



Giving focus for January



January 2023's Disciple Gift

Our January Disciple Gift is Survival House. Survival House began in Warrensburg in 1982 when a group of concerned Warrensburg citizens began taking the victims of domestic violence into their homes for shelter and discovered the need was greater than they could support.

In 2022 the Survival House shelter housed an average of 15 men, women and children per month. But the needs of victims of domestic violence don't end with an overnight shelter, for many this is just the beginning of their journey.

The Survival House staff provide Court Advocacy, Hospital Advocacy, resource assistance, case management, safety planning and individual and group emotional support sessions.

In addition to clients served at the shelter, Survival House staff received 900 hotline calls in 2022 and the social media platform helped over 600 individuals.

Survival House is reaching a crisis in their ability to provide adequate services to their clients. The present shelter is a very old, single-family home and was not built to support the needs of the over 100 people it is housing annually. Staff members are planning a capital campaign in the future to raise funds to build a safer, more accessible shelter than the present one.

Cash donations are used to support all the above services, provide client assistance to help survivors overcome the obstacles keeping them from finding jobs and homes.

Survival House is also always looking for volunteers committed to fighting domestic violence. Survival House is presently looking for volunteers to help with their new thrift store, to share information, help with support groups and assist clients. Survival House can be contacted at <https://www.survivalhouse.org/support-us> if you would like to get involved as a volunteer or make a direct financial contribution.

If you chose to make a donation through the church, you may do so by going to the GIVE button on the website, umcбург.org, or you can mail in a check to the church office at 141 E. Gay Street or can leave it at the church during worship. Please write Survival House on the memo of your check.



Active in ministry

During January, the United Methodist Men's group will be supporting the fundraising for the Jamaica Mission Team. Make sure to add these events to your calendar as the team resumes its work for first time since the pandemic hit in 2019.

- **Wednesday, January 11:** "Cook-off" Dinner & Dessert Auction in the FLC. Sign up in the atrium to donate a pot of chili, ham & beans, or a dessert. There is a sign up in the atrium.
- **Sunday, January 22:** Boys Schout Trop 400 & Cub Scout Pack 399 hosts a pancake from 8 am. To 11 a.m. in the FLC. Tickets cost \$10 for adults and \$5.00 for children age. 5-10. Please make checks out to the UMM as the benefits go to the UMM ministries.



Preparing for worship

Join the church family in person Sundays at 9:30 a.m. or 11:00 a.m. Services are also available online through the church's Facebook page. Click here for the link: [UMCбург FB](#)

Beginning in February, the online service will move to YouTube. We will keep you informed and walk through the steps of accessing the site prior to the switch. We will remain on Facebook through January.

Messages planned for January:

- January 8 Remember Your Baptism
- January 15 Abundant: Love
- January 22 Abundant: Joy
- January 29 Abundant: Hope

Scriptures for the coming week:

The foundational scripture for Sunday's message is Matthew 3:13-17

Youth Group updates

Sunday, January 8: Youth Group resumes at 6 p.m.

Next Generation Minister: Kelly Weinberger, *Better Together*
Children's Minister: Vada Postlethwait
Nursery Director: Jill Pedersen



Generosity Team provides summary of 2022 giving

Dale Carder, from the Generosity Team, put together a summary of the how the church family has been giving to God's work. And on February 5, the Finance Team will host a "State of Our Church."

Wednesday Crew wraps up 2022

A group quietly shows up on Wednesday mornings at 8 a.m. to tackle those maintenance issues that develop around the church. The Wednesday Crew has become such an integral part of our church that we do not always recognize all they do. So we asked.

Just before Christmas, they created the list of the major projects that have been completed during the year:

- Built Fiber closet for new fiber rack.
- Built nursery door.
- Built Kelly's desk.
- Repaired, painted, and built rock barrier around the outside of FLC.
- Repaired two outside pole lamps in front of sanctuary.
- Repaired concrete sidewalks and curbs.
- Installed safety locks and other requests from Safety Committee.
- Repaired and installed new kick panels on back entrance doors to FLC.
- Upgraded multiple lights to energy saving LED's.
- Repaired basement window in Fellowship Hall.
- Reorganized and cleaned up basement storage areas.
- Painted and touched up several walls.
- Assisted Larry Yung and ScoI with Fox Heating and Cooling in removing antiquated computer system and non-useable thermostats, for roof top units M2 & M3.
- Fox Heating and Cooling also completed the removal of the old M1 system and duct work from roof and completed the transfer of the old N2 roof top unit with a new unit. In the process we were able to repair the N3 unit so now the atrium has heat.

This list does not include the usual maintenance, inspections, or smaller jobs and projects that need constant attention. If anyone has a project or something that needs to be done, our system is simple. Fill out a Wednesday Work Crew request form located in the office, and place in our mail slot. If you have any questions or comments, please contact Stan Smith POC (point of contact) Wednesday Crew phone 816-674-5230 or email stan@umcburg.org.

2023 Pledge Results

- 75 total pledges
- \$358,962 total dollars pledged
- \$346,462 pledged to General Fund
- \$10,700 were write-in pledges for the Capital Fund
- \$1,800 were write-in pledges for Disciple Gifts

The Finance Team thanks the church for the pledges they made during the Oktobervest. Here is a comparison to the 2022 campaign drive:

<u>Pledge comparison</u>	<u>2022</u>	<u>2023</u>
• Total pledges	86	75
• Total dollars pledged	\$419,732	\$358,962
• General fund	\$303,166	\$346,462
• Capital fund	\$ 95,660	*
• Disciple gifts	\$ 20,906	**

*Capital fund was not a line item on the 2023 Pledge Card, but \$10,708 were write-in pledges.

**Disciple gifts was also not included on the 2023 Pledge Card, but \$1,800 were write-in pledges.

Pledge Observations

1. 46% of 2023 pledges were the same amount as 2022 pledges.
2. 24% of pledges received increased over 2022 pledges while 30% decreased 2022 pledges.
3. 76% of 2023 pledges stayed the same or decreased from 2022 pledges.

Current Needs

We need everyone to meet their pledge goal this year, and if possible, increase their pledge. We would also encourage one time gifts so we can keep pace with inflation and continue to support all of our church ministries.

Tithing: If your family is not currently tithing, we are asking if you can begin incremental increases to reach that goal.

Summary

One of the Finance Committee's goals for 2023 is to provide more transparency in our church's financial affairs. This report and the State of the Church are the first steps in that process.

If you have any further questions, please contact Dale Carder at carder@ucmo.edu or Robyn Criswell-Bloom at rcriwellbloom@gmail.com.