

ANNUAL REPORT

2024



Minnetonka
UNITED METHODIST CHURCH



Vision

To be claring, inclusive and Spirit-filled in all that we do.

Mission

To grow spiritually, numerically, missionally and financially as we strive to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world.



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A Word from Pastor Carrie

In the ninth chapter of the Gospel attributed to Matthew, Jesus models for his disciples and for each of us God's design for active ministry. But what happened before this? Before Jesus' ministry really gained traction, he called people to be his disciples. He relied on others to help his preaching, healing and teaching reach the masses. God expects nothing different from us today.

I believe we are uniquely poised and called by God for this time and place in life and ministry. Will you share your story and initiate a spiritual conversation with someone? Will you step outside of your comfort zone in service to your neighbor? Will you invite someone to experience the benefits of our faith community? In other words, are you ready to follow Jesus and actively live as his disciple?

In the pages that follow, you will be reminded of the life-giving and life-saving work of Jesus in, through and with Minnetonka United Methodist Church in 2024. I urge you to remember the relationships you cultivated, the people who were helped through acts of service and the young people whose faith was nurtured. Remember the difference Jesus and his church make in YOUR life. And when you've finished, offer God a prayer of gratitude and go out in ministry, for "[t]he harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few." Jesus needs you and the church is better because of you!

Let us pray:

Dear God,
As we begin a new year, we thank you for the myriad ways you've blessed us and our faith community. Break through our usual ways of thinking and our hesitancy to act. Help us to get out of the way so that you can BE the way.
Amen.

Best of All, God is with Us,

Pastor Carrie

"Then Jesus went about all the cities and villages, teaching in their synagogues, and proclaiming the good news of the kingdom, and curing every disease and every sickness. When he saw the crowds, he had compassion on them.... Then he said to his disciples, 'The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few; therefore ask the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into [the] harvest.'"

- MATTHEW 9:35-38

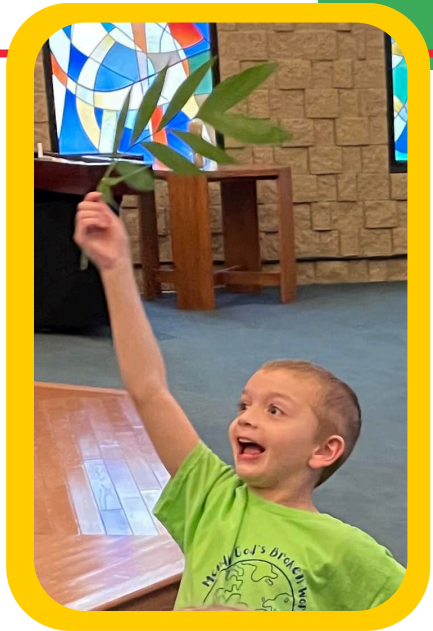


As part of our mental health sermon series, worshipers named an area of brokenness in their lives on the back of a broken glass tile. On Transfiguration Sunday, the glass pieces returned, transfigured.

THE CHURCH:
broken, yet beloved...
and beautiful

Worship

From the onset, 2024 brought with it an enhancement of the musical variety featured in worship each week. Services now offer modern music that incorporates contemporized versions of favorite hymns. The professional jazz band leads worship music on a bi-monthly basis for added variety.



309*

AVERAGE TOTAL
WORSHIP
ATTENDANCE

94

AVERAGE
IN-PERSON
WORSHIP
ATTENDANCE

211*

AVERAGE
ONLINE
WORSHIP
ATTENDANCE

7

BAPTISMS

* Each week, The United Methodist Church selects a different local church's worship service to stream on their website. Minnetonka UMC was chosen on January 7, 2024. Our online worship attendance that week totaled 8,990 views. The numbers above do NOT reflect all 8,990 of these views. If they did, our **average total worship attendance** would be **467** and our average online worship attendance would be **369**.

