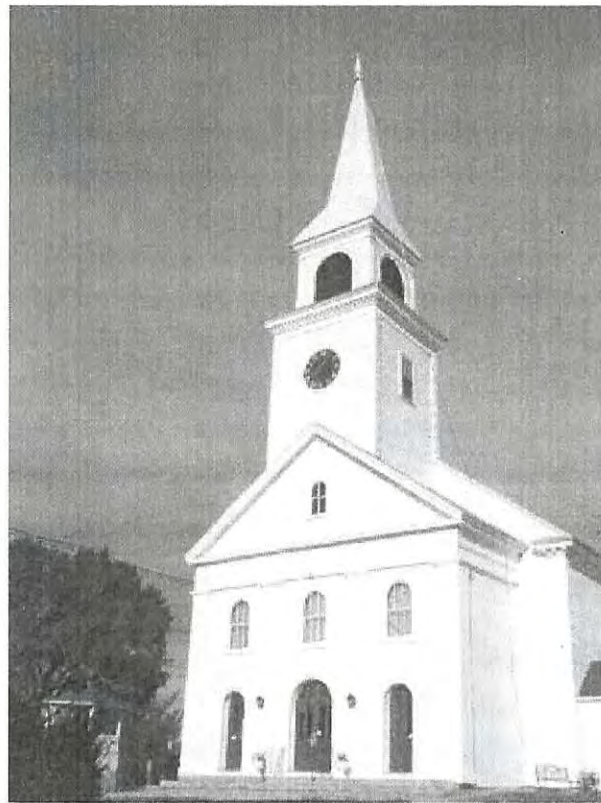


BELCHERTOWN UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST



2024 ANNUAL REPORT

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APPENDIX V—RELATIONAL COVENANT
(Accepted: May 6, 2004)

In all things, we will pray to God for guidance.

We will strive to be a church that seeks unity and acceptance of all people, respectful and tolerant in all our interactions, supportive of one another in addressing difficult situations, valuing the thoughts and ideas of others, though we may not agree.

Open to considering change, we will listen in a caring way for understanding, without interruptions, criticisms or put-downs.

With open minds, seeking to understand the other side of an issue, with awareness of our body language, we will speak the truth with love.

Seeking to discover all the facts before we speak, refraining from threats, harsh gestures and yelling; we will create safe, constructive and regular opportunities to share thoughts, ideas and opinions; striving for fairness, honoring the need to respect confidentiality, looking for occasions to talk face-to-face, taking turns expressing our thoughts.

If we aren't able to communicate with each other, we will ask another non-judgmental person to be present.

APPENDIX IV—STATEMENT OF INTENTIONAL MINISTRY (Accepted: January 23, 2001)

(This statement is the result of numerous discussion forums which looked at a proposal for this statement during the Fall of 1999. All members of The Congregational Church, U.C.C., in Belchertown, were encouraged to give input to this statement.)

Whereas we have been created in love by our loving God: (Genesis 1: 27-28a)

Whereas in our baptism into Jesus Christ each individual is blessed for his/her unique gifts; (1 Corinthians 12: 18-20, Acts 2)

Whereas the Holy Spirit has given to each person gifts which can be put to serving God and glorifying God through Jesus Christ; (1 Corinthians 12: 4 -11)

Whereas God has called people to live together in community so as to be witnesses to God's glory in the world; (Matthew 28: 18-29)

Whereas the Apostle Paul called such gathered people "the Body of Christ"; (1 Corinthians 12: 27)

Whereas that Body is described as being maintained by the healthy nurturing of each of its parts working in harmony (1 Corinthians 12:24-26, 28-31)

Whereas that Body is called to grow and mature to the fullness of stature in Jesus Christ; (Ephesians 4: 11-16)

Whereas growth occurs spiritually, physically, emotionally and psychologically through participating in the life of the Body of Christ;

Therefore, we resolve to be a church that seeks to: Identify, Equip, Encourage and Evaluate Christian Discipleship, Anytime, Anywhere, by Anyone, for the purpose of nurturing an individual's gifts and visions, thereby strengthening and glorifying the Body of Christ as it realizes itself in the world.

