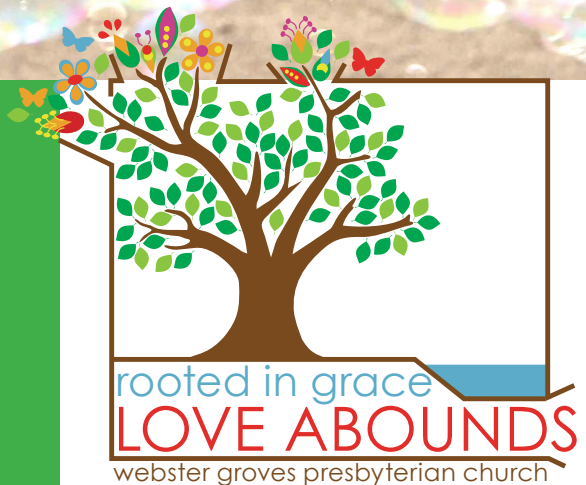




# **Webster Groves Presbyterian Church 2022 Annual Report**



Dear Friends in Christ,

As you can see in this annual report we had a vibrant year as we glimpsed the beauty of what God is creating at WGPC. The pictures reveal the delight of our engagement in the work of Jesus Christ. These are not stock photos from the Internet; they are disciples at work! Take them in; for in the midst of a broken world, they remind us that God's faithfulness brings grace, hope, and joy.

In 2022, we were reshaped by the Holy Spirit. The congregational survey about our future and mission was completed in late spring and then analyzed by the Session and the Mission Study Team. We set our course to do the following:

- formed the associate pastor nominating committee to search for an associate pastor
- hired Michelle Lepak as our new Director of Welcome and Involvement
- welcomed Matt Miller as our Student Pastor
- identified architects to propose renovations for the chapel
- completed the asset mapping event and design charette with Partners for Sacred Places to determine the best utilization of the empty space in the education building
- converted the library to the Mission Hub
- renovated the old office space to create the Gathering Spot

Jesus Christ is at work at WGPC! We give thanks for the gift of energy and enthusiasm inspired by the dedication of so many disciples who follow him—all of which leads to the joy pictured on these pages!

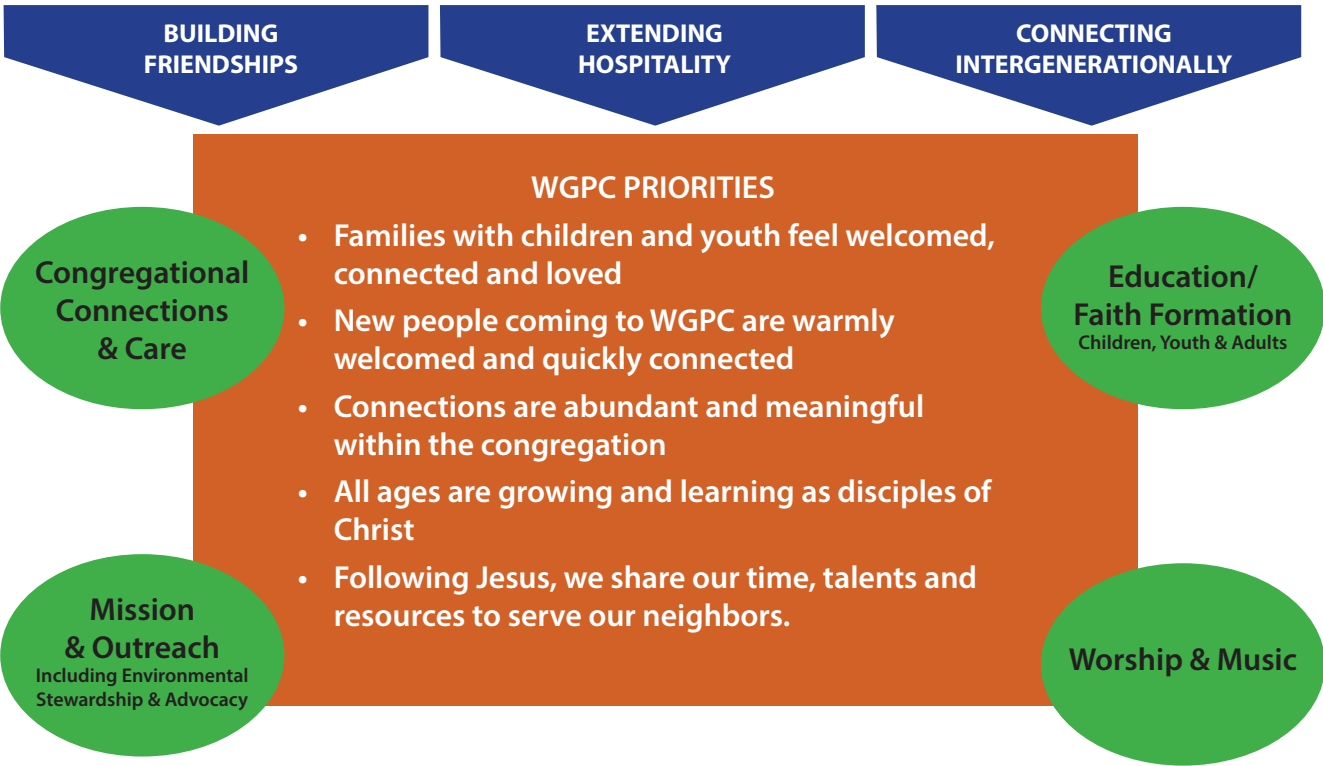
Peace and blessings!