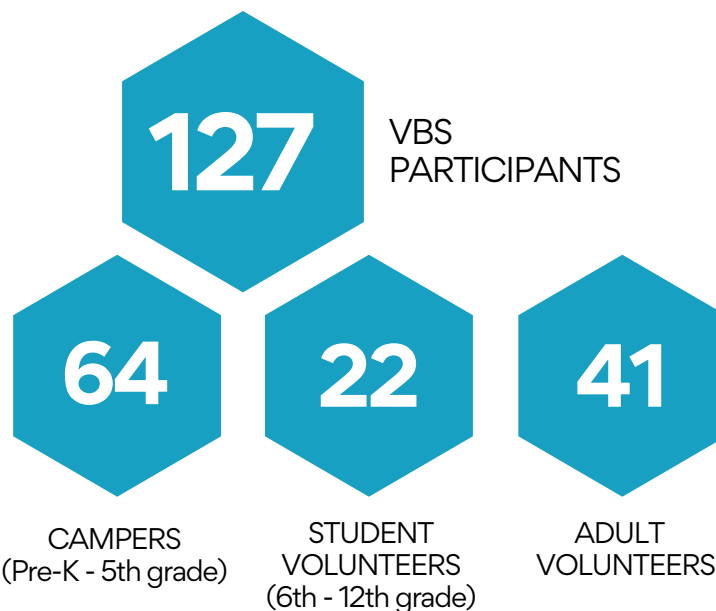


Kids



WHERE WE'VE BEEN

- Volunteers were the glue that kept our ministry to children alive and fun until Ry Edwards joined the MUMC staff team as our Director of Music and Children's Ministries!
- Beginning in September, Quest (our Wednesday night programming for kids) shifted to Bible Black Belts, a curriculum that helps familiarize children with Scripture, giving them a solid biblical foundation for a lifetime of faith.
- We were able to purchase an entire set of the Montessori-style Godly Play curriculum and supplies from Lake Harriet UMC, and began using it in the fall.
- Pastor Carrie stepped in as our Vacation Bible School (VBS) Coordinator and led us through a week at Camp Firelight!
- Taylor Mason was hired to staff the Nursery on Sunday mornings and Wednesday nights.
- The children's Christmas pageant was a highlight for all! It began with the story of creation, incorporated original music and concluded with the birth of Christ.



*"When it was almost time for Selah to sing her solo in this year's Christmas pageant, Elena could be heard whispering through her microphone, 'Don't be nervous, Selah; you'll be great!' This is **exactly** the kind of faith community I believe God wants for us: fully present, encouraging and 'in it' together."*

- PASTOR CARRIE BINNIE

Students

"I think this community has turned into kind of a family to me. Getting involved through Simpson, Feed My Starving Children and the mission trip have really helped me to try to be the change you want to see in the world and have really helped me to grow as a person."

- AINSLEY VAAGENES
10th grade

caroling at Havenwood

26

VALENTINE'S DAY CARE PACKAGES WERE SENT TO COLLEGE-AGE STUDENTS

10

STUDENTS PARTICIPATED IN CONFIRMATION CLASSES DURING THE '23-'24 SCHOOL YEAR

1

DIRECTOR OF STUDENT MINISTRIES HIRED - REV. CHRIS CARR!



Confirmation - scenes from the Bible using Easter candy



Outreach & Family Ministries



EVENTS WE HOSTED:

- Easter Eggstravaganza
Treat march, photos with the Easter bunny, service project, egg hunt
- Earth Day of Service
Lunch, May baskets service project, tree planting, rock painting (for MUMC gardens), planting "earth" seeds (to take home)
- Trolls 3 Singalong and Cookout - featuring photos with Poppy and Branch!
- Vacation Bible School (VBS)
- Summer Celebration Sunday
Worship led by VBS and student mission trip participants, lunch, bounce house, dunk tank, inflatable human fooseball and Ben & Jerry's ice cream truck
- Kickoff Sunday
Rootbeer floats and making cards of support for Minnetonka Middle School East staff
- Trunk-or-Treat
Chili Cookoff and Trunk-or-Treating
- Gingerbread Bash
Decorating cookies and pre-built gingerbread houses, photos and storytime with Santa

