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## 1. Call to Order & Prayer

- a. Rev. Chase - Opening Prayer
- b. Brian - Opening Song

## 2. Approval of October 9, 2022 Council Meeting Minutes

The meeting of Church Council was brought to order by Matthew Miller, Chair. The following were in attendance:

Rev. Chase Burns	Betty Rutherford	Everett Rogers	Rev. Dane Womack
Linda Futrell	Linda Faulkner	Mike Rutherford	Bob Branch
Josh McMunn	Sara Dickey	Angela Newby	Karoline Risker
Tracy Brengard	Henry Thompson	Nancy Cupp	Nancy Bruce
Susie Cook	Mary Justice	Jonathan Peel	Leslie Hobbs
Gene McIlvoy	Gloria Bridges	Katie Kasserman	Bobby Kasserman
Rena Jackson	Matthew Miller	Shelia Ragsdell	Brenda Anderson
Jim Jackson	Patyon Brown		

Rev. Dane opened the meeting with prayer. This meeting is to hear from all committees on their ministries in 2022 and approve reports for the Charge Conference to be held by Zoom in November.

Staff-Parish Relations Committee: Everett Rogers, Chair (report attached).

The committee recommended that the pastors receive a 4% increase in compensation.

*Everett motioned that Rev. Dane Womack's salary be increased to \$122,685. Josh McMunn seconded this motion. No discussion. Vote: All in favor.*

*Everett motioned that Rev. Chase Burn's salary be increased to \$67,316. Bob Branch seconded this motion. No discussion. Vote: All in favor.*

Finance Committee: Matthew Miller (report attached)

2022 has been a very solid year to date. The continued stability in giving is encouraging. Our building debt is below \$3 million.

Trustee Committee: Tracy Brengard, Chair (report attached)

Trustees have had a very busy 2022. Roofs have been repaired from hail damage, Sanctuary flat roofs replaced, repairs and replacement of HVAC units, donations received of a box truck for mobile ministries and new home for Sr. Parsonage are just a few of the past projects. There are always repairs and updates needed of which the committee continues to work on.

Missions/Witt House: Mary Justice, Chair (report attached)

Hospitality Committee: Nancy Cupp, Chair (report attached)

Rev. Chase Burns Pastor's Report (copy attached)

During the past year completed course work and was ordained at the Arkansas Conference. Rev. Chase will be visiting Israel in 2023 along with others through the Arkansas Methodist Foundation. A very busy year with community, youth, missions, hospitality, etc.

Membership, Nominations & Leadership: Rev. Dane Womack, Chair (reports attached)

Total membership for FUMC increased by 3 in 2022 bringing the membership total to 1066. The Class of 2025 has been completely filled. The following have accepted chair positions - Church Council: Kelsey Matheney, SPRC: Robert Thompson, Finance: Seth Dearing, Mission Team: Tracy Finch, Hospitality Team: Nancy Cupp. There were no questions on the membership report.

*Everett Rogers motioned that the Membership Report be approved as presented. Tracy Brengard seconded the motion. No discussion. Vote: All in favor.*

Rev. Dane Womack Pastor's Report: (copy attached)

With pandemic conditions improving, more in-person ministries have returned. A 'Next 100 years Campaign' was held for a debt reduction, office suite renovation, and sanctuary maintenance. This brought new and renewed 5 year commitments. Many improvements have been made in 2022 and many more are being considered for 2023.

*Bob Branch motioned that all reports be approved and forwarded to the District Office for Charge Conference. Susie Cook seconded the motion. No discussion. Vote: All in favor.*

A 2023 meeting schedule was proposed by Rev. Dane. (copy attached) Discussion was also held on adopting a Holiday Worship Schedule to have just one 10am Worship Service on Memorial Day, July 4, Labor Day, and Sunday following Christmas. It was unanimous to have just 1 service on these weekends.

After discussion the meeting was adjourned.

Respectively Submitted

Denise S. Chipman  
Church Administrator

**\*action item - approve minutes**

# DISCIPLESHIP

## 3. Table Conversation

- a. Share joys & celebrations of 2022
- b. Where is God calling us next?
- c. What choices do we need to make?

## 4. 2023 FUMC Lay Leadership & Staff Structure

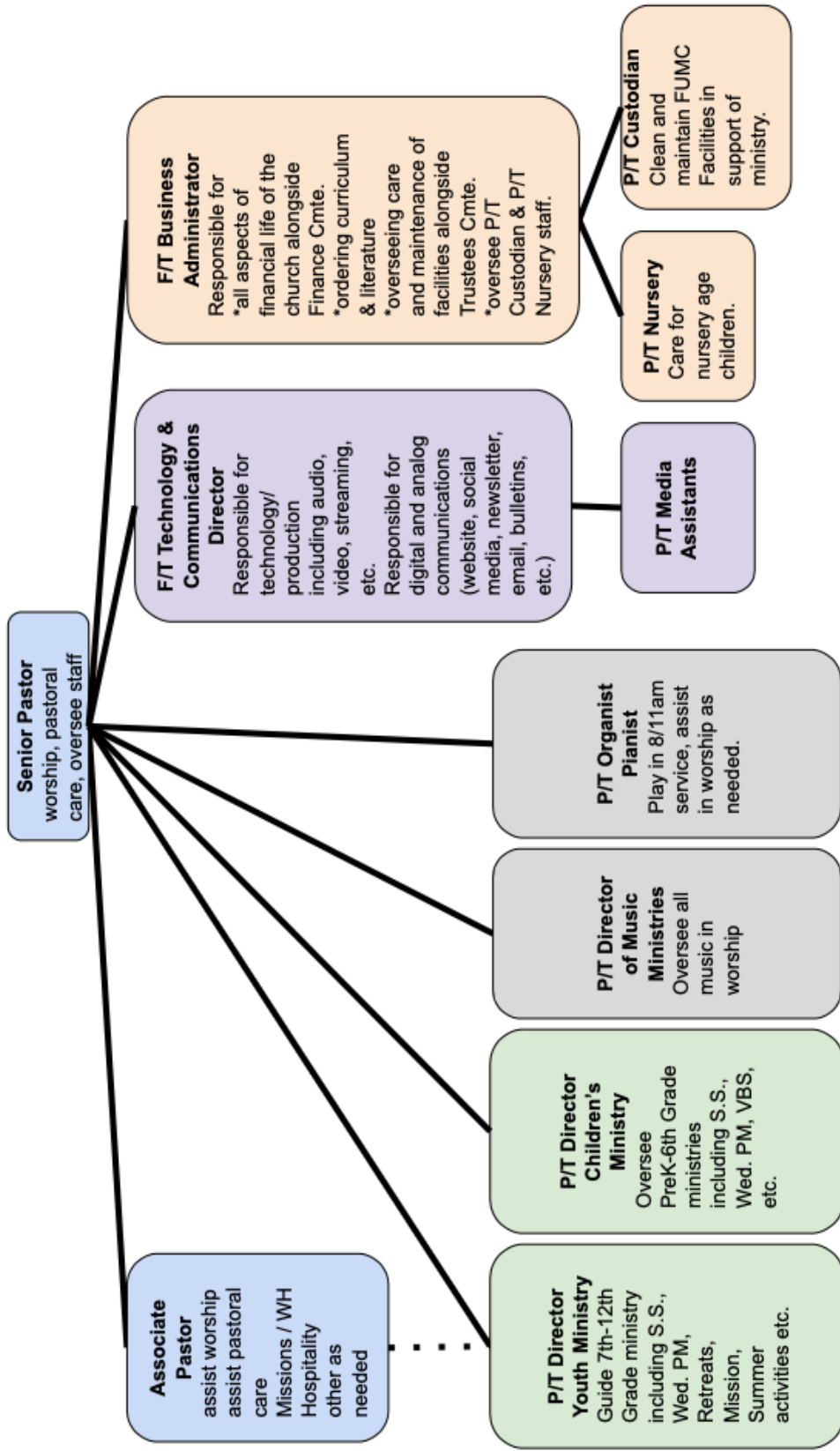
PARAGOULD FUMC LEADERSHIP ROSTER 2023		
<b>Church Council</b>		
Council Chair:	Kelsey Matheney	
Lay Leader/Member to AC:	Gene Weeks	
Lay Member to AC:	Mary Justice	
Alt. Lay Member to AC:	Susie Cook	
Chair of SPRC:	Robert Thompson	
Chair of Finance:	Seth Dearing	
Chair of Trustees:	<i>to be elected by Trustees in '23</i>	
Church Treasurer:	Greg Graham	
Mission Team Chair:	Tracy Finch	
Hospitality Team Chair:	Nancy Cupp	
Pastors:	Rev. Dane Womack & Rev. Chase Burns	
Administrative & Program Staff: Angela Newby, Mary Hickox, Brian Pearson, Bernard Raley, Karoline Risker, Denise Chipman		
<b>At-large Members:</b>		
<i>Class of '23:</i>	<i>Class of '24:</i>	<i>Class of '25:</i>
Bob Reynolds	<del>Mary Hickox</del>	Jonathan Peel
Lauren Graham	Dixie Lawrence	Kevin Moslander
Gene McIlvoy	Kay Luter	Tina Russell
Kelsey Matheney	Josh McMunn	Audra Brown
Sara Dickey	Brenda Anderson	Linda Glickert
Katie Kasserman (youth)	Payton Brown	Carter Beliew (youth)
		Kinlee Weatherford (youth)

