

WESLEY UNITED METHODIST CHURCH



ANNUAL REPORT
FOR 2021



WORDS FROM PASTOR

To share with you a slice of what we accomplished last year we have put together this 2021 Annual Report. While this is not an exhaustive list of what we achieved last year, we share this so you may get a glimpse of what we did throughout the year. We have organized this annual report around our mission statement to “Serve Christ, Community and Creation” while also including a snapshot of our finances from 2021.

Although we continued to deal with the pandemic and the changes that it has brought, we did so unafraid while at the same time doing our best to care for our sisters and brothers. Sometimes this required us to stop certain practices as COVID numbers increased, but we did so knowing that God was with us and that we could get through this together.

We want you to know that we could not accomplish all the amazing things we did without you. Due to your support and commitment to our mission statement we continued to do amazing work this past year. Everything we accomplished could not have been done without you. We were able to strengthen many of our existing ministries and dream of new ones.

It is almost impossible for me to put into words how proud I am to serve as your pastor. Our community is noticing the work we continue to do together; we are making a difference. All of this is because of you. Your dedication and support to our ministries is what makes what we do possible. Again, thank you so much for your commitment to this church and our ministry. Together we will accomplish even more things in 2022 as we celebrate the 150th anniversary of Methodism in the Yakima area.

Shalom,
Pastor Shane Moore

WORDS FROM LAY LEADER

It has been a sincere honor to have served as your Lay Leader for several years. Our church has endured challenges over the past few years with a grace and positivity that constantly amazes me. We are all truly blessed to be a part of a very forward-thinking church and church family. Without the contributions of our committees and input from the congregation, we might not be where we are today: An active church; A supportive church; Wesley United Methodist Church. Looking back over this past year, Wesley United Methodist Church has continued to be present in the lives of our church family and our community.

With the limitations brought on by COVID restrictions, we were limited in how many could attend church outside and then, inside. Now we are blessed to be able to sit with friends and family and enjoy Pastor Shane's message and Jerry's beautiful music and the various artists contributing their talents, within the sanctuary. We continue to be connected online with services, meetings and social groups. We are still finding ways to be connected, to still be church. What a blessing!

Pastor Shane has encouraged us all to find ways to reach out to others and by being creative, establishing connections that had not been before. We have been given a purpose of hope to our church family and community. With God's love and grace, Wesley United Methodist Church will continue to be a vessel to show others our love for Christ, Community and Creation through our Open Doors, Open Hearts and Open Minds.

Peace and Blessings,

Sara Justo

Lay Leader

WORDS FROM CHURCH COUNCIL CHAIR

As we turned the calendar from 2020 to 2021 our experiences with COVID-19 took a very positive turn. Mid-January saw the availability of COVID vaccines for many in our congregation that met the criteria with well over 90% of those eligible were vaccinated. Our response was fantastic. Soon with lower COVID numbers in our community we were able to move to indoor worship, with masks but no singing. Then in July we shared Holy Communion even if it wasn't in our traditional style. We sang together as we began the Advent season. And of course, we shared in times of conversation around a cup of coffee in early fall.

Yes, COVID did affect our worship times, but our ministries all continued and even grew in number. We didn't wilt or hold back in our commitments to our community. People in need were fed, recycling continued with even more of our congregation involved, the preschool restarted, the rummage sale was successful again. I didn't name them all. We can all be proud of how we remained focused and faithful to the calling to serve.

We even added a staff person during this time: Sara Krum, our media director. Those that have joined us for online worship have seen major improvements in equipment and techniques to bring a more fulfilling online worship experience.

Yes, the year was different. We did well and we should be very proud. I am eager to see what 2022 will bring.

Don Reinmuth
Church Council Chair

SERVING CHRIST

Though we started 2021 worshipping the same way as we finished in 2020, we began to make plans to transition back to live worship in the sanctuary. Our trustees lead the retrofitting of the sanctuary for livestreaming of worship including a new sound booth, cameras, updated wiring and new sound equipment. In addition to the updates, we hired Sara Krum as our media specialist. Sara has brought new ideas to help us connect with those worshipping online and in person.

