

Central Christian Church

# WHAT DOES OUR MONEY ALLOW US TO DO?

Stewardship Resource

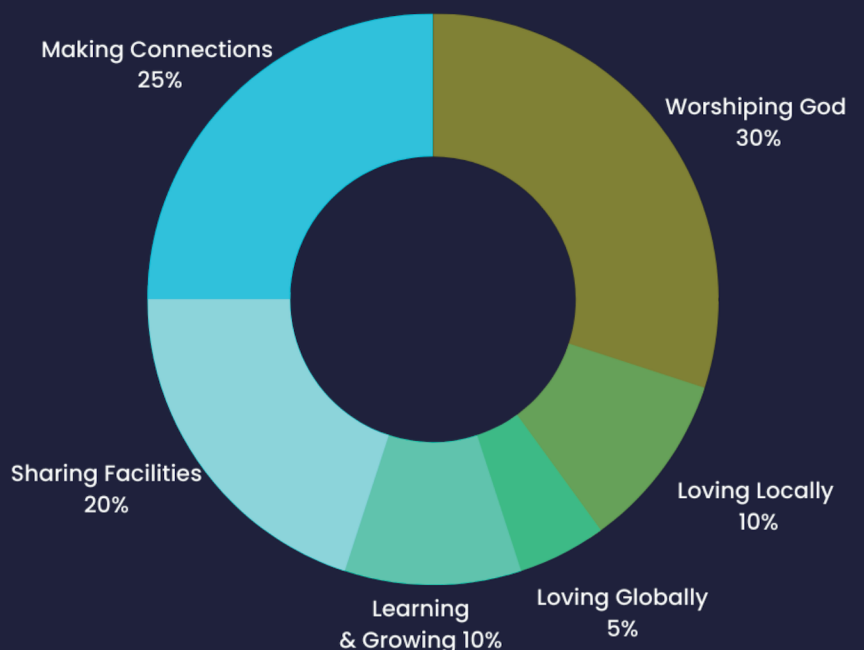
How we use our resources is a reflection of our love.

What we value in life influences how we invest our time, our talents, and our resources, which Jesus challenges us to see reflects what is on our hearts. He says, "For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also" (Matthew 6:21). Stewardship and how we use our resources is, therefore, not just about fundraising for the church. Our stewardship and our giving is an opportunity to reveal to the world and to God what is on our hearts.

## A Closer Look

When we think about what our money allows us to do, we can divide it into 6 main categories: Worshiping God; Loving Locally; Loving Globally; Learning & Growing; Sharing Facilities; and Making Connections.

Throughout this stewardship resource, you will see that when you support the church financially, your dollars become ministry, and through our ministry we know that God changes lives.



*Please Note: Percentages are estimates based on projected 2024 budget*

# OUR MONEY FUNDS THE LIFE & MINISTRY OF THE CHURCH



**WORSHIPING GOD**

Worship is at the heart of who we are as a community of faith. Worship forms us spiritually and allows us to respond to the Good News of God in our lives.



**LOVING LOCALLY**

Whether it is our food ministry to Muir Manor and other homebound members, our outreach to the students at S. Ellen Jones, or our support of partner organizations like Hope Southern Indiana, we are a church that loves our local community.



**LOVING GLOBALLY**

As a small church in Indiana, you might think that our ability to love is limited to our local community. And yet, we are finding ways to support the work of the Church on a global scale.



**LEARNING & GROWING**

Learning and growing is one of the goals of discipleship. Discipleship is fostered through educational classes, Bible studies, book discussions, fellowship opportunities, and other small group activities.



**SHARING FACILITIES**

Sharing our facilities with other non-profits and community groups is an important ministry of our church and it reminds us that we do not bear the burden of God's work on our own.



**MAKING CONNECTIONS**

God wants us to be in relationship with one another. Building healthy, meaningful, and supportive relationships within our church is incredibly important for our lives of faith.

# WORSHIPING GOD

Worship is the central experience for our community of faith each week. Through music and singing, praying, scripture reading, preaching, and communion, we reflect on and respond to God's good news in our lives.



