

**CONGREGATIONAL
COUNCIL MEETING**



FEBRUARY 02, 2025

TABLE OF CONTENTS

1. AGENDA
2. Mission and Vision
3. Procedures – Elder Team –Team Leaders
4. Pastor’s Report
5. Treasurer’s Report
6. Proposed 2025 Budget

COUNCIL MEETING AGENDA

- 1. OPENING**
- 2. Prayer – Morris Fraley**
- 3. DEVOTIONS – Pastor Mark Sewell, Ph.D. -**
- 4. Review of Council Procedures**
- 5. Pastor’s Report – Motion to Approve, Discussion, Voting**
- 6. Treasurer’s Report – Motion to Approve, Discussion, Voting**
- 7. Budget 2025 Proposal – Motion to Approve, Discussion, Voting**
- 8. Nomination of Pastoral Couple to attend the BIC Regional Conference in Roanoke, Va. Motion to approve, Discussion, Voting**
- 9. Community/Ministry Sharing and Planning 2025 Outreaches and Events**
- 10. Closing of Meeting & Prayer**

MISSION AND VISION

Our Vision is to connect people to Jesus Christ, who is the Vine. So that they may connect to each other and the community around them in order to have a growing relationship with the Vine.

Our Mission is to spread the love of Christ through, worship, mentoring, teaching and equipping. We desire to be a safe place that welcomes one and all to build healing relationships with God and with each other.

MINISTRY POSITIONS AND TERMS TO BE VOTED ON:

None

REGIONAL CONFERENCE DELEGATES:

Recommend Pastoral Couple to attend the Regional Conference to be held on April 5, 2025 at La Roca BIC, Roanoke, VA. The Allegany Conference will also be having a Pastor and Wives retreat prior to this Regional Conference in Roanoke, VA.

Per the manual of Doctrine & Government of the Brethren in Christ Church

(Assigned Pastors will automatically serve as delegates. In addition, each congregation is entitled to one (1) delegate for each 100 members of fraction thereof. Congregations are encouraged to ELECT delegates from their church board (Leadership team). Delegate shall be members of the Brethren in Christ Church)

PROCEDURES OF COUNCIL:

- Those 16 years and older, who have taken the step to Belong to the Vine Church family, may have a voice and a vote at council meetings. All others may have a voice at the council meeting. (One fifth of the membership of voting age must be present according to the MDG).
- It is recommended that items should be presented to the Elder Team in writing prior to council for consideration to ensure a fruitful council meeting.
- Robert's Rules of Order will be used in conduction of business and the Manual of Doctrine and Government (MDG) of the Brethren in Christ in the U.S. will also be used for guidance.

ORGANIZATION OF 2025 CONGREGATION COUNCIL:

Moderator: Sheri Fraley
Asst Moderator: Karen Shade
Secretary: Lori Sewell
Tellers: Morris Fraley & Harold Leer

ELDER TEAM OF THE VINE CHURCH – 2025

Elder Team:

Pastor Mark Sewell, Ph.D.
Lori Sewell – Secretary
Morris Fraley
Sheri Fraley
Karen Shade – Treasurer
Harold Leer
Anthony Brooks
Rebecca Izu
Pam Brooks

MINISTRY LEADERS AND TEAM MEMBERS 2025

AESTHETIC MINISTRY

Vacant

YOUTH

Vacant

DEACONS

Morris Fraley
Sheri Fraley

SOUND MINISTRY

Harold Leer – Leader
Dan Barnhart
Anthony Brooks
Andrew Leer

MEN'S MINISTRY

Pastor Mark Sewell

NURSERY MINISTRY

Lori Sewell

CHILDREN'S MINISTRY

Pam Brooks – Leader
Doris Leer

WORSHIP MINISTRY

Pastor Mark Sewell
Morris Fraley
Andrew Leer
Pam Brooks
Aria Roelle
Kathy Barnhart
Alison Appenzellar
Mark Appenzellar

PRAYER MINISTRY

Morris and Sheri Fraley



PASTOR'S 2024 ANNUAL REPORT For The Vine Church

Submitted by: Pastor Mark Sewell, Ph.D.

Date of Report: January 2025

During this past year we have impacted many lives with care and compassion. It has been a blessing to be your Pastor and to seek Jesus with you! It is with a heart of gratitude and thankfulness that this report is prepared for your review and adoption. Thank you for your love, support and encouragement through the year and for your heart for Jesus! I am excited to see what the Lord has planned for us in 2025 as we look to the hope that only Jesus can provide.

What we have been doing in 2024



As a community, we began the year with a week of fasting and prayer and being immersed in the living and active Word of God and worshiping together. We also began to focus on embracing the hope that Christ gives us so that we can share that hope with others!

