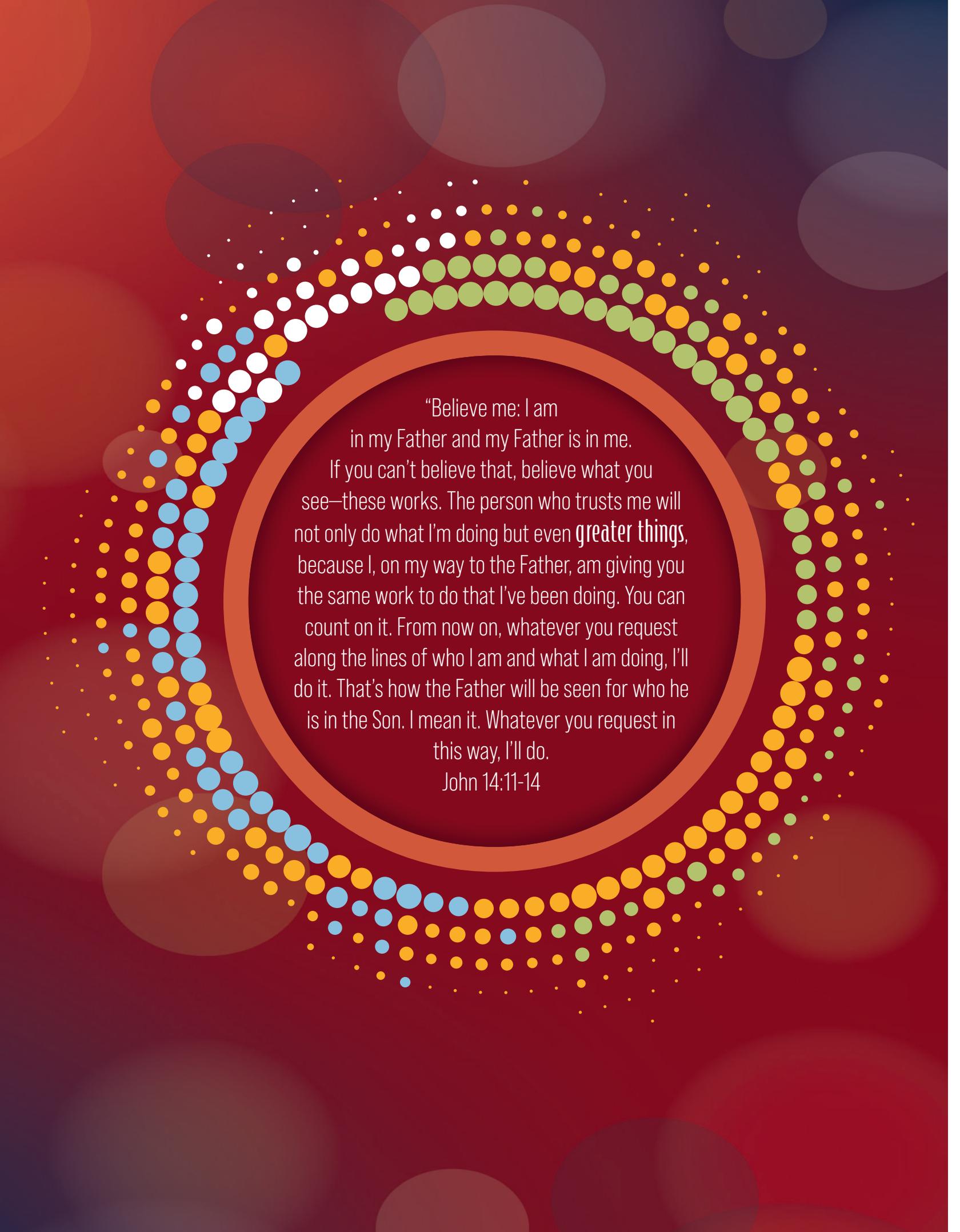




greater  
things

GENEROSITY 2023



“Believe me: I am  
in my Father and my Father is in me.  
If you can’t believe that, believe what you  
see—these works. The person who trusts me will  
not only do what I’m doing but even **greater things**,  
because I, on my way to the Father, am giving you  
the same work to do that I’ve been doing. You can  
count on it. From now on, whatever you request  
along the lines of who I am and what I am doing, I’ll  
do it. That’s how the Father will be seen for who he  
is in the Son. I mean it. Whatever you request in  
this way, I’ll do.  
John 14:11-14

