

Telling Our Ministry Story

McPherson First United Methodist Church

Who We Are

Our mission as a church is to S.E.R.V.E.: Seek, Educate, Relate, Value, and Embody. We continue to live into our mission as we grow deeper in our faith, wider in our connection with the community, and more joyful through intergenerational worship.



Over the next three years, we are committed to growing deeper in our faith and relationship with God, wider in our service with the community, and more joyful in our worship.



We are a servant church where new and lifelong Christians are becoming deeply committed followers and servants of Jesus Christ.

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2022 Highlights

We enjoyed discovering our gifts and strengthened relationships through our congregational Strategic Parties! (And there were pinatas!)

Our confirmation class of eleven 8th graders resulted in increased involvement from youth and their families and deepened the faith of the confirmands and their mentors.

We continued to see an increase in young families and reached out to visitors in multiple ways to welcome them into our church family.

Our church-wide study on Simon Peter challenged us to step out in faith.

Our Food Box ministry was revitalized to better support our community and resulted in an increase of usage and involvement by the congregation in donating food.

We held our 10th Annual SERVE Day where we go into the community and serve our neighbors in an attitude of worship and love.

We revitalized and expanded our Congregational Care Ministry by training five new care ministers and commissioning a total of twelve care ministers.

FUMC: 2023 Ministry Plan

Note: The figures for each mission area include programming costs, staff salaries, and a proportional percentage of office/administrative costs and facility maintenance costs.

Total Budget:
\$676,534

26%

\$174,651

**Risk-Taking
Mission & Service**

We make disciples of Jesus Christ to send them into our community and the world in mission and service – to live out the compassion and mercy of Jesus, and to make more disciples!

9%

\$63,850

**Extravagant
Care**

We are committed to the healing ministries of the church by providing care for the church and community and continuing to create a culture that values Christ-like care, vulnerability, authenticity, and the power of prayer.

Extravagant Giving

In addition to funding the budget, our congregation gives generously to designated missions. The largest part of designated giving goes to our Servant Outreach Fund which helps fund our Food Box Ministry, Diaper Ministry, and Outreach Ministry. In 2022, we received \$21,824 in giving for this fund.

33%

\$222,160

**Intentional
Faith
Development**

We are a servant church where new and lifelong Christians are becoming deeply committed followers and servants of Jesus Christ which happens through Intentional Faith Formation: studying scripture, dialogue with other believers, raising questions and growing in our faith.

27%

\$189,208

**Passionate
Worship**

Our worship celebrations bring us together to focus on God and grow more connected to our faith journey. This feeds our congregation and is often our first encounter with new folks seeking a closer walk with God.

4%

\$26,665

**Welcome &
Community
Engagement**

We believe in being a church focused outward, and not inward. By engaging with our community, we bring the hospitality of Christ to others. We want our community to know us through radical hospitality and caring.



**Your generosity
makes an
impact!**

Just how much should I give?

What are the ranges at which others give?

Many people seek to base their giving on what the "average" household gives. But defining the "average" household at McPherson First United Methodist Church is not easy. We have young families, retirees, newlyweds, single parents, and empty-nesters. We have those with limited incomes and those with very substantial incomes.

For this reason, it is best to base your giving not on what the average household might give, but on what God calls you to give. Here are a few principles that might help you as you consider your decision:

Tithing

The Bible teaches us the concept of tithing. To tithe is to give one-tenth of your earnings. The tithe was originally established to take care of the Levites. All the tribes of Judah were given an allotment of land, except the Levites, who were called to take care of the temple. All the other tribes gave one-tenth of their earnings to the Levites to take care of them since they could not earn a living through working the land.

The Bible teaches that the tithe should be the "first-fruits" or the first tenth of what you earn. When building your budget, it is the first thing to calculate as an "expense". It can be figured on "net" or "gross" earnings.

For those that cannot tithe yet, we encourage you to begin giving proportionately. In other words, determine a set percentage of your income to give to God, making the tithe or tenth your goal.

Stepping Up & Out in Faith

Below is a table of the average weekly giving towards the Budget. Consider stepping up one level in 2023 (or consider making a commitment to "Fill the Gap" by giving an extra \$25 per week so that we can fully fund the budget without tapping into reserves.)

Commitment to Christ

Ultimately, your commitment should be reflective of both your income and your desire to live as a committed disciple of Jesus Christ.

Congregational Weekly Giving towards the Budget

<u>Range of Regular Giving</u>	<u># of Regular Givers</u>
\$200 and up	5
\$100 to \$199	20
\$50 to \$99	33
\$20 to \$49	45
Less than \$20	57

*All giving is averaged on a weekly basis from October 2021 - September 2022 and does not take into consideration giving for designated purposes including the capital campaign.

Why should I decide to give?

Scripture offers us numerous reasons to give toward the ministry of the church. The Bible tells us that we are called to give because:

We are grateful for what God has done in our lives.

"If God will be with me and watch over me...of all that you [God] give me, I will give you a tenth." –Jacob's promise to God in Genesis

Everything we have belongs to God.

