



MEDINA  
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST, CONGREGATIONAL

206th  
Annual  
Report

2024

330-725-4559  
[office@uccmedina.org](mailto:office@uccmedina.org)  
[www.uccmedina.org](http://www.uccmedina.org)

# About Us

Our motto (since 2013): Welcoming, Loving, Serving, where God has no limits! For this 2025 budget report, we are presenting our expenses in the form of a narrative budget. It is a much different and simpler presentation than the detailed line-item presentation we have used in the past, which listed specific amounts for salaries, utilities, office expenses and the like.



We have grouped our ministries under the three broad categories of our mission statement. We have used the time spent by our pastoral staff, combined with allocations of building costs and other support activities to give you a better understanding of how we hope to welcome, love, and serve in the year ahead.



**JANUARY 26, 2025**

**206TH ANNUAL MEETING**

# Our Agenda

1

Call to Order: Scott Ockunzzi, Moderator  
Invocation: Rev. Dr. Luke Lindon

2

Minutes from May 19, 2024  
Report of the Church Clerk  
Report of the Church Treasurer

3

Narrative Budget for 2025

4

Report of the Endowment Fund

5

The Year Ahead

6

New Business:  
Proposed WISE Draft Covenant

7

Other Business  
Comments: Moderator  
& Rev. Dr. Luke Lindon  
Closing Prayer: Rev. Dr. Luke Lindon



**United Church of Christ, Congregational Medina**  
**Minutes from 205th Annual Team Meeting**  
May 19, 2024

**Call to Order**

Alyson Alber the current moderator called the meeting to order at 11:34 am. She established that we had quorum with 129 members in attendance.

**Invocation**

The Reverend Dr. Luke Lindon led the congregation with an opening prayer.

**Minutes from January 28, 2024**

Alyson asked for a motion to accept the minutes from the all congregational meeting on January 28, 2024. Cheri Ingraham moved to accept the minutes as printed in the report. Deb Waldron seconded the motion. The congregation voted in favor of accepting the minutes.

**Purpose Focused Leadership Teams Reports**

Alyson asked for motion to accept the reports as printed in the booklet. Vicki Marty moved to accept the minutes and Leon Coard seconded the motion. The congregation voted in favor of accepting the reports.

- Darlene Bagley-Fazekas was recognized for her years as chair of the Hospitality Team.
- Deanna Ockunzzi received accolades for her editing and working with the Jesus Vibes kids to create five videos used during worship to help understand the parables.
- Maureen Walker was recognized for her years as the chair of the Mission Team.

**New Business**

- *Name change of the Evangelism Team:* Alyson asked for motion to officially change the name of the Evangelism Team to the Community Engagement Team. Jen Cockrell so moved and the motion was seconded by Colleen Rice. The congregation voted to approve this name change.
- *Designation of being an Open and Affirming Church:* Alyson asked for a motion. Dan Daubner moved that our congregation accept the proposed Open and Affirming Statement written on page 24 of the booklet to verify official designation by the United Church of Christ National Denomination. Mary Ann Blosser seconded the motion. The congregation overwhelming and enthusiastically voted to approve the designation of being Open and Affirming. Following the passage of this motion the congregation gave a standing ovation for about three minutes.

## United Church of Christ, Congregational Medina Minutes from 205th Annual Team Meeting (cont.)

May 19, 2024

### Roster of Leadership Teams

Alyson explained that Scott Ockunzzi will be serving as the next Moderator, Ellen Nolan will be serving as the Moderator Elect, and Alyson will become the Immediate Past Moderator. Alyson thanked Dan Daubner for his service as a moderator and acknowledged his honesty, individualism, and the honor of serving with Dan.

Alyson asked for a motion to accept the Roster of Leadership as printed in the booklet. Tracy Gabrielsen made the motion and Alan Parkhurst seconded the motion. The congregation voted to approve the roster.

### Closing Comments

Rev. Luke Lindon shared his gratefulness for the congregation supporting his upcoming sabbatical and looking forward to the pies waiting in Fellowship Hall. Luke also thanked the Rev. Meghan Malone for her sermons and the amazing “junk drive” she organized. He wished her success as she steers the church during his sabbatical. Luke thanked Jeff Miller for his insightful and progressive three years of service as Financial Manager. He shared his respect for Pete Metzloff, Cindy Korecky, Cathy Fafrak, Stacie Yates and Jenny Cochran and their service to the United Church of Christ, Congregational.