## COLOSSIANS 3:16

"Let the message of Christ dwell among you richly as you teach and admonish one another with all wisdom through psalms, hymns, and songs from the Spirit, singing to God with gratitude in your hearts."

**Fun Fact** Central Christian Church provides over 60 worship opportunities each year for our church and our community, helping us all place God's good news at the center of our lives

## WE WILL WORSHIP GOD WITH GLADNESS AND JOY



Each year we provide engaging worship experiences for our church and the whole community, including services in partnership with other local churches like our Pride Worship service and Maundy Thursday/Good Friday, fun and creative services like the Blessing of the Animals we have on our church lawn, and other more intimate services like Ash Wednesday during Lent or The Longest Night service during Advent. Worship allows people in our church community to share their gifts and allows us to connect and engage with new people and families. When you give to Central Christian Church, you help ensure that we have the resources we need to worship God in meaningful ways.



We had over 1,500 views on our live-streamed Youtube worship services for the first half of 2023, which equates to roughly 50 a week. Our worship is not just about who is there physically with us in the sanctuary, but also those who join us virtually. And its not even just about Sunday mornings. Through our recorded services, we know people worship virtually with us even throughout the rest of the week.

# LOVING LOCALLY

Our desire is to become a community-oriented church. When the Church is focused on serving and loving the people around them and the community they live in, we believe that God's Spirit will do amazing things.



## JOHN 13:34-35

"A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another: just as I have loved you, you also are to love one another. By this all people will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another."

**Fun Fact** Our CMF & CWF gave nearly \$10,000 of outreach and support to our community this year, which goes above and beyond what is in our general budget

## WE ARE CALLED TO SHARE THE LOVE OF GOD TO OUR NEIGHBORS AND OUR NEIGHBORHOOD



Our Muir Manor food ministry is one of the biggest ways we serve our community each week. We asked a resident about the impact the ministry has on their life and they said, "when they bring the meals over, it is sometimes the only time I get a full meal." Loving our community means showing up for our community, and our food ministry is just one of the many ways we do that. When you give to Central Christian Church, you also help us support partner organizations like Hope Southern Indiana, who provide deeply needed programs for our community, and St. Marks Saturday Café. You also help us reach out to our neighbors through ministries to S. Ellen Jones Elementary School, and you allow us to show love and support to our LGBTQ+ neighbors through our growing Open and Affirming ministries. These are just a few of the many ways our church answers the call to love locally.

## DID YOU KNOW?

Our weekly food ministry provides roughly 3,200 meals a year to lower-income and older adults. Your financial contributions allow us to continue serving and loving our neighbors in really impactful and transformative ways.

# LOVING GLOBALLY

We believe that the love of God cannot be contained. It flows from our community, throughout our state, our region, our country, our continent, and all over the world. God's love extends to all people and all places.



## ACTS 1:8

"You will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth."

**Fun Fact** Central Christian Church helped donate 815 lbs of shoes to WaterStep this year in our Spring shoe drive, which provided 271 people with safe water for life!

## GOD'S LOVE ABUNDANTLY FLOWS TO ALL PEOPLE AND TO THE ENDS OF THE EARTH



Through our support of the Disciples Mission Fund (DMF), we are able to provide resources to 70+ ministries that spread across our country and around the globe. These ministries respond to natural disasters, provide clean water and food, support missionaries and plant new churches, just to name a few. Over the years, Central Christian Church has been recognized by the DMF as one of the top giving congregations of our size within the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ). Your financial support of Central Christian Church helps us fulfill our mission of witness and service to all people in the name of Jesus the Christ.



Our support of the Disciples Mission Fund (DMF) does not just come from the General Budget. Each year we provide roughly an additional \$10,000 to DMF through special offerings including the Easter, Pentecost, Thanksgiving, and Christmas offerings, Week of Compassion and the CWF Blessing Box special offerings.

# LEARNING & GROWING

The fundamental meaning of the Greek word for disciple used in the Bible is “a learner.” Discipleship implies a lifelong learning process; you never retire from your baptism! We desire to be a church where all people – young and old – have opportunities to grow in their life and faith.



