minutes from January 22nd, 2023	5
Annual Meeting Warrant w/ proposed changes to C&B	3
Auditors Report	26
Community Outreach Ministry Team	17
Christian Education Committee Report	12
Bible Study Ministry Team Report	14
Church Council Report	7
Clerk's Statistical Report	20
Diaconate/Board of Deacons Report	16
Endowment Report	21
Memorial Fund Report	20
Nominating Committee Slate	25
Pastor's Report	8
Prudential Committee Report	22
Treasurer's Reports, Including Budgets	27
Raise Right (Scrip) Report	22

Annual Meeting Warrant

TO THE MEMBERS OF THE BEACON FALLS CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH Beacon Falls, CT

Greetings:

By this call, you are officially notified of the annual meeting of The Beacon Falls Congregational Church, Beacon Falls, Connecticut, to be held on Sunday, January 21st, 2024, with a snow date of January 28th, 2024. The meeting will be conducted on the church premises at 69 Wolfe Ave, Beacon Falls, CT, and will convene at approximately 11:30 a.m. as a luncheon meeting.

The purpose of this meeting is to:

- 1) Receive the reports of the Officers, Boards, Committees, and adjunct groups of the Church;
- 2) Act on the slate of the Nominating Committee to elect Officers of the Church and members to the various Boards and Committees;
- 3) Adopt a Budget for the Church to cover the fiscal year January 1 through December 31, 2024;
- 4) ***Act on the recommendation of The Board of Deacons to amend the constitution & bylaws, removing the current restriction that members may serve no more than two consecutive terms on a committee. [Please see the attached addendum of proposed changes].***
- 5) Act on any other business that may properly come before this meeting.

Respectfully Submitted,



Liza Zajac Whitehead, Clerk
Dated at Beacon Falls, CT
December 17th, 2023

Proposed changes to BFCC's Constitution and Bylaws to be voted upon at the Annual Meeting.

The Board of Deacons is proposing the following changes to BFCC's Constitution and Bylaws to be voted upon at the Annual Meeting in January, 2024. We seek to remove the current restriction that members can only serve two consecutive terms on a committee.

Rational behind this proposed amendment

- We should not limit people in serving with the Gifts God has bestowed on them individually.
- Continuity – We seek parity with the unlimited terms of our church officers (Clerk, Treasurer, Asst Treasurers, Church School Superintendent and Auditor).
- Church members (in full and regular standing) will still annually elect those whom will serve as officers and on committees.

Proposed changes to be made:

A motion will be made at BFCC's Annual meeting in January, 2024 to Amend Sections of Article V – (Pastors, Officers, Non-Officers and Committees) as follows:

Section 1 – Board of Deacons – Delete the sentence “After serving two consecutive terms, a member will be ineligible for re-election to the Diaconate for one year”.

Section 2 – Prudential - Delete the sentence “After serving two consecutive terms, a member will be ineligible for re-election to the Prudential committee for one year.”

Section 3 – Christian Education – Delete the sentence “After serving two consecutive terms, a member will be ineligible for re-election to the Christian education committee for one year.”

Section 4 – Endowment – Delete the sentence “After serving two consecutive terms, a member will be ineligible for re-election to the Endowment committee for a period of one year.”

Section 5 – Nominating – Delete the sentence “After serving for two consecutive terms, a member will be ineligible for re-election to the same committee for one year.”

Beacon Falls Congregational Church

Annual Meeting Minutes

Sunday, January 22, 2023

Attendance

Marsha Culik	Kevin Laitenberger	Heather Laitenberger	Judy Monarca
Laura Hall	Martha Berge	Denise Hendricks	Pastor Jess Joles
Susan Vardon	Wendy Anderson	Judy Landry	Julia Steinis
Mark Swanson	Lisa Swanson	Katie DeLeo	John DeLeo
Wendy Hopkinson	Mark Hopkinson	Johanna Fitzpatrick	Debra Hogestyn
Art Kuhl	Wanda Borysewicz	Dave Spence	Shannon Spence
Tricia Joles	Joe Whitehead	Kim Majkner	Rob Majkner
Liza Whitehead	Marie Cameron	Judy Johnson	Tracey Balanca

The meeting was opened at 11:28 AM with prayer Pastor Jess.

Shannon Spence opened the meeting up with a demo on the Sign-up Central on the BFCC web site. This includes announcements of events happening within the church and to sign up for weekly Sunday worship opportunities. Shannon reviewed how to get to the sign up central and how to sign up for opportunities to help.

Marie Cameron did a presentation on the Raise Right (formerly Script) program and how to use the program to raise funds for the church either by using Ecards or physical gift cards. Marie reviewed history of usage by our church families. Contact Marie if information is needed to sign up or how to get physical cards.

Pastor Jess asked for nominations for Moderator, Judy Landry nominated Dave Spence, Kevin Laitenberger nominated Joe Whitehead. Dave spence declined. Judy Monarca seconded the nomination for Joe Whitehead. Approved by all.

Joe reviewed the process and structure of the meeting, review of last meetings minutes, voting to accept committee reports at end of meeting.

The minutes from the 2022 annual meeting were reviewed. Deb h. noted a correction to the attendance list on page 4 should be Joanne King. A correction to the Warrant on page 3 was also noted; line item #3 should be December 31, 2023. A motion was made to accept the minutes with corrections by Liza W. second by Judy L. Approved by all.

The minutes from the 2022 Special meeting were reviewed. Judy M. questioned the numbers for the vote. Liza explained the difference is due to someone not submitting a vote either way. Motion to accept minutes by Martha B, second by Julia S, approved by all.

Review of Committee Reports:

The Church Council report was reviewed by Pastor Jess. Pastor Jess indicated it was a challenging year reviewed council process. Spirit of God has led us through or walk.

The Clerk's statistical report was presented by Marsha Culik. Numbers reviewed by Joe. Thanks to Marsha for serving as clerk for all the years.

The Christian Education report was submitted by Johanna F. Continuing to look for volunteers to help out. Jess

indicated that this is a critical need for our Sunday School ministry. Tricia indicated that curriculum is easy to use and includes information and activities. Julia asked about teaching the kids the Lord's Prayer. Shannon indicated that this is part of the hand out that goes home in the welcome packet that goes home with each family. Will consider added as part of curriculum.

The Bible Study Ministry Team report was presented by Wendy Anderson. Reviewed upcoming study list. All are welcome to attend. Have a movie night coming up. Martha brought up the possibility of a beginners Bible study if there is interest.

The Diaconate report was presented by Judy Monarca. It was a busy and challenging year. Judy offered to continue as chairperson of the committee this upcoming year. Thanks to all Deacons. Julia S. asked what happened to the song "Let us Break bread together" song on communion Sunday. Lisa S, also indicated interest in this song being added back in. Deacons will discuss at the next meeting.

The Community Outreach Ministry team report was presented by Wendy Hopkinson. Thanks to team for all their work. Existence for 4 years and have challenged church and community to help ministry.

What is new this year –

- Sharing Shed waiting to be moved to gravel area. Thanks to Pete Betkowski/John Conte for help with the shed. Partnering with the Mobile food pantry, working with town, to be established in fire house parking lot.
- Town of Beacon Falls tax abatement; 65, home owner, income not over 75K. \$500 amount. We will supply fliers. Need to apply in person. Starts Feb 1st through April. Information on town website. Contact Lisa Daigle in Town Hall for information.

Need help with Welcome bag ministry. Struggling with creation of bags. Wendy explained what goes into the bags. 60 behind, need help assembling. Denise Hendricks volunteered to help out assemble the bags. Concerned about budget line item being cut and asked to consider adding monies.

Look for volunteers to open and close the shed. There is a need – currently servicing 40 people, 19 households with fresh food deliveries.

Endowment Report was submitted by Marie Cameron. Lost some committee members. Challenging year with fund loss, however we continue to invest. Discussion on what committee does – they meet twice a year and meet with investment advisor twice a year to review investments. Investing at a moderate risk level.

Memorial Fund report given by Liza Whitehead. Refer to annual report.

Pastor's report was presented by Pastor Jess. Pastor Jess discussed that he has started a Men's group meeting regularly reviewing Family Shepherds; Finished up Gentle and Lowly in April. Has been disciplining others throughout the year. Lisa Swanson asked about other tasks that he has been doing such as at home, hospital visits. Jess shared other tasks that he has been doing, firehouse etc. It was asked that he highlight these items in annual report.

Joe introduced Tracey, our new secretary who replaced Liza Whitehead.

Prudential Committee report was presented by Kevin Laitenberger. Kevin indicated they need more members, please consider serving. Even if you are not a Prudential member, let them know if you are handy. Need help with cleaning since Lee Marks resigned as we are not seeking out a new Sexton. Kevin indicated that we are running with a high faith offering this year. Need to keep church in prayer. Thanks to team for Clean-up outside and inside.

Wendy H. asked about the memorial garden and getting the stones engraved. Marie C. indicated that the engraver need to have more than one stone to be done to be cost effective. Engraving is buyer cost. Mark H. and Marie to discuss and contact engraver. Seven folks have stones that need engraving. Policy and procedure in place. Garden falls under Prudential. Judy Monarca asked where money for the memorial garden goes – Capital account.

Pastoral Relations Committee – no report; will be electing a new committee

The Auditor's report was submitted by Carolyn Balencia; books look good.

Joe called for a motion to accept all committee reports. Motion made by Johanna F., second by Wendy H., Accepted by all.

Nominating Slate – Discussion on nominating slate and filling open slots. Openings highlighted in yellow. There was a question on the Dates presented on the slate. Dates are from January to January. John Deleo volunteered for Endowment and Prudential. Lisa Swanson and Deb H. volunteered for Endowment. Discussion on whether there needs to be a change and pair down the required numbers for committees. Deb H. indicated that these have already been paired down in the past. Hold this for future discussion. Laura Hall volunteered for nominating. Lisa Swanson volunteered for Pastoral Relations. Kevin made a motion to accept the slate as presented, second by Wendy, approved by all.