*Closing Prayer and God Be with You closed the meeting at 11:53 am*

*Respectfully and Prayerfully Submitted by,  
Carl D. Skorepa (Church Clerk)*





## **Clerk's Report on Membership**

(Effective December 31, 2024)

**Total Members as of December 31, 2023:** 539

**Total Members as of December 31, 2024:** 508

### **Removed from the membership role due to death: -12**

Ruth Dunn (March 28, 2024)  
Helen Deuring (April 7, 2024)  
Joan Gibson (April 25, 2024)  
Eric Daiber (May 8, 2024)  
William Graham (June 25, 2024)  
Mary Ann Andrews (July 9, 2024)

Betty Einhart (July 17, 2024)  
Sally Bauer (August 12, 2024)  
Jane Swiger (October 6, 2024)  
Delynn Warfel (October 23, 2024)  
Lloyd Vaughn (November 15, 2024)  
Patricia Hofstetter (December 15, 2024)

### **Removed from the membership role per their request: -15**

Karl Stone (January 5, 2024)  
Andy Johnson February 6, 2024)  
Wendy Johnson (February 6, 2024)  
Paige Johnson (February 6, 2024)  
Peyton Johnson (February 6, 2024)  
Rob Kaiser (April 24, 2024)  
Jeff Nutter (May 14, 2024)  
Ellen Nutter (May 14, 2024)

Gary Hallman (August 24, 2024)  
Holly Hallman (August 24, 2024)  
Cochrane, Shannon (September 26, 2024)  
Cochrane, Timothy (September 26, 2024)  
Stoll, Kelsey (September 26, 2024)  
Stoll, Travis (September 26, 2024)  
Nathan Walker (October 14, 2024)

### **Removed from membership following Council Vote: (See next page) -46**

### **New Members Joined: +37**

Nancy Peacock (March 10, 2024)  
Logan Malone & Rev. Meghan Malone (April 16, 2024)  
Katherine Baker (April 28, 2024)  
Mike & Courtney Bischof (April 28, 2024)  
Jim & Vicki Birce (April 28, 2024)  
Aaron & Cori Collier (April 28, 2024)  
Michelle Doyle (April 28, 2024)  
Kimberly Gallagher (April 28, 2024)  
Wayne & Tania Grant (April 28, 2024)  
Evan & Samantha Harper (April 28, 2024)  
Allison Lehman (April 28, 2024)

Andrew & Alison Oswald (April 28, 2024)  
Jaron & Kaiti Rader (April 28, 2024)  
Jenny & Tom Wolff (April 28, 2024)  
Lesley Field (October 27, 2024)  
Donna Murray (October 27, 2024)  
Adam & Elizabeth Crabtree (November 17, 2024)  
Dave & Norma Watterman (November 17, 2024)  
Rex & Cindy Rickly (November 17, 2024)  
Mark Way (November 17, 2024)  
Sarah & Jacob Koehler (November 17, 2024)  
Sharon Poole (November 17, 2024)  
Susan West (November 17, 2024)

### **Confirmation Class of 2023-2024**

(May 5, 2024) + 5

Price Bilikam  
Julia Black  
Lyla Davis

Olivia Miller  
Blake Stepsis

### **Baptisms:**

Sophia Hope Storch (March 10, 2024)  
Will James Lichtenberg (October 27, 2024)  
Jillian Elizabeth Bischof (November 17, 2024)  
Meghan Marie Bischof (November 17, 2024)

## **Removed from Membership Roll**

Effective September 26, 2024 Per Council Vote

(Team: Todd Bauer, Kelly Charnley, Cindy Korecky, Vicki Marty, Carl Skorepa)

Bagley, Travis  
Czerwony, Teresa  
Fenn, Daniel  
Goodwin, Kathy  
Green, Fitz  
Green, Halley  
Green, Jack  
Honnert, Amanda  
Honnert, Andy  
Huffman, Alex  
Mann, Patrick  
McHenry, Bill  
Miller, Julie  
Morgan, Aliza  
Morgan, Chloe  
Morgan, Douglas  
Morgan, Kathryn  
Morgan, Laurie  
Palmquist, James  
Palmquist, Debbie  
Peterson, Brittany  
Peterson, RJ  
Reed, Kathryn

Reed, Steven  
Renaud, Austin  
Renaud, Tami  
Sanford, Lois  
Schoen, Adam  
Schoen, Eric  
Schoen, Kurt  
Sowers, Shane  
Stayer, DJ  
Stayer, Jared  
Stayer, Joe  
Stayer, Jordan  
Stayer, Lisa  
Thomas, Judy  
Turek, Linda  
Walz, Jan  
Wessell, Kelly  
White, Todd  
Winders, Eric  
Winders, Kathryn  
Winders, Emily  
Winders, Anna  
Wolfram, Uwe

*Respectfully and Prayer Fully Submitted,  
Carl D. Skorepa Congregational Clerk*

## **Annual Report of the Treasurer 2024**

I assumed the finance director role from Jeff Miller in April. During his three years with us, Jeff did much to streamline the accounting practices, reduce paperwork and harmonize Hobby Horse finances with the Church. Payroll was moved to a service bureau and most recurring transactions were moved to automatic electronic payments. During all of 2024, we wrote about ten paper checks a month. The REALM system has been emphasized to facilitate both pledging and on-line contributions.

I have been working to fully understand the details of our financial operations and streamline some of our smaller and somewhat redundant accounts and funds ("cookie jars") to get to a simpler, cash basis reporting system that everyone can understand. This simplification had only a slight impact on the overall reported finances of the Church for 2024. Detailed reports are provided to specific teams on their financial matters, with higher level complete reports going to the Finance & Stewardship Team and the Congregational Council monthly. My goal has been to reduce the weekly time requirement for the Finance Director from approximately 30 hours to something closer to 10-12 hours.

