



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

31 North Street
Hillsdale, MI 49242
Phone: (517) 437-2580
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ANNUAL REPORT
2025

Rev. Scott T. Cress, Pastor

REPORTS FOR 2025

Presented at the
Annual Meeting on May 3, 2026

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AGENDA FOR THE ANNUAL MEETING
SUNDAY, MAY 3, 2026

11:30 a.m. Annual Meeting in the Sanctuary

OPENING BUSINESS

Call to Order and Opening Prayer
Determination of a Quorum
Adoption of the Agenda
Minutes of Previous Meetings

Pastor Scott Cress, Moderator
Thomas Conner

RECOGNITION OF THOSE WHO HAVE SERVED & HELD OFFICES IN THE PAST YEAR

Pastor Scott Cress

REPORT OF STAFF AND OFFICERS

Pastor
Clerk of Session

Pastor Scott Cress
Thomas Conner

MEMBERSHIP REVIEW FOR 2025

Thomas Conner

MEMORIAL REPORT

Pastor Scott Cress

REPORTS OF SESSION COMMITTEES

Building and Grounds Committee
Fellowship Committee
Finance Committee
Endowment Committee
Missions Committee
Nominating Committee
Worship Committee

Les Hutchinson
C. Erholtz/E. Carver
Les Hutchinson
Homer Bentley
Marsha Rollins
Kevin Portteus
Linda Fogarty

MEETING OF THE CORPORATION

Dave Lipps

REPORT OF THE BOARD OF DEACONS

Connie Hutchinson

REPORT OF THE LADIES SOCIETY

Ruth Brown

**REVIEW OF FINANCIAL REPORTS FOR 2025
AND 1ST QUARTER FINANCIAL REPORT**

Dave Lipps/Les Hutchinson

OTHER BUSINESS [if any]

ADJOURNMENT WITH CLOSING PRAYER

Pastor Scott Cress

GENERAL INFORMATION

GENERAL INFORMATION

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

31 North Street, Hillsdale, Michigan 49242
(517) 437-2580

WORSHIP SERVICE: 10:30 a.m.

SUNDAY SCHOOL: 9:40 a.m.

SERVICES OF HOLY COMMUNION

Sunday, February 2, 2025
First Sunday of Lent, March 9, 2025
Maundy Thursday, April 13, 2025
Pentecost Sunday, May 4, 2025
Sunday, June 8, 2025
Sunday, July 6, 2025
Sunday, August 3, 2025
Sunday, September 7, 2025
World Communion Sunday, October 5, 2025
Sunday, November 2, 2025
Christ the King Sunday, November 24, 2025

THE STAFF

Pastor:	Rev. Scott Cress
Choir Director & Organist:	Dean James
Office Manager:	Irma Jones
Custodian:	Ken Shafer
Snow Removal:	Bennie Martinez
Sound Technician:	David Lipps
Live Stream Technician:	Alex Portteus
Sunday School Teachers:	Shana Cress (Little Children) Kevin Portteus (Younger Children) Rebecca Portteus (Older Children) Pastor Scott (Adults)

CHURCH ORGANIZATION

Ladies Society

MISSION STATEMENT

*Called by God into the joy of new life in Christ,
First Presbyterian Church of Hillsdale
seeks to live together faithfully,
committing ourselves to a life of worship,
mutual encouragement to growth in faith and knowledge,
and to the proclamation of the Gospel.*

**ROSTER OF BOARDS
AND
COMMITTEES**

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Rev. Scott Cress, Pastor

THE SESSION

Thomas Conner, Clerk of Session

Class of 2025

Gregg Patten (*Trustee*)
Marsha Rollins

Class of 2026

Rich Péwé (*Trustee*)
Kevin Portteus

Class of 2027

Tom Conner (*Trustee*)
Les Hutchinson

THE COMMITTEES

BUILDING & GROUNDS COMMITTEE:

Committee Members: Bill Barron, Doug French, Les Hutchinson (Chair), Lisa & Bob Roberts, Steve Ross, Pastor Scott Cress (*ex-officio*)

ENDOWMENT COMMITTEE:

Committee Members: Homer Bentley (Chair), Larry Fall, Les Hutchinson, David Lipps, Gregg Patten (*Elder*), Steve Ross, Don Sanderson, and Pastor Scott Cress (*ex-officio*)

FELLOWSHIP COMMITTEE:

Committee Members: Earla Carver & Connie Hutchinson (*Co-Chairs*), Nancy Ashton, Barb Auseon, Connie Erholtz, Beverly Fall, Sue Hayes, Kathy Keil, Lauren Kimbrough, Vida Long, Carol Ringenberg, Sheryl Sanford, Pam Steiner, and Pastor Scott Cress (*ex-officio*)

FINANCE & STEWARDSHIP / MEMORIAL GIFTS / PERSONNEL COMMITTEES:

Committee Members: Les Hutchinson (*Elder/Chair*), Homer Bentley, Gregg Patten (*Elder*), Steve Ross, Dave Lipps (*Treasurer*), and Pastor Scott Cress (*ex-officio*)

