Sycamore RP Church 2025 Report

*Great Lakes-Gulf Presbytery – Bloomington RP Church
Mar 6-8, 2025*

*What we have seen and heard we proclaim to you also, so that you too may have fellowship with us; and indeed, our fellowship is with the Father, and with His Son Jesus Christ. These things we write, so that our joy may be made complete. (1 Jn 1:3-4)*

This year, 1 John 3:1-3 has served as a guiding light for our ministry, reminding us of our incredible privilege and responsibility as children of God. The Father’s love has marked us as His own, providing us with hope and urging us toward holiness as we await Christ’s return. We have endeavored to reflect this hope through our worship, service, and fellowship as a church. In both trials and triumphs, the Lord has been faithful in purifying us and directing our gaze toward Christ, our blessed hope. 2024 was a significant year for anniversaries, with our building celebrating its 100th anniversary and our congregation marking its 30th year as an organized church.

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| --- | --- | --- |
| Congregational Stats | 2023 | 2024 |
| Total Members | 44 C47 B (91) | 51 C43 B(94) |
| AM Attn | 75 | 81 |
| PM Attn | 49 | 50 |
| Professions of Baptized | 2 | 5 |
| Professions of New Converts | 0 | 0 |
| Change in Members | -5/+6 | -1/+4 |

The session met formally a total of 15 times and convened informally on many other occasions. We remain committed to the spiritual care of the congregation through consistent and meaningful study. This year, we engaged with James Durham’s *The Scandal of Undisciplined Disciples*, a study that enriched our understanding of Christian discipline and the necessity of walking faithfully in Christ. These discussions have been fruitful in equipping us for the work of shepherding God’s flock. We praise God for the growth and maturation of our congregation as we received five of our young people into communicant membership and welcomed a covenant child. Additionally, we received four members this year. The addition of these members is a testament to God’s work in drawing His people closer to Himself and the gospel's transforming power.

God has blessed us with numerous opportunities for fellowship and worship this year as a congregation and within the broader Church! Among the highlights were the CYPU Winter Conference (*Jan 14*), a Marriage Retreat (*Mar 15–16*) led by Mark and Sharon Sampson, Communion Weekends in April and October (*with guest preacher Nathan Shaver*), the RP International Conference (*Jun 25-July 1*), RP Night at Victory Field (*July 30*), a Mississinewa Camping Trip (*Sept 19–21*), hosting the GLG Women’s Retreat (*Nov 1-2*), the CYPU Fall Ministry Project (*Nov 8–10*), the Thanksgiving Joint Psalm Sing (*Nov 24*), the VanSickle’s Fall Party, and the Desautels’ New Year’s Eve celebration. These events have provided moments of spiritual growth, encouragement, and unity, reminding us of the beauty of belonging to Christ’s body.

The Lord richly blessed our preaching and teaching ministry in 2024. We were captivated by *John’s First Epistle* from April 2023 to September 2024. Currently, we are in a series on *Spiritual Warfare*, exploring how to engage with the enemies of the soul—the world, the flesh, and the devil. During the Lord’s Supper, we reflected on *Christ’s Words from the Cross*, appreciating the beauty of Christ in His humiliation and contemplating the heart of the gospel. In October, the session provided a sabbatical from preaching, and we were blessed to have Nathan Shaver, Second RPC’s pastoral intern, guide us through the prophecy of *Amos 1-5*. Sabbath evenings were filled with prayers and meditations: the *Westminster Shorter Catechism* in the *Ten Commandments*, followed by a study on *The Fear of the Lord*. Our congregational Psalm singing continued to flourish as we sang through Psalms 38A to 63C and enjoyed special Psalm sings every fifth Lord’s Day of the month. We have weekly fellowship meals, rotating morning and evening each week. This requires many, especially our youth, to step up and clean afterward.

Our Sabbath school program aims to support and encourage the Christian education of every home. Currently, we have 47 youths aged 17 and younger on the rolls, with up to 37 participating regularly in Sunday school. The Lord has also sustained our efforts to grow in knowledge and fellowship through various classes and studies, including Keller’s Making Sense of God and Reason for God on Monday afternoons. The women’s study tackled both challenging and uplifting books such as Another Gospel? (Childers), Good & Angry (Powlison), and Dark Clouds, Deep Mercy (Vroegop). The men’s study transitioned into a joint exploration of Machen’s Christianity and Liberalism and The Shadow of Christ in the Book of Job (Williams). Our youth discipleship program for younger and older boys and girls focuses on investment and mentorship. We also gather for food and fellowship at the Prevosts' home on Wednesday evenings.

In addition to several weekly Biblical counseling meetings, our pastor offers an annual class on discussing sex-related topics with our children. Members of our church operate a discipleship house for young men aged 18-25, focusing on a biblical approach to launching into life successfully. This house promotes the pursuit of education and/or a career. The pastor meets with three young men for daily devotions, Monday to Thursday.

In our community, we support the efforts of the local Pregnancy Resource Center and offer our building to Lifeline Christian Family Services for meetings throughout the week. The local Classical Conversations Homeschool group also utilizes our building on Wednesdays.