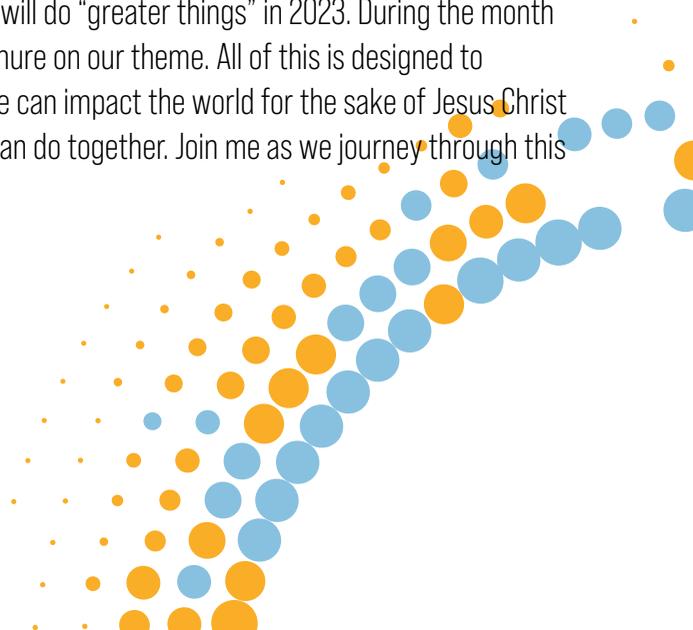


Greetings friends,

Since July 1, 2022 I have done my best to get to know the community of Webster Groves and Webster Hills United Methodist Church. It has been wonderful to learn of the work that you have done. I want to thank you for the legacy of generosity. As we head into the fall season (my favorite season of the year) our attention turns to our Generosity Campaign. This year's theme is "Greater Things." This is the time of year when we prayerfully consider our commitment to the church. For some, the consideration will be whether to pledge support for 2023. For others, the consideration will be whether to increase our commitment of support.

In the past year, your giving has impacted lives through a successful Freedom School, the Blessing Box, opening the Listening Place, and most recently donating flood buckets. As our theme suggests, we will do "greater things" in 2023. During the month of September, you will hear sermons preached and receive letters and a brochure on our theme. All of this is designed to encourage you to deepen your faithfulness through giving. We give so that we can impact the world for the sake of Jesus Christ who gives abundantly. Just imagine what we as a community of the faithful can do together. Join me as we journey through this season of reflection and growth as do "greater things" with God.

Pastor Jason



# family ministry



## Community H

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## Mission Trip

This past year, we took 20 students and leaders on a mission trip to Savannah, GA. We worked with two other United Methodist churches to serve the Savannah community in several ways. We packed nearly 3000 meals for the food insecure at a local food bank; served at a women's shelter; we helped with the construction and painting of community members' homes; we worked with The Salvation Army receiving and sorting donations, and we helped with a kids camp.

We are gearing up for 2023's Mission Trip to The Quad Cities. Service opportunities include assisting with local youth programming, engaging with adults who have disabilities, and meeting basic needs through food pantries, community gardens, and clothing giveaways. We will learn about the strengths and struggles of this area by hearing from a community speaker and participating in a prayer walk.

## Confirmation

Each year our 7th graders (and older who haven't been confirmed) take 5 months and meet and talk and learn together about their own faith story. We use this time to ask questions, build relationships and learn about being Methodist, the Bible and relationship with God. The students are responsible to visit other faith communities, create a service project and attend a retreat where they will write their own faith statements.