Discipleship

We focused on exploring the depths of scripture so that we would continue to be more like Christ in our daily lives, our habits and our relationships. Most importantly, this meant that as a congregation we must be firmly rooted in the Word of God and to delight in it on a daily basis!



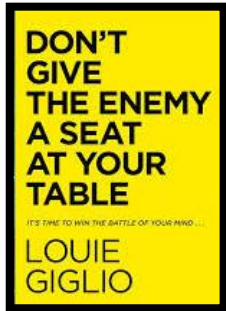
We began the first three months of the year exploring the 10 Commandments in depth during our Sunday morning sermon series. Our Sunday morning message series also included such themes as The Book of First Thessalonians to help us stand firm. Another

series was about the If/Then logic of Christ to help us grasp what really happens when we truly love Jesus.



Our Family Life group started the Experiencing God study at Karen Shade's home. This study is challenging us to memorize scripture, to more fully understand

that God is always at work around us and is speaking to us today, and to join Him in what is occurring around us!



Upon the conclusion of Experiencing God, we began a new Family Life group study entitled Don't Give The Enemy a Seat at Your Table. This study is focused on how to win the battle for your mind and is centered on Psalm 23. To ensure the widest participation possible, we moved our meeting place to church and meet after each First Sunday Community meal! The Men's Life Group started the year with the study entitled The Prodigal Son, The Long Walk Home, by Matt Carter. This study is helping us to discover the fullness of life in the love of the Father. We are currently using the study Daniel – Faithful in the Fire. This study is helping us live out our faith regardless of the challenges that we face in our culture.

Connecting with each other and the world around us

We have created amazing ways to connect and minister to many more people. We have given people options to stay home if they are sick or are away from the area but still stay connected. There are many options for people to be part of the Vine community. We are currently reaching an average of 59 people each week who engage with The Vine Church in person and on-line!



Our year began with collecting breakfast items for the REACH Cold Weather Shelter on a monthly basis from January through the beginning of April. Each month Lori Sewell and Sheri Fraley would deliver our breakfast items to support those who seek shelter from the cold weather.

food and spiritual focus.

The Ladies Tuesday for Tea fellowship group started the year with a wonderful gathering at Pam's house, it was a time of fun,



We had wonderful game nights filled with laughter and friendly competition and also enjoyed a night out at the Maryland Theater for a Rend Collective Concert!

Throughout the year, we supported the Tabitha's Table Food Bank each month. Our support helped them to purchase over 1,000 pounds of food to distribute to those in the community who are experiencing food insecurity.

The Vine provides support to those living in our building on a monthly basis by ensuring their water bills do not increase. We subsidize the water bills for each resident in our building. We also support the BIC world missionaries on a monthly basis through our regular tithing.

Once again, the Vine church had a world wide impact by sending 40 infant care kits to places such as Malawi and Sudan supporting new mothers in the care of their new babies. We also provided immediate support and supplies to the Ashville, NC community that was devastated by Hurricane Helen causing post-apocalyptic damage, taking the lives of over 100 people.



In April, we sponsored the Movie Ordinary Angels at the Waynesboro Theatre. The theater was filled to capacity! We had the opportunity to share a message prior to the start of the movie and had great conversations in the lobby with people that came to our Vine Table. There were many Bibles and Case for Christ booklets distributed.

Smithsburg Days brought yet another time we engaged our community. We raised funds for our benevolence fund through the sale of yard sale items and making snow cones for donations. It was a wonderful success as we had many conversations and invited many people to connect with The Vine!



During the year, our Vine community continued to distribute homeless compassion bags to people who are living on the streets or in camps. Our bags included items such as shirts, socks, gloves, hats, water, food items, Bibles, and street guides with information about where they can go to get many needed services such as shelter, food and health care and employment.



As a Vine community, we went to the streets to pray. We proclaimed the name of Jesus over our community, our town hall, fire department, police department, schools and over all the residents. Praying for others is one of the most caring ways we reach people with the love of Christ.

Gathering around the table has become a cherished tradition for our Vine family. We have had many great conversations around the table, whether it is in our church, playing board games, or eating at a pool party! Spending time with each other is the hallmark of a healthy and growing congregation.

As a Vine family, we are committed to help everyone grow and experience the love of Christ in their lives and in their families' lives!

It is such a pleasure to see how Jesus is blessing our families and changing hearts to serve our Lord and each other!



Our annual Roxbury camping trip was an enjoyable time together as we relaxed and enjoyed the beauty of nature and time with the Lord and each other. Our focus was on the

sanctity of life and how we are all cherished in God's eyes. During this time together we had the opportunity to show our love for others by assembling 40 infant care kits to be distributed by the Mennonite Central Committee to such places as Malawi and the Sudan. We began collecting supplies in July and continued collecting supplies for the infant care kits until our time at Roxbury.