MISSIONS COMMITTEE:

Committee Members: Marsha Rollins (*Chair/Elder*), Homer Bentley, James Brandon, Mitzi Dimmers, Linda Fogarty, Betty Kneen, and Pastor Scott Cress (*ex-officio*)

NOMINATING COMMITTEE:

Committee Members: Kevin Portteus (*Chair/Elder*), Larry Fall, Connie Hutchinson, Les Hutchinson, Kathy Keil, David Murphy, and Pastor Scott Cress (*ex-officio*)

WORSHIP COMMITTEE:

Committee Members: Linda Fogarty (*Chair/Elder*), Georgia Bentley (*Secretary*), Tammy James, Dean James, and Pastor Scott Cress (*ex-officio*)

BOARD OF DEACONS

Class of 2025

Mitzi Dimmers
Marty Games
Connie Hutchinson
Laureen Kimbrough

Class of 2026

Patti Péwé
Faye Ross
Steve Ross
Pam Steiner

Class of 2027

Earla Carver
Linda Fogarty (*Moderator*)
Doug French
Nancy Veenstra (*Secretary*)

**MEMBERSHIP ROLL
REPORT
2025**

**FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF HILLSDALE
MEMBERSHIP ROLL REVIEW FOR 2025**

Active Members on the Membership Roll as of December 31, 2024: 88

Additions:

Received by Reaffirmation of Faith 5
 Janice & Steve Simons (Session Mtg 3-20-25),
 Nancy & Dan Ashton, Kyrsten Newlon (Session Mtg 5-15-25)

Received by Baptism & Reaffirmation of Faith
 Ethan Wickham (Session Mtg 07-17-25)
 Received by Transfer of Membership 1

Losses:

Loss by death 3
 Julie Games (Death 1-10-25); Kit Tamblyn (8-6-25),
 Myrna Schneider (Death 12-22-25)

Loss by removal of Active Members to Inactive 0

Loss by Transfer of Membership 0

Active Members on the Membership Roll as of December 31, 2025 91

Affiliate Member on the Membership Roll as of December 31, 2025 1

Inactive Members on the Membership Roll as of December 31, 2024 17

Additions:

Additions of Active Members to Inactive Members 0

Losses:

Loss by removal of Inactive Members 0

Loss by death 1

John Briggs (death 4-15-25)

Inactive Members on the Membership Roll as of December 31, 2025 16

**MEMORIAL
REPORT
2025**

In
Loving
Memory 

WE REMEMBER AND GIVE THANKS FOR THESE MEMBERS AND FRIENDS WHO HAVE GONE BEFORE US, WHO HAVE FOUGHT THE GOOD FIGHT, WHO HAVE KEPT THE FAITH, WHO HAVE FINISHED THE RACE, AND WHO NOW REST FROM THEIR LABOR.

Julie Games	January 10, 2025
John Briggs	April 15, 2025
Nancy Ann Tefft	Jun 2, 2025
Lois James	June 8, 2025
Aileen "Kit" Tamblyn	August 6, 2025
Myrna Grace Schneider	December 22, 2025



Loving God,

Before whose face the generations rise and pass away,

You are the strength of those who labor, and the repose of those whose work is done.

We bless Your Name for all Your servants who have fought the good fight, who have finished their course in faith, and who are now at rest with You.

Give us grace to follow their good examples, and to carry on the work which they began.

Sound in our hearts Your call to godly living, as we remember these Your servants who have gone before us.

May we give our lives to make this world a more beautiful and loving place, through Jesus Christ. Amen.

**MINUTES
OF
PREVIOUS MEETINGS**

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF HILLSDALE, MICHIGAN
Minutes of the Annual Meeting of the Congregation
Sunday, May 4, 2025

****All page numbers indicated in parentheses are from the Annual Report, 2024.**

The Annual Meeting of the Congregation of the First Presbyterian Church of Hillsdale, Michigan, was called to order, with prayer, Sunday, May 4, 2025, at 12:30 p.m. by Pastor Scott Cress, Moderator. Venue for the meeting was Fellowship Hall at the church. Quorum was declared with upwards of forty-five active members present. The agenda (p. 4) was adopted as submitted by consensus.

Minutes of the Annual Meeting of the Congregation of May 6, 2024 (pp. 15-16) and the Special Meeting of the Congregation for the Election of Church Officers of December 8, 2024 (pp. 17-18) were approved as submitted.

Retiring Deacons Linda Fogarty, Sue Kinney, Rebecca Patten, and Nancy Veenstra, and retiring Elders James Brandon and David Lipps (p. 8); all those who had served on committees during the previous year; and Tom Conner (Clerk of Session) and David Lipps (Church Treasurer) were all recognized and thanked for their service.

Pastor's Report (pp. 23-24) summarized the major events in the life of the church during 2024. Pastor Scott read the last paragraph of his report out loud and remarked that the weekly Men's Bible Study had been a special highlight of the year for him--"a joy to my heart and a blessing."