Treasurer's report and Budget were presented by Dave Spence. Dave reviewed the budget numbers. Budget based on Pledges and Faith offerings. Reviewed income and expense numbers. This year the mortgage is now included. Discussion on mortgage. Need members to contribute to the Capital fund to help pay the mortgage. Utilities are high. Income 145K, outflow 188 - in summary – running with a deficit of 43K. Lisa Swanson asked about getting an electrical energy audit – Parsonage needs windows. Wendy H. thanked Prudential for all the hard work they are doing. Person who donated water bottles and bags will donate again this year for Outreach. Outreach amount is high but needs to last as 650.00 per month is spent. Dependent on donations. Motion to accept budget, Liza W., Second by Wanda, approved by all. Thanks to Marie for her hard work.

With no other business presented a motion was made to adjourn the meeting by Lisa S., second by Liza W., approved by all. Meeting adjourned at 1:40 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Marsha Culik,

Clerk

Committee Reports:

Church Council Report

The Church Council acts in an advisory capacity. It serves several important functions in our church:

(1) To serve as a communication facilitator between the boards, committees and other groups and organizations of the church for the purpose of providing a means whereby the particular interests and activities of each committee and organization can be communicated to and integrated with programs of other committees and organizations;

(2) To manage the church calendar, coordinating and approving the various proposed events, activities and fundraisers in order to prevent any conflicts in dates;

(3) To serve as a sounding board for new ideas to be referred to the appropriate committees for consideration and possible implementation.

The Pastor presides as chairperson of the council. Every group in the Church should be represented at its monthly meetings, along with all officers and delegates. Visitors are also welcome at all meetings.

It has been a blessing to serve alongside each of the members of BFCC church council. Our meetings are filled with opportunities to see and enjoy the Lord lead and provide for BFCC. The unity that the Lord has brought this past year has blessed me at many times. It has been a privilege to see the Lord lead and grow us together in our love for Him as we look to serve Him and His church.

Respectfully Submitted,

Jess

Chairperson, Church Council

Pastor's Report to the 153rd Annual Meeting

Preaching/Teaching:

Beginning in 2023, we continued with our time in the Gospel of Mark. We continued in Mark through the summer before pivoting early fall to a study on the "I Am" statements in John. Before leaving Mark, we made it through the end of chapter 7. The first 8 chapters of constitute Jesus' ministry in the Galilee region of northern Israel. In these chapters, Mark is revealing the Authority that Jesus has as the Messiah, the Son of God.¹ He reveals his authority in several ways:

1. Over Sin (Mark 2:1-12)
2. In Preaching/Teaching (Mark 1:28)
3. Over Satan/Demonic hosts (Mark 5:1-20)
4. Over Sickness/Disease (Mark 1:40-45)
5. Over Nature (Mark 6:45-52)

In each of these areas, Mark is giving the reader a picture of what it means for Jesus to be the Christ, the Son of the Father. In the words of Eckhard Schnabel, "The question of Jesus' identity is like the proverbial red thread that runs through Mark's Gospel (cf. 1:27; 2:7; 4:41; 6:3, 14-16; 8:27-28, 29; 14:61-62)."² In the midst of this revelation, we are also seeing the response of people as they are confronted with the Person of the Son as the very revelation of God. This section (Chapters 1-8: Jesus revealing His Authority as Messiah/Son of God) will find its climax in chapter 8 verses 27-30 as Jesus asks the Disciples "But who do you say that I am?"

As mentioned above, we stayed with Mark all through the summer. Starting September 17th, we began a short study of Jesus' "I AM" statements contained in John's gospel. In each of these statements, Jesus is revealing His

¹ Eckhard J. Schnabel, *Mark: An Introduction and Commentary*, ed. Eckhard J. Schnabel, vol. 2, Tyndale New Testament Commentaries (London: Inter-Varsity Press, 2017), 31.

² Eckhard J. Schnabel, *Mark: An Introduction and Commentary*, ed. Eckhard J. Schnabel, vol. 2, Tyndale New Testament Commentaries (London: Inter-Varsity Press, 2017), 23.

Divine Name/Identity as revealed first to Moses in Exodus 3:14. Jesus is saying that He is the same One Savior and Lord of all creation who has always been calling and redeeming His people. The I Am statements are as follows:

1. I Am the Bread of Heaven (John 6)
2. I Am the Light of the World (John 8)
3. I Am the Door (John 10:7)
4. I Am the Good Shepherd (John 10:11)
5. I Am the Resurrection and the Life (John 11:25)
6. I Am the Way, the Truth, and the Life (John 14:6)
7. I AM the Vine (John 15:1)

Men's Group:

The BFCC men's group is growing! Both in attendees (which is great!) and in their walk with the Lord (which is fantastic!). We have been reading through I Believe (Thom Rainer) since fall 2023. This group of men have a deep desire to dive into God's Word to learn, grow, and mature in their relationship with the Lord. The main event is knowing Jesus and growing together as we chase after Him together. It has been incredibly encouraging to see the Lord bring new faces to the group that desire to pursue that Lord along with the guys that have been attending since this ministry began fall of 2022. Please pray that the Lord would add to and continue to grow each man in this ministry!

Youth Group:

We have a very small group of students that meet each Sunday night. We have spent this past fall walking slowly through the first chapter of Ephesians (occasionally pausing to watch an episode of The Chosen). We will continue to work our way through Ephesians this winter as we see Jesus as the Grace, Mercy, and Blessing of the Father given to us for our redemption.

It is worth remembering that the greatest calling I have in serving BFCC is to preach and teach the Word of God in the context of living life with each of you. This is an incredibly important call (1 Tim 4:11-16; 2 Tim 4:1-5). I covet your prayers as my heart is to faithfully serve the Lord and His church at Beacon Falls.

Special Thanks To:

Tracey Balanca who served as our Admin through September 2024.

Shannon Spence, Liza Whitehead, Lorelei Whitehead as they have worked together wonderfully to cover the work of an Admin and Ministry Coordinator. Their time, attention to detail, and desire to serve the Lord and His people are critical to all the Lord is doing to build His church at BFCC.

The Lord has proven to be faithful in every way this past year. He has continued to build His church at BFCC. As we seek the Lord together, we spur one another on in love and good deeds (Heb 10) as we fix our eyes on Jesus, the Author and Finisher of our faith (Heb 12). May the Lord cause each of us to grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ (2 Peter 3). The Lord is faithful (1 Thessalonians 5). May the Lord God strengthen us in The Faith that is In Jesus Christ as He gives increase in 2024 (Acts 16:5)!

Looking forward to serving with each of you in 2024!

In Him,

Jess

Admin & Ministry Coordinator Update

Submitted by Shannon Spence

Our Admin, Tracey Balanca, resigned at the end of October. We temporarily divided her tasks out amongst several people to fill this need as we look to clearly define the Ministry Coordinator & Admin roles as well as expectations of these positions going forward.

- **Shannon Spence (Ministry Coordinator/Admin/Media Director/Secretary)**
 - Areas of Focus/Ownership:
 - Meet with Pastor, Church Council, & Various other Stakeholders to stay up to date on all happenings in the church & look for ways to help all our ministries stay connected and church informed.
 - Email & Voicemail Gatekeeper (initial point of contact for all requests, then submit them to the proper owners for follow-up)
 - Creation & Maintenance of Master Church Calendar
 - Creation & Ownership of Worship Service Slideshows, with input from Pastor/Deacons/Choir, specifically focusing on announcements and overall flow.
 - Church Communication Strategy Stakeholder (Work with Pastor, Deacons, Church Council, Admin/Secretary & other key stakeholders on all church-wide communications strategies
 - Social Media: Church website, facebook, instagram, YouTube, etc
 - Systems/Platforms: Mailchimp, Servant Keeper, Wordpress, Microsoft
 - Storage of documentation
 - Develop Overall Processes, Procedures & Documentation for all Church Ministries (Work with key stakeholders to identify and enact strategies)
 - Transition plans
 - Continuous Improvement
- **Lorelei Whitehead (Admin/Secretary/Worship Service Setup)**
 - Areas of Focus:
 - Send all Church-wide email communications (Mailchimp software) with input from Pastor, Deacons, & MC
 - Prepare sanctuary for worship service (update/print bulletins, hymnal board, etc)
 - Prayer List Owner
 - Home Touch Ministry Coordinator
 - Backing up livestream videos
 - Posting Scripture Reading & Sermon to website
- **Liza Whitehead (MC/Admin/Transition Consultant/Clerk)**
 - Provides overall leadership/guidance to Ministry Coordinator, Admin/Secretary, & Pastor during this transition based on her past experiences & knowledge.
 - Resource for any open questions we have on processes/procedures, & overall communication strategies
- **Kevin Laitenberger (Secretary/Prudential)**
 - Point of Contact for any/all Prudential-related items
 - Submits any/all purchase orders not already being handled by Treasurer & other Committee Leads
- **Judy Monarca (Secretary/Receptionist)**
 - Makes Callbacks that fall outside the areas of other stakeholders (such as Outreach or Committee Chairs)
 - Formal letters (example: sympathy notes, thank you notes, etc)

- **Pastor Jess Joles (Admin/Secretary In-House)**
 - USPS Mail deliveries
 - Phone calls during office hours
 - Deliveries during office hours

2023 Accomplishments

- **Admin Transition:** Handled the transition from Tracey to several volunteers without disruption to our overall church day to day business. Which allowed us to evaluate our structure and identify our needs/gaps while also saving the church money.
- **Established more defined roles:** Developed Ministry Coordinator Role (still work in progress). Started working on clearly defining the roles and documenting processes/procedures.
- **Embraced the Digital Age**
 - Implemented Microsoft 360/OneDrive: allows users to make real-time updates to shared electronic documents & solved challenges we had with users trying to update documents across multiple platforms (laptop vs apple)
 - Implemented Sunday Service Slideshow & Announcement Loop
 - Created & Rolled out Shared Church Google Calendar

Looking to the Future/How Can You Help?

