

Penn West Conference Mission Grants Awards, 2023

This year, we rejoiced as 26 different churches in the Penn West Conference received \$42,236.00 worth of grant monies for various projects in their ministries! Grants for “Reaching Out” were distributed from our Corman Fund and our Neighbors in Need Fund. Grants for “Strengthening the Church” were distributed from our Strengthen the Church Fund. And grants for “Operational Support” were distributed from our Kermit Thomas Bequest Fund, as well as our Caring for Churches, Caring for Clergy Fund. We are deeply grateful to our donors who have made these grants possible! We also hope that new donors will come forward who wish to be a blessing to many of our Penn West Conference churches.

The final reports for our 2023 grants are due by September 13, 2024. This is the means by which we hold our awardees accountable, and we provide them with reporting forms for this purpose. This year, we again provided a revised list of helpful tips for applying for grants on our website, and we hope that as churches become more aware of what is expected of them in the application process that more churches will avail themselves of the opportunities to receive these monies. We encourage all of our churches to apply and also encourage them to reach out to us if help is needed with the application process.



Here are our Mission Grant Awardees for 2023!

Christ United Church of Christ in Latrobe received a \$1,000.00 award toward repairs to their sidewalk and driveway. They also received a \$1,000.00 award toward their Blessing Box, as they reach out in service to the wider Latrobe community. Pictured here receiving the awards are Dr. Jim Sillaman and Elena Sillaman.



Denmark Manor United Church of Christ in Export received a \$1,000.00 grant for paraments and banners. They also received a \$1,000.00 award to help to protect their stained glass windows. Last, but not least, they received a \$1,500.00 grant for their SFSP Summer Feeding Program, which helps to feed children in the Export community and beyond. Pictured below are Mark & Robin Brautigam, receiving the awards for the church.



First United Church of Christ in Harrison City received a \$1,000.00 grant for church signage to point people toward their church. They also received a \$1,000.00 award to re-upholster their altar chairs. Finally, they received a \$1,000 grant for altar paraments. Jim Little and Gary Fuller are pictured here receiving the awards for the church.



First United Church of Christ in Irwin received a \$1,000.00 award toward the replacement of their sanctuary carpet. Receiving the award for the church is Wendy Bigelow, pictured here.



St. Paul's United Church of Christ in Knoxville received a \$1,000.00 award for an AED unit, which could help save lives at the church. Receiving this award are Denise Messinger and Chris Hall.



St. Paul's United Church of Christ in Somerset received a \$1,500.00 grant for their Dolly Parton Imagination Library project. They also received a \$1,500.00 award for their Messy Church project. Both of these projects will help to reach out to children in their church and community. Receiving the award for the church is Amanda Deal.



St. Paul's United Church of Christ in Stoystown received a \$1,000.00 award to upgrade their lighting and replace some ceiling fans. They also received a \$1,000.00 award for an AED for their church, which could help save lives. Pictured here receiving the award for the church is the Rev. Sharon Fox.



Trinity United Church of Christ in Bedford received a \$1,100.00 award for their Son Shine Kids Startup program. This program will help reach out to children to share the love of Jesus with them. Nancy Harclerode is pictured here receiving the award.



Trinity United Church of Christ in Greensburg received a \$1,000.00 award for repairs to their church furnace. They also received a \$1,000.00 award for their Blessing Box, which helps them to reach out to people in need in the Greensburg community. Andrea Kopcak and the Rev. Shirley Musick are shown here receiving the award.



St. Paul's Evangelical & Reformed United Church of Christ in Johnstown received a \$1,000.00 award for maintenance equipment and an \$800.00 award for technology improvement.

The Abbey Reformed United Church of Christ in Huntingdon received a \$1,000.00 grant for their Art of Faith project. They hope to continue to connect with young people in their church through this program.

Trinity United Church of Christ in Dorseyville received a \$500.00 grant toward lighting upgrades in their church.

St. Luke's United Church of Christ in Kittanning received a \$1,000.00 award for replacing doors at the church. Unfortunately, they realized immediately that they were unable to complete this project within the budgeted timeframe and graciously declined to accept the check.

Unity United Church of Christ in Shanksville received a \$1,000.00 award for their new church sign, directing people toward their church. They also received a \$1,000.00 award toward their leadership development project, fostering leaders in the life of the church. Last, but not least, they received a \$1,500.00 award toward their Church World Service mission project – reaching out around the world to show God's love.

Community United Church in Erie received a \$1,000.00 grant for church signage, showing people the way to their church. They also received a \$1,500.00 award toward their Pride Festival celebration. Finally, they received a \$500.00 grant toward their Interfaith Service/Art Show – reaching out across differences to share the love of God widely.

St. John's United Church of Christ in Martinsburg received a \$1,000.00 award toward the repair of their pipe organ supply motor.

Mt. Zion Hay's United Church of Christ in Meyersdale received a \$1,000.00 award for repairs to their building.

First United Church of Christ in Millvale received a \$761.00 award for their "On Stage with Faith" project, enhancing their ministry programs through drama.

Grace United Church of Christ in Claysburg received an \$800.00 award for their "SoundVision 2023" award to help with their technology.

Greenfield United Church of Christ in Imler received a \$1,000.00 award for LED screens to enhance their technology.

Jerusalem United Church of Christ in Rimersburg received a \$1,000.00 award for their Electrical Panel Replacement project. They also received a \$1,000.00 award for their "Blessing Kids Project," helping children in the Rimersburg community and beyond.

Mt. Hope United Church of Christ in Portage received a \$1,000.00 award for chimney repairs.

St. Paul's United Church of Christ in Connoquenessing received a \$1,000.00 award to replace an exterior steel door.

St. Paul's United Church of Christ in Erie received a \$1,000.00 award to beautify their narthex area.

St. Paul's United Church of Christ in Trauger received a \$1,000.00 award for card tables for small group activities.

St. John's United Church of Christ in Evans City received a \$1,000.00 award for second floor entrance doors. They also received a \$750.00 grant for mission projects. Last, but not least, they also received an \$800.00 grant to reach out to their community with community events.

Congratulations to all churches who received Mission Grants this year. Please plan to apply for grants for your church next year, as we want to support our churches in their missions and ministries!