To ensure that basic review and control processes do not suffer now that the Finance Director job has morphed into a volunteer position, we are organizing a subgroup of the Finance & Stewardship Team to perform an oversight review on an annual basis. The last time an audit was formally performed was nine years ago.

We were able to negotiate a significantly higher return on our banking relationships in today's higher interest rate environment.

Overall, our finances remain strong. Our reserve or "fund balance" for the Operating Fund of \$124,334 represents 26% of our expected 2025 Operating Fund expenditures. We still hope to hear from the IRS on our covid era application under something called the Employee Retention Tax Credit, which if approved, could be a significant amount, as we did not furlough any of our employees, even when normal operations were suspended in 2020.

Submitted by Pete Metzloff



Following is a high level summary of our 2024 financial activities  
It is organized by these six major groupings:

### **Operating Fund**

The operating fund supports the general activities of the regular church, with salary and related costs, building maintenance, utilities, programs and office supplies and costs being the principal expenses.

### **Mission Fund**

We traditionally pledge and account for our local and denominational mission expenditures separately from the Operating Fund. Our goal is to disburse all of the mission fund donations we receive each year to worthy causes.

### **Capital Fund**

This fund is for new purchases of equipment or significant and non-recurring repairs to existing structures. This fund accumulates gifts from year to year until the funds are needed for a capital expense.

### **Hobby Horse Fund**

The preschool is an outreach mission of our Church and is financially and legally part of our organization. The tuition charges return a "dividend" to our Operating Fund in lieu of any other charges for use of the building and administrative costs.

### **Restricted Gifts**

These are gifts that have been given with the understanding that the money will be used only for some particular purpose.

### **Endowment Fund**

The Endowment is governed by a separate Constitution and managed by an Endowment Committee responsible to the Congregation but not the Congregational Council.

## Medina UCCC 2024 Financial Overview of Cash Flows

In Thousands	Operating	Mission	Subtotal	Capital	Restricted	Hobby Horse	Total
Cash at beginning of year	\$ 113	\$ -	\$ 113	\$ 72	\$ 203	\$ 34	\$ 422
<b><u>Cash Inflows</u></b>							
Contributions	429	55	484	13	9		506
Hobby Horse tuition and other income						233	233
All other cash inflows	2		2		26		28
Total cash inflows	431	55	486	13	35	233	767
<b><u>Cash Outflows</u></b>							
Salaries, including fringe benefits	(340)		(340)			(200)	(540)
Utility costs	(29)		(29)				(29)
Insurance	(19)		(19)				(19)
Other maintenance costs	(37)		(37)				(37)
Program activities	(48)		(48)		(28)	(10)	(86)
Capital and major repair items				(7)	(10)		(17)
Restricted gift outflows					(2)		(2)
Local mission programs		(46)	(46)		(3)		(49)
Upper denomination mission programs		(9)	(9)		(1)		(10)
Total cash outflows	(473)	(55)	(528)	(7)	(44)	(210)	(789)
Mission giving percentage		11%					
Net excess (deficiency) of cash flows before transfers	(42)	-	(42)	6	(9)	23	(22)
<b>Transfers:</b>							
Hobby Horse "dividend" /building use	26		26		(26)		-
Insurance policy proceeds	30		30		(30)		-
Net change in cash	14	-	14	6	(65)	23	(22)
Cash at end of year	\$ 127	\$ -	\$ 127	\$ 78	\$ 138	\$ 57	\$ 400

Medina UCCC 2024 Financial Overview of Cash Flows (Cont.)					
<b>Schedule of Significant Restricted Gifts:</b>		<b>At 2023</b>	<b>Received</b>	<b>Transferred or Disbursed</b>	<b>At 2024</b>
Proceeds of an insurance policy		69	-	(30)	39
Other HH - mostly scholarships + grants		13	-	(32)	(19)
Mission special activities such as the Amanda Fund		42	24	(13)	53
Memorial gifts		17	5	(8)	14
Music programs		9	8	(11)	6
Youth programs		4	3	-	7
All other restricted gifts		49	6	(17)	38
		203	46	(111)	138
<b>Recent history of approved net deficit budgets versus subsequent actual results:</b>					
		Proposed	Actual		
	2025	(17,748)			
	2024	(69,594)	14,142		
	2023	-	12,256		
	2022	(12,246)	4,818		
	2021	(12,533)	20,752		
	2020	(14,131)	8,668		
	2019	(11,582)	6,113		
	2018	(23,934)	9,527		
	2017	(9,829)	3,618		



## Annual Report of the Endowment Fund 2024

In 2024 the Endowment Committee focused on celebrating 30 years of existence. During the Annual Founder's Day celebration, we kicked off the 30 for 30 Campaign, seeking donations of thirty dollars in honor of the 30 years. This effort resulted in over 70 donations for a total of over \$3,100. Thank you once again to all supporters of this effort.