As we look to the future, we plan to continue focusing on how we can work smarter not harder. We want to continue to look for ways to keep you informed and engaged in our church family and activities. Your help & feedback is critical to our success! We would like to gather feedback & look for people who can help lead and assist us in our administrative needs. This will be especially important as our church continues to grow.

- **Areas of Focus/Upcoming Needs:**
 - Mid-Level Admin/Secretary: Developing more written processes/procedures to aid in transitions and onboarding.
 - Social Media/Website Design: Keeping our website current and updated.
 - Technical Expertise Related to Data Management Systems: We will need to streamline the various programs/systems we use to house our contact information (Mailchimp, Servant Keeper, & Email Platforms)
- **Feedback Requested (Overall Communication Strategy & In-person Office Hours):** Looking to gather feedback as we develop our plans for 2024 & beyond. We currently use & maintain several platforms to communicate with our congregation and maintain contact information. We would like to streamline this process but need your input on what's working & not working so we know what we can start/stop/continue doing.
 - **BFCC OVERALL COMMUNICATION SURVEY:** Would you be willing to fill out this form or speak with us about your overall experience with our communication strategy, how you feel we are doing with staying connected with you? [BFCC Overall COMMUNICATION Survey \(2024 Planning\)](#)
 - **Spiritual Gifts Assessment(s):** Take some time to fill out one or more of the following Spiritual Gifts Assessments and schedule a follow-up session with Pastor Jess (see Shannon Spence, Pastor Jess, or Judy Monarca if you require further assistance)
 - ChurchGrowth.org Assessment: <https://gifts.churchgrowth.org/spiritual-gifts-survey/?fbclid=IwAR1mVHcHJ1j4s-0hue-TXzQsApa1rbBpJUpLQJwllhAt0lZ48qNL6VWKq00>
 - Hessel Church Assessment: https://spiritualgiftsassessment.org/quiz?fbclid=IwAR1Xob-InXyk6BVO3zr5Yhj6TljP5S33gq5snc_TWKuKjEnf_J2O83Efm8
 - [Spiritual Gifts Assessmentpdf.pdf](#) / [DOC-Spiritual-Gifts-List.pdf](#)

Christian Education Committee

Christian education provides the guidance and teachings needed to glorify Jesus Christ and prepare students for a life of faithful and obedient service to the Lord. An effective Christian education program is one that is committed to working with students of all ages helping them understand the gifts provided by Christ. Beacon Falls Congregational Church offers a growing list of opportunities for young children through adults to continue to see and understand the world through the perspective of God's truth.

Sunday School and Youth Ministry:

In late May CEC held "Children's Sunday" to celebrate all that our students accomplished this year and thank our teachers for all of their dedication and hard work in providing a robust and enjoyable Sunday school program. A luncheon was hosted by CEC after service.

On September 10th , the Christian Education Committee hosted our annual Rally Day to kick off the start of our educational year. It included a few new bright and excited faces in our program and it was followed by a luncheon that was enjoyed by all! Rally Day was an enormous success, thanks to our volunteers and those who stepped in to help with the luncheon when it turned out that every CEC member was double-booked on Rally Day- we are thankful for you!

CEC has continued to utilize The Gospel Project as our church school curriculum. The Gospel Project is an exploration of the big story of scripture that follows a plan from preschool through adults. The versatile study allows our teachers and substitute teachers the opportunity to view the upcoming week's curriculum ahead of time from the convenience of their home with a simple login and password. Each week includes an overview video to kick off our session, mission story video, bible story reading and highlights of the bible, and a variety of activities to help our children who may learn in diverse ways. It even includes a fun dance and song video at the end of each unit!

In addition to our early morning Sunday School program for students up to grade 6, we also continued the Youth Ministry program into 2023. Pastor Jess and others welcome students grade 6 through high school each Sunday evening for Bible stories, sharing, and of course a little fun. This Youth Ministry will continue into 2024.

Youth Activities and Vacation Bible School:

As a follow-up act to Shipwrecked, BFCC hosted our third "Kids Camp" or Vacation Bible School. The theme of Kids Camp this year was Rocky Railway. With the help of many BFCC members and friends, we transformed our entire church into western-themed adventure for all our attending children (and adults!). The Sunday following Kid's Camp, CEC hosted a cookout for all of the visiting families that was well attended and enjoyable.

Please see the Kid's Camp report submitted by Tricia Joles for more details about the 2023 Kids Camp.

Christian Education Challenges of 2023:

The challenges we continue to face include having a sufficient number of volunteers for Sunday school classes and growing the number of students consistently participating in Sunday school.

New in 2023:

The Christian Education Committee has implemented several changes over the past year focusing on providing more options and new varieties of learning for our students. The biggest change was our shift to one multi-aged class, taught in the Fellowship Hall. This was developed with some creative planning as we worked to support our volunteers to work in the capacities that they felt comfortable while we continue to work to build and grow our Sunday school programming. In 2024, we look forward to continuing to grow by expanding our teachings through our curriculum, another Kids Camp event in the summer, and by providing additional opportunities to help our children learn the word of the Lord.

Additionally, on October 29th, the CEC hosted a Halloween bash that included a potluck luncheon, cookie decorating and activities for the kids to enjoy. CEC also hosted a Thanks"sgiving" celebration on November 29th, which also included a potluck luncheon (are we sensing a theme?!) of nothing but dips, glorious dips of all variety! Finally, on December 10th, the Sunday school program also put on a Christmas Pageant that was both adorable and heartwarming. A huge thank you to Heather Laitenberger for spearheading our Pageant and to everyone who brought food and helped out with our potlucks!

Thank you:

In closing, I would like to thank those members of the congregation who have helped to make our Christian Education program a success this past year. Specifically, I would like to thank the Christian Education Committee itself (Shannon Spence, Heather Laitenberger, and Aly Snyder), our incredible Sunday School Teachers, Substitute teachers and superintendent (Shannon, Heather, Lisa Swanson, Tricia Joles, Liza Whitehead, Martha Berge, Laura Hall, Chantal LaFrance), the Adult Bible Study Task Force, those who have helped with our Youth Ministry program, and all of you who helped make our Kids Camp a tremendous success. I appreciate all the continued support and dedication to help us bring the necessary teachings to our children.

We look forward to the opportunities and blessings God has planned for us in 2024!

Respectfully submitted,

Johanna Fitzpatrick

CEC Chairperson

Christian Education Ministry Mission and Vision:

Mission: To guide our children, youth and adults in their spiritual formation, growth and maturity into a growing relationship with Jesus Christ through the teaching of God's Word.

Vision: To make the fullness of God's Word a reality in every believer's life, through the teaching of God's Word.

Bible Study Ministry Team
Bible Study Ministry Team • Prayer Ministry

Our Ministry Team meets regularly, as needed, to plan and coordinate our **Bible Study programs** and also to arrange for **Prayer Meetings** and **Prayer Care**.

Anyone who is interested in joining our Ministry Team, please see Wendy Anderson, or Liza Whitehead.

In 2023 The Ministry Team met on: Jan. 5, May 25, & Nov. 2.

All are invited to attend our Bible Studies, which are announced in our weekly emails, on our website, on our Facebook site, in our church bulletin, and at Sunday morning services.

-Winter/New Year ‘The Hiding Place’ – by Corrie Ten Boom

We began the year by reading and discussing the real-life account of **Corrie Ten Boom’s** account of her family’s ministry of hiding Jews from the Nazis during WWII, which resulted in their being arrested and ending up in concentration camps. Corrie’s eventual ministry of reconciliation after the war bore evidence of the love for her Lord and His people, as evidenced by her prayer; “Lord Jesus, I offer myself for your people. In any way. Any place. Any time.” We were all greatly impacted by her example.

-Lent: ‘7 Last Words of Christ from the Cross’. - by Ralph Wilson

Jesus is nearly silent as he hangs on the cross, except for a few words. But these Seven Last Words taken from Luke, Mark, and John provide a window into his soul, and a way to understand what is important to this One who is dying on our behalf.

-Spring: ‘The Word of the Lord: Seeing Jesus in the Prophets’ – by Nancy Guthrie was our **Spring Study**.

We did the first five weeks of this 10 week guided personal Bible study. As usual, Nancy’s relevant teaching, and group discussion, helped us see the person and work of Christ in the prophets: Hosea, Isaiah, Daniel, and Ezekiel. We gained a fresh perspective on the message of the Old Testament prophets, and a broader understanding of Jesus as the fulfillment of Scripture, on this journey seeing Jesus in the Old Testament.

- Summer ‘Book Club’ Bible Study: ‘Safely Home’ –by Randy Alcorn

Pastor and author Randy Alcorn showed us up close and personal what being persecuted for our faith looks like in this novel about Christians in China. This was very impactful for us. To quote one of our readers; “From the time I started reading this, I couldn’t put it down. It grabbed my mind and heart and generated a myriad of questions for me. Could I ever: put my family in danger for Christ? Risk my life for Christ? Risk ridicule by speaking up to coworkers who use our Lord’s name in vain. You get the idea. I’m still struggling with those and many more questions.”

-Fall: ‘Blessed: Experiencing the Promise of the Book of Revelation’ by Nancy Guthrie

We finally decided it was time to do a study of the Book of Revelation. Having had a years-long experience with Nancy Guthrie’s Biblical Studies, we were pleased to hear that she had published this study on Revelation. Nancy showed us how Revelation is less about when Jesus will return and more about who we are to be, what we are to do, and what we can expect to endure as we wait for Jesus to return to establish his kingdom in the new creation.