APPENDIX VI—AN OPEN AND AFFIRMING CHURCH (Accepted: February 6, 2005)

Whereas we have been created in love by our loving God; (Genesis 1: 27-28a)

Whereas in our baptism into Jesus Christ each individual is initiated without prejudice into a life changing and Spirit filled life lived in community, wherein the individual can dedicate him/herself to growing in faith, experience the nurture of Christian fellowship, regularly break bread, and engage in communal acts of prayer; (Acts 2: 14-47)

Whereas in the sacrament of Communion members of the Body of Christ are called into a new relationship/new covenant between God and humankind;

Whereas that new covenant transcends cultural expectations or norms and offers the Christian community a glimpse of God's nurturing and salvific love for all people;

Whereas John records Jesus as praying at his Last Supper with the disciples, "that they may all be one" (John 17:21);

Whereas this congregation has recognized by vote at its 2000 annual meeting, in a Statement of Intentional Ministry, the importance of nurturing Christian discipleship in all people by resolving to: be a church that seeks to: Identify, Equip, Encourage, and Evaluate Christian Discipleship, Anytime, Anywhere, by anyone, for the purpose of nurturing an individual's gifts and visions, thereby strengthening and glorifying the Body of Christ as it realizes itself in the world;

Whereas this congregation has had open discussion with regard to welcoming and ministering with people who have been historically ostracized from the wider body of Christian fellowship (in particular but not exclusively): people of color; people who are gay, lesbian, heterosexual, bisexual, or transgender; people who are economically challenged; people of varying marital status; people of varying nationalities; people of varying ages; people who are living with mental, emotional, and/or physical abilities other than what is considered "normal" by our culture;

Whereas we recognize that "silence" in words and deeds can lead to spiritual dis-ease and unrest, disenfranchisement and even death;

Whereas this congregation has considered in prayer and study the importance of welcoming all of God's children to the table of reconciliation and healing;

Whereas this congregation is about building up the Body of Christ as it seeks to glorify God in the world;

Therefore, we do now declare this body of Christ, The Belchertown United Church of Christ, to be Open and Affirming of all people wishing to grow and mature in the Christian faith. We understand this to mean that we will seek to be welcoming in both word and deed to the delightful diversity of peoples whom God has given us to minister with in Jesus' name including: people of all colors; people who are gay, lesbian, heterosexual, bisexual, or transgender; people who are economically challenged; people of all marital status; people of all nationalities; people of all ages; people who are living with mental, emotional, and/or physical abilities other than what is considered "normal" by our culture; we welcome all people to grow in Christian discipleship by using the gifts which the Spirit provides to participate fully in the ministries of this church.

2024 Minister's Report

Belchertown United Church of Christ was again blessed in 2024, as it has been since 1737 AD!

Participation and collaboration continued among this community's churches. We participated with other local churches in ecumenical services – Easter sunrise at the Quabbin, Sunday service under the Belchertown Fair entertainment tent, and a Thanksgiving service in our own sanctuary. We hosted wider area churches in exploring the possibility of sharing a minister. We received gracious invitations from Hope United Methodist Church to participate in their Ash Wednesday, Maundy Thursday and Good Friday services, along with their invitation to our children to attend their summer Bible camp. Then, in December the Belchertown Community Bell Choir provided joy.

During the summer months, it was BUCC-on-Wheels worshipping on the last Sundays of June, July and August at Congregational churches in Ware, South Amherst and Palmer.

A Council member even investigated combining activities for children with the Second Congregational Church of Palmer. As attendance in churches decline, we are keeping our eyes and interests in sharing with others, open for the Greater Good.

With this church being Open and Affirming, welcoming to All and with our Statement of Intentional Ministry in mind, we had a BUCC speaker, along with many others, at the June 1 Pride flag raising event at Town Hall. This loving event was heartwarming and reinforced BUCC "walking the talk".

Yes, BUCC has been blessed in having willing lay leaders and retired ministers tending to worship, and we thank them All –

- | | |
|-------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| ✦ Rev. Jan Powers | ✦ Rev. Robert Sherwood |
| ✦ Rev. Bill Ault | ✦ Lois Pare (Hope UMC) |
| ✦ David Crutchfield | ✦ Adam Smedberg (CWS) |
| ✦ Bob &/or Sue Stephens | ✦ Rev. Kathie Whitson (pulpit supply) |
| ✦ Tom & Sally Shattuck | |

Even with the latest edition of our half-time designated term profile posting in the UCC database in May, we received yet another blessing in late summer. This blessing indeed was a bridge pastor to carry us through a 6-month respite (September '24 – February '25). Yes, Pastor Anine de Grood was the blessing – bringing energy, thoughtful messages, inclusion of children during worship and songs to us. She introduced the "Prayground" (an area to keep children in the Sanctuary for Sunday Club) to us and helped with restarting the Christmas Pageant.

