

## **Penn West Conference Mission Grants Awards, 2022**

This year, we rejoiced as 26 different churches in the Penn West Conference received \$44,111.00 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 new 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 2022 grants are due by September 15, 2023. 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.

This year, our awards ceremony was accompanied by a celebration of our Caring for Churches, Caring for Clergy Campaign and was followed by a meal, paid for by Strengthen the Church funds and staffed by volunteers.





Here are our Mission Grant Awardees for 2022!

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Brush Creek Salem United Church of Christ in Irwin received a grant of \$814.00 for repairs to their sidewalk to keep people safe on their property. Here is Katie Mundy receiving the award on behalf of the church.



Christ United Church of Christ in Latrobe received an \$814.00 award toward improvements to their sanctuary lighting. 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 Dorothy Paulovich, Dr. Jim Sillaman, and Elena Sillaman.



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Denmark Manor United Church of Christ in Export received an \$814.00 grant to help to protect their stained glass windows. They also received a \$1,300.00 award for an AED unit (which could save lives) and a \$1,500.00 grant for their SFSP Summer Feeding Program, which helps to feed children in the Export community and beyond. Below are Mark & Robin Brautigam receiving the awards for the church.



First Reformed United Church of Christ in Greensburg received an \$814.00 award to fix their choir room. They also received a \$1,500.00 award to sponsor a financial planning seminar to help them and other churches know how best to steward restricted assets, and a \$1,500.00 grant for the Bortz Pantry, which supplies food and other needed supplies to people in the Greensburg community and beyond. Below is a photo of Kimee Schmader receiving the award on behalf of the church.



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First United Church of Christ in Harrison City received an \$814.00 grant for an organ software upgrade and an \$814.00 award for video technology and outreach. These grants will hopefully help the church to worship and reach out to the community more effectively. Here is a photo of Jim Little receiving the awards for the church.



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First United Church of Christ in Irwin received an \$814.00 award for a sound upgrade to their fellowship hall, to hopefully help people to hear better when they gather there. Receiving the award for the church is Tom Steiner, pictured here.



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Grace United Church of Christ in Manns Choice received an \$814.00 award for freshening rails and doors on their property, to help welcome people as they enter. Below is the Rev. Cheryl Ward, receiving the award on behalf of the church.



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Mt. Laurel United Church of Christ in Boswell received an \$814.00 grant for needed repairs to the bricks on their church chimney. Receiving the award for the church are Millie Knupp and Theresa Marafino.



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St. John's Harrolds United Church of Christ in Greensburg received an \$814.00 award for video equipment to help to share their worship services beyond their walls. Pictured here receiving the award for the church is the Rev. Robert Kruel.



St. John's United Church of Christ in Evans City received an \$814.00 award for a laptop, projector, and dehumidifier. They also received a \$750.00 award for church growth/community events and a \$900.00 grant for mission projects. The Rev. Lisa Griffin is pictured here receiving the church's awards.



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St. Paul's Community Church in Chicora received a \$1,500.00 award for their Mission Trip to Guatemala. Marsha Kepple is shown here receiving the church's award.



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St. Paul's Evangelical & Reformed United Church of Christ in Johnstown received an \$814.00 award to repair/replace shingles on their roof, an \$814.00 grant to insulate their chapel window, and an \$814.00 grant to increase technology, in order to better reach out to others in their church and community. Patrick Moon-Rhoades, Paul Rhoades, and Pat Moon are shown here receiving the awards.



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The Abbey Reformed United Church of Christ in Huntingdon received an \$814.00 grant for their Mission Boxcast to reach out to others in their church. They also received a \$1,500.00 grant for their "Youth Together" program to minister with youth. Pictured here receiving the grants for the church are Sam & Mim Slicker.





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Trinity United Church of Christ in Dorseyville received an \$814.00 grant toward renovating their basement. They also received a \$650.00 award for an AED unit (which could help save lives) and a \$600.00 award for their Surgicorps Mission Support, as they seek to reach out to alleviate pain and suffering through this project. Pictured here receiving the awards are Eileen Schmidt and Patty Mears.



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Trinity United Church of Christ in Greensburg received an \$814.00 award for upgrading their livestreaming equipment to reach out to others in their church. They also received a \$1,000.00 grant for their “Blessing Box” to reach out to others in the Greensburg community and beyond. Pictured here receiving the award for the church are the Rev. Shirley Musick, Tricia Lowden, and Andrea Kopcak.



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Unity United Church of Christ in Shanksville received an \$814.00 award for their stained glass protection project. Pictured here receiving this award for the church is Megan Evans.



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Community United Church in Erie received an \$814.00 grant for their security system. They also received a \$1,200.00 award for their Bluetooth hearing assistance project (to help people to hear better) and a \$1,500.00 award for their Pride and Interfaith event, as they seek to reach out to others in the Erie community.

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Emanuel United Church of Christ in Warren received an \$814.00 award toward their parsonage roof replacement. They also received a \$1,000.00 grant for their Blessing Box, to reach out to others in need in the Warren community, and a \$1,500.00 award for their “Songs & Santas for Seniors” Christmas project.

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First United Church of Christ in Ebensburg received an \$814.00 award for repairs to their stained glass windows in their sanctuary. They also received a \$500.00 award for their “Contemporary Worship” project.

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First United Church of Christ in Millvale received an \$814.00 award for their “Laptop Longing” project. They also received a \$419.00 award for their “Wake

Up & Smell the Coffee” project to reach out in hospitality to others in the Millvale community.

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Grace United Church of Christ in Claysburg received a \$1,500.00 award for their “Operation Youth Support” award to help in their outreach to youth.

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Greenfield United Church of Christ in Imler received an \$814.00 award for a security system for their facilities.

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Jerusalem United Church of Christ in Rimersburg received an \$814.00 award for work on their alternate church entrance door – to extend hospitality to those who enter. They also received a \$1,000.00 award for their “Blessing Kids Project,” helping children in the Rimersburg community and beyond.

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Mt. Hope United Church of Christ in Portage received an \$814.00 award for their “May Our Lights Shine Brighter” project.

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St. Luke’s United Church of Christ in Kittanning received an \$814.00 award for plaster and wainscoting repair, to keep their facilities in good shape.

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St. Paul’s United Church of Christ in Erie received an \$814.00 award banquet tables and an \$814.00 award for reaching out.