We were indeed blessed as the study helped us make sense of Revelation’s unique apocalyptic symbolism, visual imagery, and Old Testament allusions. Nancy highlights Revelation’s call for a costly

allegiance to Christ and a refusal to compromise with the world rather than focusing on interpretive approaches and disputes.

- Advent: 'A Christmas Incarnation' by Dr. Ralph Wilson

We did this study in 2015, and decided to repeat to guide our preparation for our celebration Savior's birth. In this study we examined what we know about Mary and Joseph, the Shepherds and the Wise Men, and what it means for us that God planned our salvation to begin with a humble birth which was what took everyone by surprise except those who paid attention to prophecies.

Prayer Ministry at Beacon Falls Congregational Church:

Join us as we pray with, and for our church and our members & friends.

• **Prayer Care:** has been very well appreciated by our congregation, and we are so happy to pray for those who come to our **Prayer Care volunteers.**

-The names and concerns that we receive on our blue prayer cards will be read at the end of the service, so that our congregation and friends may be aware of prayer needs and be praying for those during the week.

-Except for special occasions in the church (ie. our annual meeting), there will be someone available to pray in the choir area at the front of the church at our 10am service.

*Confidentiality is strictly observed by our Prayer Team in the matter of any information shared.

Monthly All-Church Prayer Meetings:

• **Monthly meetings- 3rd Sunday of each month. Approximately 15 min. after worship; 30min. +/-**

- Get your coffee & meet in the Sanctuary - Available to all Church members.

► **God's Word**, is alive and vital to our well-being. **Jesus is the only way to heaven.**

He tells us:

- "**I AM** the Way, the Truth, and the Life. No one comes to the Father except by Me".(John 14:6)

- "*For My Father's will is that everyone who looks to the Son and believes in Him shall have eternal life and I will raise him up at the last day.*" (John 6:40)

Our eternal future depends on what we do about Jesus Christ in our own lives. If we want to truly say we are Christian believers, we need to know Jesus's whole amazing story, -start to finish; and place our trust in Him.

As Nancy Guthrie said; "We can't be casually or tentatively committed to Him in a way that will enable us to have everything we want in life -with a just little Christ added in."

It's not about asking God to bless *our* decisions and what *we* want; but inviting Him to plant *His* desires within us.

Either we believe that Jesus is Who He says He is, or we don't; -there's no middle ground.

-No 'waffling' or maybes.-No 'Jesus plus'.-No 'build your own Jesus'.

If we really know what God is showing us in the Bible; -we, like the early disciples, can accurately teach others (children, family & friends), by sharing the Good News of salvation in Jesus Christ.

We can also “*give a good defense of the hope that is within us*”; discouraging the culture’s continuing efforts to alter or adjust, or reject Scripture to fit current lifestyles.

We joyfully welcome and invite you to join with us in our Studies and really get to know Jesus through His Word. Whether you are new to knowing Jesus or have known Him for most of your life, He always has something new and amazing to show you.

Special thanks once again, to Liza of our Ministry Team who has gone above and beyond in making our online functions and communications happen so perfectly.

It has been my sincere pleasure working with all of the members of this wonderful committee. Thank you for all of your inspiration and support. It has been amazing to see faith develop and grow as we share that experience together.

Respectfully submitted with sincere thanks,

Wendy Anderson (on behalf of the Bible Study Ministry Team)

Board of Deacons

John 13: 34-35 (NIV)

“A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another. By this all men will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another.”

As you read this, keep in mind that these are the highlights of the past year. For the full picture you can access the minutes by getting a copy from the church office staff (Lorelei or Liza Whitehead) or the Church Coordinator, Shannon Spence.

Once again, the Lord has been faithful to sustain his church as we are faithful to love, trust, and obey Him.

In January of 2023 we were eager to clean up the membership rolls and update our directory. We have had many new families join us for worship and the directory and membership rolls do not reflect our present congregation. Because other responsibilities took precedence throughout the year, it was never completed so it will be a top priority in 2024.

Another area that we discussed periodically is hosting fellowship after church. The Deacons have been setting up the coffee supplies every Sunday, and the Lord has provided goodies for our fellowships both through some key people who periodically supply them and pure serendipity. We were happy to do this. However, we would like to get the congregation involved in hosting fellowship, so that the Deacons have the opportunity to be in church to greet newcomers as well as fellowship with them after the service. If anyone has ideas as to how we go about getting members of the congregation to host some fellowships, please share your ideas.

We supported the following missions this past year: Heifer International (Martha Berge), Diana Mayela Gomez through World Vision (Judy Monarca), Operation Christmas Child (Lorelei Whitehead), and My Sister’s Place

(Wendy Anderson) which was originally for the months of December January, and February but which has now become ongoing throughout the year. All the ministries were well supported except for World Vision. While our yearly obligation is \$468, we collected less than \$150, the excess coming from the Deacon's budget.

We had the following special services: Ash Wednesday where we took of communion and had the opportunity to apply ashes if desired; Palm Sunday where the children distributed Palms to everyone in the congregation, communion was offered, and the service was followed by an Easter Egg Hunt on the church grounds; Maundy Thursday was observed with the Service of Tenebrae which includes readings depicting the road to the cross; Easter Sunday consisted of one 10 am service with communion; the Christmas season services consisted of Advent candle lighting, the hanging of the Greens, the birth of Jesus presented by the Sunday School, and a Christmas Eve day morning service only.

The Deacons hosted two meetings with Brian Prue, one with just the Deacons present and a second with other church leaders invited. The purpose of the meetings was to assess our feelings about the state of the church. This generated the idea for a congregational meeting in February. The purpose of this meeting is to look at where God has led us thus far and to prayerfully discern/develop a vision of where he wants us to go.

Miscellaneous: Each Deacon took a Spiritual Gift Assessment to determine where his/her gifts lie in order to better use those gifts as they minister to those around them; generosity boxes replaced offering plates; more contemporary hymns were introduced throughout the year; when Joe McWilliams was on vacation, praise and worship music was provided by various individuals, including from our own congregation, when we had the pleasure of Denver Joles on guitar and Katy DeLeo as worship leader; we changed our time of worship to 9 am from July until the Sunday before Rally Day which gave families more time to enjoy the warmer weather.

We lost one very special member to the state of Texas, namely Marsha Culik. She was a ray of sunshine, a devoted Christian, and a witness to her faith. We miss her.

We are excited to see where the Lord is going to lead us in 2024. We have found that trusting in Him brings a sense of peace and unexpected surprises. Our future is in His hands.

In Him,

Judy Monarca, Chair

Community Outreach Ministry Team

Submitted by Wendy Hopkinson

**Our Mission is to glorify God through
the faithful preaching of His Word,
the making of disciples,
and reaching the world for Jesus Christ.**

"If anyone has material possessions and sees his brother in need but has no pity on him, how can the love of God be in him? Dear children, let us not love with words or tongue but with actions and in truth." John 3:17-18

Thank you to the many individuals, civic organizations, and businesses that support the community outreach ministry team. Most of all thank you God for providing the guidance, love, and these groups of people to help share the love.

- **Welcome Bags** –We delivered **450** welcome bags to-date to new home buyers in Beacon Falls, and we have fifty on our list that need to be prepared and delivered. As always, thank you to the delivery team who are always up for a ride around town and the opportunity to meet our new residents. The welcome bags (with the BFCC logo and mission) include information about BFCC, the town of Beacon Falls, civic organizations, businesses, a BFCC water bottle, and other goodies.

- **Local Missions**
 - **Annual Easter Egg Hunt** – We hosted the annual Easter Egg hunt on Palm Sunday with invitations to our congregational families and friends and United Day School families. Our church yard was filled with candy filled eggs and children looking for goodies. We also had a special visit from the Easter Bunny.
 - **Holiday Dinners** - We delivered meals on Easter, Thanksgiving, and Christmas this year. Between 50 – 65 meals were delivered to households who enjoyed a meal for the holiday. The need was less than last year, but the need to still very evident. This is not a financial need project but is offered to any Beacon Falls resident or friend of the church who would like a meal for the holidays.
 - **Halloween Trick or Treat** – Once again, we participated in the wonderful neighborhood tradition by handing out bags of treats and welcome visitors to the neighborhood. We enjoy this event as much as the trick-or-treaters.
 - **Beacon Falls Food Bank support for Thanksgiving** – BFCC helps coordinate donations for the food bank administered by St. Michael’s for the Thanksgiving Food boxes distributed in mid-November.
 - **BFCC Giving Tree** – Thank you to everyone who helped our three giving tree families this Christmas. The families were so thankful for your support and kindness.
 - **Christmas Families in need** – We help coordinate donors with the needs of families during the holidays. Once again, there were about forty families in town that needed assistance during the holidays. These families were given assistance in town and BFCC helped coordinate and supply items through the Care Closet and donations for over twenty of the families. Please see the “New in 2023” section for a description of the Holiday “Shopping” Event this year.
 - **Lasagna Love** (Joann Overby) – Our Lasagna Love mission and deliveries is still going strong. Our Lasagna Love group meets monthly and makes Lasagnas that are delivered to families who order a Lasagna or have a friend/neighbor order a Lasagna for them through the Lasagna Love website. Lasagnas are typically ordered for households experience a tough time or to celebrate a happy event in their lives – anyone who just needs some love.
 - **Non-perishable Food Delivery** (Johanna Fitzpatrick) – We continued with perishable food deliveries to our outreach program this year. We deliver fresh food including eggs, milk, bread, etc. to twenty-five families monthly and growing. We also make another delivery with household and personal products every other month to the same households.
 - **Delivery of food boxes from Food Bank** (administered by St. Michaels) (Erika Reichard-Lawton) – For households that do not have transportation or are unable to pick up the monthly food boxes, the ministry team picks up the boxes from St. Michaels and delivers to the household.
 - **Delivery of holiday baskets to households with older residents** (Johanna Fitzpatrick) – Twenty baskets were delivered to households with elderly residents in need. The baskets were beautiful and contained a blanket, candles, soap, puzzle books, and many treats.