"You know, we live in Ham Lake but we came to your Live Nativity last year. I try to take the kids to several Live Nativities each year. Other churches have the live animals, Christmas carols and cocoa, but your church stands out. The attitude and warmth of the people is really special... So this year, when I was looking all over for gingerbread house events (you're the only ones doing it, by the way), I said to the girls, 'Come on, we're going to Minnetonka tonight!' I knew we would be welcome and it would be worth the drive. And I heard tonight that you offer FREE VBS?! We'll see you next summer!"

- GINGERBREAD BASH GUEST



Adults



Christmas Caroling



United Women of Faith at Emma Norton Services

Senior Spotlight Boat Cruise on Lake Minnetonka



DIANA BUTLER BASS

Legacy Fund dollars and the generosity of a MUMC household enabled us to bring in renowned speaker and author, Diana Butler Bass for a weekend in November. She gave presentations on her book, Freeing Jesus, and Mary Magdalene, and offered the sermon in worship the next morning.



24

SMALL GROUPS
OF ALL KINDS

65

PEOPLE IN FAITH-
SPECIFIC SMALL
GROUPS

378

MEMBERS
OF MUMC

United Women of Faith:
Environmental Stewardship



AMAZING, NEW CHURCH
ADMINISTRATOR,
MICHELLE SHICK!

"One of the joys I have at church is getting to know people in small group situations. I have appreciated the study groups such as The Chosen and Freeing Jesus, because of this. Choir, Simpson House and VBS were other examples.... VBS was especially fantastic, as it combined one of my gifts (drama) with getting to know members of the church of all age levels. The key to worship for me is community."

- BRUCE SMITH



Missional Impact

MINNETONKA UMC: MAKING MISSION & SERVICE PRACTICAL & POSSIBLE

12

STUDENTS AND ADULTS
WENT ON A NEXT STEP
MINISTRIES MISSION TRIP
TO KANSAS CITY

700

MEALS SERVED AT SIMPSON
SHELTER

198

LBS. OF
MEATLOAF

180

LBS. OF
TURKEY

2,000

SANDWICHES MADE FOR
DIGNITY CENTER DISTRIBUTION



28

PEOPLE WENT ON
THE MISSION TRIP
TO PANAMA

400

PEOPLE WHO
RECEIVED MEDICAL
OR DENTAL CARE IN
PANAMA



IMARA
INTERNATIONAL

"I remember sitting in our congregation and listening to the stories of the women who were helped through Imara International's mission. I was deeply moved.... It has always been a hope of mine to be the hands and feet of Jesus and serve on a mission trip.... I'm not a doctor, nurse, or dentist, but when I am passionate about something I want to share it with everyone. I look forward to learning as much as I can about Imara International and using my talents as a dedicated educator to spread the word about their important work. I also look forward to working with our congregation to raise awareness, educate, and support this ministry."

- SARA UTZINGER

** Sara and Pastor Carrie will be going to Kenya in February 2025 , where they will be working with Imara International. **

