



AMBERLEA CHURCH



THE 2026 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Annual Report for 2025 and Proposed 2026 Budget

www.amberleachurch.ca

Sharing Hope

S
T
I
N
T
H
E
N
N
O
C
O
N

01

PREFACE

02 - 03

MESSAGE FROM OUR PASTOR

04 - 08

MINUTES

09 - 10

SESSION REPORT

11

2025 RECAP

12 - 39

MINISTRY REPORTS

40 - 45

LIFE GROUPS

46 - 48

STRATEGY TEAM

49 - 51

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

We hope this report will help you with our Annual General Meeting (AGM) on March 8, 2026.

W

The sections of the report are in the order in which people speak.

C

AGENDA FOR THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

A

1. Welcome (Pastor Mona)

E

2. Opening Prayer (Pastor Mona)

E

3. Election of Chair and Secretary (Pastor Mona)

R

4. Review the Minutes of the 2025 AGM (Chair)

R

5. Election of 2026 Officers (Chair)

6. Session Report (Clerk of Session)

7. Family Ministry Report (Family Ministries Director)

8. Missions Report (Peggy Edwards)

9. 2025 Financial Results & 2026 Budget
(Laura Newman)

10. Motion to Accept Budget

11. Closing Prayer (Pastor Mona)

MESSAGE

FROM OUR PASTOR

Greetings dear friends,

As we reflect on the year that has passed, I am once again drawn to Scripture for grounding and encouragement. The words of the psalmist continue to speak clearly to us:

“Be strong and take heart, all you who hope in the LORD.”

- Psalm 31:24



These words have felt especially fitting as we look back on 2025—a year that asked much of us as a congregation. It was a year marked by faithfulness, perseverance, and quiet strength, even as we faced unexpected challenges.

One of the most significant difficulties we encountered was the unforeseen sewage issue in the lower level of the church. The necessary repairs required both substantial financial resources and a great deal of time and effort. While the problem itself has been addressed, there remains work to be done to fully complete the project. I am deeply grateful for the patience, generosity, and steady resolve shown throughout this process. Even in disruption, we witnessed care for one another and a shared commitment to stewarding our building as a place of welcome and ministry.

And yet, in the midst of challenge, ministry continued to flourish.

Throughout 2025, Amberlea remained a vibrant and caring presence in the community. Our worship gatherings - especially during Easter and Christmas - were meaningful celebrations of God's grace and faithfulness. Beyond Sunday mornings, the life of the church was evident through Amberlea Life Groups, Women's and Men's Breakfasts, Stitching Group, Hearts and Hands in Harmony, Prayer at the Cross, KidCamp, Respite Camp, Exceptional Family Ministry, Broadway Kids, Musical Theatre Camp, and F.A.C.E. In all of these, we saw relationships deepen and faith nurtured.

MESSAGE

FROM OUR PASTOR

Continued

Our vision - *Loving God, Sharing Hope, Growing Together in Christ* - continues to guide us. It is lived out through your service, your generosity, your prayers, and your presence. Each act of faithfulness, whether seen or unseen, matters greatly in God's kingdom.

As we move forward, we do so realistically and hopefully. The work before us - both in ministry and in completing necessary building projects—will require continued prayer, discernment, and generosity. But we do not walk this road alone. God has been faithful to Amberlea in the past, and we trust God will continue to lead us with wisdom and grace.

Thank you for your steadfast commitment to this congregation. Thank you for your willingness to “be strong and take heart,” even when the way is not always easy.

May the Lord bless you and keep you in the year ahead. Let us continue forward together, hopeful in the One who holds us fast.

Every blessing,

Rev. Dr. Mona Scrivens



MINUTES

2025 Annual General Meeting
Minutes taken by Greg Watson

Date: 2025-03-09
Time: 12:30 PM
Place: 1820 Whites Rd, Pickering ON

OPENING PRAYER

Call us to be the people of God and give You our offerings of praise and service. Hear us as we pray for this court of Your church and the people who have come to serve, worship, and celebrate your presence. Grant that what is done today may be for the good of Your church, that Your will may be done, that Your name may be glorified, that Your saints may be equipped to live faithfully in the world. For You alone are holy, O God, blessed Trinity.

Amen.

Constitute the Meeting

In the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, I declare this Annual General Meeting duly constituted and competent to deal with any business.

- Sheri Phillips moved, seconded by Peggy Edwards, that the meeting appoint Laurie Laframboise as chair. PASSED.
- Lynda Burke moved, seconded by Gail Young, that the meeting appoint Greg Watson as secretary. PASSED.
- Maxene Henry moved, seconded by Lynda Burke, that the meeting approve the minutes of the previous annual general meeting. PASSED.
- Peggy Edwards moved, seconded by Greg Watson, that the meeting approve the agenda for the current meeting. PASSED.

APPOINTMENT OF CONGREGATIONAL OFFICERS FOR 2025

Laurie Laframboise moved, seconded by Maxene Henry, that Amberlea Presbyterian Church make the following appointments. PASSED.

Trustees: Cameron Young, Allen Burke, and Peter Campbell

Envelope Secretary: Peter Campbell

Treasurer: Laura Newman

Auditor: Angie Nanos

Peter Campbell indicated that this is his last term as envelope secretary and he would like to train his replacement from June 2025 to January 2026.

MINUTES

2025 Annual General Meeting

Continued

SESSION REPORT

“Session” is the Amberlea Church managing board. Session consists of nine elders and Reverend Mona. Reverend Dr. Mona Scrivens is the moderator of Session. Our Family Ministry Director and Treasurer also attend Session meetings but do not have a vote.

Our primary responsibility is to engage Pickering communities in Christian worship, family ministry, and special events, through communication and outreach.

The Session report for 2024 and goals for 2025 are included in the published report.

We would like to call out the work of our 40th Anniversary Organizing committee, Sheri, Nicole, and Serena in particular.

FAMILY MINISTRY REPORT

Our Family Ministry has a small team. Nancy Varga is the Family Ministries Director and Shelly Wedge leads our program for families with autism. We have a specialized worker that comes and assists both with Sunday service and with the twice monthly program. We hire students to work full-time for eight weeks during the summer.