## Community Hope Fund

A confirmation class of 2022 created the Community Hope Fund, a permanent fund to support community needs. Funds raised help with utility bills, gas, school supplies, and other needs. The goal is that the fund will meet future needs as they come.

## Celebrations

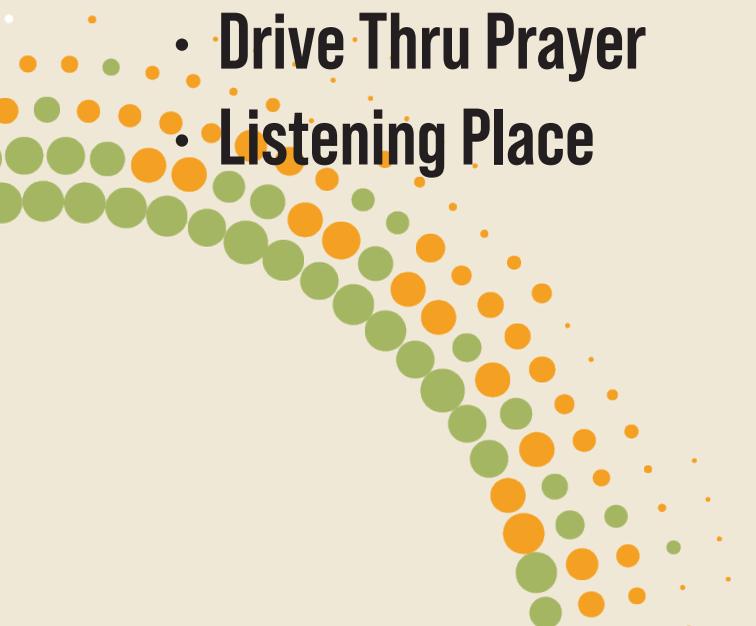
- **Hudspeth Hall Renovations**
- **New floors in Sunday School and Youth space**
- **New Leaders**
- **Five students being confirmed**
- **Seven baptisms**
- **20 Students on Mission Trip to Savannah**
- **Confirmation class of 2022 created Community Hope fund and raised \$3,395.**





# service & outreach

- **Flood Buckets** 28 Filled
- **Blessing Box** 948 Items
- **Supply donations** 252 Snacks and supplies
- **Drive Thru Ashes** Served over 50 neighbors
- **Blood drive** 24 units donated
- **Holiday Adopt A Family** We adopted 29 families
- **Drive Thru Prayer** Prayed for our neighbors
- **Listening Place** Opened March 2022





# freedom school

Thank you for your amazing support for our first summer of Freedom School in 2022!

We served 12 scholars from 6th to 8th grade. They grew in their literacy skills, enriched with STEAM projects in the afternoon, had fun on field trips and built new and lasting friendships.

"I just want to thank you for bringing the diversity, loving and nourishing atmosphere to our family. This is the best summer camp I have seen out here! Thanks so much for the food as well!" - Freedom School Parent

Volunteers led sessions on poetry & journaling, science, knitting and even some jazz.

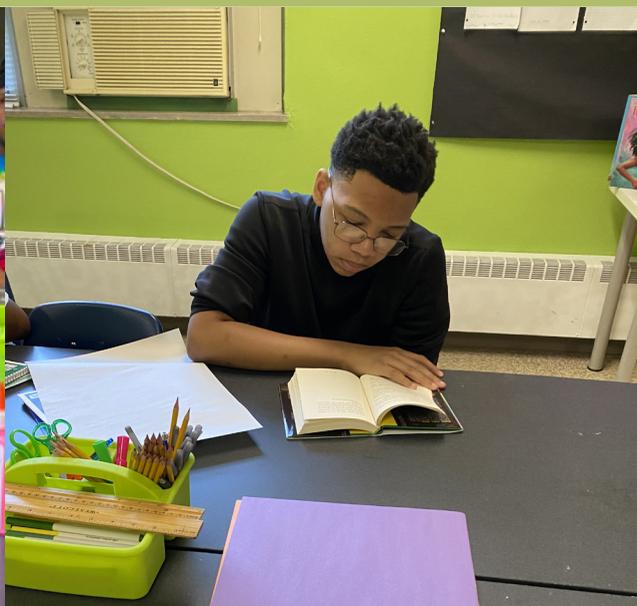
"Freedom School has helped me feel more confident and comfortable talking to people" - Webster Hills Freedom School scholar

