

# *The Window* into the heart of

*Mt. Lebanon United Methodist Church*

Volume 9, Number 4, Holiday 2023

Join us in celebrating the Christmas season at Mt. Lebanon United Methodist Church!

We warmly invite you to experience the cheer of hearing the nativity story, singing beloved Christmas carols, and lighting candles of joy. With a variety of worship services to choose from, including Candlelight Traditional Services, a Service for Family and Children, The Gathering's modern Christmas service, as well as online livestream experiences, we're sure you'll find a service that suits your preferences. Come and share in these special moments of worship and reflection with us.

Join us for our Christmas worship, which begins with a Traditional Candlelight Service on the evening before Christmas Eve. Pastor Tom Strandburg will be officiating on Saturday, December 23rd, while Director of Music & Liturgy Mitchell Stecker leads the music in the Sanctuary. The liturgy, candle lighting, music, and atmosphere will be the same as our Christmas Eve traditional Candlelight Service. For younger attendees, we invite you to join us for the family-friendly Service for Children & Families at 3 pm on Christmas Eve. And if you prefer upbeat Christmas music, you won't want to miss The Gathering at 5 pm on Christmas Eve.

If you find yourself unable to attend a Christmas Season service in person, there's no need to worry. MLUMC has got you covered. You can still worship and celebrate with us virtually through our livestreamed Christmas Eve services, including The Gathering and the Traditional Candlelight Service.

Additionally, we will be livestreaming our Sunday services on December 24 and December 31, so you can stay connected with our community during the holiday season.

## **CHRISTMAS SEASON WORSHIP**

**SATURDAY, DECEMBER 23RD**

**TRADITIONAL CANDLELIGHT SERVICE**

8:00PM IN THE SANCTUARY

**SUNDAY, DECEMBER 24**

**MORNING WORSHIP**

10:45AM IN THE SANCTUARY

*LIVESTREAMED & RECORDED ON THE MLUMC WEBSITE,  
FACEBOOK, AND YOUTUBE*

**SERVICE FOR CHILDREN & FAMILIES**

3:00PM IN THE SANCTUARY

**THE GATHERING CHRISTMAS EVE**

5:00PM IN ASBURY CENTER

*LIVESTREAMED & RECORDED ON FACEBOOK*

**TRADITIONAL CANDLELIGHT SERVICE**

8:00PM IN THE SANCTUARY

*LIVESTREAMED & RECORDED ON THE MLUMC WEBSITE,  
FACEBOOK & YOUTUBE*

**SUNDAY, DECEMBER 31**

**MORNING WORSHIP**

10:45AM IN THE SANCTUARY

*LIVESTREAMED & RECORDED ON THE MLUMC WEBSITE,  
FACEBOOK, AND YOUTUBE*

THERE WILL BE NO CHILDREN'S SUNDAY SCHOOL OR  
KIDS' PRAISE ON SUNDAY, DECEMBER 24TH OR  
SUNDAY, DECEMBER 31ST.

## Three Simple Rules *that will change our world*

It would be fair to say that by nature of my personality, I was destined to be a Methodist. I have always had a fondness for a compelling purpose, with clear steps leading to the achievement of it. Our Methodist faith provides us with just that. Our forbearers in the faith read the commandment which Jesus called the greatest – ‘You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.’ This is the greatest and first commandment. And a second is like it: ‘You shall love your neighbor as yourself.’ On these two commandments hang all the Law and the Prophets. (Matthew 22:37-40) After hearing these words of Our Lord, those early Methodists developed a basic outline for all of us to follow toward the goal of becoming a people of the Great Commandment.

I have read and re-read John Wesley's famous sermon from the year 1738, *The Character of a Methodist*. In this sermon, Wesley makes it clear that a Methodist is not distinguished primarily by one's beliefs, but by the measure of love that is present in one's heart and one's life – “What then is the mark? Who is a Methodist, according to your own account? I answer: A Methodist is one who has “the love of God shed abroad in the heart by the Holy Ghost given to us.” (*The Character of a Methodist*, paragraph 5) Shortly thereafter, Wesley published the General Rules for his Methodist societies. They were short and to the point: 1) Do No Harm, 2) Do Good, and 3) Practice the Spiritual Disciplines. It has occurred to me that these three simple rules serve as a basic outline of the church's work as it advocates for the welfare of others, engages in community outreach, and provides opportunities for personal spiritual growth through prayer, study, and worship.

When we give in support of God's work through our church, we enable our people to demonstrate their love for others by engaging in ministries of outreach and service. Think how haphazard the completion of this task would be were it not for the church's work in recruiting volunteers and organizing their efforts. Any one of our church's ministries would be an impossibility for any single individual to pull off, but together all things are possible with God!

I thank you for your support of our church's ministry in the past, and I invite your continued participation in the coming year. You should have already received your annual pledge card in another mailing. Please help us to help others to love God, to love others, and to practice the spiritual disciplines. Additional pledge cards are available from the church office. You may return your card by mail. You can also make your response through the “Giving” page of our church website – [www.mlumc.org/giving/pledge](http://www.mlumc.org/giving/pledge). I thank you in advance for making this pledge of support.

Happy Thanksgiving!

*Pastor Tom Strandburg*



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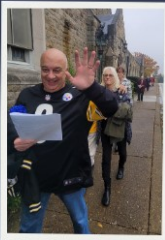
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Financial Information

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Kate Naugle, Office & Communications Coordinator

# Great is Thy Faithfulness 100th Year Sanctuary Celebration



## Cornerstone Rededication Ceremony

On Sunday, October 29, our congregation held a special service recognizing that 100 years ago the cornerstone of our sanctuary was laid. During the 10:45 service, the congregation sang words to the tune of "Great Is Thy Faithfulness" that referred to our cornerstone. At the conclusion of worship, many processed to the breezeway on Scott Road where a short service was held commemorating the event of 100 years earlier. Then the participants walked along Scott Road where they were able to view the original cornerstone as well as the new commemorative cornerstone generously donated by Beth

and Pete Santore as well as Laughlin's Funeral Home. From there everyone gathered at the front of the church where the newly refurbished front doors were blessed by Pastor Tom and our district superintendent, Rev. Paul Ritchey. The work on the doors was made possible through memorial donations in memory of Dr. David Watson and Lillian Schultz. The event concluded with a reception in The Welcome Center that was attended by a large number of members and friends. Thanks to Donna Chesleigh for coordinating that part of the day's events.

## Remembering Our Baptisms

*January 14, 2024*

Since 2024 marks the year of the completion of our sanctuary 100 years ago, it will be filled with events to recognize this important milestone in the life of our church. Our first event of 2024 will take place on January 14, The Baptism of Our Lord Sunday. Special recognition will be given to those who have been baptized in our sanctuary. We know that at least one living member was baptized over 90 years ago so throughout the history of our sanctuary, we know hundreds of people have been baptized here.

On January 14, at the 10:45 service, all those who have contacted us will renew their baptismal vows, as a large group, in front of the communion rail. The remaining people in the pews will renew their vows simultaneously. A reception will follow.

In order to locate as many people as possible, we will need help finding those who have moved away as well as those who no longer attend our church. We plan to create a list of all those baptized in the church who plan to attend on January 14. If you know of someone who falls into this category, regardless of age, please call the church office, Jane Spicher or Lori Barr with contact information. This service of remembrance could be a way to enhance a weekend family event or visit.

## Ordination Recognition

*February 11, 2024*

Many years ago, our sanctuary was the sight of ordination for the Western Pennsylvania Annual Conference.

On Sunday, February 11, we plan to hold a special service where those who were ordained in our sanctuary will receive recognition.

# Food Pantry



<b>Jan.</b> Paper Products	<b>Feb.</b> Peanut Butter & Jelly	<b>Mar.</b> Pasta & Sauces
<b>Apr.</b> Tuna & Canned Meat	<b>May</b> Cereal/Oatmeal	<b>Jun.</b> Snacks for Children
<b>Jul.</b> Paper Products	<b>Aug.</b> Peanut Butter & Jelly	<b>Sept.</b> Pasta & Sauces
<b>Oct.</b> Cookies & Crackers	<b>Nov.</b> Thanksgiving Meal Items	<b>Dec.</b> Christmas Meal Items

Please consider making a monetary donation or venture out on a shopping trip for the needed products. Thank you for your prayers and support of the MLUMC Food Pantry!

## Advent Help Needed

Volunteers are needed to help with lighting Advent candles each Sunday during Advent and during Christmas Eve services. No special skills are required! Candle lighters can be families (including children), couples, or friends.

If you are interested, please contact Kim Rhoton with a date and service preference (December 3, 10, 17, and 24 at the 8:30 and 10:45 traditional services; December 23 and 24 at the 8PM Christmas Eve services, and December 24 at the 3PM Family Service).

Volunteers are also needed to assist behind the scenes and to participate in the annual Christmas Tableaux, scheduled for December 17 at the 10:45 service. Children and teens are needed to play the parts of angels, shepherds, and kings. Adults are needed to help the participants get into costumes and enter the sanctuary on cue. Participants and adult helpers must be available for a rehearsal on Wednesday, December 13 at 6:30p.m. in the sanctuary.

Please contact Kim Rhoton to volunteer or with questions – [krhoton@mlumc.org](mailto:krhoton@mlumc.org)

## CALLING ALL COOKIE BAKERS

To make the UWF's annual Christmas Cookie & Gift Bazaar a success, we need your delicious homemade cookie donations.

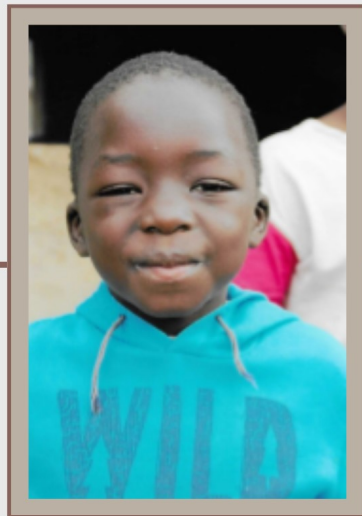
In the weeks leading up to the December 9th event, please consider baking a batch or two of your favorite cookies and freezing them in sealed bags. You may even want to bake with a friend or host a cookie-baking event in your home or at the church.

You may bring the cookies to the church kitchen on Thursday, Dec. 7 between 9 a.m. and 8 p.m. or on Friday, Dec. 8 before noon.

We appreciate all the delicious cookies you've baked in years past and are always impressed with the quality and variety. Please keep up the good work on behalf of women, children, and youth! We can't do it without you.

# Mission Sale

DECEMBER 10



The Sunday school children work together throughout the year to support an orphan in Zimbabwe named Moreblessing, who lives in the Home of Hope Orphanage. Moreblessing is approximately seven years old (in many cases children come without any documentation such as a birth certificate, so exact ages are unknown).

Our sponsorship helps to

provide for all the necessities of life, including food, medical care, and education expenses.

On December 10 the children will offer for sale a variety of small treats and crafts they have made. Please plan to stop in the Narthex after both services to help support this mission. All proceeds will go to help support Moreblessing and the Home of Hope Orphanage in Zimbabwe.



## Christmas Cookie Sale & British Tea Room Return Dec 9th

On Saturday, Dec. 9 from 9 am to noon the UWF Christmas cookie sale & British tea room returns to the education wing – along with select crafters.

Come early to have the best selection of delicious homemade Christmas cookies sold by the pound. Stop by the British tea room in Wesley Hall for one of Barbara Watson's homemade scones and a hot cuppa. This year, we've also invited a few select crafters who will be selling lovely gift items.

All proceeds benefit women, children, and youth!  
We hope you'll join us for the time-honored event.

COMMUNITY

## CHRISTMAS CAROLING

DECEMBER 17TH

Please join us for Christmas caroling at the homes in the church neighborhood on Sunday, December 17. This is a fun event that requires no special singing talent, just the willingness to spread good cheer to those who live near MLUMC! We will meet in Asbury Center at 6p.m. and set off together, and then back to the church to warm up with cookies and hot cocoa. The entire evening will wrap up before 8p.m. Please dress for the weather and bring a flashlight; caroling booklets will be provided.



Register with Kim Rhoton,  
[krhoton@mlumc.org](mailto:krhoton@mlumc.org)



## Advent Study Group



Are you looking for an in-person Advent study group this season?

Join Kim Rhoton in reading "All the Good: A Wesleyan Way of Christmas." We will meet in the Network room at 10:00a.m. for four consecutive Tuesday mornings beginning November 28. Please contact Kim to indicate your interest, and purchase the book prior to the first meeting.  
[krhoton@mlumc.org](mailto:krhoton@mlumc.org)

# Reveille Men's Breakfast

David Seitz

Mt Lebanon United Methodist Church, in tandem with Adam's Quest, hosted Men's Reveille on October 14, 2023. Our church hosts this breakfast once a year and this year around ninety men from the South Hills area attended. It would not have been possible without the support of men from MLUMC, along with a few MLUMC women, both who spent several hours preparing and presenting the meal. Bob Jamison, founder of Adam's Quest had this to say after the event:



**"Thank you again, a thousand times thank you, for hosting Saturday's Reveille men's breakfast. I know how much work goes into the effort, and you did a magnificent job as always in providing our guests with an excellent experience. They were welcomed, loved, and bounteously fed. And Kirk did a great job again with the sound and power point. I am so grateful for your partnership in touching the lives of the men of South Hills with the grace of Jesus Christ."**

**A few snippets from the morning:**

**One of our guests, whose family was devastated with tragedy this year, brought his two sons, who are struggling to make sense of where God's hand is in all this mess, deeply appreciated the fact that our program featured prominently young men like his sons. The Lord was doing something special in their lives that morning, helping them to hear from their own generation about the goodness and the power of Christ.**

**We had in attendance two tables of men from the Salvation Army alcohol rehabilitation program who are turning their lives around. Saturday morning was a significant step forward in helping them to grab hold of the life-giving power and hope that we have in Christ.**

**One friend whom I have been mentoring but who has never attended Reveille before -- in fact, he just showed up, and I didn't know he was coming -- stayed after most of the guy had filed out after the program and wanted to talk to me. He told me he had let me down, and I asked what he meant. He is prone to depression and lately has been easing his pain with alcohol. We hugged and wept, and I told him I was proud of him that he realizes that he needs to deal with this, and we committed to keeping touch as we walk together.**

**Just a couple of quick snapshots of the Lord at work on Saturday, and no doubt you saw the Lord at work in other ways as well. I am just saying that these important steps forward in men's lives would not happen without a gathering like Reveille, and none of it would have happened without you.**

## COMMUNITY FALL FESTIVAL

*Rob Spicher, Community Events & Outreach Committee Chair*



**Saturday, October 21st was the date, and Asbury Center, Wesley Hall, and the Upper Parking Lot were the places for this year's Community Fall Festival. Notwithstanding some cold weather, the festival took place without a hitch. Thanks be to God!**

**Asbury Center was the location for crafts of all ages (including pumpkin painting) as well as a "little" bounce house. Wesley Hall was the food location – the fare included grilled hot dogs, walking tacos, and fried chicken, as well as sides, beverages, and desserts. And last, but not least, the upper parking lot had a "big" bounce house, many outdoor games, and a Kona Ice truck. Always amazing to see how many takers (including several first-timers) there are for Kona Ice, weather conditions notwithstanding!**

**It was exciting to see such a diverse group of attendees – Church members, Food Pantry clients, Weekday Ministries families, English Second Language students, and Neighbors from streets adjacent to MLUMC. Great that so many took advantage of the food, fun, and fellowship that was provided.**

**Thanks again to all who helped support this year's Community Fall Festival through the volunteering of their time and talents as well as their partaking of the many activities that were offered.**



## Missions and Outreach Committee

### A New Committee Continuing MLUMC's Long History of Hospitality, Ministry, and Service to Others

On Saturday, October 28<sup>th</sup>, the MLUMC Charge Conference approved the merger of the Missions Committee and the Community Events and Outreach Committee into a new committee – the Missions and Outreach Committee. Said merger will be effective on January 1, 2024.

The Missions Committee, currently co-chaired by Louanne Baily and Dick DiBella, has for decades distributed monies received from rummage sales, designated endowments, and individual donations to social service organizations doing mission and ministry work locally, nationally, and around the world. The Community Events and Outreach Committee, currently chaired by Rob Spicher, has for years provided hospitality and fellowship through hosted events (such as fish fries) and connections with social service organizations in the Greater Pittsburgh area. The synergies

between the two committees led to this merger, with the expectation that “the whole will be greater than the sum of the parts.”

The new Missions and Outreach Committee will be chaired by Rob Spicher and will have four subcommittees;

- 1) Hosted Community Events
- 2) Local Ministry Partnerships
- 3) Community Outreach
- 4) Missions

Existing activities and initiatives in these areas will be carried forward – new ones are sure to be spawned as well. Members of the current Missions and Community Events and Outreach committees, as well as several individuals appointed by Charge Conference, will comprise the membership of this new committee. An organizational meeting will be held prior to year-end 2023 to ensure that this new committee hits the ground running in 2024.

*If you would like more information about the newly formed Missions and Outreach Committee or would like to join it, please contact Rob Spicher at 412-720-4589 or [robert.spicher@pnc.com](mailto:robert.spicher@pnc.com).*

## RUMMAGE SALE DELIVERS FOR MISSIONS!

Rob Spicher, Community Events and Outreach Committee Chair



The November 4th Rummage Sale was a resounding success. Although the financial results are not yet final, the sale is expected to net more than \$10,000 for missions in Western PA, elsewhere in the United States, and around the world. The expression “one man’s trash is another man’s treasure” was certainly in evidence!

Special thanks to Mary Garber, whose dedication to and leadership of this event helped to ensure its success. Special thanks as well to the volunteers (both regulars and first timers) who made the sale possible, particularly the scouts from Troop 23 who did much of the “heavy lifting” during the pre-sort of items. Special thanks also to Office and Communications Coordinator Kate Naugle for her work not only with sale publicity but also last-minute details. And last, but certainly not least, special thanks to all who donated and/or purchased items. It took a village, and with God’s help a village we had!

Our next Rummage Sale will be on Saturday, June 1, 2024. Please mark your calendars and plan to help. And start collecting that rummage!



# Weekday Ministries

Beth Brack



**Our classrooms are full of happy, inquisitive children who learn so much each and every day! The teachers structure the lessons with as much hands-on learning as possible.**

**A child's brain develops more in the first five years of life than at any other time. Our wonderful teachers and I have the opportunity to help teach the children the values and habits they will have for their entire lives.**

**As the children prepare to celebrate their birthday they also get ready to transition to the next classroom . Each classroom is designed with that age's milestones in mind.**

**We are blessed to have the opportunity to touch the lives of so many children and families. They may not remember us, but the parents do! Years later when you run into the families of the children you taught they are always excited to tell us about their child's accomplishments. It is rewarding to think how we had a part in forming the future of so many children**





# The Nyadire Connection

Founded in 2006 and based in Pittsburgh, TNC is a faith-based, non-profit, all-volunteer organization that seeks to support and sustain the United Methodist Mission in Nyadire, Zimbabwe

## Chindenga Clinic Moon Shot: Mission Accomplished!



Earlier this year, TNC announced a “moon shot” – a goal to raise \$250,000 to enable the completion of the **Chindenga rural health clinic**. Thanks to the passion and support of many individual donors and our Pittsburgh-area network churches, mission accomplished!

For TNC and our brothers and sisters in Zimbabwe, the completion of Chindenga will mark the end of a 10-year, brick-by-brick journey to rebuild six rural medical clinics associated with the hospital at the United Methodist Mission in Nyadire, Zimbabwe. When the journey began, we had no idea how – or if – we could raise the necessary funding, about \$1.8 million. But we were driven by the faith that these clinics would improve the standard of health care for tens of thousands of residents, especially mothers-to-be who would walk miles to have babies there.

Church officials in Zimbabwe – including Bishop Nhwatiwa, Rev. Alan Gurupira, Rev. Austern Chepiri and Hannah Mafunda – have been involved in the clinics project from the start. Hannah, health coordinator of the Zimbabwe Episcopal Area Health Board, has documented many improvements in health care:

- With adequate staff housing, medical personnel at the clinics has more than doubled;
- With more space for waiting mothers and delivery rooms, at-home births have been reduced by about half;
- Clinics have adequate space to test and treat patients with malaria, and to ensure privacy and confidentiality for each patient;
- More shelters for expectant mothers has led to improved birth outcomes and post-natal monitoring;
- Additional housing for staff has enabled the clinics to accept more student nurses, expanding opportunities for education and jobs.

**Thanks for your generous support to make this a reality for our brothers and sisters in Zimbabwe!**



# International, National and Local Missions!

THANKS TO YOUR MANY CONTRIBUTIONS TO MISSION EFFORTS AT MLUMC WE WERE ABLE TO DISTRIBUTE THE FOLLOWING OVER THE PAST 14 MONTHS. YOU HAVE MADE A POSITIVE DIFFERENCE IN THE LIVES OF MANY!

PLEASE JOIN THE MISSION TEAM THAT RAISES MONEY AND DETERMINES WORTHY CAUSES TO SUPPORT. CONTACT ROB SPICHER OR LOUANNE BAILY THROUGH THE CHURCH OFFICE TO LEARN MORE.

Distributions 12/22 - 10/23	Amount
<b>Africa</b>	
The Nyadire Connection c/o Christ UMC 44 Highland Rd. Pgh, PA 15102	
Girl Empowerment Project	\$ 1,500
Medical Clinic completion	\$ 1,500
Libya	\$ 2,000
<b>Europe</b>	
Ukraine: <a href="https://umcmmission.org/umcor/umcors-response-to-the-crisis-in-ukraine/">https://umcmmission.org/umcor/umcors-response-to-the-crisis-in-ukraine/</a>	\$ 3,365
	\$ 2,000
Zwichau (\$5,363 in funds held in Mission Account)	\$3,000
<b>Caribbean/ Haiti</b>	\$ 1,500
	\$ 335
Haiti <a href="https://umcmmission.org/eoy-2022/supporting-resilience-in-haiti-hard-hit-by-disasters/">https://umcmmission.org/eoy-2022/supporting-resilience-in-haiti-hard-hit-by-disasters/</a>	\$ 1,500
	\$ 2,250
<b>US National</b>	
Spirit Lake Ministry Center, UMC Jamestown ND An approved VIM <a href="http://www.spiritlakeministrycenter.org/home.aspx">http://www.spiritlakeministrycenter.org/home.aspx</a>	\$ 1,000
Project Crossroads, Marion VA MLUMC Youth Mission	\$ 2,000
<b>Local</b>	
Pittsburgh Northside Lunch /Daily Bread of UMC Church Union	\$ 3,566
WPAUMC Affiliate Regional Mission Agencies.	
Church Union, Eastbrook Mission Barn, Connellsville Area Community Ministries, Erie United Methodist Alliance, Prison Outreach Ministry United Methodist Human Services of Johnstown, Ruth M. Smith Center	\$ 3,500
<b>Distribution Total</b>	<b>\$ 29,016</b>

# Church Financial Information

*Rob Spicher, Finance Committee Chair*

Since 2018, every edition of The Window has included financial information on our Church – this edition is no different. Summarized below are the Church’s 2022 actual, 2023 budgeted, and 2023 actual financial results through the 3rd quarter.