Our family ministry reaches out to our community in many ways. Every Sunday we have KidZone. Every summer we have children’s camps. Our Exceptional Family Ministry supports families with children with autism. Throughout the year we partner with Broadway Kids, Scouts, and Guides. At Christmas we participate in the Pickering Santa Clause Parade, and lead a carol sing with the congregation, the community, and Broadway Kids. Our Family Ministry is largely self supporting. Each year at Christmas and Easter we have fundraisers. We receive, grants from the Presbytery and others. Camp participants pay fees.

MISSIONS REPORT - Presented by Peggy Edwards

Our main mission focus has been local: We partner with the Salvation Army Community Food Bank and Hearts and Hands in Harmony for indigenous families. We have done three seasonal food drives, and last year for the first time, thanks to a great idea from Nicole Phillips, we did our first Family Day Food Drive.

MINUTES

2025 Annual General Meeting

Continued

FINANCIAL REPORT - Presented by Laura Newman

I want to thank and acknowledge the many people who formed our financial team. I'm the face of it, but many helped out.

Traci and Amy, on the administration side make sure that, invoices get processed, and they mail out the cheques. Karen Walton, is our bookkeeper. She made sure that we were doing things in a coordinated way, compliant with the CRA rules. Nancy, our Family Ministries Director, manages the many e-transfers that come in for programs and fundraising. Peter Campbell, our envelope secretary, looks after the tax receipts. Angie Nanos took on the role this year to review our financials.

Let's look at 2024

- We had income of about \$278, 000; mostly, givings, rental income, and grants.
- Expenses of almost \$350, 000.
- A deficit of \$71, 000.
- Givings were \$60,000 less than budgeted, and lower than actual 2023 giving.

In 2024, we had budgeted a deficit of \$15,000 to be funded from the investment.

How did we fund the 2024 deficit?

- For the budgeted shortfall, we had withdrawn \$15,000 from the investment fund in 2023.
- We had bank balances at the beginning of 2024 of \$100,000.
- \$40,000 at the end of the year. Which isn't enough to cover the ups and downs that we typically have.

How will we manage 2025?

I took the budget to session:

- Initially, I had set the donations for 2025 at the same level as they were for 2024. That forecasted a deficit of \$70,000 for 2025.
- Since that investment fund will only last a few years, we need a plan to balance the budget.
- One of the things we are actually going to do is make sure that we're regularly communicating to you on where we are and where we need to get to.

MINUTES

2025 Annual General Meeting

Continued

I've heard from a number of sources that people don't like talking about finances. They feel like when we talk about finances, we're asking for more donations. That is true if we wait until we're in a crisis to communicate. But the sooner we see a financial shortfall coming, the more options we have.

How did we get to this \$70,000 deficit?

When we adjust our total giving for each of the last 10 years by inflation, 2024 was the lowest donations in the last 10 years.

If 11 additional families donated the average amount of \$3,500 over the course of the year, we'd have close to an extra \$40,000 in donations. It is achievable. When we're looking at the donations for 2025, it's right in line with where we saw 2015 - 2019 when we adjusted our inflation.

Any questions?

Q: So, if an additional 11 families contribute an additional \$40,000, where does the remaining \$20,000 come from?

A: From a number of sources: Hopefully some people in this room could perhaps increase their donations, preferably with PAR. There may be some opportunities to get additional rent for the church. We may have investment income from the PCC investment fund. I'm happy to answer any questions. You can look at the detail or ask questions afterward.

Motion to Approve the 2025 Budget

Greg Watson moved, seconded by Angie Nanos, that Amberlea adopt the 2025 budget as presented. PASSED.

WORKING GROUP - Presented by Sheri Phillips

The group is made up of, Brian Scrivens, Anne Woolger, Laura Newman, and Sheri Phillips. We will come up with ideas to take to session. Also, I want to ask you, if something moves you to action, let us know.

- How do we reach out to our online community? Are they giving?
- How can we partner with other charities? What can we do as new ministries that brings people in?
- How can we bring back people who were part of Amberlea in the past but who have become disengaged?

MINUTES

2025 Annual General Meeting

Continued

CLOSING PRAYER

You know our hearts for this church, so Lord, we thank You, for the ministries at Amberlea. We, thank You for the faithful servants, here Lord God. We know You have great things in store for us.

We commit, this time to You, and the rest of this year to You, that we may be faithful, our eyes on You and nothing more. Encourage us as we move forward in the ministries You have provided. Go into the world with faith and full confidence that we are loved by a mighty, mighty God.

And reflect the love given us as we love our neighbours. May His peace, love, and joy remain, with you now, and forevermore. And all the people said - Amen

SESSION REPORT

Submitted by: Laurie Laframboise, Clerk of Session

The leadership team, at Amberlea Presbyterian Church consists of elders who, in conjunction with Rev. Dr. Mona Scrivens and the staff at Amberlea, oversee the church ministries and budgets. The Session meets monthly, at a minimum, and provides oversight to the church's spiritual direction, focused initiatives, and finances. The elders share responsibilities by participating on various ministry teams to support Amberlea's vision of "Loving God, Sharing Hope, Growing Together in Christ". We also express deep gratitude to all our previous elders, many of whom are still part of our Amberlea congregation.

Amberlea Presbyterian Church has 3 strategic goals:



Grow the number of people who attend our church



Increase the participation of current attendees



Strengthen the faith of attendees

The key focus areas for Amberlea are the following:

- ➔ Families with young children and youth are our primary areas for growth.
- ➔ Events and initiatives that reach out to the broader Amberlea community will continue to be planned and implemented.
- ➔ Enhanced communication to reach our community is foundational to achieving this vision.

SESSION REPORT

Continued

We are grateful to those who already assist in various ways. There will be “bite size” opportunities for all of us to easily serve to support this vision.