The Membership Roll Review for 2024, prepared by Irma Jones on behalf of the **Clerk of Session** (p. 10), was received and reviewed, and Pastor Scott later reported that the average Sunday attendance for the year (82) was the highest of all the years that he has been here and marked an increase of eight per Sunday over 2023.

As consideration of the **Memorial Report** (p. 12), individual recognition and silent prayers of remembrance were offered for each of those who had died, and the congregation joined in reciting a written prayer prepared by Pastor Scott.

The report of the **Building and Grounds Committee** (p. 27) listed the projects and repairs completed during 2024. Pastor Scott highlighted repair of the parking lot drain and several other recent projects. Bob Roberts and Bill Barron received a round of applause as gratitude for the work they volunteered on numerous maintenance tasks.

The report of the **Fellowship Committee** (p. 29), prepared by Connie Hutchinson and Connie Erholtz, summarized the year's work of the committee and thanked all those who had participated in it throughout the year. James Brandon offered a correction that Miranda Brandon, whose high school graduation was noted as the occasion for a cake being served after a Worship Service, should have read Ariel Brandon. Connie Erholtz also noted that Earla Carver and Connie Hutchinson would guide the work of the committee during the coming year.

In reviewing the report of the **Finance and Stewardship Committee** (pp. 31-32), James Brandon extended special thanks for the service of Church Treasurer David Lipps, Endowment Committee Chairman Homer Bentley, and all of the other committee members. Financial reports comprised the final twenty-five pages of the Annual Report (pp. 41-65). The Budget for 2025 was reviewed, and 7% growth in endowed funds during 2024 was reported. 5%-6% of the income earned from endowed funds can be designated for long-term operations of the church. Homer Bentley highlighted p. 28 of the **Endowment Committee** report as well as selected details from

p. 55 of the Financial Reports and confirmed that it remains a goal of the church to commit 10% of funds given to the church to the Missions effort. The service of Irma Jones, especially in the preparation of year-end reports, was also acknowledged with appreciation.

The report of the **Missions Committee** (p. 33) was received and reviewed in the absence of Chairperson Marsha Rollins.

In connection with the report of the **Nominating Committee** (p. 34), Chairman Kevin Portteus thanked the members of the committee as well as those nominees who accepted the call to serve in church offices, and noted that the work of the new committee would begin shortly.

Chairperson Linda Fogarty presented the report of the **Worship Committee** and invited interested persons to join the committee.

David Lipps highlighted the minutes of the yearly **Meeting of the Corporation** (p. 19) that took place, in accordance with Michigan law, on September 19, 2024. He confirmed that all legal requirements for the "First Presbyterian Church Society of Hillsdale" to remain in good standing had been satisfied.

Marty Games highlighted the report of the **Board of Deacons** (pp. 36), thanked all of the Board members, and asked members of the congregation to keep the Deacons apprised of any special needs that they could help with.

Ruth Brown highlighted the report of **Ladies Society** (pp. 38-40), especially the results of the annual Rummage Sale and how its proceeds (\$4,843.81) were distributed to the work of various missions organizations. She also thanked all those who contributed to the work and the programs of the Society throughout the year. Pastor Scott observed that Ruth is "tireless in her dedication" to the Ladies Society.

Pastor Scott invited the congregation to review all of the reports (pp. 43-65) prepared by David Lipps and Homer Bentley, and noted that Homer audits the financial reports personally, a task not required by Presbytery rules. David observed that, by the "good graces of our Dear Lord," a projected deficit was remedied and resulted in a surplus by year's end. Pastor Scott then asked for a motion to receive all reports presented to the meeting. The motion was approved.

Under "**Other Business**," Les Hutchinson thanked the Pastor and his family for their seven years of service, and Amelia Games thanked the congregation for providing space for the local Scouts organization to hold their regular meetings.

Motion to adjourn the meeting was approved at 1:08 p.m. Those in attendance sang the first verse of "Blessed Assurance, Jesus is Mine!," and Pastor Scott closed the proceedings with prayer.

Attested,

Rev. Scott Cress,
Moderator

Respectfully submitted,

Thomas Conner, Clerk of Session (from notes
provided by Les and Connie Hutchinson)

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF HILLSDALE, MICHIGAN
Minutes of the Special Congregational Meeting--Sunday, December 14, 2025

The meeting was called to order, with prayer, by Pastor Scott Cress, Moderator, at 12:15 p.m., in Fellowship Hall of the First Presbyterian Church. Quorum was established with roughly forty active members present, well in excess of the ten percent of active members required.

The purpose of the meeting was to elect Elders and Deacons to the Class of 2028; to elect a Trustee from the new class of Elders; to elect four members from the congregation to serve at-large on the Nominating Committee for 2026; to approve a revision to Article IV, Section 3 of the Church By-Laws; and to approve the Pastor's Terms of Call for 2026.

Elder Kevin Portteus, chairman of this year's Nominating Committee, took over leadership of the meeting. He presented the Committee's recommendation of Gregg Patten and Marsha Rollins for election to the Session Class of 2028. After inviting additional nominations, a motion from the floor was approved to close nominations and accept these recommended candidates by acclamation. Elders Patten and Rollins were duly elected.