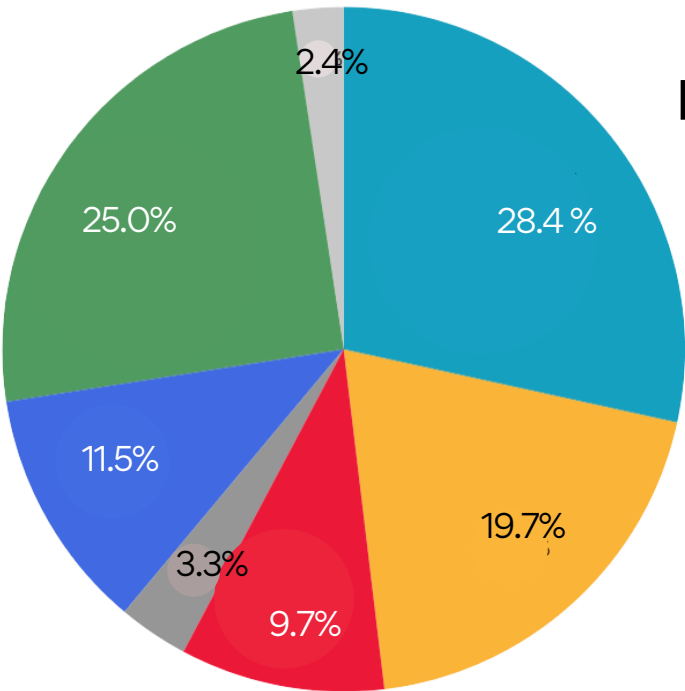
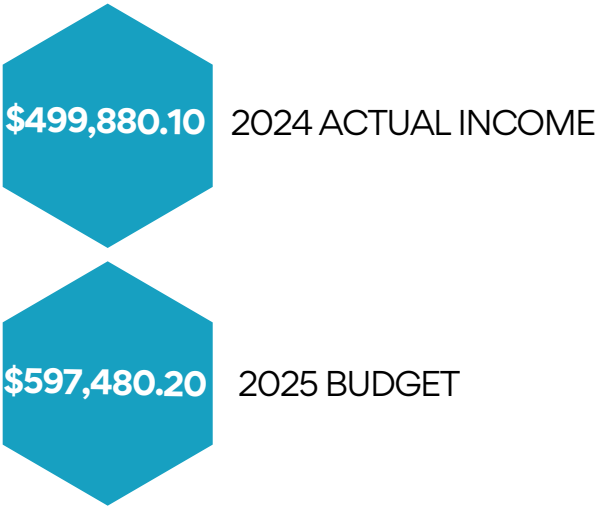
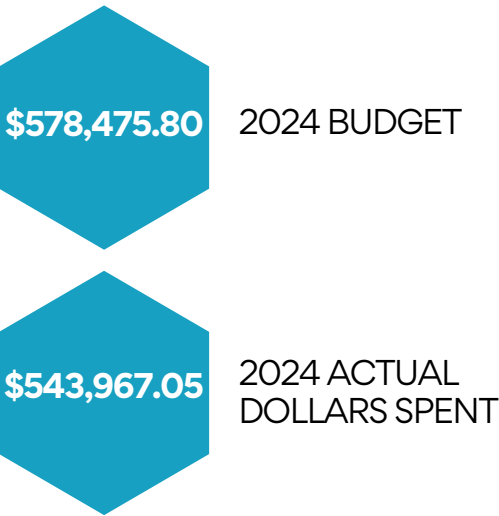
Financial Snapshot

Thank you for your prayers, presence, gifts, service and witness in 2024. Your ongoing commitment to what God is doing for, through and with Minnetonka United Methodist Church makes a difference!

CARING, INCLUSIVE AND SPIRIT-FILLED

“MUMC has been a place where my faith has deepened, friendships have flourished and my passion for justice has grown. Our church embodies a profound commitment to loving our neighbors through many visible, tangible and vocal expressions. It has inspired and equipped me with the courage, support and opportunities to help drive transformative change in our community and beyond, especially when it comes to justice for those who are marginalized because of race, gender expression, sexuality, visible and invisible disabilities, spiritual practice and all aspects of identity that makes a person a beloved child of God.”

- JEN MEIN



STEWARDSHIP OF 2024 FINANCIAL RESOURCES *

- ADMINISTRATION
- WIOSHIP & CARE
- DISCIPLESHIP
- HOSPITALITY & OUTREACH
- MISSIONAL GIVING
- FACILITY & GROUNDS
- MISCELLANEOUS

** Clergy and staff hours allocated in the categories depicted*



Minnetonka UMC

A CHURCH FOR ALL PEOPLE



Minnetonka
UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

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To:

