

Year • in Review

FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH



I've had the privilege to be your pastor just over two years now—and what a time it's been! We've weathered a pandemic and the change that has come with it. We've said good-byes to old friends and

hellos to new ones. We've grieved and struggled, but we've also adapted and grown.

But above all else, I'm just so terribly proud that we've been a church community that has continued to move forward. In circumstances where it would be so easy to tell a story of defeat, we have stepped up and looked for ways to make a difference. When shelves were empty, you gave food to those in need. When mask shortages affected us all, you made masks for emergency personnel. When a medical crisis hit Mozambique, you provided aid.

It reminds me of how Jesus once said, "I'll build my church on this rock. The gates of the underworld won't be able to stand against it." (Matthew 16:18) Did you catch that? He said the gates won't withstand the church. Gates don't move. Gates are defensive...

Which means that we are the offense.

Jesus was teaching his disciples that good will overcome evil, that love wins, and that what we do as a church

matters. So I just want to say "thank you!" Thank you for being generous when you had every excuse and reason not to be. Thank you for caring more about what God is still doing in our church than what God once did in our church.

Actually, that's why we've put this brochure together this year. We wanted to highlight some of the ways God has used this community to make a difference! So as you look over some of the details within, I hope you come away as inspired as I have. God has worked through our community in the midst of some really challenging times, and I truly believe God will continue to work through us this upcoming year. Thanks for being part of that. Can't wait to see what comes next!

Pastor Chris

P.S. We have enclosed an estimated giving card for next year in this letter as an opportunity to consider if and how you'd like to support the ministries of the church in 2022. But more importantly, it helps us plan responsibly and dream about what God can continue to do through our church! We are so grateful for your support.

Where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.

MATTHEW 6:21

Where Our Giving Goes

These are just a few examples of how your generosity impacts both our congregation and local community throughout the year!

187 kids attended our summer camp with the help of your generosity

35 kids and youth served each week through our Next Gen programs

344 in worship with us on average each Sunday, online and in person

115 bags of groceries distributed from our office food pantry

27 volunteers read with students in our local partner schools through Difference Makers

2039 hours served as a church in service and mission to our community

Newly purchased equipment helps our volunteer team offer online worship services locally and nationally

76 nights provided at local hotels as short-term aid for those struggling with homelessness

100s of hours spent creating prayer shawls, dresses, & handmade cards

Your giving allows us to purchase new music, curriculum, and more, growing vital areas such as children, youth, and family ministries

170 children enrolled in our Learning Ladder Preschool in 2021

12 new small groups have formed which help people grow in faith together

1434 people attended our Drive-Thru Nativity last Christmas

Thank you for your generosity!

\$41,981

RAISED LAST CHRISTMAS

FOR

MOZAMBIQUE

MOBILE HEALTH CLINICS



REDISCOVERING OUR

Mission & Vision

A "Mission" statement helps a church to know why it exists and what it is about. "Vision" is the strategy (or the "how") a church takes to get there. This year our leadership brought back our Mission Statement from the 1990s (with only a slight update) and launched our 5-year Vision Goals!

Our Mission: *We lead people to an active faith in Christ.*

Our Vision:



INVITE OTHERS



SERVE OUR COMMUNITY



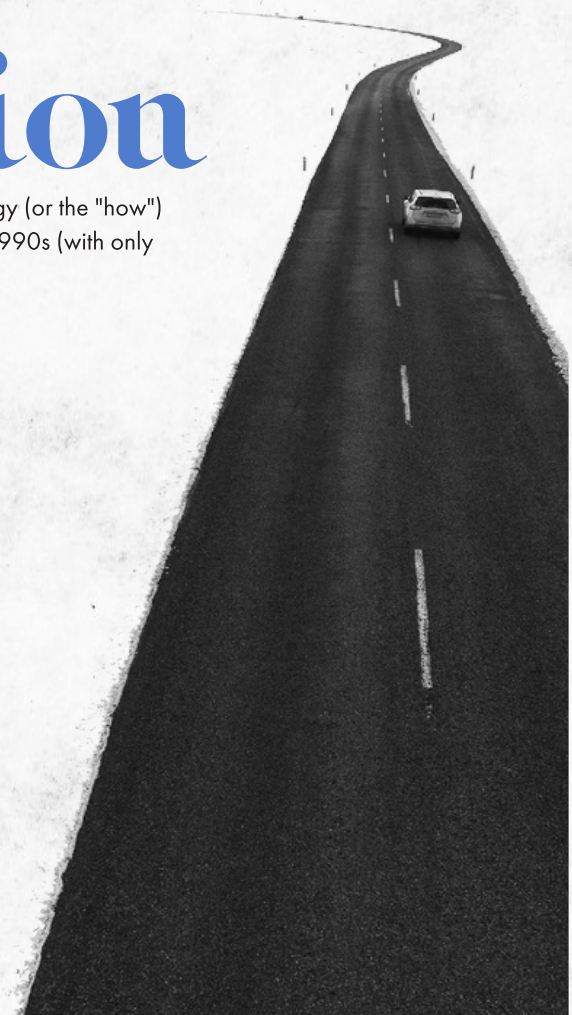
MAKE DISCIPLES



INVEST IN NEXT GEN

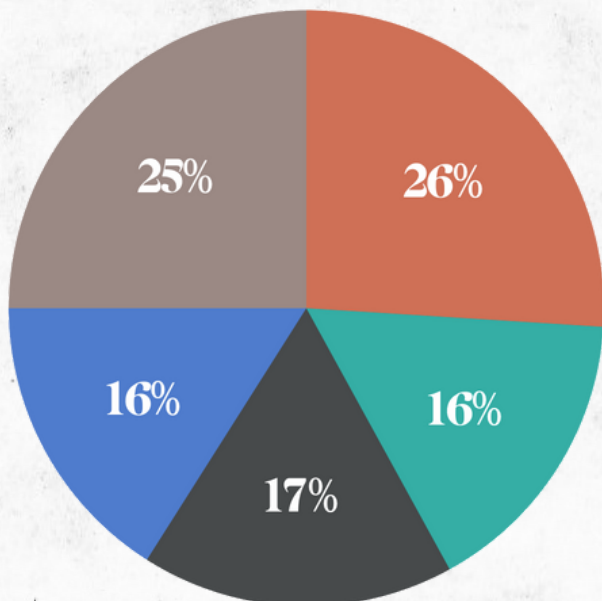


UPDATE OUR SPACE



Ministry Budget

2022



WORSHIP MINISTRIES

\$267,890 | 26%

CHILDREN & YOUTH MINISTRIES

\$165,706 | 16%

SERVICE & MISSION

\$178,864 | 17%

OUTREACH

\$169,353 | 16%

MINISTRY SUPPORT

\$262,381 | 25%

Each section of the pie chart represents the funds that go into providing for each portion of the budget, including building expenses, staff and clergy salaries, supplies, curriculum, apportionments, and other ministry resources. Dollar amounts are rounded to the nearest percent.

2022 BUDGET TOTAL: **\$1,044,194**

Thank you!

2022

MINISTRY BUDGET AND 2021 YEAR IN REVIEW

WAYS TO GIVE



Give securely online at bluespringsumc.org/give



Text2Give by texting "Register" to 806-256-4244



Fill out the estimated giving card and return to the church office in person or by mail