Pastor Ed



# WGPC Mission, Core Ministries, and Priorities

We seek to live Christ's love, welcome all people, and joyfully serve God by...



The diagram above is our roadmap to our future. The priorities and four core ministries were identified by the Session based on the results of the spring 2023 Congregational Assessment. While keeping our mission statement, we determined that we need to further emphasize our values of commitment to building friendships, extending hospitality and connecting intergenerationally.

# Congregational Connections & Care

*The Deacons take on many roles as they actively care for the congregation, including taking chancel flowers to shut-ins, hosting coffee hour on Sundays, sending cards of cheer and much more. This year they planned and hosted several special events including a church picnic (complete with a bubble machine!), a “flippin’ good time” pancake breakfast, a hot chocolate booth at the Webster Christmas Walk, and a Christmas Luncheon and Reception. The meals ministry, another active group of 35 people in our church, delivered over 70 meals to members during the year.*

Members 12/31/21: 631

Members 12/31/22: 620

New members: 12

Baptisms: 3 Deaths: 9

Worship services: 56

2022 Worship Attendance:

In-person: 6,340

Online: 9,876



There's a new place to make connections—the Gathering Spot! The front office was remodeled and now you'll find:

- ▶ A comfy space to relax with toys, books, coffee, a changing table and a live-stream of the worship service on Sunday mornings
- ▶ A seating area and table for small, informal gatherings and meetings
- ▶ A reconfigured and inviting adult and children's library space
- ▶ A charging station and single serve coffee bar
- ▶ A new mail room and church archives area located adjacent to the space



*We were thrilled to hire Michelle Lepak as our Director of Welcome and Involvement. Since joining us in September, she has been busy getting to know the congregation, working with Deacons and others on community building events, and planning for some exciting opportunities in 2023.*

*We also are blessed to have Matt Miller joining us as our Student Pastor. He has quickly connected with our youth and many others in the congregation.*



The Early Childhood Center (ECC) is going strong:

- ▶ Enrollment is currently holding at 50 students with new families expressing interest
- ▶ Summer Kohring is the new ECC Program Director
- ▶ Four new teachers have been hired, despite the ongoing shortage of part-time workers
- ▶ The old Kid's Day Out classroom was renovated and a sink was installed, allowing for the use of this much larger space for the Little Learner's class
- ▶ The old Little Learner's classroom is being turned into a children's library



## Outreach & Mission

WGPC members continue their generous support of mission work! There is much to celebrate from 2022:

- ▶ Our new Mission Hub, in the old library space, allows us to highlight our mission work and share all that our church supports. Stop by and see what we are up to.
- ▶ A Lenten collection of household items for Home Sweet Home as well as a gift of much needed mattresses and support for a new partnership with Ferguson-Florissant School District
- ▶ \$110,000 given to our four Meyer Grant partners for the final year of our grants
- ▶ A Pack the Backpack event to provide 25 filled backpacks to Foster & Adoptive Care Coalition
- ▶ Our hands-on Mission Weekend when 110 members volunteered for 12 projects, giving 214 hours to our community!
- ▶ A new relationship with Sanctuary In the Ordinary (SITO) and a \$10,000 gift to support affordable housing
- ▶ Our collection of 1,175.6 pounds of fresh produce to share with families served by Isaiah 58 Ministries
- ▶ A \$9,000 gift from our congregation to the PC(USA) Disaster Assistance response to the hurricanes in Florida and Latin America
- ▶ Almost \$9,000 worth of gifts provided to the community through our Giving Tree
- ▶ The work of the Environmental Stewardship Committee including an ongoing Air Quality Monitoring Program, dark sky education and work on our native garden
- ▶ The hours of time given by the Advocacy Team to promote social justice issues including voter rights and access, gun violence prevention, and addressing systemic racism and poverty
- ▶ Our vibrant relationship with our family from Afghanistan has grown and flourished!