The Vision

- Fun and engaging ways to get together to learn more about God will be foundational.
- We continue to focus on rebuilding following the pandemic . We are seeing families return and are welcoming new ones as well.
- We continue to face a financial shortfall. To address this we now have a dedicated team helping us address this financial shortfall through various initiatives including increased income through various additional sources. Additionally, we have been fortunate to receive a grant from Presbytery to continue and to expand our Exceptional Family Ministry programs to attract families and provide enhanced outreach to our community.

Please read through the ministry reports to see all of the great programs that are happening within Amberlea which are reaching out to families, youth and our broader community.

We thank all of you who support Amberlea!

If you would like to become more involved in serving families, youth and the community through fun and engaging "bite size" opportunities, let us know! We would benefit greatly from your ideas and talents!

2025 RECAP

Key Accomplishments

Strategic Goals



Increase the participation of current attendees

15

Family Ministry Events

9

Fundraising Initiatives

4

Food Drives

~35

Active Life Group Participants



Strengthen the faith of attendees

6

Active Life Groups

25

KidZone Attendees

6

Baptisms



Grow the number of people who attend our church

130

Amberlea Families

~60

Average # of Attendees on Sundays

6

New Families

125

Camp Attendees

20

Youth Volunteers (camps)



MINISTRY REPORTS

- 12 Praise and Worship Band - Brian Scrivens
- 13 Audio-Visual at Amberlea - Allen Burke
- 14 Greeting - Peggy Edwards
- 15 Hospitality - Judy Clark
- 16 - 27 Family Ministries - Nancy Varga
- 28 - 30 Exceptional Family Ministry - Shelly Wedge
- 31 Women's Ministry - Peggy Edwards
- 32 Prayer at the Cross - Marlyne Sinanansingh

PRAISE AND WORSHIP BAND

Submitted by: Brian Scrivens

Music continues to play an essential role in worship at Amberlea. In 2025, we remain grateful for a gifted team of singers and musicians, supported by a committed group of audio-visual technicians. Spanning a wide range of ages, this team works together to support meaningful worship each Sunday, as well as special services and events such as the annual Carol Sing.

The Worship Band rehearses on Sunday mornings prior to the service. To support preparation, set lists, sheet music, and YouTube links are shared earlier in the week, giving all participants time to practice and come ready to serve - whether as vocalists, instrumentalists, or members of the technical team behind the scenes.

If you have a love for music and are interested in using your gifts in worship, we would be delighted to connect with you. Singers, musicians, and those curious about the technical aspects of worship are all warmly invited to be part of the Amberlea Worship Band.



For more information,
please contact
Brian Scrivens at
brianrjscrivens@gmail.com
or (416) 617-0522

AUDIO-VISUAL AT AMBERLEA

Submitted by: Allen Burke

Greetings from the Audio-Visual Team. We hope you appreciate the work that goes into the various things that happen behind the scenes to make the service meaningful to attendees and those that view the service online. The Team currently has one member each for the EasyWorship PC (Les Smith) and sound/video (Allen Burke). Backup is provided by Peter Campbell and David Varga.



The team has three main functions.

1

Collect and prepare the various components provided for loading into the EasyWorship software. This content includes announcements and the 'Call To Worship' prepared by the church office, song selections from the band and PowerPoint files for the sermon. Some weeks include videos and special content for KidZone.

2

Run the sound board, so the band sounds great each week and run the video recording for Sunday Worship.

3

Build and take down the microphones, music stands and other components used by the band each week. The set-up is usually performed on Saturday afternoon so it is ready for the band practice Sunday morning.

We are seeking additional volunteers who view this as an opportunity to serve and engage more with the church community. Training and oversight is provided. We give thanks for the time the team is willing to commit to the life of the church.

Allen Burke & Les Smith
Audio-Visual Team

For more information, please contact
Allen Burke at
algburke@gmail.com

GREETING

Submitted by: Peggy Edwards



Greeting is a vital part of our church life at Amberlea. Volunteering as a Greeter is a simple, yet important role in making our church a place of welcome for all who come through the doors.



We give thanks to the faithful team of ten volunteers who served during the past year as greeters for Sunday worship and events.

We are seeking additional volunteers who would like to engage in our church family in this way.



For more information, please contact Peggy Edwards.
She would love to hear from you.
pe.ashbyed@gmail.com

HOSPITALITY

Submitted by: Judy Clark



2025 was a very busy year for our hospitality team at Amberlea.

I would like to thank all of you who have contributed to our team this past year. Whether you helped with Coffee Time, BBQ's, special church events, decorating, donating food, donating to our petty cash box and so many things attached to any of the above, I want to say a great big Thank You!

It has been a real joy to see so many new faces assisting with this vital Ministry.

We have a strong team of people that make the Hospitality Ministry succeed at Amberlea, and it has been my pleasure to be the Coordinator.

Special thank you to Murray who has been there to set up tables, tear down tables, keep the equipment running and just pick up the slack!!

To God Be the Glory!
Hospitality Coordinator
Judy Clark



FAMILY MINISTRIES

Submitted by: Nancy Varga



Family Ministry at Amberlea joyfully partners with families as they grow in faith & serves our wider community. In 2025, these shared goals came to life through a variety of resources, programs, & events. We give thanks for the many people who generously offered their prayers, time, talents, & financial gifts. Special thanks to Jackie Parillon for her amazing administrative & communications support. May this report joyfully testify to God’s faithful and powerful work among us.

SUPPORTING FAMILIES ON THEIR FAITH JOURNEY



KidZone is a ministry designed specifically for children ages 3 - 11 during Sunday morning worship. In 2025, we welcomed a steady group of approximately 25 children, with an average weekly attendance of 8 - 10.

Through games, music, story videos, crafts, and celebrations, children engaged with God’s Word using fun and creative themes such as Pirates Who Pray, Idols, Try Not to Laugh, and Journey Through the Bible. KidZone is intentionally accessible and thoughtfully adapted to meet the needs of exceptional children, under the caring leadership of Shelly Wedge.

We are deeply grateful for the committed volunteers and staff who served faithfully throughout the year and for those who stepped in when needed! — Bethany, Amy, Shelly, Sal, Kathy T., Marlyne, and Negha.