Oh, we have so much for which we can be thankful.

Lovingly submitted in lieu of a minister – *David Crutchfield, Moderator*

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Deacon's Annual Report

It is with great pleasure that I bring you a brief overview of all the people who participated in filling our pulpit each week and helping support events in our church in 2024. This year has been very active in terms of delivering weekly services and visitations. I am most proud of our member clergy who have carried a majority of the weekly services. Thank you to Jan Powers, Bill Ault, Robert Sherwood and Kathie Whitson for all you have provided to us. Thanks to our lay ministers Dave Crutchfield, Bob and Sue Stevens, Lois Pare and Sally Shattuck, all who stepped up to fill in Sundays .

We had Adam Smedberg from Church World Service here to tell us about the programs they offer and how they partner with local service providers to bring goods and support to those in need all over the world which inspired the church to donate \$1000 toward Blanket Sunday.

We took the last Sunday of June, July and August to make road trips to visit nearby churches.; United Church of Ware, South Congregational Church of Amherst and Second Congregational Church of Palmer. These visits were quite educational and enjoyable to us and I hope we can continue to see others this coming summer.

The highlight of the year was securing a bridge minister, Anine De Groot, who has brought a Graceful presence to our church. She has engaged our young children in our Sunday service, given consistent thoughtful sermons and has visited our homebound members. We wish Anine the best in achieving a call to become ordained as she has demonstrated what a great minister really is like.

Now we look forward to obtaining a new designated term pastor in the next few months. We have had a number of applicants who look very promising. Stay tuned. I would like to express my gratitude to the family of BUCC as it is an honor to be your senior deacon and to help to bring our church forward to sustainability in spirit, and covenant with God.

Respectfully submitted,

Thomas Shattuck

God is still speaking

Report of the Church Clerk

Baptism-1 (August 14, 2024 Cian Michael McLaughlin- Officiant Rev. Jan Powers)

Marriages- 0

Member Deaths- 1 (Mary Hamilton May 18, 2024- Officiant Rev. William Ault)

Community Deaths- 2 (Officiant Pastor Anine DeGrood)

New Members Transfer-0

Membership Statistics

Active Membership -94

New Members Received- 0

Terminated by Death- 1

Transferred- 0

Active to Inactive- 0

Total Membership 12/31/2024- 93

Respectfully Submitted

Robert G. Sherwood- Clerk

2024 Moderator's Report

We, the Council, thank you for entrusting “the running of the church” with us. We are privileged to do this good work and invite you to provide us with your thoughts, and certainly your prayers.

In 2024 we conducted an audit of the church finances and found them to be in order, We thank an anonymous donor for providing the funds for having this audit conducted. We have also met with our church financial adviser via Zoom on a quarterly basis. During these meetings we review the general economy, our church needs, our portfolio of investments and adjust where necessary. With research by a Council member we moved to a different electric provider, even before the Town sanctioned a change for its residents and businesses, in order to pay less per kwh.

Insurance Board, the insurance provider for BUCC, encouraged us to develop a Safe Church policy, procedures and training. This was enabled by a template provided by them, which was adjusted for BUCC and adopted by the Council. The training required the Council members to read and agree to follow the policy and to have CORI (**C**riminal **O**ffender **R**ecord **I**nformation) checks conducted and placed on file – to be renewed every 3-years. This policy and accompanying procedures must be followed by anyone who may work with our youth.

Members of the Council realized that worship for those attending by Zoom was somewhat unfulfilling due to sound quality and being unable to hear music. A meeting of the congregation was held in April to approve the funding of a replacement amplifier, sound board, cabling, some replacement microphones and training to upgrade the system. Soon afterwards, parishioners donated a laptop computer, camera, time and talents to begin recording services to YouTube. We continue to see 2-6 attendees per week via Zoom. Due to services being recorded, you may have seen a disclaimer noted in red in the Friday BUCC email announcements and in the weekly bulletins – “Audio-Video recording of this service may be posted on the BUCC website and FB.”