## 2 PETER 3:18

“But grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. To him be glory both now and forever! Amen.”

## IF WE WANT THE CHURCH TO GROW, WE FIRST HAVE TO BE COMMITTED TO OUR OWN SPIRITUAL GROWTH



In this past year, we held our first elders retreat in many years. Through activities, reflections on scripture, and intentional conversations about faith, life, and church, the elder retreat provided a unique space for the elders to grow together and deepen their faith. In fact, most of the elders walked away saying it was one of the most enriching experiences they have participated in while at the church. This is just one of the many examples of opportunities offered at Central Christian Church for spiritual growth. Consider the CMF and CWF small groups, the ASK class or the Challengers class, other small group and book studies, baptism classes, or opportunities created by the Christian Education Department, your support of our congregation allows us to provide unique opportunities that help deepen the discipleship of our members.

### DID YOU KNOW?

According to Pew Research, 81% of people said they go to church because they want to grow closer to God, making this the top reason people attend churches. People want to grow in their faith and relationship to God!

# SHARING FACILITIES

When churches talk about being stewards of their resources, oftentimes it begins and ends with money. But, one of the biggest resources a church has is their building and property spaces. When we open our doors to other organizations who are doing amazing work in our community, we are being a catalyst for ministry.



## 1 PETER 4:9-10

"Cheerfully share your home with those who need a meal or a place to stay. God has given each of you a gift from his great variety of spiritual gifts. Use them well to serve one another."

## OFFERING OUR PHYSICAL SPACE IS MINISTRY THAT MAKES MORE MINISTRY POSSIBLE



This year we opened our doors to different groups in our community. Seniors With a Goal (SWAG) is a program through the Retired & Senior Volunteer Program of Hope Southern Indiana that meets twice a month in our A&P Building. This program seeks to reduce social isolation for seniors by providing a variety of social activities and community service projects. In addition to opening our doors to other groups like the Girl Scouts and the Rotary Club, we have also provided space for Project Recovery, a local non-profit that helps people get the support they need so that they can recover from addiction. When you support the church financially, we are able to provide the space that local groups and non-profits need for their programs and ministries, which positively impacts our community in ways we alone could not.

### DID YOU KNOW?

During the month of June, Central Christian's NaloxBox dispensed 94 Narcan Nasal Sprays and 77 Fentanyl Testing Strips. That accounts for 53% of Narcan nasal sprays and 78% of Fentanyl testing strips distributed by Project Recovery over their 5 locations throughout New Albany. By supporting other ministries in the community like Project Recovery, we are literally saving lives!

# MAKING CONNECTIONS

The connections we make in church run deep. Our church family becomes our support system. We celebrate together at your baptism. We are the people who will pray for you when you've had a bad day. We will eat many meals together and share memorable moments. And we will surround you and your family with support during the most difficult moments in life.



## GENESIS 2:18

"Then the Lord God said, 'It is not good for man to be alone; I will make him a helper as his partner.'"

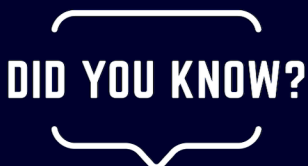
## 1 THESSALONIANS 5:11

"Therefore encourage one another and build each other up, just as in fact you are doing."

## A CHURCH THAT CULTIVATES RELATIONSHIPS IS A CHURCH THAT WILL FLOURISH



You have probably heard someone say this at church before, or maybe you have said it yourself: "Central just feels like family." There are so many ways that relationships are fostered, including our programs and ministries, our Sunday morning classes, our Christian Men's Fellowship or the many Christian Women's Fellowship circles and ovals, and our recently formed Youngerish Adult Group. One of the most meaningful experiences of church are the relationships we form. When financial resources are given to the church, we turn those resources into relationships that last a lifetime.



According to Barna studies, millennials who have a close relationship with an adult in the church – outside of the pastor – are more than twice as likely to stay connected to the church than those who do not have a relationship. Relationships matter!



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