Over 40 volunteers served by praying, reading to the scholars, and prepped and served breakfast and lunch.

"I have seen such a positive change in my son over these six weeks. Freedom School has tremendously helped him with his social skills." - Freedom School Parent

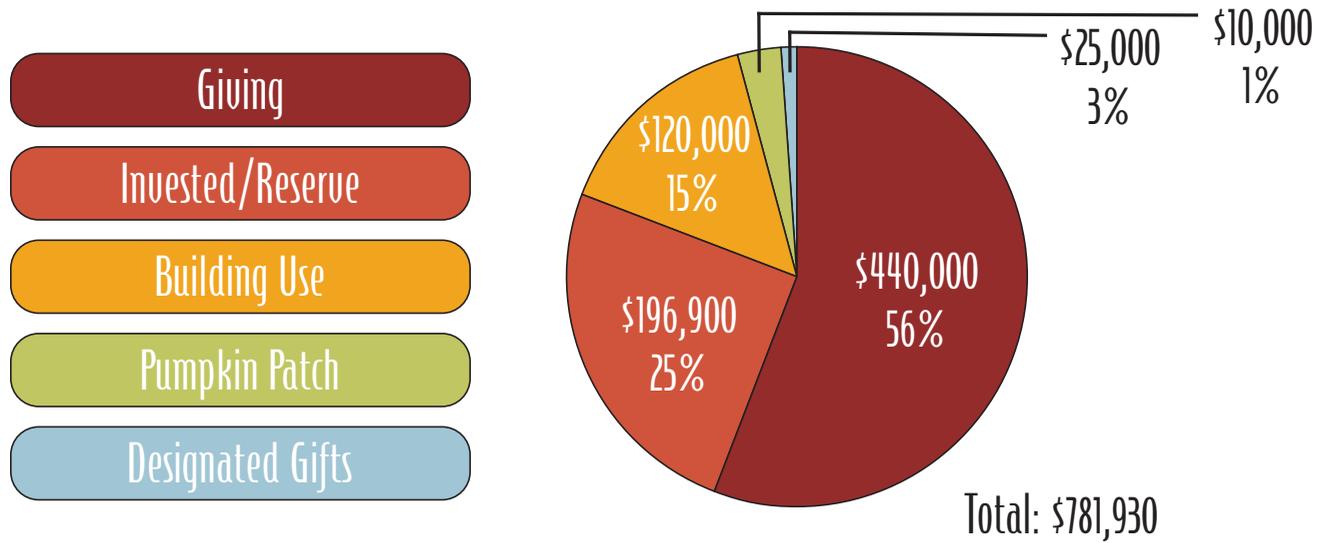
"Freedom School has made me like reading more, and I see why reading is so important." - Webster Hills Freedom School scholar

"I enjoy coming to Freedom School every day!" - Webster Hills Freedom School scholar