The Clapp Memorial Library received a community grant to refurbish it's 1877 Steinway concert grand piano that is housed in the BUCC sanctuary. The piano was moved out for a couple of months during the summer and, upon its return, was placed on a stage dolly for ease in moving. This instrument has been housed at and insured by BUCC since the 1990's. The current agreement with the Library permits it's use by the church and special concerts coordinated by the library. A jazz piano concert, coordinated by the library was held in November with more concerts scheduled in 2025. We thank the anonymous donor for the purchase of a proper concert-grade piano bench for the comfort of every lucky musician.

The parish house, viewed by the Council as a mission of BUCC, continues to provide low-cost space for AA and NA to meet. A new renter came into this space in 2024 – the Collaborative for Educational Services – providing a play and educational space for young children and their families. In October we even started renting the chapel to St. Barnabas Anglican Church to hold Saturday evening worship services.

The Council assembled a directory of members and friends, willing to share their contact information, to enable newcomers to learn and communicate with who's who at BUCC.

Many, many people are to be thanked for the support provided to BUCC in 2024 including:

- ✓ Donna Deroin – making repairs to the property, operating the fund-raising Boutique of Treasures AND representing BUCC at the May'24 Umbrella of Wellness event
- ✓ Sue Cowdrey – coordinating the BUCC Winter Night Lights activities
- ✓ Robert Sherwood – assembling the church directory
- ✓ Jane Crutchfield and all the Helpers – putting together yet another quilt show
- ✓ Marla Lindsay – finding utility savings for BUCC
- ✓ Sally Shattuck and her Choir of angels – providing music and prayers in song
- ✓ The lawn mowing squad – Robert Sherwood, Fintan Lindsay, Sally & Tom Shattuck, Meghan Overgaard
- ✓ The Helping Hands crew and a host of more angels - to feed the hungry - Amy Eyer-Pellitier, Marla Lindsay, Scott and Meghan Overgaard, LoAnn and Barry Hatt plus the wider community
- ✓ Sue Stephens and team – feeding the hungry in Springfield through Loaves and Fishes
- ✓ Ed Comeau – video graphing and posting BUCC services
- ✓ Brian Weng – providing a laptop
- ✓ Bob Stephens – providing the annual Zoom subscription for services and meetings
- ✓ The Fund-Raising team – Lucy Jamgochian, Sue Cowdrey, Robin Walker, BUCC and Friends – what's a fair without a taco salad? What's a craft fair without BUCC?
- ✓ Lay Leaders ALL – leading worship and delivering thoughtful, meaningful messages
- ✓ Sunday Club leaders – Louise Butler and Meghan Overgaard + Holly Rainaud-Loss
- ✓ **You** – providing your talents, energy and financial support throughout the year

PS – BUCC has opportunities – Usher/Greeters, Grounds Maintainers, Mowers of the lawns, Webmasters, FaceBook Coordinators, Advertising Coordinators, etc.

Respectfully submitted on behalf of the BUCC Council,

David Crutchfield, Moderator

**REPORT OF SPECIAL FUNDS COMMITTED TO:
MISSIONS AND INTENTIONAL MINISTRY SUPPORT**

(Funds are being held within the General Fund as detailed on the Financial Secretary's Report)

MISSIONS:

In 2024 5% of Sunday collections were allocated to our Missions. The following represents a summary of the Missions Funds:

At 12/31/2023	<u>\$ 1,583.99</u>
Funds Added:	
2024 5% allocation	\$ 2,473.33
Other direct receipts	
Total Funds Added:	<u>\$ 2,473.33</u>
Funds Disbursed:	
Relay for life	\$ 500.00
CWS Blanket Sunday	\$ 295.00
Hurricane Helene Relief	\$ 1,000.00
Walmart/Target GC's	\$ 500.00
Racine Family Meal Train	\$ 250.00
Total Funds Disbursed:	<u>\$ 2,545.00</u>
Balance at 12/31/2024	<u>\$ 1,512.32</u>

DEACONS' FUNDS:

At 12/31/2023	<u>\$ 320.27</u>
Funds Received	\$ 130.00
Funds Disbursed	\$ 165.00
Balance at 12/31/2024	<u>\$ 285.27</u>

HELPING HANDS:

At 12/31/2023	<u>\$ 19,176.67</u>
Funds Received	\$ 10,569.62
Funds Disbursed	\$ 16,228.23
Balance at 12/31/2024	<u>\$ 13,518.06</u>

The Helping Hands Cupboard Food Pantry

Annual Report 2024

Helping Hands Cupboard Food Pantry (HHCFP) continues to provide for many who are in need in our communities. Our monthly distributions, which fall on the third Thursday of each month, are staffed by a dedicated and a giving group of volunteers. For all who lent a helping hand in 2024, we are grateful.

