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ANNUAL REPORT







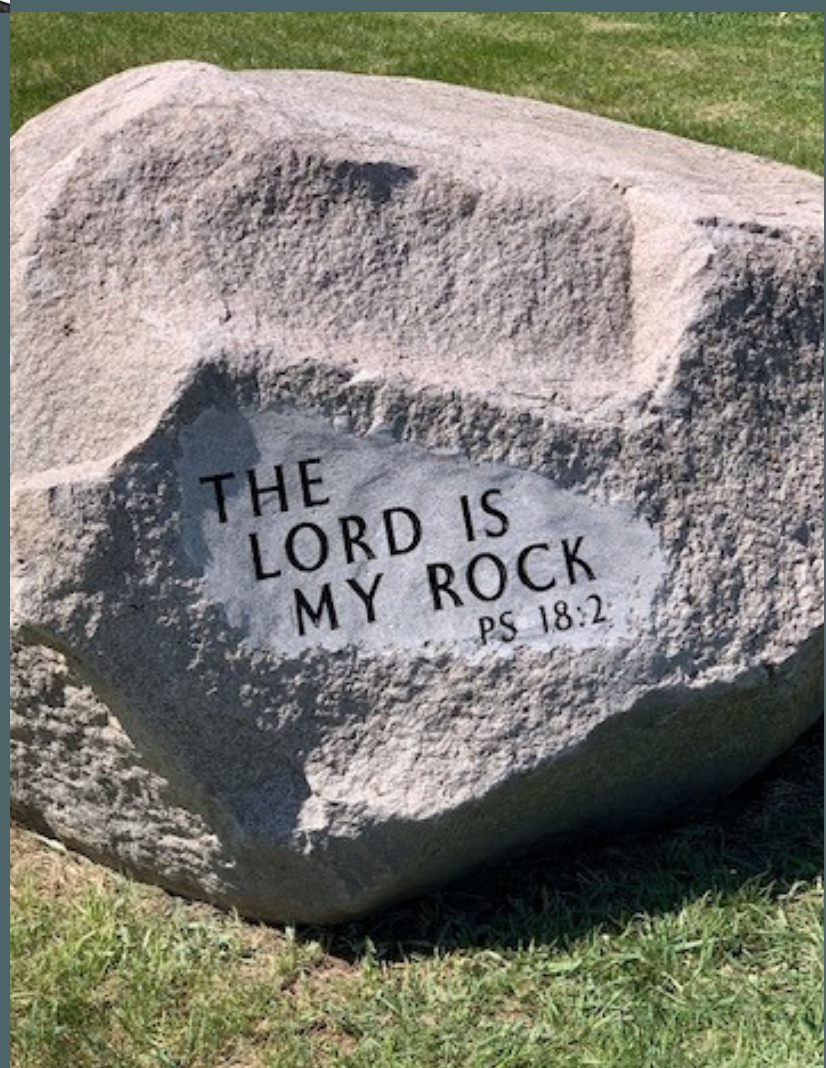
February 2020



Outdoor Adventures Life Group



Summer Bike Challenge





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## mission & purpose

*to make disciples of  
Jesus Christ for the  
transformation of the  
world*

## vision

*to be the church who  
says YES to loving and  
feeding our community  
in body and spirit*

## values

- *Inclusive*
- *Missional*
- *Wesleyan*
- *Scriptural*





FROM THE PASTOR

# a look back to look forward

I think we would all agree, 2020 was like no year any of us has ever experienced before. We complied with stay at home orders, created home offices, managed hybrid and distance learning models, participated in countless Zoom committee meetings and celebrated the two biggest holidays of the year away from the church building. COVID-19 has changed life as we know it, and the landscape of ministry forever. Through it all, we remained a resilient and hopeful people.

In the midst of pandemic uncertainties, God continued to create, develop and resurrect new life. We are seeing more people than ever engage in online worship as the Holy Spirit continues to move in the hearts of God's people. Our life groups have remained faithful and positive as they have adjusted to digital expressions of



community. Our Triad ministries have pushed through the challenges before us to reach hundreds of people in our larger community and expand our kingdom outreach. Where we've journeyed thus far has only set us up for what God has in store for us as Community United Methodist Church.