Upon recognizing and thanking the retiring Deacons Mitzi Dimmers, Marty Games, Connie Hutchinson, and Laureen Kimbrough, Elder Portteus presented Carol Ringenberg, Sue Hayes, Beverly Fall, and Sheryl Sandford as the Nominating Committee's recommended candidates for election to the Deacons' Class of 2028. After inviting additional nominations, a motion from the floor was approved to close nominations. and accept these recommended candidates by acclamation. Deacons Ringenberg, Hayes, Fall, and Sandford were duly elected.

Gregg Patten was nominated to serve as Trustee from the Session Class of 2028. Upon the nominee's assent, motion to elect him was approved.

Nominating Committee Chair Portteus recognized Les Hutchinson, Larry Fall, Kathy Kyle, David Murphy, Connie Hutchinson for their service on this year's committee, and they were thanked with a round of applause.

Pastor Scott resumed duties as leader of the meeting. The nominations of Ruth Brown, Larry Fall, James Brandon, and David Murphy to serve on the 2026 Nominating Committee were moved and seconded individually from the floor. Motion was then approved to close nominations, and the full slate of nominees was duly elected.

The following addition to the existing language of Article IV, Section III of the Church By-Laws was recommended for the approval of the Congregation by the Session:

The senior (third-year) member of the Trustee board shall serve as the President of the Corporation. The second-year Trustee shall serve as the Secretary. The first-year Trustee shall serve as the Agent. No Trustee may serve in the same role for two consecutive years. The Trustee officer positions only exist to serve the needs of the Trustee board relative to maintenance of the Corporation, and the positions have no additional duties or authorities beyond this scope.

This additional language was deemed necessary upon recognition of a requirement of the State of Michigan that the distribution of officers within any Corporation must be clarified each year. It is also recognized and clarified that in the event of the death or departure from office of any Trustee, a replacement will be elected by the Congregation from among the qualified office holders for the position vacated. Motion to accept the By-Law revision was approved.

Les Hutchinson, Chair of the Finance Committee, was appointed Acting Moderator so that Pastor Scott could leave the room for discussion and action on the Pastor's Terms of Call for 2026. Session had recommended Terms at its Stated Meeting of December 4, and these were presented to the Congregation.

A motion from the floor by James Brandon to substantially increase the Pastor's salary was seconded, discussed and debated. Upon the question being called, and after the defeat of a motion to vote by written/secret ballot, the motion to raise the Pastor's salary above the amount recommended by the Session was approved. The Terms of Call for 2026, as they appear below, were then approved.*

Pastor Scott resumed his duties as Moderator. After an announcement seeking volunteers to help clear out the home of Warren and Myrna Schneider at Noon the next day, motion to adjourn the meeting was approved. Pastor Scott then closed the meeting, with prayer, at 1:00 p.m.

Attested,

Rev. Scott Cress,
Moderator

Respectfully submitted,

Thomas Conner,
Clerk of Session

***Terms of Call for Rev. Scott Cress, Budget Year 2026, approved by the Congregation December 14, 2025:**

Salary	\$48,160
Housing Allowance	23,000
Pastor's Professional Pension	5,750 (a) 7,000 (b)
Medical	23,160 (c)
Pastor's Social Security	5,480
Pastor's Education	2,750 (d)
Pastor's Loan Write-off	2,000
<hr/>	
Total Financial Package	\$117,300

(a) Receipts based reimbursement for stated accounts

(b) Pension-- 10% of salary & housing allowance

(c) Medical-- EPC Group Plans

(d) Pastor's Education funded by A2 H-Fund Pastor's Education, Burgess Endowment, and General Budget

Annual vacation four weeks. Study Leave--two weeks minimum, cumulative up to six weeks.

REPORT OF THE PASTOR

REPORT OF THE PASTOR

Annual Report for 2025

We have completed yet another eventful year in the life of our Church. We are a people on a journey, and I am a pastor on a journey. Where am I headed? I will say more about that at the end of this report. Let's first take a look at where we have been.

The heart of my ministry is the preaching and teaching of God's Word. The Bible is infallible and sufficient. This means that God gave us His Word to accomplish His intended purposes. The very words that we have in the Bible come from God and are precisely what is needed to achieve God's desired intentions. If God meant a passage to console us, then the passage without error contains what is necessary to console us. If God intends a passage to convict us, then the passage does not fail to communicate what is sufficient to bring about our conviction. If we fail to receive the blessing that the Lord intends, then we will discover that the problem lies not with the sufficiency of the Word but with the inefficiency of our understanding and reception. [By the way, this paragraph has appeared in previous annual reports. I repeat it here because it is a crucial statement.]

