



Gratitude for Yesterday A Vision for Tomorrow



Our ministries would not be possible without the many ways you have pulled together, in the giving of your time, in the sharing of your God-given talents, and in the giving of your financial resources. Through your participation, First Presbyterian Church will be an ever-greater force for answering God's call for our lives and sharing our blessings with our Lincoln neighborhood and beyond. How does your giving impact that work? Read about what we've done and what we believe God is calling us to in 2023!

Celebrating and Magnifying God's Love

The church is about community with God and each other. Fellowship events, worship, caring visits, even how we welcome guests, is how we experience community together.

- Dick was one of one of our longtime members who wasn't able to attend worship in person, however our deacons and others made a point of visiting him regularly. He talked about loneliness, and how much he looked forward to our visits.
- Did you participate in Christmas Eve worship? With the choir and brass, the lights and candles, a message to inspire, and a community with which to worship, for many it was the year's highlight. For some, it was their time to connect with God and nurture a sense of holiness.
- Have you noticed the new faces among us this past year? Our Hospitality Ministry Team has! And they are creating a new online directory so we can help each other learn our names and build new friendships.



With your generosity, 26%, or \$251,625 of our 2023 budget, will support our work as we celebrate and magnify God's Love in our ministries of worship, caring and fellowship.

Impacting Lives – Making the World a Better Place

No one hears a call to follow Christ without also hearing a call to serve.

- This year we joined with 20 other faith communities to found Justice In Action, and together we are going to work to address mental health and criminal justice issues in Lancaster County.
- We helped Mpatso Bokosi, part of our online community, finish two classrooms in Malawi so first and second-graders didn't have to walk five miles just to go to school.



- We helped the Koats, members of our own church, recover from an apartment fire.
- We are working with Pastor Jock to provide fresh water in a village in South Sudan.
- We helped provide food to families at McPhee Elementary who live on the edge of subsistence.
- And more!

With your generosity and passion, 8%, or \$78,813 of our 2023 budget, will support the work we do putting faith into action, and making this world a better place.

Linking Faith and Life Online: Building Community

This year we really dove into developing an online community that would be a place, not only for our own members who are unable to attend events in person anymore, but for anyone looking for a safe place where they are accepted and loved as they are, where they can ask questions and have the freedom to explore and grow in their faith, and where they can find a supportive community that cares about them.

Our budget includes a significant investment so we can bring on board people who know more than we do about how to develop and grow this new ministry, and so that we can invest in education and technology to support it. Who does this ministry reach?

- About 40% of our worshipping community joins online through the livestream or listening to sermons later in the week.
- Many of our members who are unable to attend in person join through our livestream and online sermons.
- One online participant, who has been seeking a safe place to explore her faith, joined us for our Nov. 6 hybrid worship experience and has been worshipping with us ever since. She said she finally found a church that supports her values and gives her the space and support she needs to explore her own spirituality.
- Over the past two years we've had members move away who tell us they stay connected through our online worship and sermons.
- We even have a member who lives in Kansas join our online ministry team!

Time will tell how this ministry will grow and develop, and how our online and in-person ministries will support each other, but the baby steps we have taken so far have already made an impact! We are excited about what 2023 will hold for our church!

With your generosity and passion, 16%, or \$155,683 of our 2023 budget, will support the work we do in connecting with and supporting seekers online.



EXPERIENCE THEM HERE

Learning and Growing in Faith & Life



You might think that the Christian Education budget is all about buying curriculum and Sunday School and there definitely is some of that ..ok maybe a lot of that. But curriculum and supplies are only tools of what we really do. And what do we do? We are all about faith formation and faith formation involves so much more than just curriculum and supplies. It involves gathering young people in a safe place where they can ask questions and share their doubts. It involves volunteer teachers showing our children God's love through scriptural

stories and their own love and care. It involves adults discussing topics that not only challenge but encourage wrestling with the implications of those discussions. It involves all of this and then going out into the community and living what has been learned, shared, and discussed. Faith formation is beyond just the tools we use but using those tools in ways that help us grow in our faith, share the love of God, and be the church in our community.



With your generosity and passion, 16%, or \$156,070 of our 2023 budget, will support the work we do helping each other grow as they explore the intersections between faith and life.

Sharpening A Ministry Tool: God's House

"Let us build a house where love can dwell and all can safely live, a place where saints and children tell how hearts learn to forgive. Built of hopes and dreams and visions, rock of faith and vault of grace."

A building is just a building. A church is a place where hopes and faith are nurtured. It is a tool for ministry. We work hard to keep our 100-year-old building in good condition, to make it welcoming and accessible, because lives are changed in this space. People dealing with addictions find a safe place to meet and find support. Immigrants learning English come through our doors. Our chapel and gym have become a home for the Iglesia de JesuCristo. Children learn that God loves them. Adults are challenged to grow as disciples. We worship, we laugh, and we cry in this space.



Because this building is a space for ministry to happen and lives to be changed, last year we repaired plaster, replaced part of the irrigation system and reseeded lawns, and replaced 5 heating and air conditioning units. In 2023 we are looking forward to keeping our tool in tiptop shape by:

- repairing the windows of the Christian Education and Administration Building,
- continuing to repair our heating and air conditioning units,
- improving lighting of our G Street parking lot,
- not to mention paying the utilities and many more things.

With your generosity and passion, 34%, or \$321,363 of our 2023 budget, will support the work we do in keeping our space safe and welcoming.



WITH YOUR HELP, WE CAN DO THIS!

This budget represents our response to what we believe God is calling us to do in 2023.

Above is just a small sampling of what we do through this church.

With your generosity, we can not only do this, we can exceed this!

Please pledge your support to the ministry we are doing on behalf of God.

Remember, we can do as much as your giving makes possible!

A VISION FOR TOMORROW