## Worship & Music

- ▶ Celebrated 25 years of the "Music in a Great Place" series with diverse groups of guest musicians and concerts
- ▶ Began an ongoing relationship with Stony Hill Brass Quintet as our first "artists in residence"
- ▶ On Good Friday, Michael John Trotta's "Seven Last Words" was sung by a small ensemble of our Chancel Choir in a first ever performance of the piece with organ and MIDI instruments choreographed by organist Shawn Portell
- ▶ Continued our collaboration with Glendale Presbyterian Church and many friends from St. Louis Metro Singers for Lessons and Carols
- ▶ Dozens of members participated in the creation of congregational art projects for Lent and Christmas
- ▶ Continued an emphasis on musical diversity in worship with our congregation, choirs and music guests singing and playing music, hymns and songs both ancient and modern with organ, piano, choirs, handbells, children and worship band and guests



## Faith Formation & Education

Opportunities for Faith Formation have grown during 2022 including these highlights:

- ▶ Children gather weekly after worship to learn, sing, and pray during Sunday School. Together with them, we have all grown from the Scripture Conversation during worship, this fall's "Peanut Butter Pyramid" service project, and the annual Christmas Pageant. In addition, the nursery is reopened and available weekly.
- ▶ Youth have grown as individuals and as a group with weekly fellowship groups. Celtics (middle school) and Agape (high school) meet on Sunday afternoon and evening and share a meal together each week. Agape's annual Mission Trip to Chicago was meaningful for all involved.
- ▶ Adults have several options each week to deepen their faith. New lectionary-guided discussion sessions occur before worship on Sunday. A variety of faith topics are explored during Adult Education after worship. There are also weekly Bible or book studies to nourish your mind and heart.
- ▶ The Safe Sanctuary program was renewed to protect all children, youth and vulnerable people within our faith community.



## Property, Stewardship, Endowment & Finance



### New building improvements:

- ▶ Significant HVAC upgrades we were made in the Sanctuary in August
- ▶ Members completed installation of insulation on pipes in the Early Childhood Center
- ▶ Lease of the Moody lot was extended resulting in additional income annually
- ▶ Audiovisual improvements were made, including renovation of the station in the balcony
- ▶ Parking lot upgrades were made including sealing and lighting to comply with requests of Environmental Stewardship

### Stewardship Campaign Highlights:

- ▶ The campaign theme was "Devoted to Generosity" and included speakers from agencies and programs we support, pledge cards for children and youth and a newly named "Consecration Sunday"
- ▶ Our pledges came in over \$70,000 higher than last year at \$970,000
- ▶ We received 24 new pledges, and 60 families increased their pledge over last year

### Endowment Committee Highlights:

- ▶ Continued the Minute for Mission talks
- ▶ Attorney Beth McCarter and CPA Craig Campbell gave a planned giving presentation in November
- ▶ Rev. Joseph Moore from the Presbyterian Foundation provided an estate planning session in May

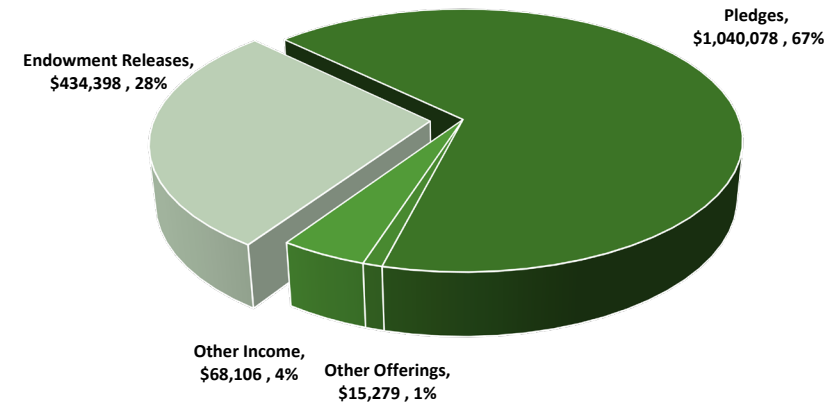
### Finance Committee Highlights:

- ▶ Adopted a new document and record retention/destruction policy
- ▶ Established the financial review committee that performed the review of the 2021 WGPC financials
- ▶ Started the process of applying for the employee retention tax credit



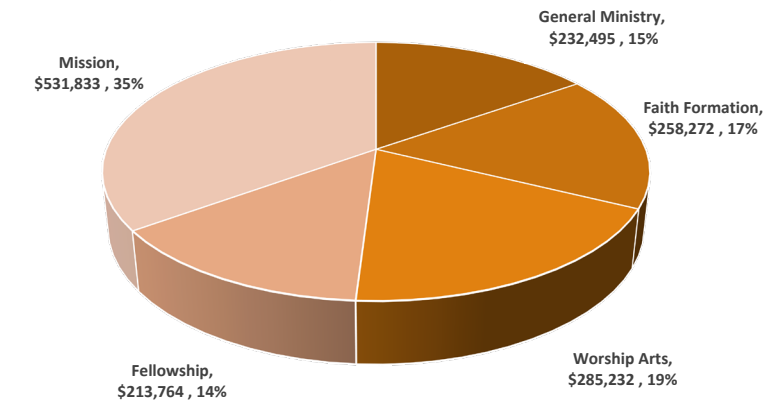
### 2022 General Fund Revenue

Total Income \$1,557,861



### 2022 General Fund Expense

Total Expense \$1,521,596





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