



FOOTHILLS CHRISTIAN CHURCH
NARRATIVE
B U D G E T 2 0 2 4



*Because of You,
Our Church Changes Lives*



BECAUSE OF YOU, OUR CHURCH CHANGES LIVES

Narrative Budget 2024

Excitement fills the air at Foothills. New members have been joining several weeks in a row, and we've recently launched another small group series. Our mission and service projects are multiplying, and as you drive past our church, you'll be greeted by a colorful display of painted doors bearing the message, "God's Doors Are Open to All."

However, just two days after the door display was installed, we discovered an act of vandalism. Some doors were knocked over, stands torn apart, and a salt bag meant to weigh them down had been taken. Thankfully, within hours, Lealah and Carlos arrived to repair and restore the display.

Then, the church phone rang. I answered the call, it was someone who had just driven past our church and noticed the door display. I took a deep breath, expecting a complaint from a disgruntled neighbor. To my surprise, the caller was delighted to see the inclusive message of God's love. More and more of these positive messages have poured in, with statements like, "I'm so glad a church like this exists in our community." Thank you for helping us spread a message of affirming welcome.

Every Sunday, I leave worship with a heart full of gratitude for serving alongside such a vibrant and compassionate congregation. All our missions and ministries are made possible because of the generous pledges and offerings we receive. That's why this year, our stewardship theme is "Because of You, Our Church Changes Lives."

Continue reading to discover how your contributions of time, talent, and treasure, when combined with the offerings of others, can help Foothills step into a future filled with hope. Our narrative budget aligns with our core message: "Following Jesus, we love God, serve others, and welcome everyone... and everyone means you!"

As always, we extend our heartfelt gratitude for your generous support in making our ministry dreams a reality. Each heart touched and life changed is a direct result of your giving. Because of you, our church changes lives.

Peace,



Rev. Bekah Krevens





FOLLOWING JESUS

The "Following Jesus" segment of our budget encompasses all our youth and children's ministries, opportunities for adult faith formation, fellowship events, and the compassionate care provided by our Elders.

At Foothills, our strength lies in our connections. Through events such as the Back to School Fashion Show and Foothills Has Talent, we deepen our understanding of each other and provide our children with valuable opportunities to develop leadership skills. During game nights, potlucks, and our weekly Fellowship Hour, we cultivate relationships built on care and support. While participating in book club discussions, Bible study sessions, and small group lessons, we strengthen our faith.

We stand by each other in challenging times with shared meals and celebrate life's joyful milestones with baby showers and other gatherings. By spending quality time together through Wise Guys lunches, Disciples Women Ministries, and our newly formed Men's Breakfast we identify needs, discover talents, and find our path to serving our larger community—a diverse group of individuals unified by love and purpose.

A highlight from the past year was the addition of Kacie Kozman to our staff as our Youth Ministry Coordinator. In the upcoming year, our budget will support the continued growth of our youth ministry program. Your generosity will enable youth to attend church camp, provide curriculum, offer training for our Children's Worship and Wonder program and fund Vacation Bible School.

For this area of ministry, we have allocated \$88,371.

LOVING GOD

The "Loving God" section of our budget is all about worship, the very heart of our faith community at Foothills.

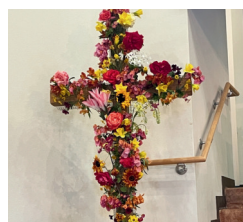
On Sunday mornings we gather for praise, prayer, scripture, and sharing communion. Over the past few months, our Ministry Table has been spending time wondering, innovating, and discerning how God might be calling us to expand our worship to make room for even more people. Soon we will seek input and ideas from the whole congregation as we dream together.

Throughout the year, special services such as Christmas Eve, Blessing of the Animals, Maundy Thursday, Easter Sunrise and the Lenten Stations of the Cross in our labyrinth deepen our faith. Our commitment to making worship accessible online is supported by our budget, providing the necessary technology and subscriptions needed for streaming our services.

On December 10th, we eagerly anticipate Janel Randle's Ordination during our Sunday morning worship service. We're grateful for all of our clergy, staff, and lay leaders who lead us each week. You can support us in worship by serving as a lay leader, communion server, greeter, or AV volunteer. If you have a musical gift, connect with Connie Savage, our Music Ministry Leader, to learn more about our Music Ministry Team.

Our worship is a profound expression of our love for God, and it strengthens our faith community.

For this area of ministry, we have allocated \$113,783.





SERVING OTHERS

The “Serving Others” portion of our budget includes all the ways our congregation puts our faith into action through mission and service. In 2024, Foothills will continue embodying our compassion through various initiatives.

We strongly believe in the power of partnership. Collaborating with other organizations allows us to have a more significant impact. We've been working with Casa Builders to help construct a home for a family in Nogales, Sonora. Throughout the year, our connection with the Dilkon Chapter of Navajo Nation involves supplying bicycles, back-to-school supplies, Christmas gifts, and more.

In the upcoming year, we will continue preparing sack lunches and snack packs for Asylum Seekers hosted by our friends at Lutheran Social Services of the Southwest. Additionally, we plan to enhance our support for the OneNTen organization, which serves LGBTQ+ youth ages 11-24.

Out of all the pledges and offerings we receive, a 10% tithe is designated for the Disciples Mission Fund, supporting both the wider world and the Regional and General ministries of the Christian Church (DOC). We also extend assistance through our community assistance fund to help families in need with rental assistance and utility payments. New for 2024, we've allocated a line item in our budget to support local outreach, which can contribute to programs such as Arizona Faith Network's Cooling Centers.

Our little free pantry in our parking lot is well-utilized by our neighbors, knitters make hats and blankets for Banner Thunderbird's NICU and in the coming Spring, we'll reintroduce our Makers Auction to raise additional funds for mission and service.

For this area of ministry, we have allocated \$80,731.

WELCOMING EVERYONE

The “Welcoming Everyone” area of our budget is dedicated to ensuring that everyone who walks through the doors of Foothills feels a wide welcome.

Every Sunday, we're delighted to welcome first-time visitors. With the presence of friendly greeters, visitor lunches, connect cards, and a professionally staffed nursery, we aim to provide an inviting atmosphere for all.

Our online presence continues to matter more and more each year. By regularly updating our website, maintaining an active social media presence, and sending out our weekly newsletter, we expand our reach and help more individuals connect with our congregation.

In our commitment to safety, we've introduced a new check-in kiosk with label printers for our youth and children's programs. These name tags include vital information such as allergies and emergency contact details. To further enhance safety, our staff and volunteers in these ministries undergo background checks, with an increasing number receiving CPR and First Aid training.

We also extend our warm welcome by opening our doors to outside groups. While these groups contribute to the general fund for building expenses, we remain diligent stewards of our facilities. Our 2024 budget includes plans for expected and unexpected repairs, ensuring our property is maintained faithfully and strategically.

Next year we've increased our evangelism budget, supporting the addition of a permanent display for our open and affirming message on the exterior of our property.

For this area of ministry, we have allocated \$63,148.





Across all the areas of ministry—Following Jesus, Loving God, Serving Others, and Welcoming Everyone—we strive to be responsible stewards of the generous resources you contribute to Foothills Christian Church.

(A line item budget is available for review in the church office)

