



2023 ANNUAL REPORT

New Beginnings UMC
newbeginningsumc.org

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Dear Friends,

To be a steward of God's tithes and offerings means we are managers of those gifts. Wise managers share one characteristic: they always embrace accountability. Accountability to God is a serious matter and requires transparency. To that end, the following report has been prepared, sharing how gifts received were used to serve our community and further the mission of our church- ***Making disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world.***

I invite you to carefully review this report and see where the heart of this church and our priorities are revealed through its contents. Should you need additional information or have questions, please bring those questions to the attention of the church staff.

We are blessed as a church to have faithful givers, and we offer our thanks and blessings for your commitment to the work of New Beginnings. Behind every gift, every prayer, and every act of service are countless stories of comfort, change, challenge, and growth that become woven into the beautiful tapestry of our faith family. Know that your gifts and the work they support have tremendous value in the Kingdom!

If you have not yet made a financial pledge for 2024 or are not giving on a continual basis, I ask that you seek God's guidance on how to begin doing so. The same is true if you have not yet committed to serving. Carrying out God's plan for New Beginnings is a monumental task! We are best equipped for this work when all members share their prayers, presence, gifts, service, and witness.

Our website, social media feeds, and YouTube page received thousands of hits in 2023. It is clear that folks are searching for hope and looking to the church for answers and support. We thank God for positioning New Beginnings as part of His work in our community and beyond!

Blessings,

Rev. Dr. Christopher Greene

Annual Financial Summary

Our church has been a good steward of the financial contributions received, curtailing spending while also continuing our ministries and community reach in spite of a downturn in income. The numbers below are preliminary totals for 2023.

Income:
\$ 435,028.33
83.6% of budget received

Expenses:
\$488,381.14
6% under budget

Total Number of Giving Units=122
Average Giving per Household= \$2,750

Financial Notes

Income: the vast majority of our revenue comes from offertory collections

Restricted Income: donations designated by the giver for a specific purpose

Other Income: income generated through other sources, such as facility rentals

Fundraising Efforts

Spring Craft Fair: \$2,790.00

Dine to Donate: \$250.00

Hawg and Dawg Day: \$2,023.00

Ice Cream Barn: \$ 201.00

T-shirt Sales: \$150.89

David LaMotte Concert: \$1660.89

Giving Tuesday: \$230.00



**Total Fundraising:
\$7,305.78**

Prayers

"Rejoice always, pray continually, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus." - 1 THESSALONIANS 5:16-18

Only when we spend time with God in prayer are we spiritually prepared to offer ourselves to others. All that is required to begin is to make a conscious effort to spend time with our God. At New Beginnings, prayer opportunities abound, offering a variety of prayer-centered experiences throughout the year in addition to a time of prayer as part of every worship service.



A Weekly Prayer List is available



"A Praying Congregation" class was offered



An Altar Prayer team is available



56 Services of Worship offered

Presence

"So Christ himself gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the pastors, and teachers, to equip his people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up" -EPHESIANS 4:11-12

So much of discipleship is showing up! Being present for worship weekly links us and strengthens bonds in our congregation. However, The United Methodist pledge to be present goes beyond Sunday morning. Being present means being an active part of the body, both through Sunday's services and throughout the week.



107 in-person average attendance



Communion shared 24 times



4 fellowship meals shared



Over 260 events offered

Gifts

"Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others, as faithful stewards of God's grace in its various forms." - 1 PETER 4:10

Your financial gift is used to advance the mission of the church, to cover the costs associated with day-to-day operations, and provides the necessary funding for all sacramental and foundational programs. Additionally, your contributions through the Pastor's Discretionary Fund extends the reach of our church beyond our walls.



25 First Night Bags given to Epworth Foster Care



Paid off \$7,775 in overdue school lunch accounts



served nearly 1,000 meals through Miracle Hill and Jesus' Table



Hundreds of pounds of food donated to UFRC and GSCM



Hundreds of canned goods/ personal care items shared through the Blessing Box



26 gift cards shared for gas and food



Water and electric bills paid for 2 families in need



Rent paid for several families in crisis



Provided several overnight stays at local hotels for people in medical crises



Paid off a car title loan for a local family who were in danger of losing the car



Paid money toward college tuition for a family after job loss



Provided hundreds of school supplies for teachers and fulfilled a families Christmas list



Raised \$820.90 for Heifer International



Raised \$630.00 for Epworth Children's Home



Raised \$464.00 for Evans Training Center



Paid car insurance fees for a family facing coverage lapse

Service

"Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me." - MATTHEW 25:40

As people of faith, we are called to serve, using our unique spiritual gifts and talents to contribute to the church. Serving at church can lead to personal growth and spiritual development, learning new skills, building relationships, and deepening your faith.

16

Ministry Teams

53

distinct serving options

64

members serving

593

opportunities to serve

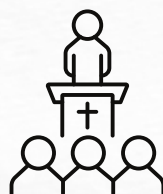
Witness

"You are the light of the world. A city that is set on a hill cannot be hidden. Nor do they light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on a lampstand, and it gives light to all who are in the house. Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven.- Matthew 5:14-16

The word "witness" was added to the Baptismal Covenant by the 2008 United Methodist General Conference to highlight the mission and evangelistic responsibilities of church membership. This serves as a reminder to all United Methodists to live out their vows publicly. Leading a Christian life by example is a form of witness, whether it's acting with integrity, showing compassion, or helping others embody the love of Christ through advocacy and outreach.



"After the Bell" ministry
added to serve Libertas



"Encounter God"
Revival held



Foster Care
advocacy event held

Summary

It's clear that we have some work to do to secure our future where finances are concerned. If the financial picture makes you feel uncomfortable, know you aren't alone in that feeling. Having a budget deficit isn't comfortable! This same discomfort is shared by churches all over the world that have experienced financial difficulties. Overcoming this budget shortfall will remain a priority for our finance committee in 2024. While it may seem daunting, it is essential to remember that there is always hope. It is possible to overcome this difficult time! By working together and staying committed to the church's mission and values, we can emerge stronger than ever before.

What I hope is also clear is that finances alone do not tell the full story of New Beginnings. In addition to all of the blessings contained on the previous pages, our church was also blessed with 14 new members and celebrated 5 Baptisms and 3 Confirmations. This year we have members who are serving for the first time and who have expanded serving into new areas. Despite the financial constraints, 2023 was a year full of victories! We are busy, vibrant, active, and ALIVE! The previous pages contain snapshots of twelve months of God's grace, mercy, and presence and reflect what we can achieve as a community of faith. We have so many reasons to be thankful!

The Bible tells us in the book of Philippians, *"he who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus."* Friends, we can claim and proclaim this as truth in our lives! God isn't finished with us. There is much to be done!

When considering our future, let us trust in the promise in Isaiah 40:31- *"But those who wait upon the LORD will renew their strength; they will mount up with wings like eagles; they will run and not grow weary, they will walk and not faint."* I look forward to continuing our work with renewed energy and enthusiasm in the coming year. May God bless you all!