- **New in 2023**

- Holiday Shopping Event – Johanna had a wonderful idea she has wanted to put into action for some time. We worked with Laurel Ledge, Long River, Woodland High School, and St. Michael’s to identify families that would need assistance at Christmas with their children’s gifts. The families signed up for a time to “shop” in our fellowship home. All the toy inventory was moved from the care closet to the fellowship hall. This event was a success for a couple of reasons – it allowed parents/guardians to shop for the children they know best, and it allowed us to make a connection with the parents/guardians who many times so appreciated knowing they are supported and loved. We were able to share the other programs we offer if they are interested. We will be offering the Holiday “Shopping” event again in 2024.
- Mobile Food Pantry –Jill Mahoney rolled out the mobile food pantry in Beacon Falls with food supplied by Food Share. The mobile food pantry uses the commuter parking lot on Main Street for distribution every other Wednesday. Jill would love to have volunteers help with the program in Beacon Falls, so please see Johanna or Wendy if interested.

- **Looking forward to 2024**

- Updating the welcome bags to eliminate paper flyers and including QR code.
- Funding to cover cost of food deliveries, etc.
- Sprucing up the sharing shed – paint, move shelves, etc.
- Continue to evaluate the needs of the Beacon Falls community and assess if our programs serve those needs.

We are so incredibly blessed with your support and love! We are blessed to have a community that supports our outreach ministry. Thank you and praise God for all you wonderful, loving people!

“My command is this: Love each other as I have loved you.”

[John 15:12](#)

Memorial Fund

MEMORIAL FUND ANNUAL REPORT

Period Jan 1, 2023 thru Dec 31, 2023

submitted by: Liza Whitehead

Ending Balance December 31, 2022		\$ 3,643.24
Income		
Memorial Fund Donations		\$ 75.00
	Total Income	\$ 75.00
Expenses		
None		
	Total Expenses	\$ 0.00
Ending Balance December 31, 2023		\$ 3,718.24

NOTES:

This account does not currently earn interest.

This account does not currently incur bank service fees.

Memorial Fund donations received this year:

Given By:	In Loving Memory Of:
Gordon Vought	Helen Eibensteiner
Andrea Redden	Helen Eibensteiner

Clerk's Statistical Report

Total Members as of 12-31-22:	179
Gains/New Members:	2
Losses:	<u>1</u>
Total Members as of 12-31-23:	180

We are aware that our membership numbers are not accurate and the Board of Deacons endeavors to make corrections & updates to the membership rolls a priority for 2024.

Endowment Trust Fund Report

Endowment Trust Fund Report – 2023 Annual Report

2023 Members: Marie Cameron Chair, John DeLeo, Deb Hogestyn-Treasurer, Lisa Swanson

Constitution and By-Laws Beacon Falls Congregational Church.

“The purpose of the Endowment Trust Fund (hereinafter referred to as the Fund) shall be to generate supplemental income for the ministry of the Church through the prudent investment of all gifts and bequests donated to the Fund.”

The Endowment Committee met twice and once with Scott Iles from Hammond Iles Wealth Advisors. Hammond Iles investment utilizes the Matson Money (MM) approach which rebalances funds quarterly to help hedge against market fluctuations. We are invested in a Moderate risk level in 60/40 (equities/bonds) no-load funds. The investment account was established under the church’s EIN (Charles Schwab is the custodian) with two signatures for withdrawal. As BFCC is a non-profit organization, Hammond Iles’ fee is .10 bps per quarter.

Every month \$300 is invested and transferred from our ION Savings account to our investment account. Also, this year we invested in one lump sum of \$2,800 in donations received from the passing of our long-time member James Woodward Jr. The investment account is reviewed periodically throughout the year.

ION SAVINGS OPENING BALANCE 01/01/2023		\$2,600.03
CREDITS (offerings & interest)		\$8,282.80
Investment Contributions		(\$6,450.00)
ION SAVINGS ENDING BALANCE 12/31/2023		\$4,432.83
MM/SCHWAB INVESTMENT 01/01/2023		\$112,148.60
CREDITS		
Cash Dividends & Capital Gains Distribution	\$4,165.58	
Investment Contributions	\$6,450.00	
Interest	\$11.10	
CREDITS		\$10,626.68
DEBITS (fees)		(\$549.60)
INCOME REINVESTED		(\$4,165.58)
CHANGE IN VALUE OF INVESTMENTS		\$16,270.65
ENDING VALUE ON 12/31/2023		\$134,330.75
TOTAL CHANGE IN INVESTMENT ACCOUNT VALUE		\$22,182.15
TOTAL SAVINGS & INVESTMENT		\$135,763.58

Respectfully submitted: Marie Cameron

RAISERIGHT (formerly known as Shop with Scrip)

We would like to thank all the loyal members who are supporting the RaiseRight program. We have been supporting the RaiseRight program since 2018. It is a great program that everyone can use for their everyday purchases and earn funds for the church at the same time. Buy a gift card from RaiseRight and the church receives a rebate. The rebate value depends upon the merchant chosen.

If you are already a member, and haven't used it in a while, I can help you get started again. And if you would like to become a member please see me or Liza Whitehead and we can help.

It is safe and secure with below payment options.

PAYMENT:

- Bank Account - \$.29 transaction fee, **multiple cards can be purchased as one transaction.**
- Credit/Debit Card (2.6% conveyance fee, **multiple cards can be purchased as one transaction.**

CARD TYPES:

- ECards
- Ship-to-home physical cards are available for some merchants.
- Reloadable Ship-to-home physical gift cards for some merchants

God has blessed us with a very successful year. We have a total of 15 members of which two are very active. Our total rebates for 2023 were \$1,049 from 11 members of which two earned \$731 from their gift card purchases.

In December the Prudential Committee authorized the transfer of \$3,700 from the RaiseRight account to the General Fund to support future operating expenses. The account ended the year with a \$355 balance.

REBATE HISTORY

YEAR	NUMBER/ FAMILIES ORDERED	TOTAL ANNUAL REBATE
2018	19	\$1,366
2019	11	\$761
2020	6	\$640
2021	11	\$500
2022	6	\$498
2023	11	\$1,049
TOTAL		\$4,814

Thank you again to those who participated this year. And, if you are not participating in this program, won't you consider starting in 2024.

Prayerfully Submitted,
Marie Cameron and Liza Whitehead

Prudential Committee

The prudential committee had another busy year in 2023. Throughout the year we have continued to operate with a reduced head count, having only 5 of the 9 members as required by the constitution and bylaws.

Nevertheless, we had a number of highlights including but not limited to:

- Spring/Fall Clean-up – Another successful year of outdoor and indoor clean-up, Prudential is very grateful for all the volunteers that participated; many hands made light and quick work!
- Elevator Inspection – The annual elevator inspection revealed that the elevator is due for a 5-year overspeed valve rupture test. The quote for this test is \$5,768 and is required by law or the elevator will be deemed unusable. We were blessed at the end of the year with a generous donation to cover this necessary test and it will be scheduled in 2024.
- Education Wing Floor Waxing – While United Day School was out of session in August a few congregation members took the opportunity to strip and wax the floors in the education wing, which was much needed. We plan to continue this on a 2-year basis, with possibly refinishing the Fellowship Hall floor on off years. A big thanks to Joe Whitehead and Dave Spence for working late nights to get this done!
- Parsonage Windows – 6 of 8 single pane, double hung windows have been replaced with more efficient double pane windows. We plan to replace the remaining two in the spring. A big thanks to Dave Spence for heading this up!
- Parsonage Front Fence- Two 8-foot sections of dilapidated fence were donated and replaced with new, pressure treated 6-foot-high pickets, installed by Dave, John, Jess and Tricia! More fence replacements are planned for 2024.
- Parsonage Master Bath Fan/ light installed and vented outside to mitigate a lack of air movement and conserve heat there. Thanks Dave!
- Parsonage porch awning was falling apart at the seams, we had it re-sewn and the cost was donated.
- Fellowship Hall lights have been failing and are needing to be replaced to meet the needs of the United Day School national or state requirements.
- 10 year Smoke Detectors, maintenance free, were installed around the church. Thanks to Dave Spence.
- Office Administrator - In August Tracey Balanca announced that she would be stepping down from the office administrator position due to growing responsibilities in her primary employment. In September the office administrator responsibilities have been split amongst a few volunteers from the congregation with the goal of developing two positions to support the church ministries, Office Administrator and Ministry Coordinator. Candidates for these positions have been identified and salaries have been included in the 2024 Proposed Budget, the plan is to fill these positions upon approval of the budget. We have been truly blessed to have had eager volunteers to carry us through, a huge thank you to Shannon Spence, Lorelei Whitehead, Liza Whitehead, and Judy Monarca!
- Sexton – The Prudential committee and other volunteers have continued to take on the cleaning responsibilities through 2023 to alleviate budgetary concerns. The 2024 proposed budget includes an annual expense for cleaning to hire a sexton or outside service. The plan is to pursue filling this role upon approval of the budget. We would appreciate any volunteers to help with the weekly cleaning until the position is filled!
- Fire Marshall Inspection – In September we received the report from the annual fire marshal inspection, there were a few minor issues that have been resolved.
- Snow Removal – Our plowing contract was renewed for winter 23/24 for parking lot and sidewalk snow removal with no changes to the prices.