Once again, we continued our emphasis on caring for the community with our door to door blanket and coat collection. We went door to door on Upper Edgemont Rd and Apple Grove Ct. in Waynesboro, PA. It was an extremely successful day as we collected 45 blankets and 63 coats for a total of 108 items. The coats included children's, women's and men's coats that were distributed to people in Waynesboro and Hagerstown shelters.

Our congregation also provided 10 Christmas meal boxes to be distributed by Tabitha's Table for those in our community that are experiencing food insecurity.





We also adopted a family that was fleeing domestic violence to provide Christmas for a mother and four children. This family was being sheltered by CASA (Citizens Assisting and Sheltering the Abused) in Hagerstown, MD. It is amazing to care for others even in an anonymous manner to protect families' safety and security.

godly community.

Our Vine Christmas party was a wonderful time that started with our morning worship service and Advent celebration, and concluded with wonderful food, great conversations, and fun times for everyone! It is a blessing to be a part of a loving and



Fiscally

As far as the numbers go, we must never lose sight of the fact that it is only the grace and mercy of Jesus that provides hope for our lives. This is His church, and we are the body to be led and directed by a loving and sovereign God! The detailed reporting can be found in the annual report.

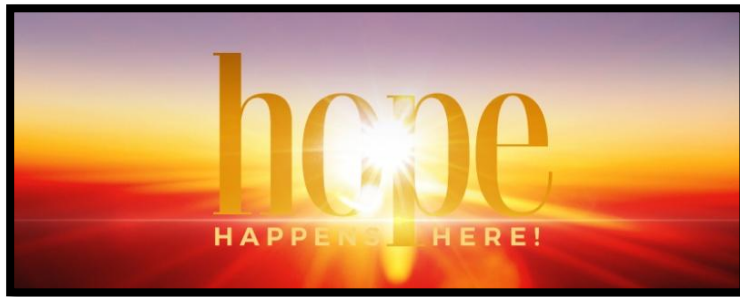
We currently have a combined (in person and on-line) attendance of 57.

From a financial perspective, we continue to experience an outpouring of blessing even through the pandemic and beyond. We ended the year with a balance in our checking and savings account for a total of \$21,623.97. Our Benevolence balance is \$7,521.80 and is part of the total balance previously stated. The Benevolence Offering will assist us with caring for the community in practical and meaningful ways.

During this past year the Benevolence fund was used to support the Hurricane Helene victims in Ashville NC, provided support to Churches in Mission, provided funds to Tabitha's Table to provide for client's homeless prevention, supported people in our congregation, assisted with the Infant Care Kits and provided support to the New Hope Shelter for critical repairs.

We also increased our support to Tabitha's Table Food Bank each month and subsidize the water bills for all the tenants in our building. I am deeply grateful for your hearts and your commitment to The Vine family.

Where are we going for the upcoming year – 2025 and beyond



It is going to be amazing to watch and see all that God has planned for The Vine Church this year!

As we embark on 2025, we will embrace the truth that HOPE HAPPENS HERE – because Jesus is with us!

I am urging everyone to fully grasp and live out the words of Jesus:

Ephesians 3: 14-21 14 When I think of all this, I fall to my knees and pray to the Father, 15 the Creator of everything in heaven and on earth. 16 I pray that from his glorious, unlimited resources he will empower you with inner strength through his Spirit. 17 Then Christ will make his home in your hearts as you trust in him. Your roots will grow down into God's love and keep you strong.

18 And may you have the power to understand, as all God's people should, how wide, how long, how high, and how deep his love is. 19 May you experience the love of Christ, though it is too great to understand fully. Then you will be made complete with all the fullness of life and power that comes from God.

20 Now all glory to God, who is able, through his mighty power at work within us, to accomplish infinitely more than we might ask or think. 21 Glory to him in the church and in Christ Jesus through all generations forever and ever! Amen.

Acts 2: 42 All the believers devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching, and to fellowship, and to sharing in meals (including the Lord's Supper), and to prayer.

Psalms 119:114 You are my refuge and my shield; your word is my source of hope.

Psalm 130:5 I am counting on the LORD; yes, I am counting on him. I have put my hope in his word.

Jeremiah 17:7 But blessed are those who trust in the LORD and have made the LORD their hope and confidence.

Lamentations 3:24 I say to myself, "The LORD is my inheritance; therefore, I will hope in him!"

Romans 5:5 And this hope will not lead to disappointment. For we know how dearly God loves us, because he has given us the Holy Spirit to fill our hearts with his love.

Romans 12:12 Rejoice in our confident hope. Be patient in trouble, and keep on praying.

Romans 15:13 I pray that God, the source of hope, will fill you completely with joy and peace because you trust in him. Then you will overflow with confident hope through the power of the Holy Spirit.