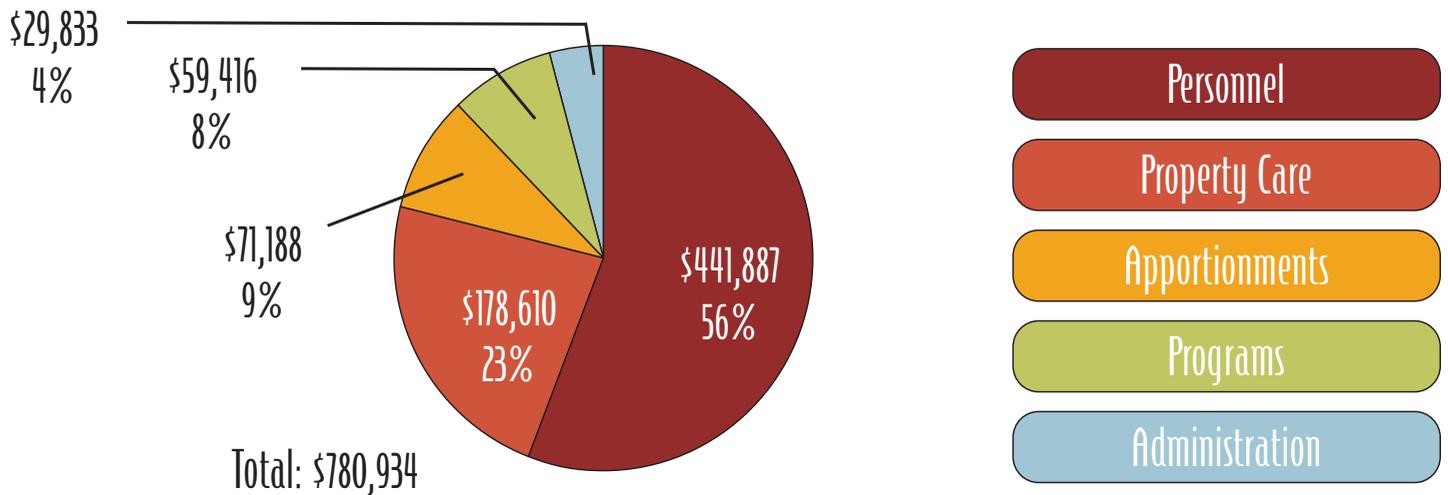


# a look at the numbers

## ANTICIPATED 2022 SUPPORT FOR MINISTRY



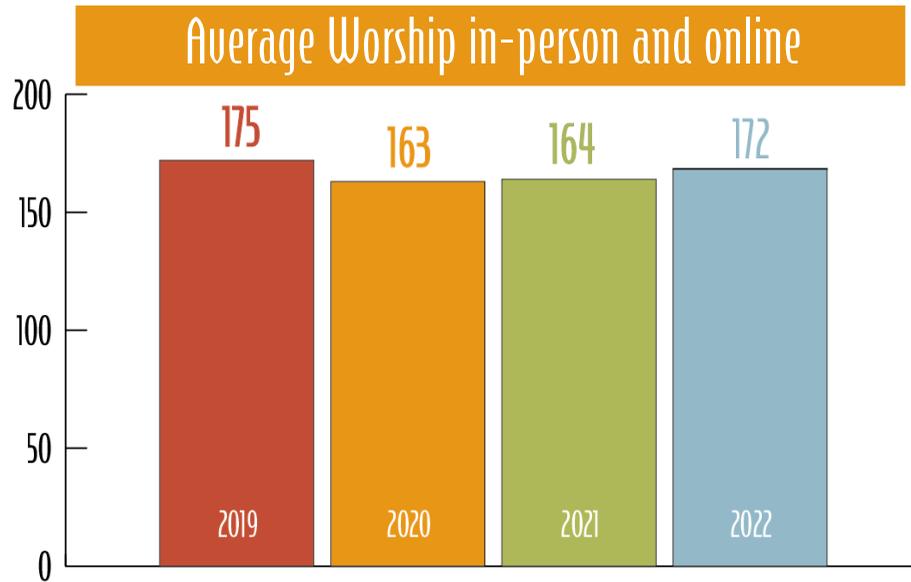
## 2022 MINISTRY AND MISSIONS BUDGET



## 2022 DESIGNATED GIFTS

- \$6,498.00 for Easter offering given to Freedom School
- \$3,395.00 Community Hope Fund (Confirmation Class Big Give)
- \$500.00 The Listening Place