Together we explored the book of 1 John using the Beatles hit, "All You Need is Love." As we shifted worship back to the sanctuary we looked at our transitions and the world were working through and how faith can lead us. In October we turned the sanctuary into a living room, hearing the faith stories of four church members. We took on the topic of mental health and our responsibility as Christians to care for the mental health of one another. We finished 2021 looking in depth at the journey of Mary and Joseph.

Our UMW reading group, as well as other book studies, continued to meet online. During the summer those groups began meeting in person. Elmer's discussion group started back up on Sunday mornings.

All that we do in worship, whether online or in-person, and in our educational settings is about serving Christ. Our goal is that everyone grows closer to God as we strive to serve Christ.





SERVING COMMUNITY

We continued serving the community in many ways, including our monthly food ministries. Between our hot dog meal, Sandwich Sunday, homeless meal, and the Little Free Pantry, we estimate that we serve over 1,000 people a month. These meals provide so much more than just food for the hungry. Through these ministries Wesley also feeds their souls. The Little Free Pantry has become a beckon to our community. It is amazing how much our neighbors and the larger community have provided support for the pantry.

The United Methodist Women (UMW) and United Methodist Men (UMM) did amazing ministry throughout the year. The UMW provided over \$5,700 to local organizations including Lazy F, Camp Hope, Union Gospel Mission and Sacred Roads Ministries. They also provided over \$5,500 to United Methodist Women National Office to provide support throughout the world. The UMM gave \$500 to three different organizations: Chuck Austin Place that provides housing for formerly homeless veterans, as well as supporting the Yakima Valley Senior Citizens Saturday Breakfast and Noah's Ark.

Our Wesley Preschool started back up in fall of 2021 after being closed since March 2020 due to COVID. While we aren't back to pre-COVID numbers, each week we are shaping the minds of 26 children ages 3-5. One of the highlights of the week is chapel with Pastor Shane. This time is not just a blessing for the kids but for the teachers and Pastor Shane.

We strive to serve community because Christ has called us to care for those among us whether they be our direct neighbors or our neighbors around the world. As Christ cares for us, let us continue to strive to care for the community of Christ.

SERVING CREATION

Our recycling center continues to be an amazing outreach to our community as we serve creation. We collected 1 million pounds of material which includes 670,110 pounds of cardboard, 319,000 pounds of paper, 18,742 pounds of shredded paper, 10,910 pounds of tin and 23,160 pounds of aluminum. We updated the recycling area with new lights, bin identification signs and a welcome sign sharing why we recycle. In the fall, a recycling group began helping on Monday evenings and Boy Scout Troop 268 volunteers twice a month on Tuesday evenings cleaning up the area. This has provided great support to the morning recyclers that dedicates over 40 hours a week with the recycling center.

In 2013 we began the process of installing solar panels and within a few years had the 56-panels we currently have. Over the life of our system, our solar panel system has produced energy equivalent to saving 4,576 trees, keeping 91.53 CO₂ tons out of the atmosphere and provided enough power to light 377,230 lightbulbs. Since our first solar panels in 2013 we have produced enough energy to power over 11 homes for one year.

For over 30 years serving creation has been an important part of our mission at Wesley UMC and we continue to do our best to serve creation. We do so because creation is a gift from God, not for us to take advantage of but to serve and preserve so all may experience the goodness of this gift.



WHAT YOUR GIFTS DO

Coming out of 2020 we didn't know what to expect for 2021 regarding our budget. Without solid numbers we projected a deficit of over \$52,000. We didn't do this lightly but trusted that God would provide and that every one of you would support the ministries of Wesley. Because you believe in the work we do Serving Christ, Community and Creation, we finished 2021 with a surplus of over \$24,000.