As of December 31, 2024 the Book Value of the fund held by United Church Funds in New York was \$236,637.75 with a Market Value of \$385,827.22. For this same period last year, the Market Appreciation for the fund is \$25,940.46. Using the distribution formula approved by the Congregation in 2016 the committee had \$51,615 to allocate for special projects and efforts of the church not covered by the Operating or Mission Budget. We solicited grant requests starting in late September and in the end five great grant requests were received.

The committee met and awarded the following grants including a special request that was submitted mid-year:

Mid-year Request–Special Speaker–Colby Martin	\$ 1,500.00
Hobby Horse Preschool–Driveway Gate	\$4,500.00
Special Speaker–Greg Carey	\$2,000.00
2025 Costa Rica Mission Trip	\$7,500.00
WISE Group Speaker–Rev. Dr. Sarah Giffith Lund	\$3,800.00
Property & Grounds–Kitchen Upgrade	\$15,000.00
Total	\$34,300.00

The Endowment Committee is grateful for the financial support via donations to the efforts of the Fund. Below is a list of 2024 donors to the Endowment Fund:

Patrick & Jennifer Acurio	Brad & Cindy Gould	Scott & Deanna Ockunzzi
Amos & Kenzie Armbrust	Donna Graham	Alan Parkhurst
Bruce & Sally Bauer	Virginia Hall	Carolee Rafn
Todd & Becky Bauer	Craig & Beth Hari	Corey & Jaclyn Raub
Mary Bessick	Bill Holford	Dennis & Allayne Reese
Michael & Natasha Branam	Diane Howard	Terry & Carol Rhodes
Pam Branscome	Dan & Ellen Hunter	Brad & Colleen Rice
Kelly Charnley	Crell & Kellie Johns	Susan Russell
Dick & Dorie Christy	Jane Langol	Greg & Barb Shaffer
Leon Coard	Lynn Leckie	Ken & Judy Smith
Jan & Tad Coleman	Karen Leidy	Toby & Stephanie Stepsis
Dan Daubner	Luke & Kate Lindon	Jack & Diane Stoll
Tammy Daubner	Marie Longacre	Cynthia Talbert
Ken & Judy Daugherty	Dan & Vicki Marty	John & Joan Walschon
Chris & Jeanette Fagan	Katy & Michael Medley	Jeff & Diane Welday
Edward Farnham	Pete & Alice Metzloff	Susan & Andy West
Carole Fawcett	Carol Mitchell	Christine Wheeler
Darlene & Steve Fazekas	Katherine Murray	Ken & Liz Wolff
Tracy Gabrielsen	Philip & Claire Nicholson	Matt & Stacie Yates
Julie Gilliland	Josh & Ellen Nolan	Anonymous or cash donations
John & Judy Gorsek	Nick North	

Additionally, the Memorials Team has donated portions of certain Memorial Gifts received to the Endowment Fund.

Respectfully submitted,

The Endowment Fund Committee  
 Kelly Charnley  
 Matt Yates  
 Kent Daugherty  
 Bonnie Shuman  
 Alan Parkhurst  
 Jane Langol, ex-officio

## 2024 Endowment Fund BOOK VALUE

DATE	DESCRIPTION	ACTIVITY	BALANCE
12/31/2023	ENDING BALANCE		\$231,805.19
1/8/2024	GAIN ON SALE	\$1,757.91	\$233,563.10
1/8/2024	DISTRIBUTION (2 GRANTS)	-\$5,100.00	\$228,463.10
3/28/2024	DIVIDENDS/INTEREST	\$1,486.52	\$229,949.62
4/29/2024	CONTRIBUTION	\$3,494.00	\$233,443.62
5/17/2024	DISTRIBUTION CLEANUP 2 GRANTS	-\$633.96	\$232,809.66
5/17/2024	GAIN ON SALE	\$242.21	\$233,051.87
6/28/2024	DIVIDENDS/INTEREST	\$2,486.89	\$235,538.76
9/30/2024	DIVIDENDS/INTEREST	\$2,092.26	\$237,631.02
12/6/2024	GAIN ON SALE	\$2,208.28	\$239,839.30
12/6/2024	DISTRIBUTION (2 GRANTS)	-\$5,425.89	\$234,413.41
12/11/2024	CONTRIBUTION	\$494.50	\$234,907.91
12/31/2024	DIVIDENDS/INTEREST	\$1,729.84	\$236,637.75
12/31/2024	MARKET VALUE		\$385,827.22

# The Year Ahead

We've been the church on Medina's Square for 200+ years, and we're looking to be here for the next 200 years. Finances and budgets are theological and spiritual documents. They represent our dreams, visions, and sense of where God is working among us and sending us into the future.