On the financial front, the approved 2023 budget had an estimated deficit of more than \$43,000 to known income. Throughout the year all committees operated with prudent spending and the Lord blessed us with some very generous offerings, resulting in an excess of nearly \$2,000. However, a few significant offerings were submitted at the end of 2023 that are specified for the elevator test and mortgage payments in 2024. The mortgage which is financing our Access For All renovation and Elevator expenses continue to be a significant

burden on our financial position and increased by \$3,285 per year (5 year ARM) for 2024. The current outlook for 2024 projects a similar financial position to 2023, however the overall budget has increased by \$23,000 over 2023 with the inclusion of the elevator inspection, mortgage rate increases, sexton fees, office admin/ministry coordinator, employee raises, and other slight increase. The Prudential committee has received a scarce number of pledges (6) for 2024 and therefore is not able to confidently calculate 2024 projected offerings as in past years. Instead, we provide a total offering amount of \$156,000 that will be necessary to meet the budget expenses after Day School and Cell Tower income is subtracted. If 2023 donations are used to project 2024, that leaves an approximate \$58,000 Faith Offering (Deficit). Much prayer and serious consideration must be taken as we proceed with a budget for 2024. The Lord is faithful and has always provided, though we must be faithful stewards of his gifts.

Prudential would also like to give special thanks to the following individuals:

- ❖ Maria Cameron, Treasurer
- ❖ Lois Tallberg and Wanda Borysewicz, Assistant Treasurers
- ❖ Tracey Balanca, Shannon Spence, Lorelei Whitehead, Liza Whitehead, and Judy Monarca our church office administrators.
- ❖ Art Kuhl, Auditor
- ❖ All the volunteers who have helped with weekly cleaning
- ❖ Rich Cretella, mowing the Church property

I would like to thank the committee members who faithfully served this year. Several challenges were overcome thanks to the hard work and dedication of this team. Much appreciation to John DeLeo, Laura Hall, Dave Spence, and Mark Swanson.

Respectfully submitted,

Kevin Laitenberger

Prudential Chairperson

Nominating Committee

January 2024 Officers*, Non-Officers^ and Committee Members Election Slate

Church Clerk*	Liza Whitehead (203-231-8663)
Treasurer*	Marie Cameron (203-729-6324)
Assistant Treasurer^	Wanda Borysewicz (203-736-1541)
Assistant Treasurer^ (a.k.a. "Alternates")	Judy Monarca & Judy Johnson
Church School Superintendent*	Lisa Swanson (203-430-9923)
Assistant Superintendent^	Heather Laitenberger (203-217-5135)
Auditor*	Art Kuhl (203-895-6344)

Board of Deacons (3 year term)

Jan 2022-Jan 2025	Jan 2023-Jan 2026	Jan 2024-Jan 2027
Mark Hopkinson (203-910-2934)	Joe Whitehead (475-224-1406)	Art Kuhl (203-895-6344)
Sue Vardon (203-217-1331)	Martha Berge (203-217-1400)	Judy Monarca (203-217-3658)
		Wendy Anderson (203-592-4247)

Youth Member:

Prudential Committee (3 year term)

Jan 2022-Jan 2025	Jan 2023-Jan 2026	Jan 2024-Jan 2027
Kevin Laitenberger (585-278-8312)		Laura Hall (262-308-7570)
Mark Swanson (203-560-1020)		
Dave Spence (203-278-1908)		

Youth Member:

Nominating Committee (3 year term)

Jan 2022-Jan 2025	Jan 2023-Jan 2026	Jan 2024-Jan 2027
Alyson Snyder (203-982-4936)	Laura Hall (262-308-7570)	

Christian Education Committee (3 year term)

Jan 2022-Jan 2025	Jan 2023-Jan 2026	Jan 2024-Jan 2027
Shannon Spence (203-232-1386)	Johanna Fitzpatrick (203-578-0658)	
Heather Laitenberger (203-217-5135)	Alyson Snyder (203-982-4936)	

Youth Member:

Pastoral Relations Committee (1 year term)

2024	2024	2024
Prudential Will Appoint 1 Person	Pastor Jess Will Appoint 1 Person	Johanna Fitzpatrick (203-578-0658)
Deacons Will Appoint 1 Person	Pastor Jess Will Appoint 1 Person	Lisa Swanson (203-430-9923)

Endowment Committee (5 year term)

Jan 2020-Jan 2025	Jan 2021-Jan 2026	Jan 2022-Jan 2027	Jan 2023-Jan 2028	Jan 2024-Jan 2029
Joe Whitehead (475-224-1406)	John DeLeo (203-848-4316)	Deb Hogestyn (203-671-9062)	Lisa Swanson (203-430-9923)	Marie Cameron (203-729-6324)

Yellow Highlight indicates a person nominated at the January, 2024 Annual Meeting for a new term or to fill a vacancy of an existing term.

Auditor's Report

I would like to begin my report by thanking all those who had the confidence and trust to allow me to serve as the church Auditor.

This is my first year in this position and I found it challenging and satisfying to examine financial documents and bank statements. I did this monthly as this would ensure that there would not be a large backlog. Marie Cameron, our treasurer, provided excellent records and her diligence and care made it easier for me. I found it pleasant working with her.

I have examined the statements and financial records provided to me and have found no discrepancies or concerns. Marie is to be commended for the outstanding job that she does. She takes the job seriously and is very well suited for the position as treasurer. As a former treasurer of another church, I can understand the time and care that goes into a treasurer's job.

I look forward to serving as auditor for another year.

Respectfully Submitted

Art Kuhl Auditor

Treasurers Reports (Including Budgets)

**BEACON FALLS CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH
2023 TREASURER'S REPORT**

**ALL ACCOUNT SUMMARIES
December 31, 2023**

Bank	Fund	2022 YEAR END	2023 Prior Mo	2023 Curr Mo	Comments
LIBERTY	General	\$1,561	\$13,086	\$14,737	Check Register Balance
ION	Reserve/Emergency Savings	\$17,243	\$7,486	\$7,546	Bank Stmt Balance
ION	Capital Improvement Money Market	\$7,708	\$3,504	\$16,145	Check Register Balance
ION	MISSIONS & Flow Thru Checking	\$9,067	\$8,045	\$7,741	Check Register Balance
LIBERTY	Scrip Fund Raiser	\$3,081	\$3,751	\$355	Bank Stmt Balance
ION	Endowment Savings	\$2,600	\$2,655	\$4,433	Bank Stmt Balance
Schwab/ Hammond Iles Wealth Mgt	Endowment Investment	\$112,149	\$126,677	\$134,331	DEC 31, 2023 CKBK RECONCILED
Liberty	Memorial fund	\$3,643	\$3,718	\$3,718	Bank Stmt Balance
		\$157,051	\$168,923	\$189,005	TOTAL CASH

LIBERTY BANK GENERAL FUND
SUMMARY OF MONTHLY FINANCIAL RESULTS

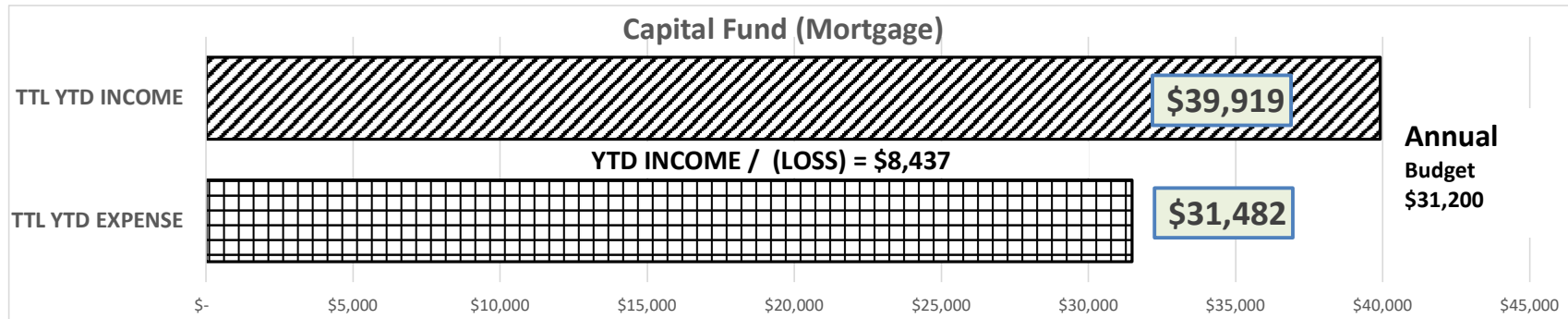
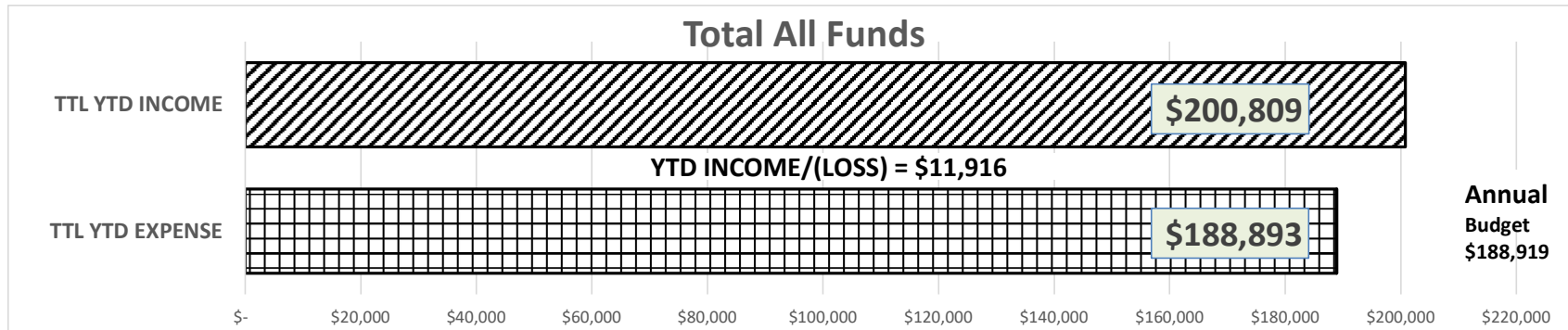
		Values		\$ 26,512	Opening Bal
LIBERTY GENERAL, ION EMERG SAVINGS/ION CAPITAL FUNDS	REPORT MONTH	Sum of INCOME	Sum of EXPENSE	Monthly Income/(Loss)	2023 Total (3) Chkbook Balances GENERAL + EMERG+ CAPITAL
V	01JAN23	\$26,514	\$19,492	\$7,022	\$33,533
V	02FEB23	\$21,755	\$15,658	\$6,097	\$39,630
V	03MAR23	\$13,157	\$16,466	(\$3,309)	\$36,321
V	04APR23	\$15,280	\$15,179	\$102	\$36,423
V	05MAY23	\$11,216	\$15,151	(\$3,935)	\$32,488
V	06JUN23	\$11,023	\$11,873	(\$850)	\$31,638
V	07JUL23	\$12,943	\$16,539	(\$3,596)	\$28,042
V	08AUG23	\$15,267	\$19,644	(\$4,377)	\$23,665
V	09SEP23	\$15,699	\$14,545	\$1,154	\$24,819
V	10OCT23	\$13,127	\$13,454	(\$326)	\$24,493
V	11NOV23	\$12,335	\$12,751	(\$416)	\$24,077
V	12DEC23	\$32,492	\$18,141	\$14,351	\$38,427
Grand Total		\$200,809	\$188,893	\$11,916	YTD INCOME/(LOSS)