Special thanks to:

Lynda Burke, who extends care beyond Sundays by faithfully mailing birthday and holiday cards to over 25 children. The Stitching Group, whose support of craft projects - such as handmade teddy bears - has been a beautiful blessing.

Prayer for 2026:

Please pray for our children to deepen their faith and understanding of God’s Word, and for volunteers who will continue to walk alongside them.

FAMILY MINISTRIES

Worship

Worship at Amberlea strives to be welcoming, accessible, and engaging for children and youth. Highlights in 2025 included the Palm Sunday processional, Easter egg hunt, Advent candle lighting, and a Christmas service led by over 25 children and youth. Intergenerational communion, family services, and worship bags further supported meaningful participation for all ages.



Prayer for 2026:

Please pray that we will continue to see and provide opportunities for children and youth to lead us in weekly worship.

FAMILY MINISTRIES

Worship continued



FAMILY MINISTRIES

Faith at Home

Faith at Home recognizes the importance of key seasons in family life and equips families to worship and grow together beyond Sunday mornings.

In 2025, resources included Bible reading plans, Lent calendars, prayer challenges, conversation starters, a Prayer Labyrinth, summer activity incentives, Backpack Blessing, Gratitude Smarties, Advent resources, and free access to RightNow Media.

Prayer for 2026:

Please pray for parents and grandparents as they cultivate deep faith in their families - one small habit at a time.

FAMILY MINISTRIES

Youth

Amberlea recognizes both the vital role youth play in the life of the church and the meaningful role the church plays in the lives of youth (Grades 6 - 12).

We were honoured to train and mentor over 15 youth from the community who volunteered during KidCamp. We are especially thankful for the youth who serve year-round in the Praise Band, hospitality, KidZone, and special events.



Prayer for 2026:

Please continue to pray for wisdom and the resources needed to provide strong leadership in youth ministry.

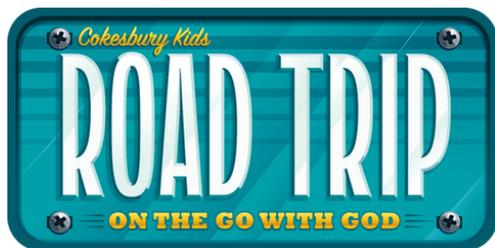
FAMILY MINISTRIES

OUTREACH

Summer Camps

In 2025, Amberlea offered evangelistic summer programming to over 125 children and youth in our community. These programs were affordable, relevant, and accessible to all, including children and youth with exceptional needs.

We are grateful to generous donors who stepped in to support KidCamp crafts and staffing when funding did not come together as planned. We are especially thankful for Negha, our outstanding summer leader, who was instrumental in the success of the summer programs.



KidCamp - We give thanks for the 29 campers who joined us for our exciting *Road Trip KidCamp*, centered on Joshua 1:9: *“The LORD your God is with you wherever you go.”*

Over 35 amazing youth and adult volunteers generously gave their time and energy - many sacrificing a full week of their summer vacation. Their creativity, enthusiasm, and commitment were inspiring, and KidCamp would not have been possible without them.



Prayer for 2026:

Please pray for the people and financial resources needed, and for lasting impact in the lives of campers and their families.



FAMILY MINISTRIES

Outreach continued

Musical Theatre Camp - We are thankful for Eliza, Michele, and the Broadway Kids Team, who co-directed four weeks of Musical Theatre Camp. With over 76 children and youth participants and the support of seven volunteers, this community program continues to be an incredible way to connect with families in our neighbourhood.



Respite Camp

We are deeply grateful to Kim, Kaley, and Kara for their leadership, expertise, and care as they facilitated Amberlea's first-ever Respite Camp. This specialized camp supported 5 children and youth with autism, offering meaningful engagement in a safe and nurturing environment.



FAMILY MINISTRIES

Broadway Kids



Broadway Kids



We are thankful for our ongoing partnership with Broadway Kids, a midweek musical theatre program that builds confidence through singing and performance. This program allowed us to connect with over 35 families during the school year and more than 76 families during the summer. The end-of-session performance showcases continue to be a joyful highlight.



Prayer for 2026:

Please pray for continued opportunity and growth in relationships.

FAMILY MINISTRIES

Family Events

In 2025, Amberlea hosted a wide range of family and community events that created meaningful opportunities to welcome our neighbours and share the love of Jesus. These events would not be possible without the dedication of countless volunteers—we extend heartfelt thanks to everyone who served.

Highlights

- Exploring Easter: A Journey to Joy – welcoming over 19 families and 25+ children. Thank you to the organizing team Larry, Tim, Les & Jackie & over 20 volunteers who brought the vision to life!
- Prayer Walk through our neighbourhood
- Prayer Labyrinth
- The Chosen (Seasons 3 & 4)
- Parking Lot Sale. Thank you Shelly & team!
- KidCamp & Kick-Off BBQ's. Thank you Judy & team!
- Fellowship Lunches. Thank you Jason & teams!
- Pickering Santa Claus Parade (15,000 attendees!). Thank you to Larry and the amazing team who prepared the float & those who brought the float to life!
- The Chapelaires: Evening of Song & Cookies
- Community Carol Sing (100+ attendees). An amazing collaboration of Amberlea's Praise Band, Broadway Kids, and our 8th Pickering Beavers, Cubs & Scouts.
- Children's Christmas Pageant (20+ families). Families enjoyed a morning of snacks, games & nativity crafts before the big event. Thank you to the Christmas Squad who were instrumental in preparing for all of our Christmas events.

Prayer for 2026:

Please pray for the connections made and for creative ideas, resources, and volunteers.





***"And whatever you do, whether in word or deed,
do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus,
giving thanks to God the Father through him." - Colossians 3:17***

EXCEPTIONAL FAMILY MINISTRY

Submitted by: Shelly Wedge



Exceptional Family Ministry desires to welcome and support exceptional families so they can worship together; and provide a safe and welcoming environment for children/young people to play, sing and learn about the Bible in an environment where their exceptional needs are met. We continue to be intentional about how

Sunday morning worship, KidZone and our special events are inclusive and supportive of exceptional families. In KidZone, we supported 4 children and youth with autism.