<b>Finance Committee</b>		
<i>Class of '23:</i>	<i>Class of '24:</i>	<i>Class of '25:</i>
Valerie Shelton	Kay Bland	Mary Ann Allen
Crete Rhodes	Cindy Shepherd	John Jacob Cook
Seth Dearing (Chair)	Martha McCain	Ryan Lawrence
Ex officio w/ vote:		
Treasurer:	Greg Graham	
SPRC Chair:	Robert Thompson	
Trustees Chair:	<i>to be elected by Trustees in '23</i>	
Church Council Chair:	Kelsey Matheney	
Lay Leader/Member to AC:	Gene Weeks	
Lay Member to AC:	Mary Justice	
<b>Staff-Parish Relations Committee</b>		
<i>Class of '23:</i>	<i>Class of '24:</i>	<i>Class of '25:</i>
Robert Thompson (Chair)	Neva Shewmaker	H T Moore
Susan Blossom	Sandra Wamock	Dannelle Rogers
Linda Faulkner	Hayley Richardson	Natalie Bland
Ex officio w/ vote:		
Lay Leader/Member to AC:	Gene Weeks	
Lay Member to AC:	Mary Justice	
<b>Trustees</b>		
<i>Chair to be elected by Trustees in '23</i>		
<i>Class of '23:</i>	<i>Class of '24:</i>	<i>Class of '25:</i>
Nathan Newby	Joe Barnett	Mona Tullos
Janice Wilcox	Bill Phillips	Julie McHaney
Mike Bruce	Clint Beliew	Rusty McAllister
<b>Committee on Lay Leadership &amp; Nominations</b>		
Chair: Senior Pastor		
<i>Class of '23:</i>	<i>Class of '24:</i>	<i>Class of '25:</i>

Tommy Grooms	Mauri Rogers	D. J. Jackson
Jackie Barnett	Jessica Brewer	Tori Thompson
Phylis Hamblen	Stan Phillips	Jason Weatherford
Ex officio w/out vote: Assoc. Pastor		
Ex officio w/ vote, Lay Leader:	Gene Weeks	
<b>Memorial Committee</b>		
<i>Class of '23:</i>	<i>Class of '24:</i>	<i>Class of '25:</i>
Mary Ann Stallcup	Carolyn Samuel	Mack Shotts
W T Shewmaker	Shay Wyatt	Rena Jackson
<b>Endowment Committee</b>		
<i>Class of '23:</i>	<i>Class of '24:</i>	<i>Class of '25:</i>
Robert Branch	Mary Ann Allen	Kay Luter
<p>Official descriptions of Committee and Chair Responsibilities are found in the UMC Discipline. A free online version of the Discipline is available at:  <a href="https://www.cokesbury.com/book-of-discipline-book-of-resolutions-free-versions">https://www.cokesbury.com/book-of-discipline-book-of-resolutions-free-versions</a></p>		
<p>The UMC website offers site summary information:  <a href="https://www.umcdiscipleship.org/resources/local-church-officer-job-descriptions">https://www.umcdiscipleship.org/resources/local-church-officer-job-descriptions</a></p>		
<p>The following teams are organized to help oversee the ministry efforts of the church. These are allowed for and encouraged under the UMC Discipline as needed in each church's context. These are less formal in their title/structure than required committees. People may serve on these groups as well as committees listed above. Leadership in these groups may include persons not listed formally on this Nominations report.</p>		
<b>Discipleship Ministry Co-op</b>		
Pastors:	Rev. Dane Womack & Rev. Chase Burns	
Administrative & Program Staff: Angela Newby, Mary Hickox, Brian Pearson, Bernard Raley, Karoline Risker, Denise Chipman		
Chair of Church Council:	Kelsey Matheney	
Lay Leader:	Gene Weeks	
Mission Team Chair & Rep(s):	Tracy Finch	
Hospitality Team Chair & Rep(s):	Nancy Cupp	
Children's Ministry Team	Angela Newby (staff), Scarlett McMunn, Audra Brown, Hayley Ricahrdson, Susie Cook	
Youth Ministry Team	Mary Hickox (staff), Samantha Lahaie, Weatherford, Wallace, etc.	

<b>Adult Discipleship Team</b>		
Connect Wednesday Reps:	Janice Wilcox, Susie Cook, Donna Jones, others...	
Women's Ministry Rep(s):	Karoline Risker, Lesley Hobbs, others...	
Men's Ministry Rep(s):	Rev. Dane, others...	
Adult SS Teachers/Leaders(s):	Robin Patten, Jason Weatherford, Everett Rogers, Shelia Ragsdale, Mary Justice, others...	
<b>Mission Team</b>		
Chair: Tracy Finch		
Judy Dacus (Secretary), Kerry Combs, Linda Faulkner, Tracy Finch, Guyla Jackson, Jim Jackson, Rena Jackson, Mary Justice, Betty Rutherford, John Shepherd, Charlotte Thompson		
<b>Hospitality Team</b>		
Chair: Nancy Cupp		
Janice Willcox; Linda Futrell; Susie Cook; Rusty McAllister; Matt Hobbs		
<b>2023 Adhoc Subcommittees:</b>		
Facility Security & Safety Subcommittee (Report to Trustees)		
320 W Main Property Future Subcommittee (Report to Trustees)		

# Paragould First United Methodist Church Staff Responsibilities & Alignment 2023

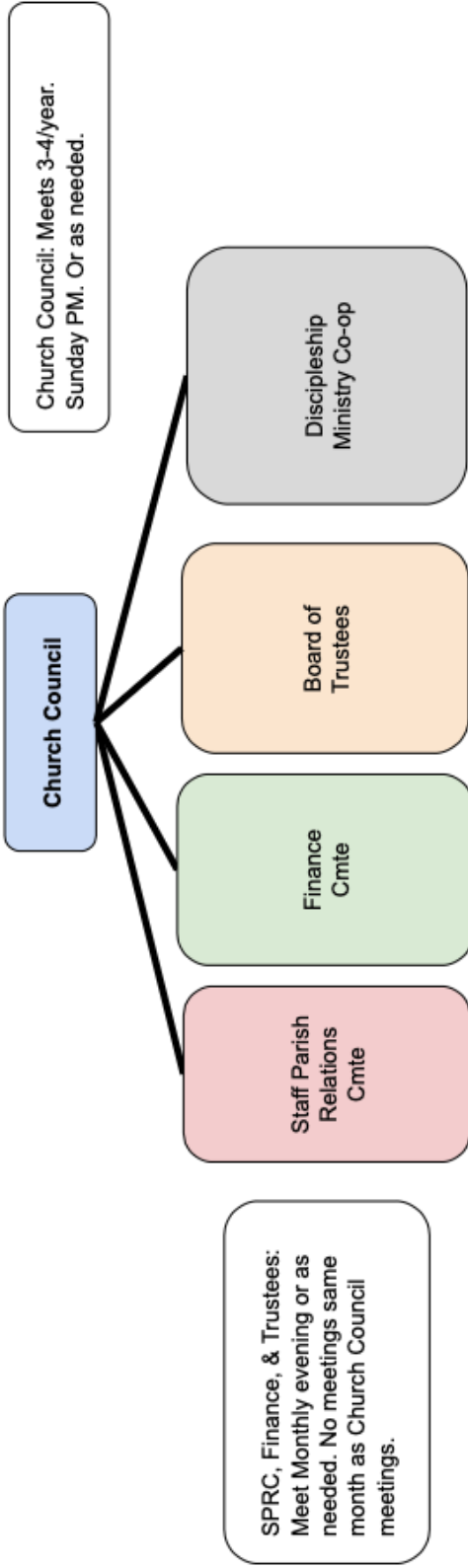


The Staff-Parish Relations Committee is the personnel agency of First United Methodist and oversees all local church staff, including consultation with the Bishop of the Arkansas Area and the appointive cabinet relating to clergy under appointment to First United Methodist Church. The pastors of First United Methodist Church are appointed by the Bishop of the Arkansas Area in consultation with the Staff-Parish Relations Committee, and the Senior Pastor (when an Associate Pastor is under consideration). The Bishop has the final authority in the appointments of clergy.

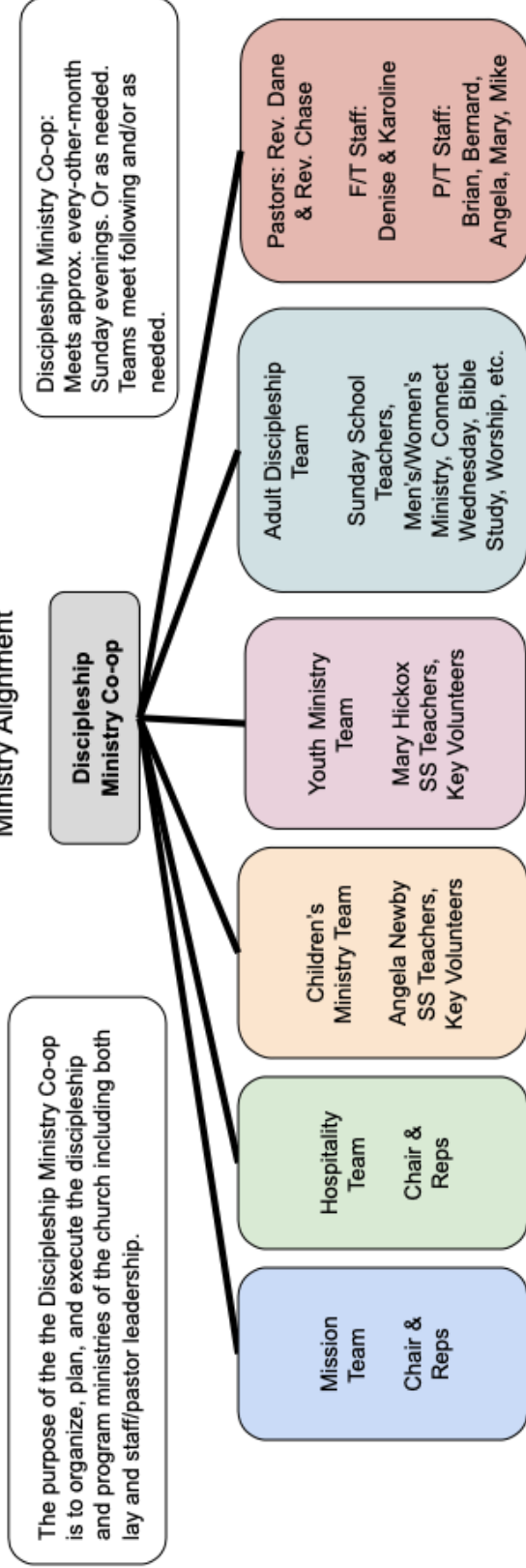


## 2023 Paragould First United Methodist Church

### Administrative Alignment



### Ministry Alignment



## 5. 2023 Meeting Schedule

<p>Jan 1, Sun One 10am Service Worship Center</p> <hr/> <p>Jan 8, Sun 3pm Leadership Orientation Church Council Mtg</p> <hr/> <p>Feb 5, Sun 4pm - Discipleship Ministry Co-op Mtg</p> <hr/> <p>Feb 19, Sun 4pm - SPRC Meeting 5pm - Finance Meeting 6pm - Trustees Meeting</p> <hr/> <p>Feb 22, Ash Wednesday</p> <hr/> <p>Feb 26, Bishop Merrill @ FUMC</p> <hr/> <p>Mar 3-5 Youth @ Veritas</p> <hr/> <p>Mar 10-12 Confirmation Retreat</p> <hr/> <p>Mar 12, Sun 4pm - SPRC Meeting 5pm - Finance Meeting 6pm - Trustees Meeting</p> <hr/> <p>March 20-24 Spring Break</p> <hr/> <p>Apr 2, Sun 4pm - Discipleship Ministry Co-op Mtg</p> <hr/> <p>Apr 6 Maundy Thu / Apr 7 Good Fri / Apr 9 Easter</p> <hr/> <p>April 23, Sun 4pm - SPRC Meeting 5pm - Finance Meeting 6pm - Trustees Meeting</p> <hr/> <p>May 14, Sun - 5pm Church Council Mtg</p> <hr/> <p>June 4, Sun 4pm - Discipleship Ministry Co-op Mtg</p> <hr/> <p>June 11-15 VBS</p> <hr/> <p>June 25, Sun 4pm - SPRC Meeting 5pm - Finance Meeting 6pm - Trustees Meeting</p> <hr/> <p>June 26-30 Ready, Set, READ</p>	<p>July 9-14 Ozark Mission Project @ FUMC</p> <hr/> <p>Aug 6, Sun 4pm - Discipleship Ministry Co-op Mtg</p> <hr/> <p>Aug 13, Sun 4pm - SPRC Meeting 5pm - Finance Meeting 6pm - Trustees Meeting</p> <hr/> <p>Sep 10, Sun 4pm - SPRC Meeting 5pm - Finance Meeting 6pm - Trustees Meeting</p> <hr/> <p>Oct/Nov - ARUMC Charge Conf / Church Council DATE TBD</p> <hr/> <p>Oct 29, Sun - Trunk-or-Treat</p> <hr/> <p>Nov 5, Sun 4pm - Discipleship Ministry Co-op Mtg</p> <hr/> <p>Nov 12, Sun 4pm - SPRC Meeting 5pm - Finance Meeting 6pm - Trustees Meeting</p> <hr/> <p>Dec 3, Sun - Children's Christmas Program</p> <hr/> <p>Dec 10, Sun - Youth Progressive Dinner</p> <hr/> <p>Dec 17, Sun - Choral Christmas Concert</p> <hr/> <p>Dec 24, Sun - Christmas Eve 11am, 5pm, 7pm, 11pm</p> <hr/> <p><b>OTHER</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Rev. Chase @ Israel Feb. 6-16</li> <li>• Rev. Dane &amp; Jill anticipating birth of child Mar. 24</li> <li>• Mission, Hospitality, Youth, Children, Adult Ministry, etc. TEAMS would meet monthly and/or at their discretion as needed.</li> </ul> <p><b>Holiday Worship Schedule: 10am Service &amp; No Sunday School:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Memorial Day Wknd- May 28- Sanctuary</li> <li>• Independence Day Wknd- July 2- Worship Center</li> <li>• Labor Day Wknd- Sept. 3- Sanctuary</li> <li>• Sunday after Christmas- Dec. 31- Worship Center</li> </ul>
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## 5. Ministry Snapshot