This annual report isn't just a document full of stats - it's full of stories of life change and the Spirit of God creating a movement. Our prayer is that as you read the stories, look at the pictures and remember, you will realize that you are part of something bigger than yourself. Also, that you would ask - **God, how are you calling me to say YES?**





# faith by the numbers

Why do we measure numbers? Because every number represents a person, every person has a story and every story matters to God.



20

people became full members of Community United Methodist Church

259

average Sunday worship attendance pre-pandemic

203

people participated in a life group or other spiritual growth group or class

282

average weekly online worship views



"Sharing insights and life experiences in a small group setting enriches faith and understanding, and enables us to build new relationships."

VIRGINIA LEE





# the year of the pivot

When 2020 started, no one would have predicted the adaptability we would need to demonstrate to keep our ministries vital:

- Online and drive-in worship services
- Sunday School online
- Wednesday night programming for children, tweens, Confirmation and youth group on Zoom and/or a hybrid in-person/online experience
- At-home Vacation Bible School (VBS) →
- Life groups and Bible study on Zoom
- Zoom meetings
- Contact-free, masked Trunk-or-Treat
- Bedtime Stories with Pastor Carrie on Facebook
- Bi-weekly check-ins with everyone in the congregation
- Family at-home Advent bags and summer bike challenge
- Funerals on Zoom and masked graveside services
- Advent Triad: Live Nativity, Christmas Music Sunday outdoor carol sing and Christmas Eve Worship online
- Christmas Eve drive-thru Blessings



"The doors may be shut but  
the church  
has never closed!"

*PASTOR CARRIE BINNIE*





# missional impact

Blessing others is a major part of our shared ministries.

Erica first came to Community United Methodist Church in 2017 when she was living in a shed in Big Lake. She was seeking financial assistance to cover car repairs so she could move to Montana, where she had a job with the Red Cross waiting for her. She contacted us this past summer and shared that she has gone back to school and is no longer homeless! A certified medical assistant, Erica is engaged and her life is filled with joy. She wrote, "You saved me. Your ... help has grown into something I never thought would happen and it wouldn't have happened without you or God. Thank you."

111

UMCOR Health Kits assembled by Confirmation students and mentors

49

Birthday Bags assembled for Monticello Help Center distribution



*The youth mission trip may have been cancelled, but that didn't stop our youth from serving others!*



*With an anticipated increase of food needs in our community, we said YES to loving and feeding our community in body and spirit by opening a Little Free Pantry in our lower lot, that is regularly monitored and stocked by the congregation.*



# signature ministry: school partnership



Our signature ministry is a partnership with Little Mountain Elementary School (LME). We have a multi-year plan that involves short, medium, and long-range strategic objectives to benefit the students and staff. While the pandemic significantly altered our plans for 2020, our commitment remained strong.

**MAY** - Together with the PTO, we funded signs that church members placed in the yards of LME staff members as a gesture of our appreciation for their commitment to the children and families of our community.

**FALL** - We volunteered with the nature-based, outdoor education classrooms.

**MARCH** - We provided bags of food with supplies for daily lunches throughout spring break for any LME family who wanted them.

**SUMMER** - We planted and tended the LME garden beds. Produce was given to area families in need.

450

lunches supplied during spring break

90

signs placed in the yards of LME staff members





# grateful

Thank you for your prayers, your presence, your gifts, your service and your tangible witness in 2020. We couldn't do what we do without your generosity, and we're grateful for your ongoing support. Your commitment to prioritizing and reaching others is inspiring. Thank you for stepping up in times of uncertainty for the sake of the Kingdom. We are better together and we are better because of *you*.