WELCOMING		<u>Dollars</u>		<u>Percent</u>	
	Sunday Worship	\$	133,503	24.8%	
	Living Waters		34,595	6.4%	
	Bible Study		28,149	5.2%	
	DELT - Vibes		13,880	2.6%	
			210,127		39.1%
LOVING					
✝	Pastoral Care		60,409	11.2%	
	LWA-SPIRE		9,280	1.7%	
	Youth		48,035	8.9%	
			117,724		21.9%
SERVING					
	Housing		46,379	8.6%	
	Community Mission		115,058	21.4%	
	World Wide Mission		18,419	3.4%	
	Reaching Out		30,385	5.6%	
			210,241		39.1%
			\$ 538,092		100.0%

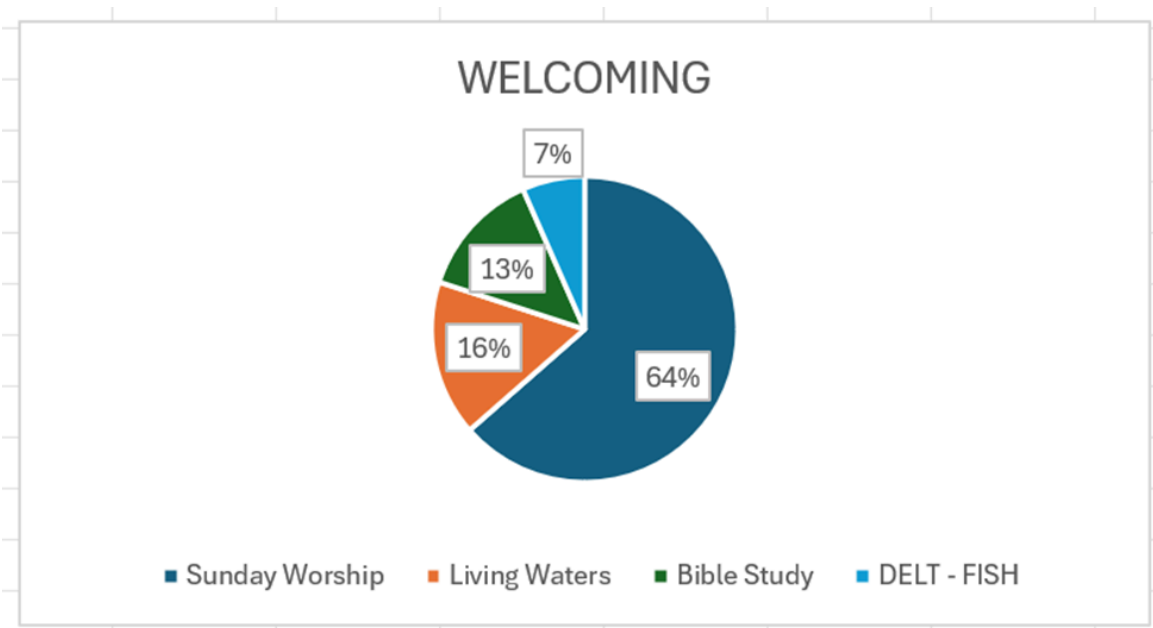
The above figures represent our plan for both the Operating Fund and the Mission Fund. It does not include the Capital Fund, Hobby Horse or any restricted gifts, which are described elsewhere in this Annual Report.

A copy of the traditional line-item budget is available for inspection in the church office by any member.



# Welcoming: Sunday Worship

We welcome by offering three unique worship opportunities every Sunday morning: the Chapel, Gathering, and Sanctuary services. These services provide members and visitors with an exceptional choice of worship styles and music. The Gathering and Sanctuary services are both livestreamed and recorded for later viewing at [uccmedina.org](http://uccmedina.org).



WELCOMING		Dollars		Percent
	Sunday Worship	\$ 133,503		24.8%
	Living Waters	34,595		6.4%
	Bible Study	28,149		5.2%
	DELT - Jesus Vibes	13,880		2.6%
			210,127	39.1%

## Welcoming: Worship, continued

Worship services are our primary area of welcoming church members and the community at large. In worship, we remember our traditions, our sacred stories, and wonder where the Trinity is leading us today. We freely offer this sacred space to every one of our neighbors.

**Our total worship attendance for 2024 was 13,049!**

**4,297 people viewed our worship services online  
and 8,752 people were here in person on Sunday morning.**

**The weekly average (not including Christmas numbers)  
is 250 people experiencing worship with us each week!**



# Welcoming: Worship continued

## Music is worship

About 28% of the \$133,503 cost of Sunday Worship involves our dedicated music staff and musical expenses.

Music is vital to our faith because it transcends words, reaching the depths of our souls and connecting us to the divine in ways that logic and language cannot. It has the power to unify a congregation, creating a shared spiritual experience through melody and harmony.

Music gives voice to emotions like joy, lament, hope, and reverence, allowing us to express what words alone cannot convey. Throughout scripture and tradition, music has served as a tool for worship, a means of teaching faith, and a way to inspire transformation. It invites participation, fostering a sense of community and belonging while drawing us closer to the sacred.

In other words, it's a really important part of the worship experience!





# Welcoming: Association

## Living Waters Association (Northeast Ohio UCC Churches)

Luke and Meghan spend about 3 hours a month with the Living Waters Association, connecting with regional faith leaders, attending programs, and participating in what the broader church is doing. Annual clergy meetings, boundary trainings, and continuing education are included in this number for both pastors as well.

Both pastors are part of a Community of Practice made up of local UCC pastors. These groups give them space to network, share best practices, and grow with a community of faith. Additionally, Pastor Luke uses some of his time to plan retreats for clergy within the association.

This year Pastor Meghan joined the Next Generation Leadership Initiative offered by the UCC Pension Boards, which equips and energizes younger UCC church pastors to co-create vibrant congregations that change lives, engage their communities, and further God's mission in the world..



## Welcoming: Bible Studies

When we study the Bible at Medina UCC, we make it known that everyone is welcomed just as they are, and they're invited to a deeper understanding of their own belovedness in God's eyes. We are the tangible reminder to each individual that they are cherished and supported when we make this kind of space.

We take on harmful misinformation and share our understanding of the Bible through our podcast episodes and studies. This year we will tackle the books of First and Second Samuel, engage with theologian AJ Levine with our neighbors at St. Paul's and St. Matthew, and keep producing our podcasts. All this increases knowledge of our tradition and sacred scripture.





## Welcoming: DELT

**The DELTs (Discipleship and Education Leadership Team) lead our Sunday morning children's programs called Jesus Vibes and Jr. Jesus Vibes for younger children during the 10:30am service.**

Jesus Vibes is a fun and creative space for kids. They hear Bible stories and then creatively express what they've learned through art projects and skits.

In 2024 our Jesus Vibes kids and adults worked together to make a series of videos for worship in Lent. They acted out the parables of Jesus and edited them into playful videos that were very much enjoyed!

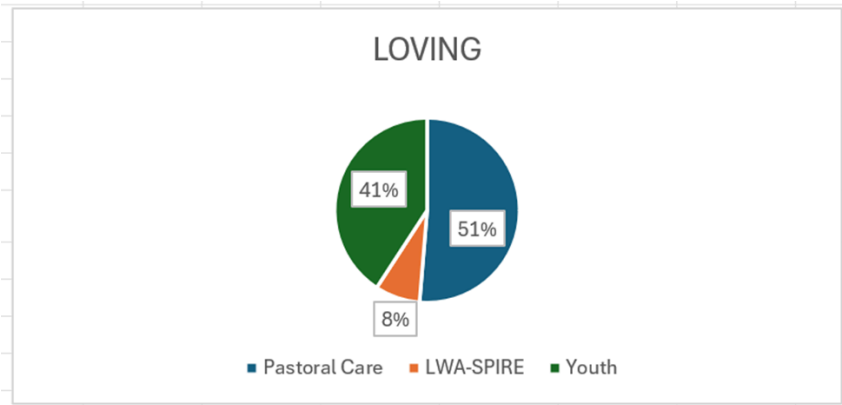




# Loving: Pastoral Care

Providing care through counseling, visiting members, and offering pastoral support reflects the heart of our church’s commitment to love. Whether walking alongside families during life’s challenges, celebrating the joy of weddings, or offering comfort and hope through funeral services, these moments embody our mission to be a source of compassion and grace in the lives of our members and community.

Our Pastors are always available and spend around 10 hours per week meeting with individuals both from the church and our wider community providing a listening ear and pastoral guidance.



LOVING					
	Pastoral Care	60,409		11.2%	
	LWA-SPIRE	9,280		1.7%	
	Youth	48,035		8.9%	
			117,724		21.9%





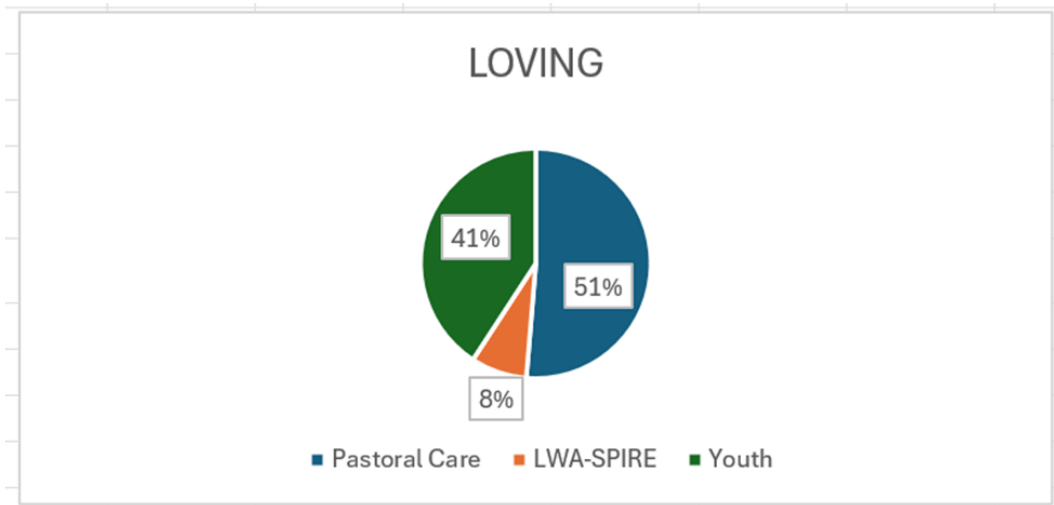
## Loving: Children & Youth

A noisy church is a growing church—a place alive with the sounds of laughter, questions, and the vibrant energy of young people discovering their faith. Our youth are not just the church of the future, they are an integral part of the church today. Their voices, ideas, and presence enrich our community and shape our shared mission. By investing in their growth and spiritual formation, we not only prepare them to lead tomorrow but also empower them to contribute meaningfully right now. Supporting our children and youth is both a present joy and a lasting commitment to the vitality of the church.



# Loving: SPIRE School of Possibility

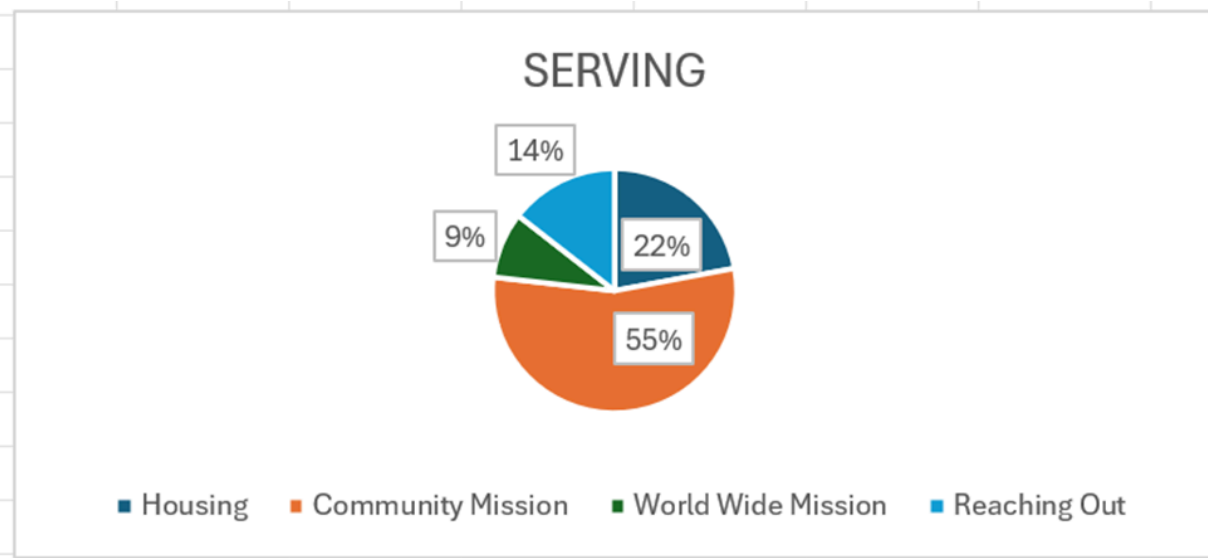
Luke is involved with SPIRE, the association’s faith formation branch which supports pastors and lay people alike with faith-based programs. The purpose is to provide resources, inspiration, and training to church leaders, members, pastors, faith explorers, and all those hearing the call to be part of the creative labor and the new birth the Church is experiencing in our evolving world. Read more about the SPIRE Center here: <https://livingwaterone.org/spirecenter/>





# Serving

Our commitment to serve resonates powerfully within our community. As we join with our partners in affordable housing initiatives, we create more than shelter—we offer stability, dignity, and hope to families who might otherwise feel abandoned. Every counseling session, each shared meal, every moment of community outreach carries the potential for transformation, helping us all to see and respond to the needs of the world with the same compassion Christ showed.



SERVING					
	Affordable Housing	46,379		8.6%	
	Community Mission	115,058		21.4%	
	World Wide Mission	18,419		3.4%	
	Reaching Out	30,385		5.6%	
			210,241		39.1%

DIRECT MISSION PARTNER EXPENSES (before any allocations)	\$	66,000
OVERALL EXPENSES		538,092
PERCENTAGE OF DIRECT EXPENSES THAT ARE DIRECT MISSION		12%

# Serving

Pastor Luke served with his Leadership Medina County class to help publicize the Next Step Up Emergency Shelter. He will continue with that work in the next year. He is also vice president of Medina Interfaith Coalition for Affordable Housing, known as MICAH. He was able to build a website (<https://micahmedina.org/about-us/>) and meet with community leaders and business about the importance of work force housing.

Pastor Meghan leads youth mission trips and builds relationships with our vital mission partners. She leads the mission team in supporting the work of CUPS Cafe, the Children’s Center, Hope Recovery, and many other local partners. In February she is joining the group heading to Costa Rica to build a home there.

As a church, we support these wider offerings from the United Church of Christ: Our Church’s Wider Mission: Funds UCC Conferences and National Ministries. Neighbors in Need: Sponsors justice initiatives, advocacy work, and service projects. The Christmas Fund: Gives aid to church servants who are facing financial difficulty. One Great Hour of Sharing: Supports disaster response and humanitarian ministries. Strengthen the Church: Builds up innovation, leadership training, and new churches.

DIRECT MISSION PARTNER EXPENSES (before any allocations)	\$	66,000
OVERALL EXPENSES		538,092
PERCENTAGE OF DIRECT EXPENSES THAT ARE DIRECT MISSION		12%





## Not In The Budget

Our members and youth serve and donate in many ways that do not get recorded financially, including such things as:

- Food for Blake families, which is almost entirely purchased directly by our church members.
- Serving vital groups in our community such as AA by providing our facility for their meetings for little or no cost.
- Collecting donations for mission partners and projects (like personal hygiene items, bedsheets, art supplies, food, etc.)
- Meal preparation for mission partners such as Cups Café, Operation Homes, and Hope Recovery Center.
- Son-shine meal trains for families going through a hard time.
- Making and delivering crafts to shut-ins.
- Making and delivering loaves of bread to visitors and members.



*Pete Metzloff, Treasurer  
Keeping us on track financially,  
and on budget, without pay.*

*Thank you Pete!*

*Pastoral Care  
Visitations by  
Pastor Karen Brocco-Kish  
are a donated ministry  
she performs without pay.*

*Thank you Karen!*



## How will the 2025 budget be met:

	2024 Actual	2025 Budget
Pledges to the Operating Fund	\$ 333,878	\$326,000
Pledges to the Mission Fund	39,802	37,000
Nonpledge gifts	69,821	64,650
Fundraisers and program fees and donations	15,198	15,000
Hobby Horse building use/distribution	26,056	24,000
Memorial gifts to Missions	3,615	3,000
Interest income	6,607	7,000
Insurance policy gift	30,000	38,694
Building use fees and donations	<u>5,160</u>	<u>5,000</u>
	\$ 530,137	\$ 520,344

Under the 2025 budget plan, we will be using \$17,748 of the \$124,334 in operating reserves to match the \$538,092 of projected expenditures.





# Summary

As we look ahead to 2025, it's clear that Medina United Church of Christ, Congregational is positioned to build on a strong foundation of welcoming, loving, and serving. The past year has been a testament to our shared mission, with every hour of ministry intentionally aligned to embody Christ's fierce love and meet the needs of our congregation and community.

From our Sunday worship gatherings to Bible studies, pastoral care, and community outreach, each activity strengthens our impact and deepens our collective calling. We've created spaces where everyone feels welcomed and included, fostered meaningful connections that reflect God's love, and extended tangible support to those in need through partnerships like the affordable housing coalition.

Looking forward, we are called to expand this work with renewed focus and energy. Together, we will continue to innovate in worship, deepen our faith formation initiatives, and forge new partnerships that amplify our mission to serve. We are the Body of Christ in action—open, transformative, and forward-thinking.

In 2025, let us imagine and embrace new possibilities for ministry, ensuring that Medina United Church of Christ remains a place where lives are changed, hope is rekindled, and God's love is made visible. The future is bright, and with your continued support, our shared journey will reflect the light and love of Christ in all we do.

Thank you for your commitment, your faith, and your partnership in this sacred work. Together, we will welcome, love, and serve in ways that truly transform lives and communities.



## **Becoming WISE at Medina UCCC**

- WISE Committee established August 2022
  - o Initial presentation to Council September 2022
- Activities to Learn & Understand Mental Health and the needs of our Community:
  - o Mental Health Book Study open to the Congregation October 2022
    - “Blessed are the Crazy” by Sarah Griffith
  - o Church sponsored a Room at the new Recovery Farm for Cathy’s House/Hope Recovery
    - Via the Missions team, Church hosts periodic dinners for Cathy’s House/Hope Recovery Fall 2022
  - o Epiphany Worship Series “Heavy Burdened” January-February 2023
    - Topics shared by Guest Speakers included Grief, Addiction, Mental Illness, Caregivers, Anxiety, & Parents
  - o WISE Team visited the Hope Recovery Farm to learn about who it will serve, how it will benefit its residents, and the goals it has for the greater community of Medina January 2023
  - o Established two unique community support groups hosted by the Church March 2023
    - Mental Health Support Group
    - Parent/Caregiver Mental Health Group
  - o Draft of WISE Covenant completed June 2023
  - o Draft of WISE Covenant shared with Church Council September 2023
  - o Medina UCCC Youth Group Mental Health Day November 2023
- Still to be completed:
  - o Place the covenant before the congregation for formal adoption - tentatively set for January 2025
  - o Update the UCC MHN of status of covenant vote
  - o Announce / publicize WISE status within the local community
  - o Continue work of the Committee as part of ongoing future work of the church (Council / another committee / etc)

## MEDINA UCCC DRAFT COVENANT - UPDATED FINAL VERSION JAN 2025

Medina UCCC will serve as a vehicle of engagement to reduce stigma and promote the inclusion of people with neurodiverse mental health and their families in daily working, living, & leadership within our Medina community.

Acknowledging that a person's abilities are not always apparent, and that society tries to saddle each of us with limits, Medina UCCC seeks to discover the richness in everyone. As the Body of Christ, we positively affirm every human's worth, regardless of mental & physical challenges. We recognize that every human has a Holy Commission and that a person's mental health is a part of their life's journey. We have great faith that God will use it for good.

Jesus shows how we are to walk with one another in this life, without regard to ability or status. We celebrate that all people are created in the image of God, including those with neurodiverse mental health. All people are ministers of God and have unique and meaningful insight into God's being and expression of love. It is in this light that Medina UCCC welcomes, includes, supports, and engages those with neurodiverse mental health in our community.