*spring* **2023** *dates to remember*

- Jan 1 Sun. 10am Service Worship Center Covenant Renewal
- Jan 5 Thur. 6am Men's Breakfast Ironhorse (1st & 3rd Thurs)
- Jan 8 Sun. 3-6pm Leadership Orientation
- Jan 9 Mon. 1pm Young at Heart Movie (2nd Mon)
- Jan 10 Tue 6:45am Sr High Breakfast Ironhorse (2nd Tues)
- Jan 15 Sun. 5pm YOUTH Bowling
- Jan. 18 - May 17 Connect Wednesday 5pm Dinner & 6pm Studies & Activities all ages.
- Jan 19 Thur. 10am Young at Heart Yoga & Lunch Downtown Paragould (Monthly Outings)
- Jan 23 Mon. 5:30pm Young at Heart Game Night (4th Mon)
- Feb 5 Sun. 4pm Discipleship Ministry Co-op Mtg
- Feb 22 Ash Wednesday Noon & 6pm Sanctuary
- Feb 26 Sun. ARUMC Bishop Laura Merrill @ FUMC
- CONFIRMATION Retreat March 10-12; Sessions Sun. 3p-5p: March 26, April 16th, April 23rd, May 14th
- March 3-5 YOUTH Veritas
- April 6 Maundy Thursday Noon & 6pm Sanctuary
- April 7 Good Friday Noon & 6pm Sanctuary
- April 8 Holy Saturday Children's Egg Hunt
- April 9 Easter Sunday

ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL		
CLASS	LEADER	LOCATION
Coffee Break	Weatherfords	Gathering Room near Kitchen
Fellowship	Shelia Ragsdell	Small Old Nursery Room
Homemakers	Mary Justice	Chapel
Pairs & Spares	Everett Rogers	Large Old Nursery Room
Sisters in Spirit	Sally Martin, Linda Glickert	Old 3yo/4yo Room
Wesley Class	Robin Patten	Community Room
Transitions	?	Old Coffee Break Room

YOUNG AT HEART
January
Monday 1/9/23 1pm: Movie in Church Theater (2nd Floor) "Carousel"
Thursday 1/19/23 10am: Paragould Downtown: Yoga @ Church, Hyde Park & Something Sweet
Monday 1/23/23 5:30pm: Game Night @ Church in Welcome Center
February:
Monday 2/13/23 1pm: Movie in Church Theater (2nd Floor) "Groundhog Day"
Thursday 2/23/23 10am: Jonesboro: Lazarri's Italian Oven
Monday 2/27/23 5:30pm: Game Night @ Church in Welcome Center

**CONNECT WEDNESDAY SPRING '23 - Jan 18 thru May 17**

Jan. 18 - Mar. 15 (8 sessions excluding Ash Wednesday)

4:00 PM	Bible Study	Rev. Dane	Community Room
5:45-7:00 PM	Nursery Available (birth - 3)		Nursery
5:00 PM	Dinner	Kitchen Crew	Fellowship Hall / Gym
6:00 PM	Children's Activities (PreK-6th)	Angela Newby	Children's Area
	Youth (7th-12th) Small Group	Mary Hickox & Rev. Chase	Welcome Center
	Adult Bible Study	Rev. Dane	Community Room
	Choir	Brian Pearson	Sanctuary
7:30 PM	Praise Band Practice	Brian Pearson	Worship Center

NOTE: Feb. 22: Ash Wednesday services at 12noon and 6pm. Dinner at 5pm. No classes/activities.

March 22: Spring Break - no meal or activities

Mar. 29 - May 17 (8 sessions)

4:00 PM	Bible Study	Rev. Chase	Community Room
5:45-7:00 PM	Nursery Available (birth - 3)		Nursery
5:00 PM	Dinner	Kitchen Crew	Fellowship Hall / Gym
6:00 PM	Children's Activities (PreK-6th)	Angela Newby	Children's Area
	Youth (7th-12th) Small Group	Mary Hickox	Youth Room
	Adult Bible Study	Rev. Chase	Community Room
	Choir	Brian Pearson	Sanctuary
7:30 PM	Praise Band Practice	Brian Pearson	Worship Center

- Women's Ministry
  - Bible Study (Wed. 9:30am) & Prayer Group (Wed. 11am)
  - Feb. 11 10am Women's Valentine Cookie Exchange
  - Threads of Faith - Fridays 10am
- Men's Ministry - twice-month breakfast
- Witt House Open Tue 4:30-6 & Fri 9:30-11am
- Youth SS, Connect Wednesday, Special Events (e.g. Bowling, Veritas, etc.)
- Children SS, Connect Wednesday, Other (e.g. Egg Hunt)

## 6. Group Share

**When you consider discipleship, where is God calling us next? What choices do we need to make?**

Examples suggestions collected past year:

1. 5th Sunday Churchwide Breakfast/Brunch in lieu of Sunday School
2. Men's Ministry - now twice monthly breakfast - possible retreat this Fall
3. Women's Ministry - beyond daytime activities - quarterly? Monthly?
4. Parenting and/or Marriage class/retreat - When? How long?
5. Music: GCTHS & PSDHS bands and choirs "guest" once/year in worship? Handbells? Fine Arts Concerts?
6. Pastors book club
7. International Mission Trip
8. Guests Speakers/Presenters/Musicians
9. Something big?

# FINANCES & FACILITIES

## 6. 2022 Financial Report

		Month Ending - December 2022			
		BEGINNING BAL	DEPOSITS	DISTRIBUTED	ENDING BAL
<b>Fund Balances</b>					Notes
General	57,342	108,813	88,395	77,760	need \$20,000 for automatic payroll
Building / 100 Yr Campaign	272,589	179,774	9,670	442,693	
Memorial	29,336	965		30,301	
Benevolent	145,567	7,538	1,723	151,382	
Youth	26,390		3,400	22,990	
Foundation	44,876			44,876	
Witt House	20,875	16,623	5,890	31,608	
Family Dinner	9,355	-	-	9,355	

	NOVEMBER		DECEMBER		YEAR TO DATE	
	2022	2021	2022	2021	2022	2021
<b>Monthly/YTD Comparison</b>						
Operating Budget - YTD						
Received - General Funds	70,309	128,255	108,813	182,255	1,163,368	1,145,961
Distributed - General	66,925	75,124	88,395	825,942	892,793	825,942
Received - Building Funds	17,761	100,245	179,774	858,335	954,557	858,335
Distributed - Building	10,637	178,069	9,670	412,838	688,603	412,838
Other Designated Receipts	7,425	11,624	25,126	188,381	361,382	501,476
Other Designated Distributed	7,643	39,923	11,013	59,756	155,798	188,381
Total Received	95,495	240,124	313,713	1,737,194	1,737,194	1,427,161
Total Distributed	85,205	293,116	109,078	1,419,567	1,507,073	1,419,567

	AUGUST		SEPTEMBER		OCTOBER		NOVEMBER		DECEMBER	
	pay in September	pay in October	pay in October	pay in November	pay in November	pay in December	pay in December	pay in December	pay in December	
<b>Apportionments - 2022</b>										
District Mission Apportionment (set by conference)	93	98	98	98	98	98	98	98	98	98
Conference consideration (10% of contributions)	5,510	6,664	6,664	7,032	7,032	7,031	7,031	10,879	10,879	10,879