2023 OPENING BALANCE \$26,512
TOTAL YTD INCOME/(LOSS) \$11,916
2023 Ending Checkbook Balances (Genl, Emerg, Captl) \$38,427

YTD PAY PAL COLLECTIONS net of fees:	\$4,083
---	----------------

FINL SUMMARY CHART-PT1

DEC 31, 2023 CKBK RECONCILED



Account	Checkbook Balance
GENERAL OPERATING x7852	\$14,737
CAPITAL x1114	\$16,145
EMERGENCY x0922	\$7,546
TTL ALL FUNDS	\$38,427
MORTGAGE NOTE DUE	\$310,652

BEACON FALLS CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH
YEAR-END STATEMENT OF ACTIVITY
WITH 2024 PROPOSED BUDGET

GL CATEGORY1	Budget Code	Budget Description	FUND	YEAR-TO-DATE		2023 BUDGET	2024 PROPOSED BUDGET
				2022 INCOME/ EXPENSE	2023 INCOME/ EXPENSE		
4100 OFFERINGS	4100.10	Offerings Pledge	CAPITAL ION x1114	\$0	\$11,335	\$4,750	
4100 OFFERINGS	4100.10	Offerings Pledge	GENL OPERTG-LIBRTY x7852	\$28,292	\$39,505	\$34,984	
4100 OFFERINGS	4100.11	Faith Offerings	CAPITAL ION x1114	\$0	\$8,000	\$0	
4100 OFFERINGS	4100.11	Faith Offerings	GENL OPERTG-LIBRTY x7852	\$30,000	\$9,600	\$43,019	
4100 OFFERINGS	4100.12	Offerings Non-Pledge	CAPITAL ION x1114	\$7,504	\$15,560	\$2,750	
4100 OFFERINGS	4100.12	Offerings Non-Pledge	EMRG SAV ION x0922	\$70	\$201	\$0	
4100 OFFERINGS	4100.12	Offerings Non-Pledge	GENL OPERTG-LIBRTY x7852	\$43,860	\$39,585	\$43,900	
4100 OFFERINGS	4100.15	PayPal Offerings Non-Pledge	GENL OPERTG-LIBRTY x7852	\$4,335	\$4,253	\$4,300	
4100 OFFERINGS	4100.30	Loose Offerings	GENL OPERTG-LIBRTY x7852	\$2,341	\$2,161	\$2,200	
4100 OFFERINGS	4100.60	Misc Offering	GENL OPERTG-LIBRTY x7852	\$425	\$300	\$0	
4100 OFFERINGS	4199.99	PayPal Fee Offset	GENL OPERTG-LIBRTY x7852	(\$163)	(\$170)	(\$200)	
4100 OFFERINGS Total				\$116,664	\$130,330	\$135,703	\$156,118
4200 SPECIAL OFFERINGS	4200.10	Ash Wednesday	GENL OPERTG-LIBRTY x7852	\$45	\$0	\$0	
4200 SPECIAL OFFERINGS Total				\$45	\$0	\$0	\$0
4300 RENTAL INCOME	4300.10	United Day School	CAPITAL ION x1114	\$9,721	\$0	\$0	
4300 RENTAL INCOME	4300.10	United Day School	GENL OPERTG-LIBRTY x7852	\$10,230	\$22,015	\$21,000	\$24,108
4300 RENTAL INCOME	4300.20	AA Groups	GENL OPERTG-LIBRTY x7852	\$1,050	\$825	\$900	\$800
4300 RENTAL INCOME	4300.30	Rental Fees	GENL OPERTG-LIBRTY x7852	\$125	\$0	\$0	
4300 RENTAL INCOME	4300.50	T-Mobile Rental Fees	GENL OPERTG-LIBRTY x7852	\$29,819	\$30,713	\$30,316	\$31,660
4300 RENTAL INCOME Total				\$50,944	\$53,554	\$52,216	\$56,568
4400 FUND RAISERS	4400.30	Cookie Walk	GENL OPERTG-LIBRTY x7852	\$1,158	\$0	\$1,000	\$0
4400 FUND RAISERS Total				\$1,158	\$0	\$1,000	\$0
4500 OTHER INCOME	4500.10	INTEREST INCOME	CAPITAL ION x1114	\$12	\$24	\$0	
4500 OTHER INCOME	4500.10	INTEREST INCOME	EMRG SAV ION x0922	\$5	\$102	\$0	
4500 OTHER INCOME	4500.20	Miscellaneous Income	CAPITAL ION x1114	\$0	\$5,000	\$0	
4500 OTHER INCOME	4500.20	Miscellaneous Income	GENL OPERTG-LIBRTY x7852	\$0	\$8,700	\$0	
4500 OTHER INCOME Total				\$17	\$13,826	\$0	\$0
5000 MISC INCOME Total				\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
1 INCOME Total				\$168,828	\$197,709	\$188,919	\$212,686

**BEACON FALLS CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH
YEAR-END STATEMENT OF ACTIVITY
WITH 2024 PROPOSED BUDGET**

GL CATEGORY1	Budget Code	Budget Description	FUND	2022 INCOME/ EXPENSE	2023 INCOME/ EXPENSE	2023 BUDGET	2024 PROPOSED BUDGET
7100 CHURCH EXP	7101.10	Office Administrator	GENL OPERTG-LIBRTY x7852	\$6,307	\$4,009	\$7,620	\$4,085
7100 CHURCH EXP	7101.11	Ministry Coordinator	GENL OPERTG-LIBRTY x7852	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$8,165
7100 CHURCH EXP	7106.10	Pledge & Offering Envelopes Exp	GENL OPERTG-LIBRTY x7852	\$155	\$0	\$120	\$0
7100 CHURCH EXP	7114.10	Bank Fees/Dep Box/Late Fees	CAPITAL ION x1114	\$0	\$8	\$0	\$0
7100 CHURCH EXP	7114.10	Bank Fees/Dep Box/Late Fees	GENL OPERTG-LIBRTY x7852	\$50	\$121	\$50	\$55
7100 CHURCH EXP	7114.20	Check Purch/Services/Oth Misc	GENL OPERTG-LIBRTY x7852	\$8	\$0	\$0	
7100 CHURCH EXP Total				\$6,519	\$4,138	\$7,790	\$12,305
7200 CHURCH UTILITIES	7202.10	Water-Church	GENL OPERTG-LIBRTY x7852	\$402	\$407	\$400	\$400
7200 CHURCH UTILITIES	7202.20	Electric-Church	GENL OPERTG-LIBRTY x7852	\$3,719	\$4,093	\$4,500	\$4,100
7200 CHURCH UTILITIES	7202.30	Heating Oil-Church	GENL OPERTG-LIBRTY x7852	\$10,116	\$7,753	\$11,000	\$11,000
7200 CHURCH UTILITIES	7202.40	Propane Gas-Church	GENL OPERTG-LIBRTY x7852	\$297	\$0	\$175	\$175
7200 CHURCH UTILITIES	7202.60	Telephone & Internet (8802 & 720-2446	GENL OPERTG-LIBRTY x7852	\$1,959	\$2,291	\$2,000	\$2,500
7200 CHURCH UTILITIES Total				\$16,493	\$14,545	\$18,075	\$18,175
7300 PARSONAGE UTIL	7303.10	Water-Parsonage	GENL OPERTG-LIBRTY x7852	\$750	\$703	\$750	\$750
7300 PARSONAGE UTIL	7303.20	Electric-Parsonage	GENL OPERTG-LIBRTY x7852	\$4,648	\$4,812	\$4,650	\$4,650
7300 PARSONAGE UTIL	7303.40	Heating Oil-Parsonage	GENL OPERTG-LIBRTY x7852	\$2,030	\$1,263	\$2,500	\$2,000
7300 PARSONAGE UTIL Total				\$7,428	\$6,778	\$7,900	\$7,400
7400 INSURANCE	7404.10	Insurance Premiums	GENL OPERTG-LIBRTY x7852	\$12,162	\$13,021	\$13,300	\$15,200
7400 INSURANCE Total				\$12,162	\$13,021	\$13,300	\$15,200
7500 OFFICE SUPPLIES	7505.10	Postage	GENL OPERTG-LIBRTY x7852	\$101	\$0	\$200	\$100
7500 OFFICE SUPPLIES	7505.30	Paper	GENL OPERTG-LIBRTY x7852	\$174	\$71	\$50	\$50
7500 OFFICE SUPPLIES	7505.40	Office Expense Other	GENL OPERTG-LIBRTY x7852	\$81	\$159	\$150	\$150
7500 OFFICE SUPPLIES	7505.50	Copier Lease	GENL OPERTG-LIBRTY x7852	\$1,672	\$1,707	\$1,672	\$1,672
7500 OFFICE SUPPLIES	7505.60	Printer Ink/Toner	GENL OPERTG-LIBRTY x7852	(\$69)	\$40	\$20	\$40
7500 OFFICE SUPPLIES	7505.71	B/W Print Charges	GENL OPERTG-LIBRTY x7852	\$300	\$336	\$300	\$350
7500 OFFICE SUPPLIES	7505.72	Color Print Charges	GENL OPERTG-LIBRTY x7852	\$653	\$315	\$350	\$350
7500 OFFICE SUPPLIES	7505.73	Color Print Reimbursements	GENL OPERTG-LIBRTY x7852	(\$145)	(\$7)	\$0	
7500 OFFICE SUPPLIES Total				\$2,767	\$2,621	\$2,742	\$2,712

