

How Your Money Becomes Ministry 2021 Budget



Manito United Methodist Church continues to answer God's call to foster disciples of Jesus Christ, with the intent of transforming the world with peace, compassion, justice and love. Achieving this goal in 2020 has been made more difficult due to the ongoing COVID-19 global

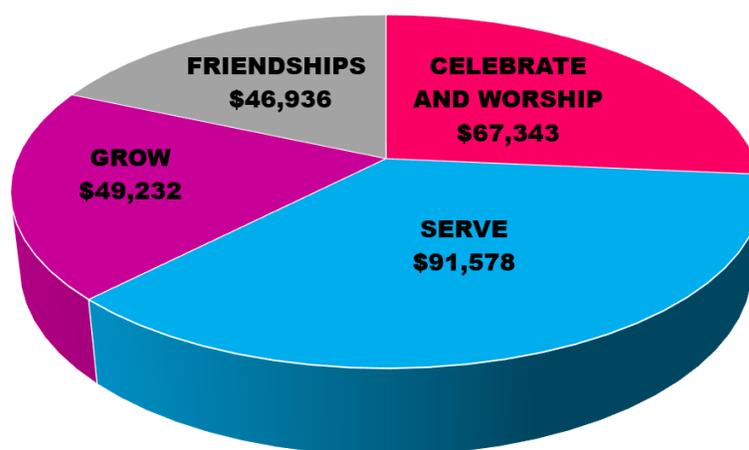
pandemic. However, despite this unprecedented environment we continue to work to create opportunities to **Celebrate and Worship** together, predominantly through virtual gatherings currently but with God's help, returning to an in-person format in the future. We will also **Serve** others as safely and ably as we can; **Grow** in our spiritual lives and develop lasting and meaningful **Friendships**.

Now, more than ever, we are asking for your support of the proposed 2021 Manito UMC budget. This narrative budget tells the story of how your giving supports the works that we do together. For those of you who may not have pledged before, your financial commitment enables the church to plan for the coming year and beyond. For those who are already faithfully pledging, thank you. Your continued generosity helps build the foundation for our vision and priorities for the year ahead.

Whatever amount you pledge to give, know that at Manito UMC stewardship is never just about money. We practice generosity as a way of life and seek to give back a measure of the gifts we have abundantly received.

ANTICIPATED 2021 BUDGET

\$255,089



■ CELEBRATE AND WORSHIP ■ SERVE ■ GROW ■ FRIENDSHIPS

Celebrate and Worship

Worship is central to Manito UMC's ministry. Attendance is now measured in terms of online viewership instead of in-person participation. Although it isn't the ideal format for worship, we estimate that the total number of people who watch some or all of our weekly Sunday service actually exceeds our traditional in-person attendance. The virtual setting has also provided the unique opportunity to worship and connect with other area UMC congregations. Even when we return to some mode of face-to-face worship, we have learned that a portion of the congregation will be utilizing some type of virtual connection to view the service. Preparing for a multi-format worship service needs to begin now. Once again, your financial support is essential to accomplish this.

Serve

Manito United Methodist Church has always had a strong call to serve others in our building, our neighborhood, city, nation and around the world. As with every other aspect of church life that changed dramatically in 2020, our church has adapted and remained faithful to serving others. Due to the pandemic our building could no longer be open to the AA groups, schools, Juvenile Diversion, M&M Tots, or Boy Scout troops that have used it previously. However, we have provided outdoor space for some of the AA groups to meet outdoors safely, and the improved Wi-Fi system, made possible through the Masked Mayhem Campaign, will allow groups to meet via Zoom as they seek to find or maintain sobriety.

Additionally, our church has formed a partnership with the YMCA to serve children in our neighborhood. Summer camps provided a fun environment for kids and childcare for parents, and this fall we opened our building to another YMCA program that provides a safe place for children to attend school via distance learning, with tutors to guide their education while parents work. We are also currently remodeling space vacated by the Montessori School to meet requirements for licensed child care. This space will be occupied by the YMCA's Early Childhood Education Assistance Program (ECEAP), providing free childcare to impoverished children in our neighborhood. In addition, our Missions Room not only stores disaster-relief kits from around our region waiting to be transported to the Depot in Salt Lake City, but also small household goods to be used by Family Promise families as they move out of homelessness and into a home of their own.

Our church also is a conduit for giving to local ministries, including the Second Harvest Food Bank, Shalom Ministries, and Family Promise of Spokane. Each Wednesday from 1:30 to 2:00 pm, a fun group of volunteers meets in the church's south parking lot to collect food and other donations for Family Promise and Shalom Ministries to safely support our ministry partners as they continue to serve our most vulnerable community members. We will continue to provide gifts for Family Promise clients as well as gift cards for homeless teens and socks for those served at Shalom at Christmas.

We continue to support missionaries Nan McCurdy and Miguel Mairena. Eleven of our members worked and studied with Nan and Miguel in 2013, and last November, five church members traveled to Mexico to learn and work with them. Our partnership with the people of Tlancualpican continues, and our church hopes to raise funds toward the \$5,200 cost to build a house with an efficient wood-burning stove and indoor composting toilet for a family who currently lives in a home that falls far below any that our groups had ever seen before.

In addition, a significant part of the budget provides funding to the United Methodist Church in the form of apportionments. These dollars are used to underwrite Christian mission around the world through the World Service Fund, provide support to 11 US historically Black colleges and universities, advocate for peace and justice through the Interdenominational Cooperation Fund, and provide critical support Africa University, the only United Methodist-related, degree granting university on the African continent. Students from 21 countries have the opportunity to develop leadership skills while studying agriculture, education, health sciences among other programs.

Grow

As a community of faith, the Manito UMC congregation is called upon to grow in our spiritual lives. To assist with this call adult congregation members can attend one of two weekly virtual Sunday School classes, and we are exploring ways to provide additional small group programming options in the future. We'll also be participating in a collaborative virtual youth ministry with other area UMC churches, and a children's Sunday School class will be available when in-person activities are allowed to resume. Additionally, new congregation members can attend a newcomer's class that discusses the history of Manito UMC and its contribution to Spokane's South Hill neighborhood and the community and instruction pertaining to the United Methodist Church denomination.

Friendships

People need people – friends with whom we share the hopes, joys, disappointments and adventures of life. Fellowship with others is an important element of what brings us together at Manito UMC. Friendships need to be nurtured and nourished in order to grow and flourish, and a central component of that is connecting and interacting with others. Our current situation has complicated this somewhat. We have little idea when the situation will relax, but the need for our church family to remain connected remains, and in fact, has never been greater.

The degree of isolation and separation we are experiencing has been difficult for all of us, and increases the need for we as a church to provide opportunities to participate and interact with each other. Manito UMC has been responding with online worship services as well as hosting virtual gathering opportunities for various classes, groups and committee functions. Manito will be expanding that range of connectivity options, as well as opportunities for small groups to gather in person as permitted under current government and church restrictions. As we eventually move into more relaxed stages of reopening, additional opportunities will be available to provide for our family to gather, share and participate in activities.

The portion of Manito UMC resources oriented towards fellowship responds to the desire and need for friendship inherent within all of us, supports the multitude of opportunities we have here to help cope with the challenges of our current situation, and fosters the creation of lasting and meaningful friendships. **Jesus' ministry was grounded in the circle of friends surrounding him; at Manito, we do the same.**