# WORSHIP ATTENDANCE



Average Worship 2019 - 2022

In-person and Online Breakout

YEAR	IN-PERSON	ONLINE
2019	175	
2020	173 (TILL MARCH 8, 2020)	171 (MAR - DEC 2020)
2021	112 (APRIL 18 - DEC 26, 2021)	84

2022 Average Attendance Per Month

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July
In-Person	61	93	107	200	90	89	143
Online	83	69	48	70	35	50	101

## BAPTISMS/MEMBERSHIP

5 New members this year through July.

7 Baptisms this year through July.

## NEW STAFF - WELCOME!!

Deanna Jent - Pastor of Visitation and Care

Sara Jones - Family Ministry Coordinator

Julie Strassman - The Listening Place

# 2023 goals

## DISCIPLESHIP

We deepen our commitment by devoting ourselves to growing in faith and sharing our faith with others. We do this by spending more time with Jesus and modeling his ministry in our own context.

## NEW PLACES FOR NEW PEOPLE

As a faith community, we are committed to going to new places to reach new people to fulfill our mission. We will explore different worship spaces and styles, form new small groups, and create new partnerships in the community and beyond.

**FOLLOW JESUS.**  
Change the World.

# frequently asked questions

## How much should I give?

We know that giving is a personal decision, based on many factors. Jesus set a standard for generosity, saying in effect, that it is measured by the condition of our hearts. At Webster Hills, we lift up the Old Testament model of giving 10 percent of your income. Some start with more or less and grow in their giving each year.

## How do I decide what to give?

We believe it's important to start by giving a set percentage on a regular basis. You may choose to give weekly, monthly or annually.

Before giving: Ask God for direction. Choose a percentage and commit to it. Remember that everything is a gift from God.

Let your giving be an act of faithfulness and give with joy.

## What if I want to give more, but now is not the time?

We know that the idea of increasing your giving can seem overwhelming. We encourage you to grow in your practice of giving. Figure out the percentage of your giving over the past year. Before giving, ask God to help you determine the percentage you will give this year.

Taking a step forward in giving can have a tremendous impact on your relationship with God and the ways you use your personal resources.

## What's a pledge and why should I make one?

A pledge is a way for you to make a commitment to give a particular amount to Webster Hills UMC in 2023.

After you pray about your gift, writing it down is a step toward creating a plan to make your decision come to life.

## What methods can I use to make my offering?

You may make your offering during worship, online, text, or use your bank's bill payment service. Creating something automatic is an easy way to give regularly and makes the practice of giving meaningful and stress-free.

## What if my situation changes?

Life is unpredictable and your church wants you to give without worry. If your financial picture changes, let us know.

We want to pray for you as you face new challenges in life. You can also let us know the adjustments you need to make in your pledged giving. Of course, if life changes for the better, one way to celebrate can be with a special gift or an increased pledge!

## What else should I know?

Your gift is tax deductible. We will provide you with records of your giving to Webster Hills UMC. If you need help making arrangements for an online donation or making changes to your online giving, contact our office. You are welcome to talk with our pastor or any member of our leadership team to better understand the finances of our church. If you would like to donate stock or other resources, contact our office for guidance.

## Why consider giving more?

Your church is growing and changing the lives of many people. We are dedicated to investing in staff, resources and our physical and online campus so that ministry can not only continue but grow. We are asking you to prayerfully consider increasing your giving in the year ahead. We are grateful for each and every gift and promise to carefully use the resources you share.

# next steps

To make your commitment, look through all the materials in your generosity packet. Fill out your Commitment Card and bring it to Commitment Sunday on **October 2nd** or turn in your card to the offering boxes in the lobby on a previous week if you are not available to attend. You will also find all the generosity information online through our website. Click on the GIVING tab at the top of the page.



# greater things



[websterhillsumc.org](http://websterhillsumc.org)