Regarding our budget, we wrapped up the year with over $80,000 in our checking account. Total tithes for 2024 amounted to $161,765, which exceeded the budgeted $116,000 by $45,794! Major purchases in 2024 included $7,800 (608) for parapet repair and $600 (611) for furniture for our new lounge. The Lord has graciously cared for and blessed us.

We trust and pray that as we abide in Christ and in His Word, His love will be perfected in us and manifested in our midst.

Sycamore RP Church 2025 Budget

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| --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | **2024Budget** | **2024Actual** | **2025 Proposal** |
| **100 Income** |  |  |  |
| 101 Interest |  |  |  |
| 102 Tithes and Offerings | $116,000.00 | $161,765.37 | $123,130.00 |
| 103 Flow-In (*Anonymous & RP Witness*) |  | $330.00 |  |
| 104 Loan Flow-In | $0.00 | $1,200.00 |  |
| 107 Other Income |  |  |  |
| 108 Building Improvements |  |  |  |
| 110 Building Cleaning |  |  |  |
| ***100 Subtotal*** | ***$116,000.00*** | ***$163,795.37*** | ***$123,130.00*** |
| **200 Administration** |  |  |  |
| 201 Administration | $4,000.00 | $3,398.38 | $4,000.00 |
| 202 Christian Education | $2,500.00 | $1,678.60 | $2,000.00 |
| 203 Library Education | $100.00 | $127.34 | $150.00 |
| 205 Anderson Ministry Expense | $1,000.00 | $1,000.00 | $1,500.00 |
| 206 Miscellaneous | $50.00 | $33.00 | $41.00 |
| 207 Gift/Donation | $500.00 | $600.00 | $500.00 |
| 208 Speakers | $1,500.00 | $1,950.00 | $2,400.00 |
| 209 Media | $500.00 | $443.51 | $500.00 |
| ***200 Subtotal*** | ***$10,150.00*** | ***$9,230.83*** | ***$11,091.00*** |
| **300 Congregation** |  |  |  |
| 301 Fellowship & Hospitality | $852.00 | $625.57 | $800.00 |
| 303 Mercy | $1,000.00 | $1,134.00 | $1,000.00 |
| 304 Memorials | $100.00 | $50.00 | $100.00 |
| 305 Outreach & Evangelism | $100.00 | $0.00 | $100.00 |
| 307 Vermigli House | $100.00 | $0.00 | $100.00 |
| 310 Sermon Audio | $480.00 | $599.40 | $600.00 |
| 311 Pastoral Continuing Education | $500.00 | $500.00 | $500.00 |
| 313 Seminary Attendance Fund | $1,000.00 | $0.00 | $0.00 |
| 323 Conference and Missions | $5,000.00 | $4,467.13 | $5,000.00 |
| 324 Summer Internship | -- | -- | $5,000.00 |
| ***300 Subtotal*** | ***$9,132.00*** | ***$7,376.10*** | ***$13,200.00*** |
|  | **2024Budget** | **2024Actual** | **2025 Proposal** |
| **400 Denomination & Missions** |  |  |  |
| 403 Presbytery Assessments | $1,794.00 | $1,793.58 | $1,480.00 |
| 405 RPM&M | $1,200.00 | $1,200.00 | $1,200.00 |
| 407 Synod Assessments | $3,200.00 | $2,468.00 | $3,200.00 |
| 410 Synod | $400.00 | $644.00 | $400.00 |
| ***400 Subtotal*** | ***$6,594.00*** | ***$6,105.58*** | ***$6,280.00*** |
| **500 Pastor** |  |  |  |
| 501 Health | $9,000.00 | $9,000.00 | $10,000.00 |
| 502 Housing | $25,000.00 | $25,000.00 | $25,000.00 |
| 503 Salary | $29,324.00 | $29,324.00 | $30,403.00 |
| 504 Pension | $6,000.00 | $6,000.00 | $6,000.00 |
| ***500 Subtotal*** | ***$69,324.00*** | ***$69,324.00*** | ***$71,403.00*** |
| **600 Building** |  |  |  |
| 602 Domestic Supplies | $1,200.00 | $2,540.18 | $1,200.00 |
| 603 Maintenance | $3,500.00 | $4,716.35 | $4,046.00 |
| 604 Building Emergency Fund | $0.00 | $0.00 | $0.00 |
| 605 Insurance | $4,500.00 | $4,343.48 | $4,500.00 |
| 607 Utilities | $9,000.00 | $8,354.77 | $8,810.00 |
| 608 Building Improvements  | $0.00 | $7,851.52 | $0.00 |
| 610 Building Cleaning | $2,600.00 | $1,627.00 | $2,600.00 |
| 611 Appliances and Furniture | $0.00 | $896.44 | $0.00 |
| 703 Flow Out *(Anonymous & RP Witness)* | $0.00 | $330.00 | $0.00 |
| 704 Loan Flow-Out |  | $3,600.00 |  |
| ***600 Subtotal*** | ***$20,800.00*** | ***$34,259.74*** | ***$21,156.00*** |
|  |  |  |  |
| **Total** | ***$116,000.00*** | **$126,296.25** | ***$123,130.00*** |
| ***Over/Under Budget*** |  | *-$10,296.25* |  |
|  |  |  |  |
| 2023 Balance | $42,529.42 |  |  |
| 2024 Balance | $80,028.54 |  |  |