In addition, in 2025, we provided a 1 week specialized Respite Camp providing care for 5 campers.

F.A.C.E. (Fun Autism Community Experiences) a community program for children and youth aimed at providing fun, recreational experiences for those on the autism spectrum is in its fourth year.



F.A.C.E. runs on the 1st and 3rd Saturday of each month from 2-4pm. Shelly Wedge is the Program Coordinator and in 2025 was supported by a paid Support Therapist and 2 support staff, along with five volunteers. This support model ensures that we are able to support kids on a one-to-one basis, and also do not burn out volunteers. This program not only provided a safe environment for children to learn and have fun, but also provided relief care to families who are facing the challenges of raising a child with autism.

In 2025, we hosted several fundraising events:

- Parking lot sale
- Vandermere & Purdys Spring & Christmas fundraisers

We would like to thank our volunteers and those who supported our events.

EXCEPTIONAL FAMILY MINISTRY

Continued

F.A.C.E. is growing with 14 families and counting! In order to further expand our program, additional support will be required. Volunteers are always welcome, and there is no specific skill requirement.

We are grateful for the Avondbloem grant received from The Presbyterian Church in Canada.

Moving into 2026, we have hired two new team members and will continue to rely on the support of our volunteers.



EXCEPTIONAL FAMILY MINISTRY

Continued



WOMEN'S MINISTRY

Submitted by: Peggy Edwards

Fellowship Event

Sharing Our Stories: In June, we hosted a Breakfast & Fellowship event with special guest speaker, Rhonda Metelsky - Barrister & Solicitor, Partner/Principal of Metelsky Law Professional Corporation in Ajax, ON. The topic was Estate Planning, Wills and Powers of Attorney. It attracted wide interest, was open to women and men, and well attended with 39 participants. Apart from the delicious hot buffet, the Q & A segment of the informative presentation was a highlight of the event. With compliments of our guest speaker, everyone left with a copy of an Estate Planning Check List. We are very grateful to Ms. Metelsky for this community service opportunity.

Many thanks to the ministry team who organized the event and to our friends from the community who assisted us in preparing the buffet.

In 2026, our plan is to host a regular Sharing Our Stories Breakfast, and another special event on a topic of interest.

REPORT FROM SUSAN SIMPSON, COORDINATOR

Fellowship Breakfasts

The gathering for breakfast for women, usually seniors, to get out and socialize were ongoing throughout the year, with attendance from 5 to 15. Our Breakfast is not just for Amberlea ladies but all are welcome. Pastor Mona continued to attend whenever her schedule allowed, more frequently than last year.

We continue to meet bi-weekly on Wednesday at Kathryn's Diner, 376 Kingston Rd, Pickering, ON L1V 6K4, with a new start time of 9:00 a.m. An email is sent to everyone on the growing contact list on the Sunday before and they respond letting me know whether they are attending or not. I make the reservation with Kathryn's giving the number of attendees expected so that they can prepare for us.

This is a great opportunity to socialize and, as I've heard, laughter is the best medicine.

PRAYER AT THE CROSS

Submitted by: Marlyne Sinanansingh

Prayer at the Cross is held every Tuesday morning in person in the church sanctuary at the Foot of the Cross from 9:00 am – 10:00 am. The session is led by Marlyne Sinanansingh and attended weekly by our faithful prayer warriors: Laurie Laframboise, Maxene Henry, Jackie Parillon, Henry Sukhu and our newest member Fred Whorpole.



Our objective is to lift up in prayer the needs of the congregation, the community, our country and in short ... the world. The session is designed and structured to allow members to voluntarily choose to pray on a monthly rotation basis for Health, Peace, Thanksgiving, Finances, Outreach and other topics that may arise during our discussion.

Prayer requests are received through emails, through our in-house Prayer Request Box and by way of referrals. The requests are reviewed, prayed for and are kept strictly confidential.

Overview of the Prayer Session

- Marlyne starts the session with an opening prayer, followed by a hymn depending on what is on the members heart, the mood of the morning or what the group feel is appropriate at the time.
- Prayer requests are received from each member and notations recorded of all requests. Hard copy/email requests are filed in the Prayer box.
- Our Daily Bread – Daily Devotional is used as our devotional guide, read by Henry Sukhu, followed by the prayer for the people.
- The Prayer sessions ends with a Closing Prayer by Jackie or Marlyne whoever is available at the time.

Once a year in December, Marlyne hosts the Prayer Team for a potluck breakfast at her home allowing an opportunity to fellowship in a less formal setting and enjoy some Christmas cheer.

We have been blessed to see many of our prayers answered. Our hope as we move forward into 2026 is to increase our members by actively soliciting some of the regular church members to join our team.

MISSIONS

Submitted by: Peggy Edwards

Food Drives, Initiatives & Partnerships



Our year started with the wrap-up of the 2024 Christmas Food Drive which was extended to January. In February, we had the second Family Day Community Food Drive (Feed the Families) in support of the Salvation Army Community Food Bank.



We are grateful for the partnership with Durham Korean Church, Broadway Kids, Direct Approach Educational Services, and Bollocks Pub & Kitchen. Our thanks to the Phillips family for organizing this Drive once again and undertaking delivery to the Food Bank.



As usual, teaming up with Family Ministries, we carried out three more Food Drives in the Spring, at Thanksgiving and Christmas. We are thankful to our congregation for their generous contributions to these campaigns, and for the occasional food donations throughout the year.



We are especially grateful for the faithfulness of Tim Newman in delivering the food donations through the year.

Samaritan's Purse Operation Christmas Child

Amberlea families packed 62 shoeboxes to help bless children in need around the world. A total of 458,768 shoebox gifts were sent from Canada. Let us keep praying for every child who gets to know about God's love through the gift box received.

We extend our gratitude to Marlyne Sinanansingh for her commitment to deliver the boxes to the OCC Collection Centre in Scarborough.