The 2023 budget projected a deficit of over \$100,000, assuming payment in full of the Connectional Contribution (aka Apportionment). The 2022 budget projected a similar deficit, but the actual results were much better due to a reduction in personnel costs (staff restructuring) and payment of just over half of the Contribution “ask.” Thanks in part to payment in full of several large pledges earlier this year and unanticipated gifts to cover items such as real estate taxes, YTD revenues through September are on pace to end up well ahead of the 2023 budgeted figure. It will be important that pledgers complete their pledges and non-pledged givers continue their giving to ensure that the 4th quarter produces the anticipated results. Important to note when looking at the actual results YTD is that the Church is on pace to pay approximately 50% of its budgeted Contribution. Decisions on any additional payments will be made by the Finance Committee and Church Council prior to year-end.

Any questions regarding the actual and budget information shown below should be directed to Rob Spicher (Finance Committee Chair). He can be reached by e-mailing him at [robert.spicher@pnc.com](mailto:robert.spicher@pnc.com).

	2022	% Of	2023	% Of	YTD through 3 <sup>rd</sup>	% Of
	<u>Actuals</u>	<u>Expenses</u>	<u>Budget</u>	<u>Expenses</u>	<u>Qtr. 2023</u>	<u>Expenses</u>
<b>Church Budget</b>						
<b>Revenue:</b>	\$744,890*	98.2%	\$745,560	87.7%	\$579,858	100.0%
<b>Expenses:</b>						
Personnel	\$412,921	54.4%	\$409,825	48.2%	\$299,871	51.7%
Programs & Facilities	145,070	19.1%	196,542	23.1%	124,238	21.4%
Utilities & Taxes	97,868	12.9%	103,800	12.2%	79,726	13.8%
Insurance	54,923	7.2%	62,426	7.3%	47,658	8.2%
Connectional Contribution to WPA UM Conference**	36,374	4.8%	66,238	7.8%	19,800	3.4%
Loan Payments	11,251	1.6%	11,251	1.3%	8,439	1.5%
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>\$758,407</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	<b>\$850,082</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>\$579,732</b>	<b>100%</b>
<b>Total Net Income (Loss)</b>	<b>(\$13,517)</b>		<b>(\$104,522)</b>		<b>\$126</b>	

\* Includes estate gifts of approximately \$27,750

\*\* \$69,652 requested in 2022

Net losses are covered by cash on hand, special gifts, and reserves.

## Financial Partners Needed

*Rob Spicher, Community Events & Outreach Chair*

Many of the events (such as large community meals) hosted by the former Community Events and Outreach Committee were self-sustaining, with free will donations from attendees covering event costs. Relative to activities organized by the Committee, however, such was not the case. Fortunately, several members of our congregation became regular financial supporters of these activities, sparing the general church budget from taking a financial “hit” to cover them.

As the Community Events and Outreach Committee transitions its activities to the newly formed Missions and Outreach Committee, there is an opportunity to provide similar financial support. By becoming a “financial partner” of this newly formed Committee, you will not only help to underwrite the cost of these activities but also be given the opportunity to assist with them.

One of the activities undertaken in the latter half of 2023 was the providing of backpacks filled with school supplies to children of Food Pantry clients, St. Paul AME members, and Beulah Baptist members. Although one-time donations played an important part in the backpack drive funding, funds provided by “financial partners” helped guarantee the drive’s success. Having “financial partners” in place will ensure that activities such as the backpack drive can continue to flourish.

If you are interested in becoming a “financial partner” of the newly formed Missions and Outreach Committee, please contact Rob Spicher (Committee Chair) at either 412-720-4589 or [robert.spicher@pnc.com](mailto:robert.spicher@pnc.com). Thank you in advance for your financial support.

**Mt. Lebanon United Methodist Church**

3319 West Liberty Avenue

Pittsburgh, PA 15216

412-531-7131 | Fax (412)-531-7155 | [www.mlumc.org](http://www.mlumc.org)

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