"A tithe (tenth) of everything from the land, whether grain from the soil or fruit from the trees, belongs to the Lord; it is holy to the Lord." – Leviticus 27:3

Jesus emphasized giving as a spiritual discipline.

Jesus had a great deal to say about money and giving! Many of his teachings and parables focus on generosity, sacrifice, and our call to serve God rather than wealth. (See Matthew 6:19-21, Luke 6:37-38, Luke 18:18-25, and Luke 21:1-4...among others!)

We have been blessed with much so that we can bless others.

"Command those who are rich in this world...to do good, to be rich in good deeds, and to be generous and willing to share. In this way they will lay up treasure for themselves as a firm foundation for the coming age, so that they may take hold of the life that is truly life." –1 Timothy 6:17-19

It gives us an opportunity to grow in faith!

"The point is this: the one who sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and the one who sows bountifully will also reap bountifully." –2 Corinthians 9:6

In what ways can I give?

We offer several ways to make your giving a simple, easy and convenient process. Choose from any of the following:

Online Giving

You can give online at mcphersonfumc.com/give and set up recurring donations.

RMD - Required Minimum Distribution

You can direct your required minimum distribution from your retirement plan to be sent to the church as part of your regular giving.

Weekly Offering Envelopes

You can write a check or give cash and place it in our offering envelopes.

Estate Giving

Consider including First UMC in your will and giving a tithe of your estate to the church. Contact the Church Office if you are interested in learning more about estate giving.



A challenge to our members and faithful constituents...

We'd like to offer you these additional guidelines as you prepare to fill out your Estimate of Giving card for 2023. Firstly—and most importantly—please take time to pray about your giving. Financial stewardship is first and foremost a spiritual practice, so please ask God to guide your decision. And secondly, consider these challenges:

If you are in a difficult financial situation

We invite you to give what you can. Remember that God honors your faithfulness, and that your acceptance at McPherson First UMC is not based on your giving capacity!

If you are an occasional giver

Step up in 2023 to become a regular giver! We invite you to give a set amount each month—the easiest way to do this is by setting up automatic monthly giving at mcpersonfumc.com/give—and to take the next step toward tithing by increasing your current giving by either 1-2% of your income or an additional \$25/week to “Fill The Gap”. (See next page for more details!)

If you are a regular giver

We are so grateful for your consistent gifts! We invite you to take the next step toward tithing by increasing your current pledge by either 1-2% of your income or an additional \$25/week to “Fill The Gap”. (See next page for more details!)

If you are a tither (10% of your annual income or more)

Thank you for your commitment to sacrificial giving! Our challenge to you is simple: keep up the good work in 2023!



Our stewardship theme for 2023 is "**Deep Roots**", in a nod to the Parable of the Sower (see Matthew 13.) And we are pairing our **Deep Roots** with some **Deep Truths** about First UMC's financial outlook. Ready to go deep? Let's dive in!

DEEP TRUTH #1: Covid has dealt a hard financial blow to churches across the country.

And McPherson First UMC is no exception. Like most congregations, we have discovered that months of online worship (followed by months of cautious/limited in-person gatherings) led to a notable decrease in church giving patterns.

DEEP TRUTH #2: A generous endowment gift has helped get McPherson First UMC through these difficult times.

Some churches have resorted to cutting programming and staff in response to decreased giving...but here at McPherson FUMC, we have not had to do that! We have some invested funds in reserve—which were given to the church many years ago, by individuals who remembered us in their wills—which we have been able to draw from during the challenging times. This has been a huge blessing, and it has enabled us to continue funding our education programs, our outreach programs, our worship programs, and it has allowed us to continue paying all of our staff even during the leanest pandemic times.

DEEP TRUTH #3: The reserve funds won't last forever.

Church Leadership has been utilizing reserve funds to balance the budget for many years now, but since 2020 our reliance on that funding has increased dramatically. In 2021, we had to pull approximately \$140,000 out of investments—and we have drawn a similar amount in the first 9 months of 2022 (which means that if that trend doesn't change, we might be up to as much as **\$200,000** before the year ends.) If we keep drawing at this rate, the reserves will not last long.

DEEP TRUTH #4: An extra \$25 a week could fully fund our budget!

\$200,000 may sound like a lot of money, but here's our final DEEP TRUTH: if every household that currently gives to McPherson First UMC were to increase their giving by \$25 a week in 2023, that \$200,000 gap would be completely filled and our budget would be fully funded. You read that right: an increase of \$25 per household per week would be enough to completely end our reliance on reserve funds—which would then free up those funds for all kinds of exciting and world-changing missional work!

These **DEEP TRUTHS** are the reason that we are inviting every household in our congregation to prayerfully consider giving an additional \$25 per week to McPherson First UMC in 2023. We know that this kind of increase is not possible for every family, and we recognize that there are some in our congregation for whom a \$5/week increase would be an enormous act of faith! By the same token, we also recognize that there are some who have the means to increase their giving by more than \$25. The precise dollar amount doesn't matter nearly so much as a willingness to step out in faith and see how abundantly God can provide! Will you join us in taking the leap and **Filling The Gap?**