Our main source of food is the Foodbank of Western Massachusetts. Bimonthly trips to the Foodbank result in the acquisition of a variety of core products with focus on nutritional and necessary options. On average, we obtained 1000 pounds of food/per month from the Food Bank resulting in subsidized costs ranging from \$50-500/month.

The remainder of the food we obtained was provided by BUCC members, other community businesses & organizations (please see below) and individual donations. Many thanks to the volunteers at the Belchertown Community Garden for providing generous donations of produce throughout the summer months. Special Stop and Shop cards were given for the months of November and December. Christmas gifts for 30+ children of HHCFP families were made possible by generous donations. For all who provided food, funding for food and special holiday gifts in 2024, we are grateful.

HHCFP continues to uphold the baseline philosophies of this ministry by providing confidential services to all who are in need. Thanks to the overwhelming generosity of this community, we are well positioned to continue this service in 2025. For this, and for all the ongoing support from our volunteers and the community, we are truly grateful.

Finally, we were the recipients of an FY2024 Capacity Grant through the Food Bank in the amount of \$4,580. We are using these funds to do renovations in the food pantry room, including the purchase of wire shelving and carts to make storage and accessibility to food more effective for volunteers and clients.

Volunteers

Thanks to the volunteers! LoAnn, Barry, Marcelle & Jeff, Marla, Fintan, Dave, Dave, Henry, Louise, Meghan, MacDuffie Students, Ryan, Tyler, Ellie, Scott, Abby, Zoe, Oliver, Cian, Sean and Belchertown Brownie Troop 65182. Thanks to those of you who contribute in many different ways from time to time! It's because of all of you that we can make this ministry a success!

Contributors

A special thanks to the following contributors that supported the HHCFP either by providing food or monetary donations (or both):

Belchertown 4-H
Belchertown CAN
Belchertown Lion's Club
Belchertown Swim Team
Belchertown United Church of Christ (BUCC)
Bell & Hudson
Easthampton Savings Bank
Hulmes Transportation Services
Liberty Blue Landscaping
Moulton Insurance Agency
Quinn's Community Farm & Owen's Acres
Stop and Shop of Belchertown Bloomin 4 Good
Town of Belchertown
Zonta of Quaboag Valley
Many generous private citizens

Building and Grounds Annual Report for 2024
Donna DeRoin, Chairman

One project at a time and we continue to make progress! The following is a list of items completed in the Church and Parish House in 2024. Some project costs were offset by money brought in by The Boutique of Treasures!

- 1) A custom utility lift was installed in the rear attic stairwell in the Parish House, to help with utilizing the attic for storage.
- 2) The main side entry door into the Parish House was replaced.
- 3) Repairs were done to the rear stairwell in the Parish House. The existing landing was collapsing due to rot. Ventilation was also added to the area under the staircase to help prevent moisture build-up in that area in the future.
- 4) The flood light on the front of the church over the entrance, was replaced with a new unit. This flood light now goes on with the candle lights in the church windows which are on a timer.
- 5) Electrical outlets in the church were repaired and installed to help with audio and WiFi connections.

Thank you to Tom Shattuck and volunteers, who keep the grounds looking good!

Thank you to Dave Crutchfield, who continues to work with Garaventa when issues arise with the elevator.

In 2025, we need to begin addressing the major project of extensive repairs to the exterior of the Church. A small committee needs to be formed to determine the best way to move forward. This committee would realistically need members, not only from the Church Congregation, but members of the Belchertown community who would like to help restore our beloved historical building! Maybe you know of someone who might be interested!

**Belchertown United Church of Christ
2024 Income/Expense Summary
(January 1 through December 31, 2024)**

INCOME:

Contributions / Collections:

Sunday-Pledges and Donations \$ 53,514.92
 Sunday Collections Allocated to Missions @ 5% \$ (2,856.33)
 Special Donations/Misc \$ 582.17 \$ 582.17 **Total Contributions \$ 51,240.76**

Fundraising:

Quilt Show \$ 11,028.97

Tag Sale

Belchertown Fair \$ 8,955.07
 BUCC Players \$ 3,130.00
 Craft Fair \$ 1,509.00

Plant Sale

Amazon Smile

Boutique of Treasures \$ 2,409.00

Misc. fundraising

Total Fundraising \$ 27,032.04

Parish House/Sanctuary Rentals:

Regular Missions Groups \$ 8,285.00

Other Misc. Rentals

Total Rental Income: \$ 8,285.00

Bank Account Interest Income: \$ 2,596.95 Investment Income (Osaic) \$ 32,017.85 TOTAL INCOME: \$ 121,172.60

EXPENSES:

Administration (insurance, supplies, phone, network) **\$ 22,649.22** **Pastoral Service**
 (music licenses, upkeep, special services) \$ -

Buildings & Grounds

Utilities (Oil, Propane, Elec, Water, Trash...) \$ 29,229.08
 Repairs/Maintenance (incl elevator) \$ 13,229.22
 Non-Office Supplies/Equipment/Security \$ 2,277.18
 Snow Removal \$ 555.00
Total Bldngs & Grnds \$ 45,290.48

Personnel (Pastor, Admin, Music, Christian Ed, Custodian) **\$ 33,755.81 *** TOTAL EXPENSES: \$**

101,695.51

NET INCOME/EXPENSES: \$ 19,477.09 * Includes payroll expenses**

Respectfully submitted: Sue Stephens, Financial Secretary

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Financial Secretary's Report
Fiscal Year January 1, 2024 through December 31, 2024
 (as Reported by: Susan Stephens)

Financial Secretary's Summary of Financial Condition

As the Belchertown United Church of Christ' (BUCC) Financial Secretary for the past year, I have been committed and entrusted with accurately reporting the financial condition to the Church Council. In order to report on the financial condition, I have relied on and appreciated the work of our Administrative Assistant, Marcelle Pula.

We continued to serve our congregants without a settled minister until September when Anine De Grood joined us a Bridge Minister. Fund Raising efforts, along with your generous donations continue to support our congregation. The Taco Salads and Quilt Show are a significant source of income for the church. Additionally funds are raised thanks to the Tag Sale, Craft Fair, Murder Mystery and The Boutique of Treasures.

The budget for Capital Improvements in 2024 was \$19499.74. The balance currently is \$17054.74 to continue with improvements in 2025

BANKING / INVESTMENT ACCOUNT STATUS

	December 31, 2023	December 31, 2024
General Fund	76905.50	50543.55
Committed Funds within the General Fund:		
Helping Hands	19176.67	13518.06
Missions	1583.99	1512.32
Deacon's Funds	320.27	285.27
Accounts Payable & Payroll Tax Liabilities	14208.80	22879.99
GENERAL FUND NET OF COMMITTED FUNDS:	41615.77	12347.91
Money Market Account *	32340.76	19934.86
Statement Savings	1866.04	1957.90
Certificate of Deposit - 18 mo , 3.75%	42021.46	43728.82
Osaic		
Investments	\$ 186,233.16	\$ 248,251.01
CD, 1 yr 5.378% ... opened 5/24		\$ 10,000.00
CD, 1 yr 4.4% ... opened 12/24		\$ 21,000.00
CD, 1 yr ... moved to Osaic investments	\$ 30,000.00	
NET BANKING / INVESTMENT POSITION:	\$ 334,077.19	\$ 357,220.50

* \$10,000 used for Osaic CD, \$2,445 used for Capital Improvements

**Belchertown United Church of Christ
Proposed Budget for Fiscal Year 2025
(January 1 through December 31, 2025)**

Expected Income

Contributions

Sunday-Pledges and Donations	\$ 55,000
5% of plate collections to Missions	\$ 2,750
Total Contributions	\$ 57,750

Fundraising

Belchertown Fair	\$ 10,000
BUCC Players	\$ 3,000
Craft Fair	\$ 1,500
Plant Sale	
Quilt Show	\$ 10,000
Tag Sale	
Boutique of Treasures	\$ 2,500
Total Fundraising	\$ 27,000

Parish House/Sanctuary Rentals:

Regular Missions Groups	\$ 9,000
Other Misc. Rentals	
Total Rental Income:	\$ 9,000

Bank Account Interest Income:

\$ 2,500

Investment Income:

\$ 25,000

Total Expected Income:

\$ 121,250

Expected Expenses:

Administration (Including insurances, office supplies, phone & network expenses) **\$ 23,000**

Pastoral Service (Including music licenses, upkeep, special services)