*Once again, we would like to express our gratitude for the funds we received from the sale of the Becker Church. They enabled us to finance necessary capital expenses (e.g. 10 new furnaces and 1 new air conditioning unit) and update other parts of the facility to offer a more welcoming, hospitable environment. We can't wait for you to see it!*

500

the approximate number of people who drove through our Live Nativity





# financial snapshot: the highlights

We are blessed by the perpetual generosity of a loving and giving faith community. Between your gifts and the Payroll Protection Plan loan we received, we were able to end the year in the black. *Thanks be to God!*



2020 Budget



2020 Actual Expenses



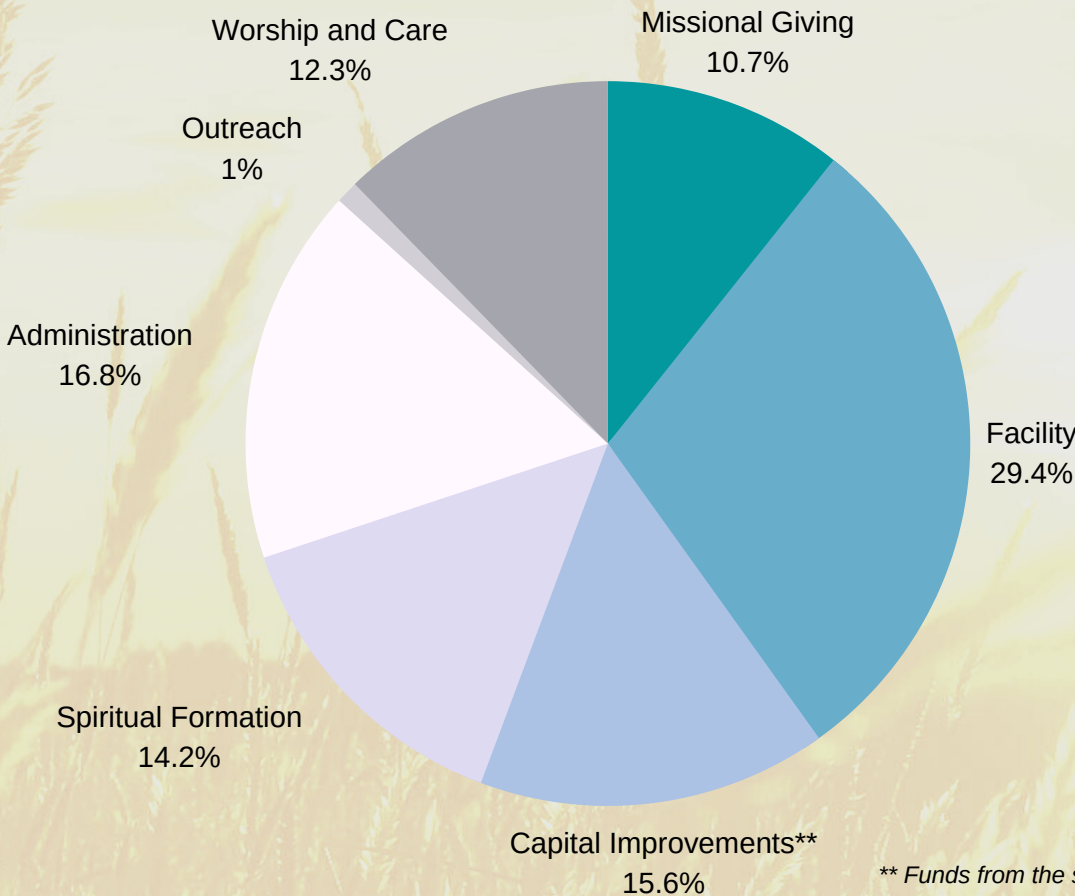
2020 Income

\$357,804 (congregational giving)  
+ \$37,500 (Payroll Protection Plan loan)



2021 Budget

*This is a deficit budget of \$89,324*



## stewardship of financial resources\*

\* Clergy and staff hours allocated in the categories depicted

\*\* Funds from the sale of the Becker United Methodist Church. (Per The Book of Discipline of The United Methodist Church, these dollars can only be spent on capital improvements.)





*Each of us has jagged edges from experiencing hurt in life,  
but God uses our brokenness to create something beautiful:*

**THE CHURCH**