This year, my pulpit ministry began with a return to Paul's letter to the Ephesians. During February, I preached four messages on the theme of Redemptive Compassion. This sermon series was based on the work of Lois Tupy and conducted in partnership with Love INC and other local congregations. The intention was to raise awareness of ministry to the poor and hurting, while also rooting that ministry in Scripture. With the arrival of Lent, I started preaching through Exodus. This carried us through until Advent. Advent featured a series called "Christmas with the Patriarchs" and included studies of Abraham, Sarah, Isaac, Rebekah, Jacob, and Leah. Guest preachers this year included Jeff Kunkel, Gabe Healy, and Adam Rick. Men's Bible study continued Thursday mornings, with the men covering John's Epistles, Ecclesiastes, and the first half of 1 Corinthians. In Sunday school, we spent most of the year continuing to work our way through the New City Catechism. Children and teen Sunday school continued with studies from Great Commission Publications, Answers in Genesis, and the New City Catechism. This ministry remains under the leadership of Kevin and Becca Portteus and Shana Cress.

Worship once again served as the anchor of our community life. Thanks to Dean's able leadership, the music program thrived, and the Choir continued to provide us with beautiful music. Frank Steiner deserves special recognition for his frequent contributions to the music program. We celebrated the sacrament of the Lord's Supper eleven times. We also bore witness to an adult baptism in August when Ethan Wickham joined our congregation. For Ash Wednesday, we joined

together with Pastor Tony Tomasino and the people of First United Methodist Church. This was followed by a five-week Lenten study. Maundy Thursday worship took place in the sanctuary this year. Average worship attendance for Sunday mornings landed at 81 (a one person decrease from 2024).

And what about all the outreach and mission work that took place this year? Soup Suppers kept running under the able leadership of Marsha Rollins and her team. Our support of Love INC and the Strong Foundations ministry continued. The rummage sale was once again a success. And we added a new ministry! This year, a dedicated team of volunteers including the Ashtons, the Falls, and the Bearmans joined Pastor Scott in visiting the Medical Care facility for worship and visitation on every sixth Thursday evening.

Other things might be added in reflection on this year. I attended the EPC General Assembly that met in June at Ward Church in Northville. I also became an active member of the Nominating Committee of the Presbytery of the Midwest. My family and I again hosted a Halloween party for some of our families that included group trick-or-treating. I should also make a note about finances for the year. We landed in a strong place with a surplus and exciting plans for 2026 and beyond. Generous testamentary gifts and increased giving in general has made this possible.

And so, we find ourselves in 2026. I said earlier that I am on a journey. Where am I headed? This year, I turned 40. This may sound crazy to you – I think I finally understand something of what it means to be a pastor. I have lived with this congregation for almost eight years. I am a part of you. This is not just where I work. This is my family's home church. I am invested, surrounded, supported, embedded, planted...pick a verb! Somehow in God's providence, I am called to remain with you – leading, loving, and pointing you to Jesus.

With much love,

Pastor Scott

REPORTS OF THE SESSION COMMITTEES

BUILDING & GROUNDS COMMITTEE

Annual Report for 2025

Committee Members: Bill Barron, Doug French, Mike Foulke, Les Hutchinson, Lisa and Bob Roberts, Steve Ross and Pastor Scott Cress (*ex-officio*)

The following projects were completed by or under the supervision of the Committee in 2025:

- Bob Roberts fixed the dish washer, saving us \$27,000.
- Doug French fixed the exit door in Anniversary Room.
- Boiler had its C.S.D.I.
- Grease trap under dish washer was cleaned.
- Defibrillators were inspected.
- Roof repairs were made in numerous places.
- Fire extinguishers were checked.
- Nursery was repainted and furnished.
- Fence was put up in parking lot.
- Walls were patched in stairwell and hall by the stage.
- New window blinds were installed in Fellowship Hall.
- Elevator load test was completed.
- New furnace was installed, serving basement and Anniversary Room.
- Water cooler was replaced.
- Kiosk was rebuilt.
- Spring and fall exterior cleanups were completed.
- Vents were installed for the Hinkle Parlor bathrooms.
- New on-demand water heater was installed.
- Repairs were made to outside lights above front stairs entrances.

Projects for 2026 to do:

- Chimney over the education wing is to come down and capped off.
- Air handlers need repairing.
- Air conditioner's gases are all outdated.
- Crack on exterior wall of north education wing needs attention and repair.
- Door bell system must be repaired.

Long term projects:

- All windows in education wing are single pane and need to be replaced.
- Women's bathroom in education needs new counter top.
- Stage curtains should be replaced.
- Sign out front replace should be replaced.

The Committee thanks the congregation for their patience in dealing with ground-related issues and their eager willingness to jump in and help with the upkeep of this building. Many hands make light work!

Respectfully submitted:
Les Hutchinson, Chair
Building & Grounds Committee

ENDOWMENT COMMITTEE

Annual Report for 2025

The Endowment Committee consisted of Homer Bentley, Larry Fall, Les Hutchinson, Dave Lipps, Gregg Patton, Steve Ross and Don Sanderson and Scott Cress, ex-officio.

The Committee met twice during 2025-once with the Investment Managers from CNB and once with the Investment Manager from Stifel. Both meetings included presentations of the investments made on the church's behalf and what the investment emphasis and forecast that those firms foresaw going forward.