Original Loan \$3,735,613
2022 Interest Paid \$116,125
2022 Principal Paid \$220,000
<b>Principal Remaining \$2,979,836</b>
Interest Rate 3.95%

Project Cost: \$5,976,073 (beginning Jan 2018)

## 7. 2023 Proposed Budget

2023 FUMC BUDGET				
A/C	Line Item		2023	
	<u>LOCAL CHURCH BUILDINGS</u>			
701	Church Maintenance		70,000.00	
702	Parsonage (320 W Main)		2,500.00	
703	Parsonage (417 W Main)		2,500.00	
704	Property/Auto Insurance		66,100.00	
706	Transportation/Vans		3,000.00	
707	<b>Parsonage (102 Cypress)</b>		2,500.00	
			<b>146,600.00</b>	
	<u>PROGRAMS</u>			
710	Education		15,000.00	
711	Adult/Senior Ministry (Young @ Heart)		500.00	
712	Youth Ministry - 7th-12th		15,000.00	
713	Children's Ministry (confirmation/Bibles/pool/etc.)		2,500.00	
714	Children's Programs (Easter, Back to School, Fall Festival, etc.)		1,500.00	
715	Vacation Bible School		5,000.00	
716	<b>First Core (Young Adults)</b>		1,000.00	
720	Music Ministry - Adult (musicians, music, cantata, robe clean)		3,500.00	
721	Music Ministry - Children		200.00	
722	Handbells		200.00	
723	Keyboard Instruments (organ and piano tuning)		3,500.00	
724	Music Ministry - Praise Band		500.00	
725	Worship (candles, communion supplies, acolyte supplies, etc.)		2,000.00	
729	<b>Hospitality</b> (first time visitor gifts, donuts, etc)		4,500.00	
730	Outreach/Evangelism/Missions		3,500.00	
731	Witt House		10,000.00	
740	Advertising/Technology/Comm		25,000.00	
			<b>93,400.00</b>	
	<u>GENERAL EXPENSE</u>			
771	Office Supplies		7,500.00	
771A	<b>Newsletter</b>		8,000.00	
772	Postage		2,500.00	
773	Equipment Repair or Replace		1,500.00	
775	Lights/Water		95,000.00	
776	CenterPoint Energy Gas		9,000.00	
777	Telephone/Internet		2,500.00	
778	Copier		6,000.00	
779	Kitchen & Cleaning Supplies		5,000.00	
790	Professional Services (accountant)		1,700.00	
799	Miscellaneous Expense			
			<b>138,700.00</b>	

<u>STAFF</u>			
<i>Pastor's Salaries</i>			
801	Senior Pastor	98,685.00	
802	Senior Pastor Housing	6,000.00	
803	Senior Pastor Prof Expense Reimbursed	1,500.00	
805	Senior Pastor Pension	18,000.00	
811	Associate Salary	51,273.00	
812	Associate Housing	6,000.00	
813	Associate Prof Expense Reimbursed	1,000.00	
815	Associate Pension	10,043.00	
<i>Support Staff</i>			
820			
825			
826			
829			
831			
832			
835			
836			
780			
840	Nursery	12,000.00	
850	SS WH and State Tax	17,000.00	
860	Annual Conference Expense (Lay members)	1,000.00	
861	Continuing Education	2,500.00	
862	Civic Club	1,000.00	
870	Christmas Bonus	3,625.00	
		<b>467,330.00</b>	
<u>APPORTIONMENTS</u>			
901	Direct Billed Pension	33,500.00	
902	Tithe Initiative	95,500.00	
903	District Mission Apportionment (Wesley)	1,168.00	
		<b>130,168.00</b>	
<u>CONNECTIONAL BENEVOLENCES</u>			
965	Emergency Benevolence	500.00	
	<i>Sub-Total</i>	<b>976,698.00</b>	
<u>BUILDING LOAN</u>			
709	Building loan interest	180,000.00	
710	Building loan principal	150,000.00	
	<b>TOTAL BUDGET</b>	<b>1,306,698.00</b>	

\*action item - vote to approve 2023 Budget



## 8. Next 100 Years Campaign

**Goal** - Five Year Campaign culminate '26 celebrating 100 years & debt free.

**Debt** - The construction loan closed at ~\$3.7million and the current debt owed is ~\$2.9million. Monthly interest payments and annual principal payments. The annual payment on our note is ~\$270k for a 5/20 year note. **We should soon transfer another ~\$250k+ toward principal.**

**Sanctuary maintenance** - Roofs replaced. Water damage repairs ongoing. ... Other: Stained Glass & Technology.

**Office suite renovation** - Renovate former nursery space to develop an office suite.

NEXT 100 YEARS / DEBT	
SANCTUARY MAINTENANCE	
West Side Flat Roof & Interior Paint/Plaster Repair	\$60,000
East Side Flat Roof & Interior Paint/Plaster Repair	\$60,000
Additional Interior Paint/Plaster Repair	Quote pending
Stained Glass (Soos new frames & protective glass)	\$75,000
FIRST FLOOR OFFICE SUITE	\$200,000
SANCTUARY TECHNOLOGY	\$50,000
CURRENT DEBT	\$2,900,000
TOTAL	\$3,225,000
Benevolent Funds Designated for Sanctuary Upkeep & Repair	(\$80,000)
Next 100 Years/Building Fund	(\$442,000)
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$2,703,000</b>

## 9. OTHER

### a. Facility Issues

- i. 417 W. Main - Masterbath Remodel Approved \$10k - Pending
- ii. Add mini-split AC units in Kitchen & Chapel? Approx. \$15k/each.
- iii. Stain Ceiling Tiles Welcome Center, Youth Room, Chase's Office, Hallway outside chapel, etc. ...
- iv. Prayer kneelers in Worship Center
- v. Drainage issues around Welcome Center sidewalk & playground
- vi. Water basement

### b. 320 W Main Parsonage

- i. Trustees AdHoc Subcommittee
- ii. Trustees make Recommendation to Church Council

### c. Future Witt House Facility

- i. Do we need a different facility in long-term Witt House and outreach efforts?

### d. Safety & Security

- i. Trustees AdHoc Subcommittee
- ii. FUMC needs to develop Safety & Security standards and expectations
  1. Fire & Weather
  2. First Aid (Choke/Dechoker; Defibrillator)
  3. Doors Locked/Unlocked
  4. Dangerous Intruder
  5. Child Custody Issue
  6. Security Team
- iii. Annual Training

### e. ARUMC Safe Gatherings

- i. ARUMC is instituting Conference-wide Safe Gatherings policy
- ii. Why? Response to abuse crises (Boy Scouts, SBC, RCC, etc.)
- iii. Online Training
- iv. Mandatory Training ALL staff and youth/children volunteers

### f. Planned Giving

- i. Training with Methodist Foundation of Arkansas

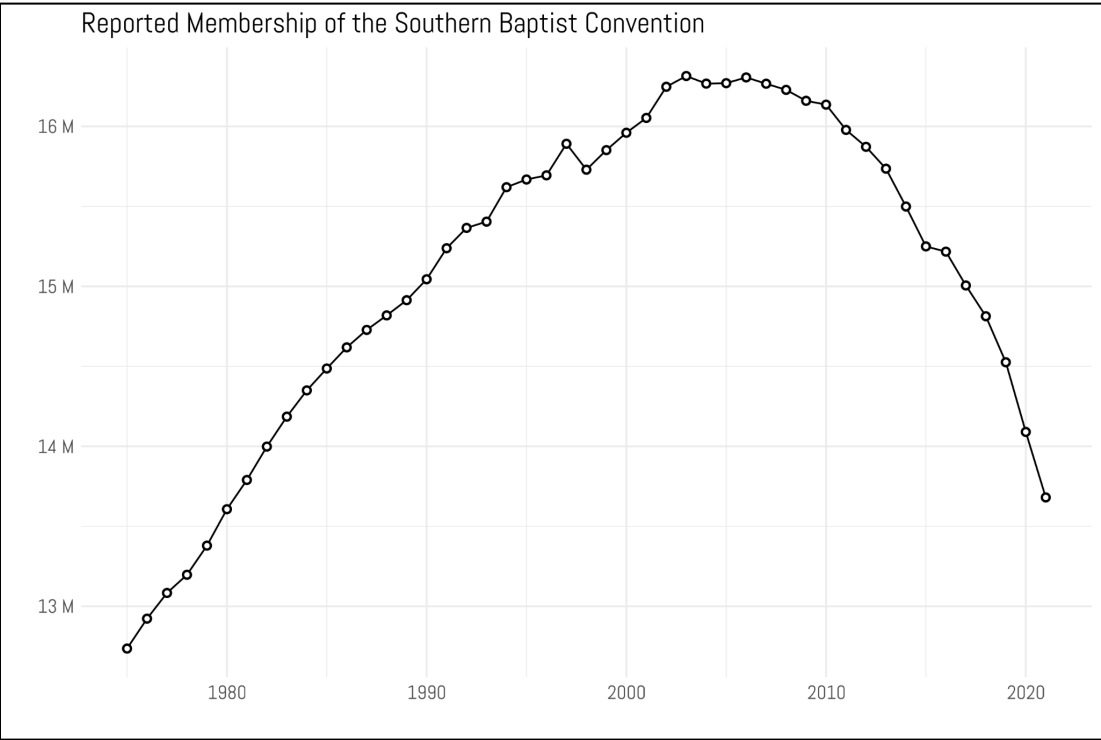
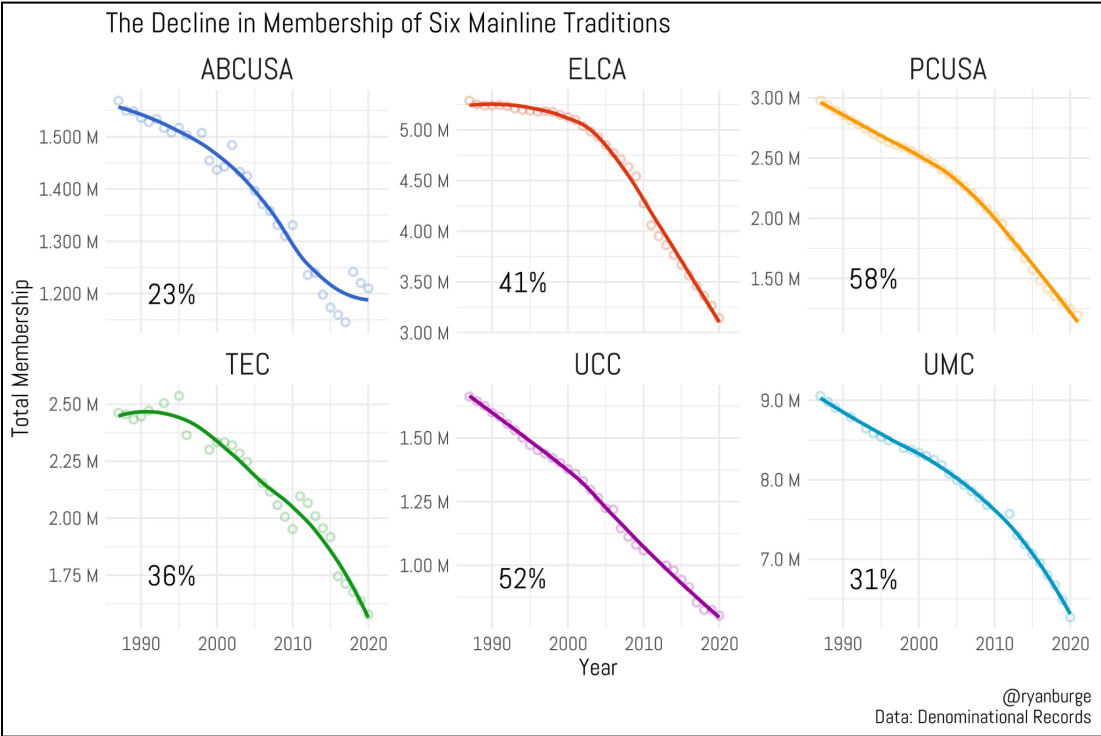
# STATE OF THE CHURCH

## 10. FUMC 2022 Attendance

2022 SUNDAY WORSHIP PARTICIPATION												
	In-Person Attendance						Online Worshippers				TOTAL	
	Retreat	Other	8:00	9:00	11:00	TOT	Online	FB	TOT	2.5		
1/2/2022			26	111	58	195	37	43	80	200	395	
1/9/2022			19	133	60	212	36	51	87	218	430	
1/16/2022			12	66	23	101	40	67	107	268	368.5	
1/23/2022			20	109	68	197	31	53	84	210	407	
1/30/2022			17	154	70	241	29	44	73	183	423.5	
2/6/2022			11	140	76	227	30	56	86	215	442	
2/13/2022			22	153	71	246	25	38	63	158	403.5	
2/20/2022			18	130	80	228	23	36	59	148	375.5	
2/27/2022			23	150	89	262	32	18	50	125	387	
3/6/2022	32		27	141	82	282	38	39	67	168	449.5	
3/13/2022			23	165	105	293	10	35	45	113	405.5	
3/20/2022			27	120	82	229	18	34	52	130	359	
3/27/2022	13		23	162	69	267	17	23	40	100	354	
4/3/2022			28	183	93	304	17	20	37	93	396.5	
4/10/2022			26	187	120	333	9	28	37	93	425.5	
4/17/2022		21	36	287	206	550	14	29	43	108	657.5	
4/24/2022			26	165	83	274	24	25	49	123	396.5	
5/1/2022			54	212	107	373	11	24	35	88	460.5	
5/8/2022			24	203	97	324	9	25	34	85	409	
5/15/2022			24	144	69	237	12	33	55	138	374.5	
5/22/2022			17	152	78	247	15	35	50	125	372	
5/29/2022			21	99	58	178	16	29	45	113	290.5	
6/5/2022			27	160	115	302	22	35	57	143	444.5	
6/12/2022			23	151	59	233	14	25	49	123		
6/19/2022			20	146	72	238						
6/26/2022			22	157	102	281	28	30	58	145		

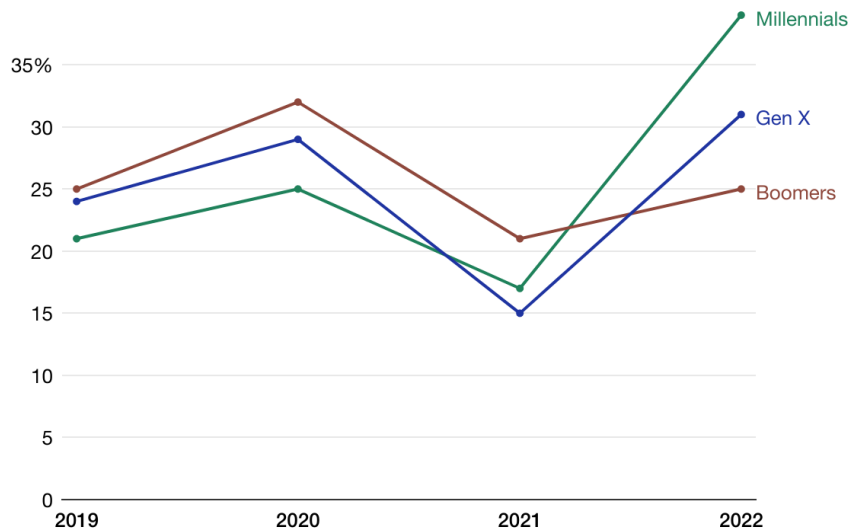
7/3/2022		159				159	12	24	36	90		249
7/10/2022			20	126	77	223	10	27	37	93		315.5
7/17/2022			19	110	71	200	14	26	40	100		300
7/24/2022			22	163	122	307	15	24	39	98		404.5
7/31/2022			19	163	77	259	9	23	32	80		339
8/7/2022			27	133	62	222	16	23	39	98		319.5
8/14/2022			23	175	74	272	24	35	59	148		419.5
8/21/2022	20		22	172	92	306	15	28	43	108		413.5
8/28/2022			26	177	76	279	14	32	46	115		394
9/4/2022			29	100	88	217	15	22	37	93		309.5
9/11/2022			24	138	73	235	17	27	44	110		345
9/18/2022			25	133	79	237	17	19	36	90		327
9/25/2022			29	159	88	276	15	23	38	95		371
10/2/2022			23	124	90	237	14	23	37	93		329.5
10/9/2022			26	140	80	246	11	24	35	88		333.5
10/16/2022			25	116	78	219	10	26	37	93		311.5
10/23/2022			29	122	101	252	19	23	42	105		357
10/30/2022			21	152	72	245	11	25	36	90		335
11/6/2022			29	164	102	295	12	34	46	115		410
11/13/2022			23	127	74	224	14	26	40	100		324
11/20/2022			26	104	98	228	15	19	34	85		313
11/27/2022			24	169	107	300	11	29	40	100		400
12/4/2022			29	160	98	287	13	30	43	108		395
12/11/2022			30	178	109	317	8	23	31	78		395
12/18/2022			25	150	101	276	10	20	30	70		346
12/25/2022		144				144	9	23	32	80		224
<b>AVG</b>			<b>24</b>	<b>148</b>	<b>85</b>	<b>256</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>48</b>	<b>120</b>		<b>375</b>
Xmas		12	5	7	11	TOT						
Eve		127	323	125	40	615						

# 11. Church Membership & Attendance Trends



## WEEKLY CHURCH ATTENDANCE, BY GENERATION

Barna



n=13,349 U.S. adults, 2019–2022. | Source: Barna Group

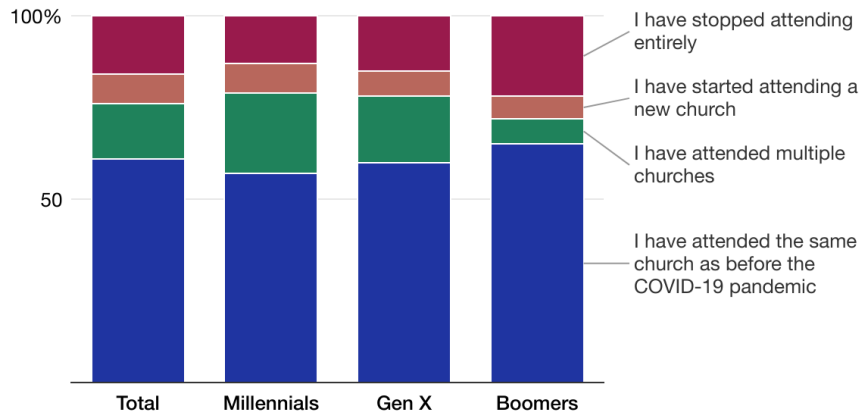
© 2022 | Barna.com

## CHURCH ATTENDANCE SINCE COVID-19

Barna

Since the COVID-19 pandemic, which of the following most accurately describes your church attendance, either online or in person?

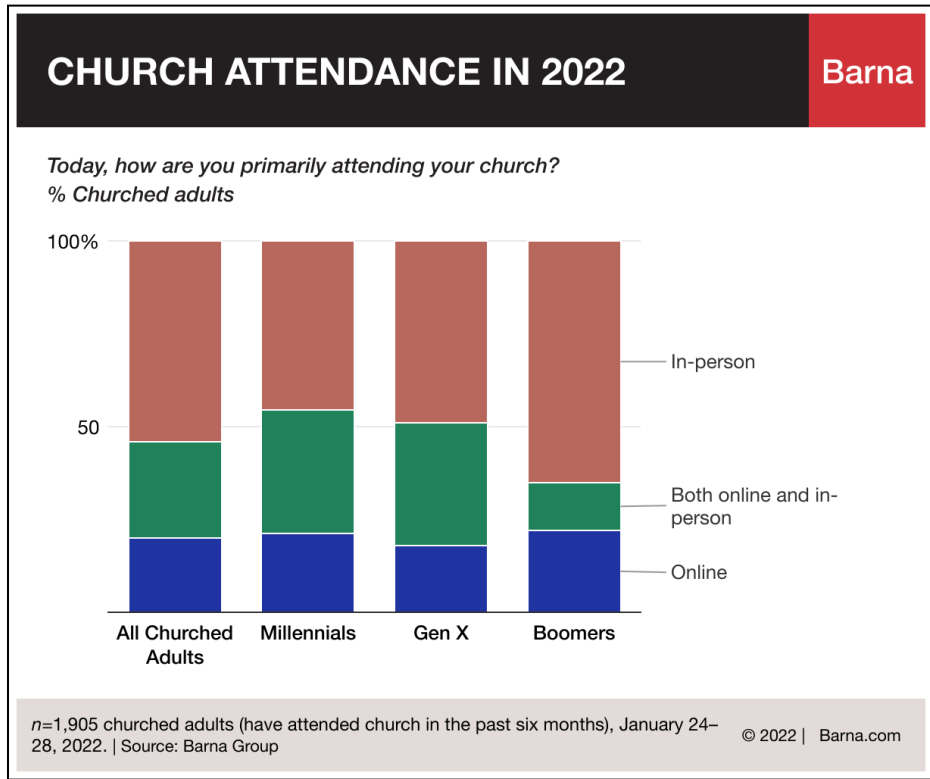
% Christians who were attending a church before the COVID-19 pandemic



n=670 Christians adults who were attending a church before the COVID-19 pandemic, January 24–28, 2022. | Source: Barna Group

© 2022 | Barna.com

<sup>1</sup> <https://www.barna.com/research/church-attendance-2022/>



As attendance dips, churches change to stay relevant for a new wave of worshippers<sup>2</sup>

*American Christianity is in the midst of an identity crisis. Attendance is in steep decline, especially among millennials and Gen Z who say traditional church doesn't speak to their realities. In response, religious leaders are scrambling to experiment with new ways to offer meaning in peoples' lives.*

*Last year, Americans' membership in houses of worship fell below 50 percent for the first time since Gallup started its authoritative religion survey. In 1937 — the year the Gallup poll began — seven out of 10 Americans attended church. In 2020 — before the pandemic — only 47 percent of Americans belonged to a church, synagogue or mosque, according to the survey. It's been trending downward since 2000. Young people are rejecting organized religion and some churches are facing an existential crisis.*

*This impulse — this urgency — to try something new is being felt throughout the Christian church. Once-booming evangelical churches are worried about declining numbers.*

**12. UMC Update**

- a. Bishop Laura Merrill ARUMC beginning Jan. 1, 2023 (preaching FUMC Feb. 26)
- b. Co-interim-DSs Rev. Rodney Steele & Rev. Phil Hathcock Northeast District ARUMC

<sup>2</sup><https://www.npr.org/2022/12/10/1141010320/as-attendance-dips-churches-change-to-stay-relevant-for-a-new-wave-of-worshipper>

- i. Next DS should be appointed/announced March & begin in July
- c. Next ARUMC Annual Conference June 21-24. Will there be one before then? TBD
- d. 2024 General Conference (April 23-May 3, Charlotte, NC)

#### CURRENT LOCAL CHURCH OPTIONS

- e. Remain UMC - This is the default option. Majority of congregations. Wait for 2024 General Conference
- f. Use ¶2553 in the *Book of Discipline* to Disaffiliate

#### WOMACK PERSONAL, PASTORAL, PROFESSIONAL REFLECTIONS:

- g. Methodism (and Christianity) are & will continue to change in coming years. My sense is we are headed toward more autonomy and looser connections.
- h. Skeptical of the ¶2553 “discernment process”. Discernment can be/should be more than three months and three meetings. Discernment does not have a deadline.
- i. Suspicious of voting on complex issues. Voting is a form of governance, a flawed political and organizational tool. I am not convinced voting is necessarily the way for churches to make hard decisions. As professor Stanley Hauerwas has off-said, the only vote recorded in scripture is when the crowd chose Barabbas to be released and Jesus to be crucified. We do sometimes vote in church, but hopefully by the time we come to a vote we have reached near consensus.
- j. Unclear what church membership means right now. This further complicates voting and decision-making. According to the discernment process all members can vote on the denominational future of their church.
- k. Unity is a theological hope though centrism is unpopular. The church is called to work together to navigate social and theological challenges with care, grace, and patience. There are too many kind, loving, thoughtful, and faithful Christians who disagree on these matters to write off either side. Unity is a goal worth pursuing.

### 13. Heart of Methodism<sup>3</sup> by Bishop Mueller

*I long for The United Methodist Church that invited me into a life-changing relationship with Jesus Christ as Savior and Lord to do the same for others.*

*But will it?*

***Yes, but only if we are serious about proactively inviting, welcoming, including and valuing the millions of moderates and traditionalists around the globe and in the United States who are still part of The United Methodist Church. The reason is simple. Moderates and traditionalists need — and are needed in — The United Methodist Church.***

***There will be some who will dismiss this as an attempt to keep the institution alive, a compromise that tries to keep everyone happy or a Big Tent in which people simply co-exist. It is none of these. Rather, it is a United Methodist Church that reflects the “heart of United Methodism.”***

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<sup>3</sup>[https://www.umnews.org/en/news/our-future-the-heart-of-united-methodism?fbclid=IwAR3uki7KYOOVScgGCV4SB0wWNNsEwNLc89ZCC\\_DmOb8lwtUur1I3qKA5KWU](https://www.umnews.org/en/news/our-future-the-heart-of-united-methodism?fbclid=IwAR3uki7KYOOVScgGCV4SB0wWNNsEwNLc89ZCC_DmOb8lwtUur1I3qKA5KWU)



***We will welcome everyone, yet it will not be a church for everyone. There will be some for whom it is not conservative enough and others for whom it is not progressive enough. But it will be exactly the place for all who want to be part of the broad middle, long for the fighting to cease and desire to focus on carrying out the church's mission in a world that desperately needs to be transformed by Jesus' love.***

*Hoping it happens is not enough. We must move beyond the usual aspirational feel-good talk and enter into deep conversation about six concrete principles. It may be hard and painful at times.*

*But what's at stake makes it worth it.*

***Principle 1:*** *The United Methodist Church will embrace Jesus' imperative for unity articulated in John 17. This can become a reality if all United Methodists actually do what Paul says in 1 Corinthians 12:1-3: accept at face value the fact that when someone says, "Jesus is Lord," it's only because he or she has been enabled by the Holy Spirit to do so. If it's good enough for the Holy Spirit, it ought to be good enough for us!*

***Principle 2:*** *Our church will intentionally welcome moderates and traditionalists, along with their beliefs and convictions. At the same time, moderates and traditionalists need to respect the attitudes and opinions of progressives and centrists in the same way they wish to be respected.*

***Principle 3:*** *We will stop weaponizing orthodoxy and, instead, join together to let the rich trove of orthodoxy robustly form us. The Wesleyan emphasis on class meetings, bands, the means of grace and holy conferencing provide a path that moves more fully into the holiness of heart and life that is the hallmark of mature Christians. Sadly, there will be United Methodists who are outliers when it comes to Christian orthodoxy. This must and will be dealt with. When faith begins to resemble Unitarianism or new age spirituality or some expression of fundamentalism or Christian nationalism, it must be addressed.*

***Principle 4:*** *The United Methodist Church must successfully address matters of human sexuality if the "heart of United Methodism" is to hold. This will not be accomplished by focusing on which particular stance the church should embrace. It will happen only if the denomination crafts a new and faithful way to live with our significant differences.*

*The United Methodist Church currently is accountable to The 2016 Book of Discipline as amended by the 2019 General Conference concerning matters of human sexuality. This may well change at some point in the future because a new dynamic is rapidly emerging, at least in the United States. While many moderates and traditionalists continue to embrace their current beliefs, they also are increasingly willing for others in the denomination to address human sexuality in a different way. They just ask that nothing be mandated for them or their congregation that forces them to act contrary to their conscience. This is why "may" and not "shall" language is essential.*

*It is wrong, perhaps even sinful, to assume that finding something that works in the U.S. context will settle the matter for a church that is truly global. United Methodist leaders in western Europe and the United States will have to enter into a relationship with these brothers and sisters to jointly explore what the church will do about this and a multitude of other matters if a new form of colonialism is not once again to be imposed. This may well result in a new way of being the globe-embracing United Methodist Church that resembles the Connectional Conference Plan presented at the 2019 called session of General Conference or the more recently proposed Overlapping Regional Conference Plan.*

***Principle 5:*** *We will be uncompromisingly connectional, but the connectionalism as we know it will be turned upside down. It will no longer be imposed structurally from the top down as codified in The Book of Discipline, but will grow organically from the ground up. This is a gift to the denomination because very diverse members of local churches have figured out how to be*

*connected through worship, study and mission at the same time our denomination is ground zero for division.*

**Principle 6:** *The United Methodist Church will be shaped by our mission of making disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world. Three endeavors will be at the “heart of United Methodism”: evangelism, discipleship formation, and acts of compassion, mercy and justice. These will not merely be messaging points. We will organize our life around them. One task in particular will need to be at the forefront of our work: dismantling the sin of racism and building God’s reconciliation. Regardless of theological perspective, United Methodists will band together to address this sin that continues to eat at the soul of our life together.*

*So what’s next?*

**We can be like almost every other mainline historic Protestant denomination and simply split so that traditionalists and moderates go and progressives and centrists stay. If this is what we choose, we will get the same results as every other mainline historic Protestant denomination that has done this.**

*But we are at one of those kairos moments in time when we can make a choice that leads to a whole different future. We can invite the Holy Spirit to mold and shape us into the “heart of United Methodism” that truly shows the world the difference that Jesus makes. And that’s exactly what the world needs right now, even if it does not yet know it. It’s an exciting time to be a United Methodist!*

## **14. Rev. Dane’s Notes on FUMC**

### **STRENGTHS**

1. Excellent & Varied Worship / In-person & Online; Children’s Ministries; Hospitality; Witt House; Ready-Set-Read; Staff; Financial Stability; Facilities

### **GROWING EDGES & THREATS**

1. Invitation & Evangelism; Adult Discipleship; Creative Engagement around Participation & Consistency; Facilities; Unease around UMC

### **OBSERVATIONS FAMILY/CHILDREN/YOUTH**

1. Our Youth/Children participation mirrors Parents/Guardians participation.
2. Our Children/Youth/Families are more committed to extracurriculars than ever before. FUMC Parents/Guardians must be consistent in commitments. FUMC must be creative & realistic in imagining effective ministries.
3. Our Children/Youth come from 4+ schools.
4. Why is Confirmation the last activity for many Children/Youth?
5. Sustainable & successful Children/Youth Ministry is guided by committed laity including but not limited to parents/guardians.
6. Safe sanctuary concerns are of utmost importance.