



Covenant United Methodist Church

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November 2023

Micah 6:6-8

⁶“With what shall I come before the LORD, and bow myself before God on high? Shall I come before him with burnt offerings, with calves a year old? ⁷Will the LORD be pleased with thousands of rams, with ten thousands of rivers of oil? Shall I give my firstborn for my transgression, the fruit of my body for the sin of my soul?” ⁸He has told you, O mortal, what is good; and what does the LORD require of you but to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God?

Dear Friends at Covenant:

This is one of my favorite verses of scripture. It begins with a challenge for me: the burnt offerings with calves a year old? That was the ritual of the time. And I like ritual. So the prophet increases the offer to outlandish levels: thousands of rams and ten thousands rivers of oil. So should the primary emphasis of my faith be even more attention to rituals?

No. He has told you what is good. And what does the Lord require but to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God.

I find those attributes at Covenant. We are a church family that shows kindness to all and is willing to put that welcome into writing and make it a goal to do an even better job of it in the future. We are willing to help those in need without asking for anything in return, simply as prayer for a more just society. And while we can boisterously laugh with each other and have fun, while we can applaud our efforts and celebrate accomplishing our goals, we still know that God is God and we are not.

So I support this church with my financial gifts. It takes money (and more than you first think!) to make these attributes a reality, as you will see in the included preliminary budget for 2024. I will increase my giving because as costs rise in our households, so do they in our church—and I will start that increase now, not waiting for January.

Will you join me? Not just to continue supporting the church in 2024, but increasing your support, both financially and with your time and service. It is a joy to be a part of this church family!

Peace,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Ken Fell". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Ken Fell
Finance Chair

Please complete the enclosed estimate of giving card and return it to the church by November 26th when they will be dedicated during the Sunday worship service.

You may return the card by mail, drop it in the offering plate on Sunday morning, or complete the online version found at covenant-umc.org.

2024 Covenant UMC *Preliminary* Budget

At CUMC, we strive to make disciples of Christ for the transformation of the world. This involves strengthening the faith of our existing parishioners and reaching out to others in our community. It takes finances (about \$485,000!) as well as commitment!

SALARIES \$219,400

This includes salaries, benefits, and employer FICA taxes for our pastor, music director, youth workers, children's coordinator, church administrator and bookkeeper.

BUILDING AND GROUNDS \$138,850

Routine maintenance, snow removal, lawn care, utilities, custodial services, pest control, etc.

BENEVOLENCE \$71,650

These are funds that reach out beyond our church walls, supporting denominational and conference level ministries and local missions such as our Little Free Pantry, Stepping Stones, Homeless Resource Day and others.

OFFICE AND ADMINISTRATION \$30,550

Postage, telephones, printers, computers and computer programs, copiers, paper, service contracts, etc. as well as administrative costs for church committees, and our lay members to annual conference,

CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT \$12,000

Eventually, building components wear out: HVAC, roof, hot water heaters, and (as we found out recently to our chagrin!) water pipes. We want to save up and be prepared!

PROGRAM \$11,300

These funds buy educational materials for adult and children's education, worship equipment and programs, and support for our youth ministry.

PRESCHOOL

A major ministry of CUMC is our preschool. It does not cost the church but rather contributes over \$24,000/year to offset utilities and maintenance costs.

Total 2024 Budget \$483,750



2024 Covenant Church Commitment Form

*Through the grace of God and in
thanksgiving for all God's blessings, I/we
pledge our gifts and resources for the
mission of Covenant UMC.*

Name: _____

Address: _____

Email: _____ Preferred Phone #: _____

If this is a joint or family pledge, the additional members include: _____

I/we plan payments of: \$ _____

I /we plan to make these payments every (check one) Week____ Month ____ Quarter____

For 2024, we estimate giving a total of \$ _____ to support the mission of Covenant UMC.

Check any that apply:

_____ I would like to have Covenant UMC automatically debit my account for my gift.

_____ I have included Covenant UMC in my will/estate plan. Please contact me for more information about my plans.

_____ I would like information about including Covenant UMC in my will or estate plan.

_____ I am giving more this year knowing there are many in our faith community that have fewer resources this year.

Signature (please type your name if filing electronically): _____

Holy God,

It is not always easy to give what we have.

We count pennies.

We weigh the pros and cons

We calculate what we have given before,

And we remind ourselves what we are giving now.

And yet,

Even though it can take work for us to practice release,

We trust that you can take these gifts—

However freely or reluctantly given—

And use them to build a more beautiful world.

For that is who you are.

You are forever building castles out of sand,

Disciples out of people, and new life out of cautious gifts.

Right what is wrong.

Balance the systems of injustice.

Use these gifts to build the world that we can only imagine

But you can bring forth.

In Christ's name we pray, Amen.