The endowment funds have grown over the years from donations and sound investments and management. Each year the funds pay out 5% or 6% of their balance to the Church for operations including Music, Scholarships, Building Upkeep, and Salaries, as a supplement to the annual member giving. The percentage given was specified by the donors when the funds were started and approved by the Sessions each year.

In 2025 the Endowment Funds paid out a total of \$73,135.00. It is expected that \$80,504.69 will be paid out to the Church regular budget in 2026.

Respectfully Submitted:
Homer Bentley, Chair
Endowment Committee

ENDOWMENT FPCH

Income Statement	Twelve Months 2025	Twelve Months 2024
Deposits from Gifts	\$ 31,000.00	\$ 26,000.00
Gains on Investments	\$ 146,955.15	\$ 112,725.15
Paid Out to FPCH for Expenses	\$ (73,135.00)	\$ (70,096.29)
Net Endowment Increase	\$ 104,820.15	\$ 68,628.86
	12/31/25	12/31/24
Endowed Funds Under Management	\$ 146,685.40	\$1,321,865.25

Respectfully Submitted:
Homer Bentley, Chair

FELLOWSHIP COMMITTEE

Annual Report for 2025

The spiritual aspect of the life of this Church brings together the members of the congregation in meaningful worship. The pastor provides excellent direction for our spiritual growth, not only in his Sunday sermons but also with his Sunday School education offerings. The team of teachers for the children ensure a solid foundation for our young believers. The Choir, our Music Director, our dedicated Deacons, Mission and other Committee members and so many others all come together to do the Lord's work. Thanks be to God, we grow in faith and grow as a unified body, belonging to Christ.

A secondary aspect beyond the spiritual that contributes to the sense of being one in Christ is the social aspect—simply being present with each other. The Hillsdale First Presbyterian Church Fellowship Committee is honored to be tasked with planning, organizing and presenting events throughout the year that bring together the church family for times of social interaction. Organizational meetings are held not on a particular schedule, but as needs arise for planning purposes. This year's meetings took place on April 10, June 12 and August 14.

The Committee is one that is always open to anyone who wishes to participate. For the past year, members have included: Laureen Kimbrough, Sue Hayes, Carol Ringenberg, Kathy Keil, Sheryl Sanford, Vida Long, Beverly Fall, Pam Steiner, Connie Erholtz, Barb Auseon, Nancy Ashton, with Earla Carver and Connie Hutchinson as Co-Moderators. Many others in the Church have contributed greatly to our efforts.

Those efforts in 2025 included:

- Continued oversight of changing seasonal décor in Fellowship Hall
- Continued oversight of coffee fellowship following weekly worship
- Maintaining bulletin board near back entrance to welcome and inform
- Oversight of basic kitchen food service supplies
- Pasta Dinner in February
- Special birthday celebrations for Susie Schray, Bev Taylor and Don Sanderson
- Potluck Dinner following the annual meeting in May
- Extra treats to honor the mothers in May, the fathers in June and our graduate Alex Portteus in June
- Bags full of “final exams fuel (snacks)” for our college students
- Pastor's Birthday Celebration (cake and punch)
- Lenten Dinners in conjunction with the Methodist Church congregation
- Indoor Potluck Picnic in August
- Rally Day ice cream treats in September
- Harvest Dinner potluck in November
- Decoration of the halls in early December
- Christmas Reception in December

The budget for our work was set at \$1,500.00. Our income came to \$411.68. Our expenses totaled \$2,726.59, this larger than usual amount mainly due to the extra expenses with the large numbers attending Lenten Dinners and there being no donation baskets set out on those occasions. Thankfully, our shortfall was absorbed in the general Church budget.

As noted before, many people have been indispensable in helping accomplish our tasks. Earla Carver purchased and custom fit all new clear table covers in Fellowship Hall. Linda Fogarty and Nancy Veenstra gave time and leadership in preparing the Lenten Dinners. Steve and Faye Ross faithfully got the coffee pots started for the early crowd every Sunday. Countless people provided generously for the bountiful spreads at Coffee Hours. Many others brought bags of ice, paper products or other general kitchen supplies to help replenish our stock.

We are most grateful to each and every one who has supported and participated in our activities. We look forward to continuing to serve the Lord as we serve each other in the coming year.

Respectfully submitted:
Connie Erholtz & Earla Carver, Co-Moderators,
Fellowship Committee

FINANCE COMMITTEE
Annual Report for 2025

Committee Members: Homer Bentley, Les Hutchinson (Elder), Greg Patten (Elder), Lisa Roberts, Steve Ross, Dave Lipps (Treasurer), and Pastor Scott Cress (*ex-officio*).

With the blessing of God and through the generosity of the members and friends of this congregation, we can report that the finances of H.F.P.C. remain in a good position. While we had entered the year anticipating a deficit of \$13,200, instead we finished with a surplus of \$14,494. The tithes, offerings and donations will, as always, go toward the ongoing support of the Church, its ministries and its missions. We are thankful for the continued faithfulness to our Lord and His work.

A special thank you goes to Dave Lipps our Treasurer and to Irma Jones our Office Manager for their hard work in accumulating all of the financial information and presenting it all in a clear and understandable format. There are many hours each month put in by both of them for this information.

The following information is our summary of the year.

	YTD Budget	Actual YTD	Over (Under)
Income:	276,020	302,890	26,870
Expense:	289,220	288,396	(824)
Variance:	(13,200)	14,494	27,694

I thank the Committee for their prayerfulness and their time in overseeing the finances of H.F.P.C.

Respectfully submitted:
Les Hutchinson, Chairman
Finance Committee

MISSIONS COMMITTEE
Annual Report for 2025

MISSIONS GIFTS GIVEN:

Account #5617	Strong Foundations Classes	\$ 441.96
Account #5620	Five Point 7 Church	\$ 1,500.00
Account #5622	Kimball Camp	500.00
Account #5623	Crossroads Farm	500.00
Account #5631	International Students	1,500.00
Account #5636	Share the Warmth	1,000.00
Account #5638	Outreach Foundation	3,000.00
Account #5641	Undesignated	1,700.00
Account #5644	Love Inc Clients	2,599.17
Account #5645	Love Inc Administration	1,500.00
Account #5646	Soup Suppers	2,226.27
Account #5647	Helping Hands	200.00
Account #5648	Lingap Children's Center	2,800.00
Account #5649	Samaritan's Purse	<u>1,500.00</u>
TOTAL		\$20,967.40

MISSIONS FUNDS YEAR END BALANCES:

A8 G-Fund Mission	\$4,198.89
B5 G-Fund Salvation Army (<i>Holidays</i>)	1,331.00
C1 G-Fund Pastor Benevolence	<u>712.42</u>
TOTAL FUNDSs	\$6,242.31

Respectfully Submitted:
Marsha Rollins, Chair

NOMINATING COMMITTEE
Annual Report for 2025

The 2025 Nominating Committee consisted of TE Scott Cress (*ex-officio*), Larry Fall, Connie Hutchinson, RE Les Hutchinson, Kathy Keil, David Murphy, and RE Kevin Portteus.

The Committee continues to implement the standards for ordination of officers established in the EPC Constitution. The Committee dedicated considerable time to discussing the biblical and constitutional qualifications for both offices. We also discussed the mechanics of the nominating process, especially the process for approaching officers completing their first term and inquiring as to their willingness to serve a second term. We continue to apply these standards to candidates for Ruling Elder, as we have for the past several years. Candidates for Deacon were identified and recruited in accordance with past practice.

The Committee nominated two candidates for the office Ruling Elder: Gregg Patten and Marsha Rollins. Both were examined by the Session and found to be acceptable. The Committee nominated four candidates for the office of Deacon: Bev Fall, Sue Hayes, Carol Ringenberg, and Sheryl Sanford. All were examined by Session and found to be acceptable.

The Chairman would like to thank all members of the Committee for their faithful service and their commitment to this important work in the life of our Church.

Respectfully submitted,
RE Kevin Portteus, Chairman
Nominating Committee

WORSHIP COMMITTEE

Annual Report for 2025

A huge thank you to all those who have volunteered to usher and taken on the momentous task of being Worship Leader! The Worship Committee is very small; composed of Dean James, Tammy James, Georgia Bentley, and Linda Fogarty. Pastor Cress also usually attends the meetings which are as needed.

Some of our jobs include making an usher and worship leader calendar for the year, setting communion dates, decorating the sanctuary for Advent, purchasing palms for Palm Sunday, and flowers for the cross on Easter.

We would like to thank all those who have stepped up to help us serve the Church. We are always looking for people to join our committee.

Respectfully submitted,
Linda Fogarty, Chairman
Worship Committee

REPORT OF THE BOARD OF DEACONS

BOARD OF DEACONS

Report for 2025

2025 began with Becky Patten, Sue Kinney Departing, and ushering in Nancy Veenstra (2nd term), Earla Carver, Doug French, and Linda Fogarty (2nd term). The officers were Linda Fogarty Moderator, Steve Ross Co-Moderator, Nancy Veenstra Secretary, and Pam Steiner Treasurer. All assignments were filled in January and carried throughout the year.

We only served one funeral this year. In January, we served a luncheon for the friends and family of Julie Games. Deacons were not called on to supply any meals for the Shut-ins. Faye and Steve Ross had limited requests for rides to and from Church.

Communion was prepared and served eleven times – six of these were “intinction” and five were “traditional.” A huge thank you to all those who prepared, served, and cleaned up whichever type of Communion.

In November, the Deacons began a discussion of restructuring the Communion by “intinction” following comments by several people. We merely tweaked it a bit and as of January 2026, “intinction” will have Pastor Scott holding the loaf in front of the Communion table with a Deacon/Elder on either side of him holding a chalice. Parishioners will proceed down the center aisle on the side in which they were seated, take Communion and go back to their seats by the side aisles. As always, there is a Deacon in back to serve those who remain seated. There is also pre-packaged, non-gluten elements in the back. Other Communion news was the purchase of a new chalice, pitcher, and plate.

As always, the Deacons did an in-depth kitchen cleaning in June. Many hands make light the work and we greatly appreciate all those who showed up and helped!

We ended the year with Christmas gift for Irma Jones, Ken Shafer, Benny Martinez, Dean James, and Pastor Scott Cress. We said goodbye and Thank you to Mitzi Dimmers, Marty Games, Connie Hutchinson, and Laureen Kimbrough; and hello and welcome to Beverly Fall, Sue Hayes, Carol Ringenberg and Sheryl Sanford.

We give thanks to all those who have served and continue to serve.

Respectfully submitted:
Linda Fogarty, Moderator
The Board of Deacons

REPORT OF THE LADIES SOCIETY

LADIES SOCIETY

Annual Report for 2025

2025 Officers: Vice President/Programs Ruth Brown
Treasurer Faye Ross
Rummage Sale Co-Chair:
Connie Erholtz and Betty Kneen

2025 Meetings were as follows:

Winter months (January through April 2025) - NO meetings planned

Wednesday May 7, 2025

Spring Luncheon in the Anniversary Room
Speaker: Pastor Kara Shaw, Trinity Lutheran Church
Program: "King's Kupperboard Food Pantry"
Devotions: Betty Kneen

Wednesday June 4, 2025

Summer Picnic at the
Home of Connie Erholtz
Devotions: Bev Fall

Summer Months (July/August) - NO meetings planned

Wednesday September 3, 2025

Fall Kick-Off Luncheon in Fellowship Hall
Special Guests: Hillsdale First United Methodist Women
Speakers: Doug and Susan French
Program: "Steps of Paul"
Power point presentation in the Parlor
Devotions: Connie Erholtz

Fall Rummage Sale

October 17 and 18, 2025

Wednesday November 5, 2025

Budget Meeting in Fellowship Hall
To disburse Rummage Sale money to missions
Devotions: Mitzi Dimmers

Wednesday December 3, 2025

Christmas Tea in the Anniversary Room
Theme: "Winter Outings"
Speaker: Sam Knecht, Retired Art Professor, Hillsdale College
Program: "Advent in Art"
Power point presentation in the Parlor
Devotions: Ruth Brown

Ladies Society consists of a committed group of Christian women whose everlasting mission is to honor, praise, and glorify Jesus Christ and it is the oldest organization in our Church. We met five times through the seasons in 2025 bonded together by our love for each other in friendship, for our Church, and for Jesus Christ. An average attendance of 21 ladies at Ladies Society meetings was an increase in 2025 over recent years attributed to ladies inviting others by personal contact to "Come spend an hour with Jesus."

The Rummage Sale has been our only fundraiser for decades earning a reputation in the community for being a clean sale in a welcoming place. With Connie Erholtz and Betty Kneen Co-Chairing the sale, and the help of many members and friends, the Fall 2025 Rummage Sale made a profit of \$4375.49 which supported eleven missions, both local and international. Praise God!

Thank you to our Ladies Society officer team consisting of Vice President/Programs Ruth Brown and Treasurer Faye Ross. We are grateful for the many volunteers who work together to serve as hostesses at our luncheons and who thoughtfully and prayerfully prepare devotions to give at every meeting. We also recognize and thank Pastor Scott for his assistance in setting up and taking down the Parlor when we have programs there and with technology for Power point presentations. Without Pastor Scott, these programs would not be possible. These gifts of time and talents result in a positive and uplifting experience at our Ladies Society meetings that include good food, fellowship with our Church family and guests, and a message that we can carry with us.

Men and guests are always welcome at Ladies Society meetings. Please come and join us, we're saving a seat for you, because Jesus said, "Where two or three are gathered together in my name, there am I, in the midst of them." Matthew 18:20

Respectfully submitted:

Ruth Brown

Vice President/Programs, Ladies Society

**FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
LADIES SOCIETY
2025 ANNUAL TREASURER'S REPORT**

Balance as of December 31, 2024 \$1,555.36

Expenses:

Share the Warmth	200.00
Samaritan's Purse (<i>Where most needed</i>)	500.00
Lingap Center (<i>Philippine Orphans</i>)	200.00
Father's Table Food Pantry (<i>El Bethel Church</i>)	200.00
King's Kupboard (<i>Trinity Lutheran Church</i>)	200.00
Crossroads Farm	500.00
Love Inc	300.00
Christmas Gifts (<i>Irma, Ken, & Bennie</i>)	520.00
Kimball Camp	400.00
International Students	600.00
Salvation Army	600.00
Outreach Foundation (<i>Rices & Lauren Sharstein</i>)	500.00
Cash Advance (<i>Rummage Sale</i>)	278.00
Hungry Howie's (<i>Lunch for workers</i>)	143.00
Filling Station and donuts	197.77
Tea Party	<u>\$148.43</u>

Total Expenses \$5,489.20

Income:

Rummage Sale	<u>\$4,873.26</u>
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Balance as of December 31, 2025 **\$ 939.42**

Respectfully submitted by:
Faye Ross, Treasurer
Ladies Society

Audited by SMR