Will you commit with me for the entire year? Once again, we want to prove that we really are living as followers of Christ – genuine, caring, and with a deep heartfelt love for Christ and practical love for our community.

What does HOPE IS HERE look like? Here are a few points to consider for 2025:

1. We will only begin to understand and experience this HOPE Christ provides as we submit to the Word. As we delight in the Word on a daily basis we will begin to actually grasp the promises and hope that Jesus provides. In this way the Holy Spirit will move us and compel us to share this hope with our community and become fruitful so the Vine will grow.
2. We are going to be doing things differently in our lives by the end of the year by counting on Jesus and putting our hope in Him for all of life.
3. Involvement in Life Groups can create experiences of intentional discipleship and mentoring. We must be able to DELIGHT in the Living WORD and must intentionally make more room for God in our lives. We must study it together, and learn together as we support and encourage each other in community and as a community. We must commit to showing up for each other and showing up for our worship gatherings.
4. We must make room for one another in our lives, with Involvement in outreach opportunities where we share Jesus and our lives with our neighbors, co-workers, family and friends is critical. Our Christian witness must never be a private venture. We must intentionally go beyond our comfort zones and purposely engage our communities with the love of Christ and sharing our stories.

Together, as the body of Christ, we will create opportunities for people to engage with each other and the community around us. Together, the hope that Christ provides will never disappoint us but propel us to new horizons as the Vine community.

Let's embrace and ponder these words: **Romans 5:5 And this hope will not lead to disappointment. For we know how dearly God loves us, because he has given us the Holy Spirit to fill our hearts with his love.**

HOPE HAPPENS HERE because Jesus is with us!

TREASURER'S REPORT AND PROPOSED BUDGET

THE VINE CHURCH

Jan - Dec 25

Ordinary Income/Expense

| | |
|--|------------------|
| Income | |
| Tithes/Offerings | |
| Ministry - Benevolence Offering | |
| Designated - Compassion Bags | 0.00 |
| Ministry - Benevolence Offering - Other | <u>3,000.00</u> |
| Total Ministry - Benevolence Offering | 3,000.00 |
| Tithes/Offerings - Other | <u>69,078.13</u> |
| Total Tithes/Offerings | <u>72,078.13</u> |
| Total Income | <u>72,078.13</u> |
| Gross Income | 72,078.13 |

Expense

| | |
|--------------------------------------|------------------|
| Accounting Services | 5.00 |
| Administrative Expenses | |
| Office Supplies | <u>100.00</u> |
| Total Administrative Expenses | 100.00 |
| Bank Expenses | |
| Bank Service Charges | 0.00 |
| Checks & Deposit Slips | <u>30.00</u> |
| Total Bank Expenses | 30.00 |
| Cleaning Supplies | |
| Church Cleaning | <u>2,040.00</u> |
| Total Cleaning Supplies | 2,040.00 |
| Dues and Subscriptions | 650.00 |
| Furniture & Fixtures | 0.00 |
| Insurance Expense | |
| Renters Insurance | <u>413.00</u> |
| Total Insurance Expense | 413.00 |
| Ministry Expenses | |
| Benevolence Expense | 3,000.00 |
| Children's Ministry | 50.00 |
| Cooperative Ministry | 6,552.56 |
| Men's Ministry | 50.00 |
| Missions | 800.00 |
| Outreach | 1,200.00 |
| Worship Ministry | <u>340.00</u> |
| Total Ministry Expenses | 11,992.56 |
| Misc. Expenses | 96.00 |
| Outside Services | |
| Special Speakers | <u>100.00</u> |

| | |
|-------------------------------|---------------------------|
| Total Outside Services | 100.00 |
| Pastoral Expenses | |
| Payroll Expenses | |
| Housing Allowance | 37,677.43 |
| Pension | 3,767.74 |
| Social Security Match | 0.00 |
| Payroll Expenses - Other | <u>0.00</u> |
| Total Payroll Expenses | <u>41,445.17</u> |
| Total Pastoral Expenses | 41,445.17 |
| Postage and Delivery | 0.00 |
| Program Expenses | |
| Conferences and Meetings | 700.00 |
| Evangelism and Special Events | <u>600.00</u> |
| Total Program Expenses | 1,300.00 |
| Rent Expense | 8,400.00 |
| Retreat Expense | 300.00 |
| Utilities | |
| Electricity | 1,620.00 |
| Telephone / Internet Expense | 1,976.40 |
| Water, Sewer & Sanitation | <u>1,250.00</u> |
| Total Utilities | 4,846.40 |
| Website | <u>360.00</u> |
| Total Expense | <u>72,078.13</u> |
| Net Ordinary Income | 0.00 |
| Other Income/Expense | |
| Other Income | |
| Interest Earned | <u>0.00</u> |
| Total Other Income | <u>0.00</u> |
| Net Other Income | <u><u>0.00</u></u> |