BEACON FALLS CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH
YEAR-END STATEMENT OF ACTIVITY
WITH 2024 PROPOSED BUDGET

GL CATEGORY1	Budget Code	Budget Description	FUND	2022 INCOME/ EXPENSE	2023 INCOME/ EXPENSE	2023 BUDGET	2024 PROPOSED BUDGET
7700 MAINT-REPAIR	7707.10	Fire Ext Insp/Alarm Monitoring/AED	GENL OPERTG-LIBRTY x7852	\$3,110	\$1,257	\$1,725	\$1,400
7700 MAINT-REPAIR	7707.20	Snow Removal	GENL OPERTG-LIBRTY x7852	\$480	\$0	\$2,000	\$1,000
7700 MAINT-REPAIR	7707.30	Boiler/Water Heater Maintenance	GENL OPERTG-LIBRTY x7852	\$1,479	\$560	\$400	\$560
7700 MAINT-REPAIR	7707.40	Pest Control	GENL OPERTG-LIBRTY x7852	\$490	\$522	\$500	\$540
7700 MAINT-REPAIR	7707.50	Parsonage Maintenance	GENL OPERTG-LIBRTY x7852	\$1,283	\$985	\$500	\$500
7700 MAINT-REPAIR	7707.60	Church Bldgs & Property Maint	GENL OPERTG-LIBRTY x7852	\$525	\$210	\$500	\$500
7700 MAINT-REPAIR	7707.70	Elevator Maint. & CT Elev Cert - Bi-Annu	GENL OPERTG-LIBRTY x7852	\$2,276	\$2,561	\$2,350	\$8,400
7700 MAINT-REPAIR	7707.99	Maint-Repair Donated Goods-Services	GENL OPERTG-LIBRTY x7852	(\$1,384)	(\$320)	\$0	
7700 MAINT-REPAIR Total				\$8,258	\$5,775	\$7,975	\$12,900
7800 CAPITAL	7808.10	Ion Bank MORTGAGE EXPENSE	CAPITAL ION x1114	\$15,093	\$15,459	\$16,000	\$11,500
7800 CAPITAL	7808.15	MORTGAGE INTEREST EXPENSE	CAPITAL ION x1114	\$16,107	\$16,015	\$15,200	\$23,000
7800 CAPITAL Total				\$31,200	\$31,474	\$31,200	\$34,500
7900 SEXTON EXP	7909.10	Honorarium	GENL OPERTG-LIBRTY x7852	\$3,104	\$0	\$0	\$5,200
7900 SEXTON EXP	7909.20	Supplies	GENL OPERTG-LIBRTY x7852	\$809	\$807	\$850	\$850
7900 SEXTON EXP Total				\$3,913	\$807	\$850	\$6,050
8100 CHRISTIAN ED	8110.10	Sunday School Curriculum	GENL OPERTG-LIBRTY x7852	\$801	\$900	\$530	\$600
8100 CHRISTIAN ED	8110.20	Supplies/Awards/Other Programs	GENL OPERTG-LIBRTY x7852	\$0	\$0	\$100	\$100
8100 CHRISTIAN ED	8110.30	Teacher Training /Background Cks	GENL OPERTG-LIBRTY x7852	\$294	\$378	\$300	\$400
8100 CHRISTIAN ED	8110.40	Vacation Bible School	GENL OPERTG-LIBRTY x7852	\$1,066	\$275	\$1,300	\$1,300
8100 CHRISTIAN ED	8110.50	Adult Bible Study Programs	GENL OPERTG-LIBRTY x7852	\$145	\$0	\$150	\$150
8100 CHRISTIAN ED	8110.99	Christian Ed-Donated Goods-Svcs Exp	GENL OPERTG-LIBRTY x7852	\$0	(\$42)	\$0	
8100 CHRISTIAN ED Total				\$2,305	\$1,511	\$2,380	\$2,550
8200 MINISTRY	8211.10	Salary	GENL OPERTG-LIBRTY x7852	\$67,392	\$67,396	\$67,396	\$70,000
8200 MINISTRY	8211.25	Conference Allowance	GENL OPERTG-LIBRTY x7852	\$1,060	\$799	\$1,200	\$1,200
8200 MINISTRY	8211.30	Annuity	GENL OPERTG-LIBRTY x7852	\$5,500	\$5,500	\$5,500	\$5,500
8200 MINISTRY	8211.40	Health & Dental Ins.	GENL OPERTG-LIBRTY x7852	\$3,075	\$3,075	\$3,075	\$3,075
8200 MINISTRY	8211.50	Professional Exp. Allow.	GENL OPERTG-LIBRTY x7852	\$102	\$174	\$200	\$200
8200 MINISTRY Total				\$77,130	\$76,944	\$77,371	\$79,975

BEACON FALLS CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH
YEAR-END STATEMENT OF ACTIVITY
WITH 2024 PROPOSED BUDGET

GL CATEGORY1	Budget Code	Budget Description	FUND	2022 INCOME/ EXPENSE	2023 INCOME/ EXPENSE	2023 BUDGET	2024 PROPOSED BUDGET
8300 DEACONS	8312.10	Guest Ministers	GENL OPERTG-LIBRTY x7852	\$2,500	\$1,500	\$1,500	\$1,500
8300 DEACONS	8312.11	Church Growth Task Force	GENL OPERTG-LIBRTY x7852	\$0	\$0	\$300	\$300
8300 DEACONS	8312.13	Community Outreach-Care Closet	GENL OPERTG-LIBRTY x7852	\$0	\$0	\$75	\$100
8300 DEACONS	8312.14	Community Outreach	GENL OPERTG-LIBRTY x7852	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$1,000
8300 DEACONS	8312.15	New Member Expenses	GENL OPERTG-LIBRTY x7852	\$182	\$0	\$200	\$200
8300 DEACONS	8312.20	Worship Advertising	GENL OPERTG-LIBRTY x7852	\$20	\$0	\$200	\$100
8300 DEACONS	8312.30	Deacons Other Expenses	GENL OPERTG-LIBRTY x7852	\$100	\$628	\$100	\$100
8300 DEACONS	8312.31	Baptism/Confirmation/Marriage Supplie	GENL OPERTG-LIBRTY x7852	\$0	\$0	\$70	\$75
8300 DEACONS	8312.32	Communion Supplies	GENL OPERTG-LIBRTY x7852	\$182	\$0	\$250	\$250
8300 DEACONS	8312.33	Publication/Bulletin Inserts	GENL OPERTG-LIBRTY x7852	\$0	\$116	\$0	\$150
8300 DEACONS	8312.34	Sanctuary Supplies	GENL OPERTG-LIBRTY x7852	\$59	\$66	\$100	\$100
8300 DEACONS	8312.35	Fellowship Supplies	GENL OPERTG-LIBRTY x7852	\$0	\$72	\$0	\$50
8300 DEACONS	8312.40	Music Director	GENL OPERTG-LIBRTY x7852	\$15,106	\$15,397	\$15,106	\$15,559
8300 DEACONS	8312.50	Guest Organists	GENL OPERTG-LIBRTY x7852	\$0	\$0	\$100	\$100
8300 DEACONS	8312.60	Organ Svc/Piano Tune	GENL OPERTG-LIBRTY x7852	\$370	\$270	\$360	\$360
8300 DEACONS	8312.80	Purchase Printed Music	GENL OPERTG-LIBRTY x7852	\$0	\$0	\$300	\$300
8300 DEACONS	8312.90	Copyright License Fee / Annual	GENL OPERTG-LIBRTY x7852	\$214	\$389	\$275	\$275
8300 DEACONS	8312.91	24mo WebHost & Annl DomainReg	GENL OPERTG-LIBRTY x7852	\$403	\$20	\$400	\$400
8300 DEACONS	8312.99	Bd of Deacons-Donated Goods-Svcs Exp	GENL OPERTG-LIBRTY x7852	\$0	(\$279)	\$0	
8300 DEACONS Total				\$19,136	\$18,178	\$19,336	\$20,919
8400 FUND RAISER EXP Total				\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
8500 OTHER EXPENSE	8500.20	OTHER MISC EXPENSE	EMRG SAV ION x0922	\$0	\$10,000	\$0	
8500 OTHER EXPENSE Total				\$0	\$10,000	\$0	\$0
9000 MISC FLOW-THRU Total				\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
2EXPENSES Total				\$187,310	\$185,794	\$188,919	\$212,686
NET INCOME/(LOSS)				(\$18,481)	\$11,916		