MISSIONS

Hearts & Hands in Harmony

Submitted by Serena Hassanali

Hearts & Hands in Harmony (HHH)

2025 was a year of great accomplishment and growth for HHH. With the help of grants from the City of Pickering and The Presbyterian Church in Canada, we were able to not just expand our shipments but also to solve some of our ongoing operational problems.

With the kind permission of our Session, we were able to acquire space to install storage cabinets and so overcome one of our biggest challenges.

The May shipment of 80 layette bags went off smoothly.



MISSIONS

Hearts & Hands in Harmony continued

Our leader, Serena, was invited to participate in a fact-finding mission to two indigenous communities: Sachigo Lake and North Caribou Lake. She was accompanied by a representative of the Mikinakoos Children’s Fund, a large charity with whom we collaborate. There, she met with Elders, Principals, Teachers and members of the Band Offices. First-hand information was acquired regarding the needs of mothers and children and also of the community as a whole. It was heart wrenching to learn that the greatest need and request of the people was for food.



MISSIONS

Hearts & Hands in Harmony continued

This visit informed our November shipment, which was greatly expanded to include formula for babies and non-perishable food for children. In addition, a large quantity of school supplies were included. After boxes for these shipments were packed, they were transported to Gardewine's headquarters in Mississauga.



MISSIONS

Hearts & Hands in Harmony continued

Another huge and long desired achievement was the creation of our website, which is active now. It can be viewed now at www.heartsandhandsinharmony.ca Serena was able to source a website designer, Ryan of Durham Region Web Design, who kindly donated his services to us. Together they put together a piece of work that can only be described as stunning.

With the completion of another successful year, we extend our gratitude to the following:

- The Presbyterian Church in Canada
- The City of Pickering
- Durham Region Web Design/Ryan
- Mikinakoos Children’s Fund
- Gardewine
- APC Session
- APC Stitching Group
- St. Isaac Jogues Catholic Church Hope Group
- Community Crafters
- Everyone from our Church and community who assisted HHH

Looking Ahead - Missions

In 2026, we look forward to the enlargement of the Hearts and Hands in Harmony project, with increased volunteer participation from our congregation and the community and the continuation of grants. We are grateful for the grants received from the City of Pickering, and The New and Renewing Ministry Fund - The Presbyterian Church in Canada.

Our partnership with the Salvation Army Community Food Bank is ongoing, as we show God’s love in helping to meet the needs of our neighbours.



PROPERTY MANAGEMENT

Submitted by Tim Newman



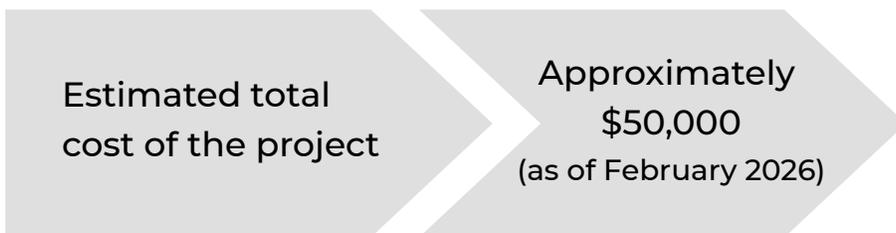
Sewer Project 2025

In July 2025 we experienced an issue with the downstairs washrooms plumbing where the toilets had backed up and caused some minor flooding. Sewer Squad was contracted to do repairs; there was a blockage in the sewer line outside the church, but they also recommended re-grading the slope.

This was completed late July 2025, but in repairing the line to the sewer main on the far side of the parking lot, the connection to the lines inside the building were raised 2-4 inches. Consultations with two other plumbing contractors were held and some investigative work was conducted - however, one of the contractors mistakenly cut an electrical line. Cost proposals for the re-grading of sewer lines inside the building were outlandish (\$30K -\$70K). An insurance claim filed for the cost was rejected. The Presbyterian Church in Canada was consulted, and a loan of \$60K was offered to facilitate costs (interest free for 15 years).

A team of knowledgeable people was formed to address the problem. Further consultations were held with plumbing contractors with a goal of minimizing the repair cost. Ultimately, Sewer Squad provided the most reasonable solution to re-grade the sewer line from the sensory room entrance to the outside connection in the room and they were contracted to complete the work.

The project is near completion, only two issues remain; the repair of the electrical line, and paving of the parking lot excavation line.



PROPERTY MANAGEMENT

Continued

After many years of managing our property and renters, Chris MacMillan retired in his Property Maintenance role. We are extremely thankful for his contribution and dedication. Many projects were initiated during this time including: kitchen/bathroom renovations, painting, steeple painting, nursery cupboards, office design, electrical upgrades, AC installation, key access zoning, parking lot paving, sound system upgrades, new light fixtures, roof repairs, window film, alarm system, sewer project design, and contact for third-party services.

In late 2025, I started transitioning into the role of property manager and have now taken on the full scope of the position. There are several people that form the team involved in the maintenance of the building and property and we will draw on various resources within our church community to keep things running smoothly and as cost efficiently as possible. Team members include Larry Fletcher and Les Smith; other contributing members include Cam Young, Allen Burke, Brian Varga, Murray Clark, Scott Billing and Fred Wharpole.

Going forward I will be the primary contact for any property related matters with the various groups that rent space in the building. There are a few small projects that may be tackled over the next year such as refreshing the downstairs bathrooms, changing the lighting in the fellowship hall to LED which will save money in the longer term, fixing the emergency lighting in the building, and complete resolution of the sewer project.



LIFE GROUPS

- 40 Men's Fellowship Breakfast - Allen Burke
- 41 - 42 Ladies' Bible Study - Lynda Burke & Sylvia Wilkins
- 43 Men's Group - Brian Scrivens
- 44 Stitching with Friends - Sylvia Wilkins
- 45 Gardening Club - Nicole Phillips

MEN'S FELLOWSHIP BREAKFAST

Submitted by Allen Burke

Our Men's Fellowship Breakfast takes place every 2nd Thursday, the week opposite the Ladies Breakfast. An invite is sent out on Monday. Our attendance at the breakfast fluctuates between 6 and 10 men.