Starting in 2020 we began investing surplus funds from CD's and other assets into the Northwest United Methodist Foundation, now known as Faith Foundation Northwest. Our General Investment Fund grew throughout 2021 by over \$73,000. We were able to use part of this growth to replace some of our aging roofs on our facility. Our church council is dreaming of other ways to use the growth of these funds.

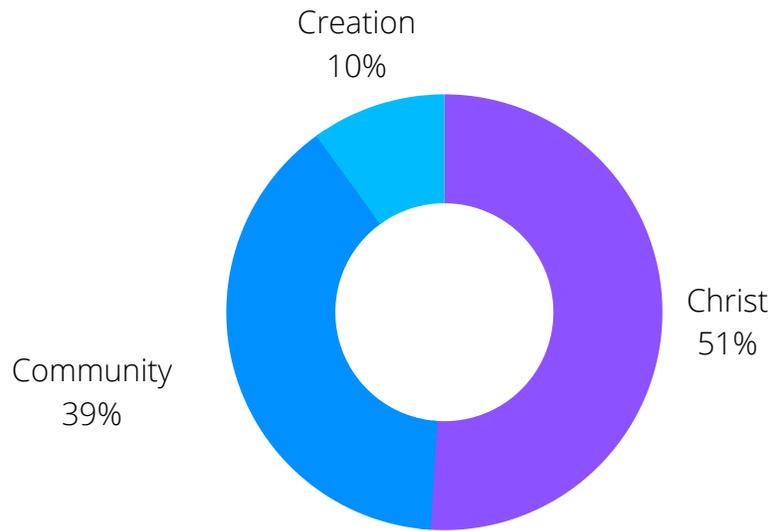
Since 1993 our Endowment Committee has grown the endowment to over \$1.6 million. The interest from these funds is used in multiple ways such as building maintenance, supporting great organizations in the community, supporting multiple missionaries and countless other ways.

Overall, the church is in a healthy financial situation. We continue to dream about how God is calling us to reach out to our community and to the world around us, and we thank you for sharing your resources to make this a reality. As we share often, let us remember the quote from John Wesley, "Giving is not about asking how much of my money will I give to God, but how much of God's money will I keep for myself."

All the financial gifts we receive, whether from regular giving, pledges, or the endowment, we use to further the mission of Wesley United Methodist Church so that by the grace of God all may feel loved and cared for as God has loved and cared for us.

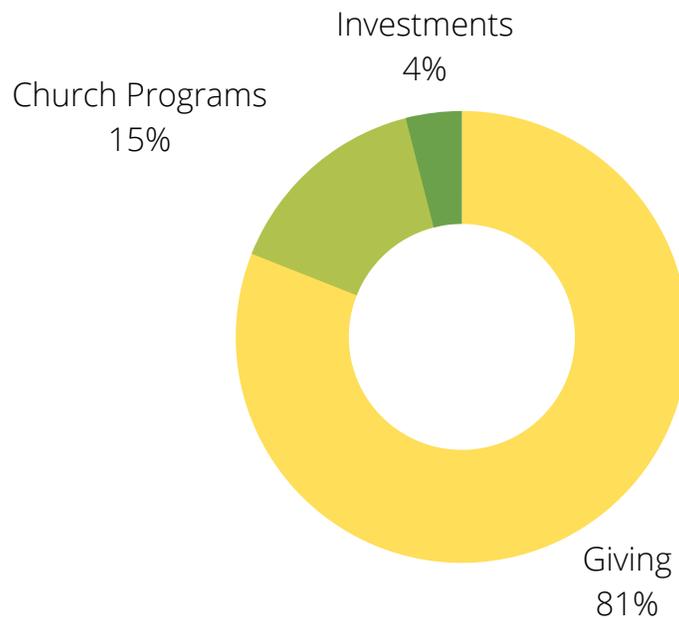
EXPENSES

(\$333,990)



INCOME

(\$346,592)



STAY CONNECTED

Outdoor Worship each Sunday at 9 am



www.wesleyofyakima.org

Staff

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Elmer Bigham, Recycling Coordinator

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wesley united
methodist church
of yakima

Serving Christ, Community & Creation