Buildings & Grounds

Utilities (Oil, Propane, Elec, Water, Trash, ...)	\$ 32,000.00
Repairs/Maintenance	\$ 15,000.00
Non-Office Supplies/Equipment/Security	\$ 1,000.00
Snow Removal	\$ 600.00

Total Buildings & Grounds **\$ 48,600**

Personnel (Pastor, Admin. Asst, Christian Ed, Music Director, Custodian & Benefits) **\$ 51,000***

Total Expected Expenses:

\$ 122,600

TOTAL PROJECTED BUDGET SHORTFALL:

\$ (1,350.00)**

* This assumes a Pastor (1/2 time) annual salary of \$45000 (1/2 year)

** Any shortfall will be met with withdrawals from the Money Market Account

Respectfully submitted: Sue Stephens, Financial Secretary 14

BUCC Quilt Show & Sale
with Sewing Tag Sale
2024

This was the 13th year for this event. It continues to be attended by 200-250 people throughout the three days of the show. The church and narthex were jam packed again this year with priced and not-priced items galore. Quilts are hung on racks and over pews which create a colorful, inviting space. Having a theme to the show seems to be preferred by attendees and exhibitors alike. This year's theme was 'Holiday' quilts. The three days of the show grossed over \$8,330.

Remaining open the following week with just the sewing tag sale grossed over \$1,300 through Friday. The big surprise was on the last Saturday. The sewing tag sale has never been open the same day as the Craft Fair until this year. That Saturday we made over \$900. Shocking.

So, after expenses the show & tag sale week netted \$10,136. However, online sales for the total year of 2024 were \$1,368 – which gives the event a total profit of \$11,504 for 2024.

It takes a lot of volunteers to make this event successful. However, this church and non-church volunteers pull together as a team and make things happen. It is a fun time. We raise dollars for our church and also provide goods at a reasonable price for customers, and then at the end, several leftover goods are donated to other non-profits. A win-win event for all.

Submitted by Jane Crutchfield
Quilt Show Chairperson

p.s. It is all June Henneman's fault. Years ago she passed out a \$1 bill to everyone in the congregation and said "Make it grow".
So we did.

**WARRANT FOR THE ANNUAL MEETING OF THE
BELCHERTOWN UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
TO BE HELD SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 16, 2025
AFTER WORSHIP IN CHAPEL and via ZOOM***

To all church members of the Belchertown United Church of Christ (BUCC)
qualified to vote on church affairs and our friends:
You are hereby notified of the Annual Meeting called by the Church Moderator
to be held in the Chapel and via Zoom on **Sunday, February 16, 2025**
following the Worship Service, then and there to address the following articles:

ARTICLE I: Review by-law Article II, Section 2(F)(5) A quorum of 25 of the voting membership must be present to conduct the business . . . ; and request motion to temporarily override 25 person quorum for this meeting and vote approval.

ARTICLE II: To reflect on and discuss the ministries and committees of the church.

ARTICLE III: To hear the proposed budget for 2025 as presented by the Financial Secretary and vote approval.

ARTICLE IV: Review by-law Article II, Section 2(C)(1)a. & b. Creation of Church Council requiring 7 members at minimum; names of current qualified members; and, to invite others to serve on the Church Council.

ARTICLE V: Review by-law Article II, Section 3(D)(3) Elections and Terms of Office requiring Church Council members to serve no more than 3 2-year terms; identify present Church Council members willing to serve beyond term limit; and request motion to temporarily override term limit by an additional 2 years and vote approval.

ARTICLE VI: To review the slate of members offering to serve on the Church Council and vote approval.

ARTICLE VII: To nominate and elect the officer members (Moderator, Associate Moderator, Clerk and Financial Secretary) of the Church Council.

ARTICLE VIII: To hear an update from the search committee.

ARTICLE IX: To act upon any other business that may legally come before said meeting and adjourn.

 /s/ David Crutchfield
David Crutchfield, Moderator

 /s/ Robert Sherwood
Robert Sherwood, Clerk

*** To Join Zoom Meeting:**

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/88043492106?pwd=abJZa6ApdJ6tGBDOaDk7hZTFsH2WCo.1>
Meeting ID: 880 4349 2106 ; Passcode: 574633 ; Phone: 929-205-6099

An attested copy of this warrant was posted at the Belchertown United Church of Christ, February 1st, 2025 (approximately 2 weeks prior to said meeting) in accordance with the by-laws of Belchertown United Church of Christ.