We discuss matters of interest (travel, woodworking, sailing, and church maintenance) and other topics over coffee and breakfast.

All men in the congregation and their friends are welcome.

Please advise Allen Burke at algburke@gmail.com if you would like be on the email distribution list.

LADIES' BIBLE STUDY

Submitted by Lynda Burke

The Life Group meets the 2nd and 4th Thursday of the month, from September to June. We use the online library resource "RightNow Media" for these sessions and find that it is a logical means for a study. The Leaders Guide is available, and is laid out and easy to follow.

We have decided to meet at the church, in the large classroom, with tea, coffee, water, and treats provided. Each member takes a turn with providing the snacks, which are delicious.



A few days before our gathering, I send an email to the ladies asking for volunteers for the following: Opening Prayer, Closing Prayer, Leader for the gathering, laptop, and snacks. There is no problem to receive notice of these positions, and the ladies are willing to volunteer. Thank you very much. This past year, we were down in numbers, due to family commitments, jobs, timing, etc., therefore, we took a hiatus in October and started again in January 2026. However, we still kept in touch with each other, which is most important.

We have picked up the study we started last fall, and are progressing with it entitled, The Good Shepherd written by Heather Thompson Day. The study runs for 7 weeks and it is based on Jesus as the Good Shepherd. It is a challenging study, which it should be, and puts you on the spot with thoughtful questions. Heather says that, "the Wolf is coming", and we know who that is.

We have lots of room for ladies to join us and there is no pressure to participate, just sit and take it all in.

LADIES' BIBLE STUDY

Submitted by Sylvia Wilkins



The Ladies Bible Study meets every other Friday at the church from 1.00 pm to 3.00 pm January to June and September to December. There are eight enthusiastic and committed members.

We have continued our study of Max Lucado's Study, Ten Women of The Bible. The Study has been an inspiring and learning experience and we trust that we have each learned some of the lessons that God wanted us to learn.



We have decided that our next study will be Max Lucado's, Ten Men of the Bible. Please reach out if you are interested in participating.

MEN'S LIFE GROUP

Submitted by Brian Scrivens



The Amberlea Men's Life Group continues to be a warm, supportive community for men of all ages. It offers an opportunity for fellowship, meaningful conversation, and personal reflection, whether you are well along in your faith journey or just beginning.

The group meets on the first and third Thursday of each month at 7:30 p.m. Meetings are held in a hybrid format, allowing participants to join either in person at the church or online. Each gathering includes an opportunity for members to share how they have experienced God's presence in their lives, followed by a Bible study - often incorporating a short video - and a group discussion. We conclude each meeting with prayer, encouraging and supporting one another.

Men at any stage of faith are welcome to attend. If you would like more information or are interested in joining a meeting, please contact Brian Scrivens at brianrjscrivens@gmail.com or (416) 617-0522. New participants are always welcome.

STITCHING WITH JOY, LOVE AND FAITH

Submitted by Sylvia Wilkins



Stitching with Friends meet every Tuesday morning at the church from 10.00am to 12.00pm, January to June, and September to December.

Members worked on their own sewing and craft projects which included crib quilts for the biannual shipment to First Nations Reservations by Hearts and Hands in Harmony.

In 2025 we made flat teddies for the F.A.C.E. program and KidZone. We donated a crib quilt and a double bed quilt to Amberlea's Silent Auction in November. We presented a crib quilt on the birth of a delightful baby boy and a lap quilt following an adult baptism.



We love having new members and miss members when they are unable to attend.



GARDEN CLUB

Submitted by Nicole Phillips



In 2025, the Amberlea Garden Club organized two community yard clean-ups to care for the church

grounds, one in the spring and one in the fall. We are grateful to the volunteers who generously gave their time to help keep our property welcoming and well-maintained.

A special thank you to Mike and Marjorie Sherhock for their faithful care throughout the summer. They regularly watered the garden beds, maintained the garden along the church entrance from the parking lot, and planted tulips beneath the Sanctuary windows facing Whites Road. We look forward with hope to seeing them bloom in the spring of 2026.



If you are interested in supporting the Amberlea Garden Club, please contact Nicole Phillips (giving@amberleachurch.ca).

New volunteers are always welcome.

STRATEGY TEAM

Submitted by Sheri Phillips

A strategy group was formed in early 2025 to look at ways to reduce the deficit and grow the church. The group came up with an approach based on 5 areas. Please find below a summary of the outcomes for each of these areas by the end of 2025:

1 Identify ways to reduce current expenses

All expense owners reviewed the 2025 budget and identified opportunities to reduce our operating expenses. Our Treasurer, Laura Newman, worked diligently with the expense owners and Session to find these savings. In addition, contracts are now reviewed on an annual basis and savings were found in some of our higher expense categories. In 2026, we will continue to be diligent on managing our expenses.

IMPACT

\$10,000 operating expenses were reduced in the 2025 budget and will be realized into 2026

2 Increase revenue opportunities

Another one of the initiatives that the Strategy Team led this past year was to optimize our rental revenue potential. This work was initiated by completing a market scan and establishing competitive rental rates.

Subsequently, we met with our existing renters to inform them of upcoming changes to their rates and updates to the go-forward rental process.

STRATEGY TEAM

Continued

A comprehensive rental process was implemented over the past summer including:

- Rental rate sheet; Intake form supported by a process to secure rate approvals;
- Robust contract document that protects Amberlea's interests;
- Detailed premises checklist to ensure proper usage of our facilities;
- Onboarding process to ensure new renters are set up for success, and
- Contract management process with clear roles and responsibilities.

Our processes have been formalized into a new Contract Administration Process Guidance Document, and leveraging these processes we successfully onboarded two new groups in the fall.

With the rental process now operationalized, the contract administration will reside with the Office and all other matters pertaining to our renters will be assigned to a new lead. In 2026, we will seek ways to promote our church as an appealing rental place with the right tenants.

IMPACT

An increase of \$7,400 of rental income was obtained in 2025 and the rental income budget for 2026 will be over by \$34,000 which is \$22,000 more than we had in 2024.

3 Increase current givings

In 2025, we launched a "Cheerful Giving" campaign, promoting cheerful giving with messages and testimonials of cheerful givers of the time, talents and treasures. In 2026, we will continue the campaign to help us "catch up" on our donations.

IMPACT

The donation givings for 2025 remained at approximately the same level as 2024.

STRATEGY TEAM

Continued

4 Identify new ministry / funding opportunities
 In 2025, we had our annual Christmas Market event and Silent Auction. In addition, we were provided a generous donation of items that we were able to sell from Nov to Dec 2025. Notable mention to Serena, Sheri, and Shelly for their outstanding efforts in these events. We continued to apply for grants and secured the Avondbloem grant with the Presbyterian Church of Canada and a grant from the City of Pickering which we will receive in 2026.



We obtained \$10,500 through the above fundraising in 2025 and \$11,000 in grants.

5 Grow church membership
 We created a plan and began efforts in 2025 to grow the church membership. We did implement some events like lunches in the fall to invite people to. We will implement many of these actions in 2026.



The overall average attendance at church has remained the same from 2024 to 2025. However, there was a slight increase in attendance in the last four months of 2025 over the same time period in 2024.

The strategy group plans to continue to meet and implement actions for the above areas in 2026. If you have ideas and suggestions, please feel free to contact any of the team members listed below. We would love to hear from you!

Strategy Working Group

Anne Woolger, Brian Scrivens, Dean Plosz, Jackie Parillon, Laura Newman, Sheri Phillips



FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

Submitted by Laura Newman, Treasurer

TREASURER'S REPORT

Highlights from 2025

- Total income of \$298,000 and expenses of \$330,000 resulting in a 2025 budget deficit of \$32,000 before recognition of expenses related to the sewer project (refer below)
- Givings for 2025 were approximately at the 2024 level but \$74,000 short of our 2025 stretch budget
- Actions taken by Strategy Team resulted in a lower deficit for 2025 and future years. (The Strategy Team's report provides details.)

Highlights from proposed budget for 2026

- Withdrawal of \$15,000 from PCC Investment Fund has been assumed
- Presbyterian Sharing Allocation has been kept at current level of \$10,200
- Payroll was increased by 2.1% consistent with Presbytery guidance regarding cost-of-living adjustments
- Grants have been approved to support Family Ministry and Hearts & Hands activities; other grant opportunities are being pursued
- To meet our budgeted expenses, we require givings of \$204,000 for 2026; approximately \$30,000 less than budgeted for 2025 due to actions taken by the Strategy Team

TREASURER'S REPORT

Continued

The sewer project continues with completion expected over the coming months. Total costs are expected to be approximately \$50,000. Our current financials for 2025 reflect \$39,000 (some costs are being finalized and are net of the refundable portion of the HST). We were fortunate to have received a \$60,000 loan (interest-free for 15 years) from the Presbyterian Church in Canada to support these repairs. Once the project is completed, a strategy will be developed to fund the repayment of this loan. The current budget for 2026 makes **no allowance** for either additional costs related to the sewer project or for the repayment of the loan.

Our PCC Investment Fund was \$300,271 at December 31, 2025 – up from \$280,000 initially invested following the sale of the manse in 2014. It is reasonable to plan for annual withdrawals of \$15,000 for the foreseeable future while maintaining the initial investment (i.e., an investment return of 5% per annum). We were able to withdraw an additional \$15,000 in 2025 as a result of favourable investment returns from prior years. Withdrawals at this level are unlikely to be sustainable into the future and risk depleting the fund.

A high-level summary of the financials from 2025 (compared to the 2025 budget approved last year) and the proposed budget for 2026 are shown on the following page. As indicated, the 2025 financials are subject to finalization with minor adjustments anticipated. Full detailed financial information will be available at the annual meeting.

A huge thank you to the many individuals who support our financial activities – Angie Nanos, Jackie Parillon, Nicole Phillips, Nancy Varga, Karen Walton (external bookkeeper), Greg Watson and all of our individual budget owners.

P & L 2025 & 2026 BUDGET

	2025 Actual	2025 Approved Budget	2026 Proposed Budget	Notes
Total Givings	156,120	230,000	204,000	total donations in 2025 \$162,722 (some allocated below); 2026 budget givings approximately \$30,000 less than 2025
Rental Income	19,850	15,000	34,000	new tenant arrangements put in place fall 2025; 2026 budget reflects increase of \$22,000 over what we had in place at January 2025
Investment Income	30,000	15,000	15,000	additional \$15,000 withdrawn in 2025; 2026 budget set to historical level of investment income distributed from PCC investment fund (manse proceeds)
Presbytery Funding	-22,674	-22,794	-21,989	
Payroll	-165,060	-163,751	-167,877	includes pastor, family ministry director and office administrator (2.1% COLA for 2026)
Operating Costs (Routine)	-49,010	-50,290	-48,700	utilities, insurance, contractors; renegotiated contracts for snow removal and insurance reduced budget by \$7,000 for 2026
Operating Costs (As Needed)	-9,604	-12,200	-13,100	other operating costs not included above; reflects over \$1,000 of budget savings over prior years
Worship Costs	-7,679	-10,200	-8,000	
Total Family Ministry *	5,366	-1,121	3,057	increased revenue from Musical Theatre Camp and reduced expenses in 2025; 2026 budget reflects \$11,000 grants approved, increased revenue from Musical Theatre Camp and includes one week of Mini Camp (additional weeks subject to funding for summer students)
Other Items (Net) *	10,601	295	2,628	significant additional fundraising activities in 2025; 2026 H&H grants of \$3,000 plus carry-forward of \$3,016 PCC grant from mid-2025 (all assumed to be spent in 2026)
Total (before sewer project)	-32,091	-61	-981	
Property Repair - sewer project	-38,927	0	TBD	project continuing over next several months (expenses for 2025 to be finalized); strategy for funding of \$60,000 PCC loan to be developed
Total (after sewer project)	-71,018	-61	TBD	

**net of grants, fundraising and directed donations*

2025 financials subject to finalization with minor adjustments anticipated