

WESLEY FREEDOM  
*celebration*  
OF GENEROSITY



WE BELIEVE,  
WE GIVE!  
**2023**

*Wesley*  
123



# All of life is a gift and God is the first and best giver.

God is the source of all we are and all we have, and God is just getting started! God continues to provide and offer us new life and new purpose each day. These beliefs form the foundation of who we are and they inspire a generous response!

*"We are not alone, we live in God's world. We believe in God: who has created and is creating, who has come in Jesus, the Word made flesh, to reconcile and make new."*

*Statement of Faith, United Church of Canada*



**This fall we pause to say THANK YOU for your generosity in 2023! Your giving empowered our community to live out our beliefs by sharing the story of grace with every age and serving our community in tangible and expanding ways.**



## We say "Thank You" on behalf of:

- 27 youths mentored through a confirmation journey.
- 80+ middle schoolers, many without a church home, welcomed into weekly community at MSM.
- 200+ preschoolers and their families invited into a relationship with Jesus.
- 500+ community members who discovered how "Stellar" our God is at VBS.
- 30 summer campers immersed in God's community and creation.
- Dozens of adults who are going deep in their understanding of the scriptures through study.
- Countless persons cared for by our pastors, Stephen Ministers, and Hope Rising team.
- A refugee family in Baltimore gaining community and support.
- A family in West Virginia whose home was made safer and warmer.
- The congregation of Greendale UMC in Zimbabwe who raised a roof in 2023!



# 2023 We Believe, We Give

*“We believe in God who works in us and others by the Spirit.  
We trust in God. We are called to be the Church...”*

We invite you to prayerfully consider how **your financial offerings are a tangible expression of what you believe and value.**

- God is the giver of all you have; give in gratitude!
- God is faithful to provide; give regularly!
- God can be trusted to bring you through; give in faith!
- God is worthy of our first and best; give up lesser things and give sacrificially!
- WFUMC carefully stewards every dollar; give with confidence!
- Every gift impacts lives; give with expectation!



**This November, put your beliefs into action by making a brave commitment to give a weekly or monthly offering in 2024.** Your promise allows our leadership to invest in people and ministries with confidence. Together, our ongoing gifts ensure that resources are readily available to sustain God’s life-giving work every day of the year.

**Consider making a one-time Thanksgiving Offering** so that we can replace our organ and make our worship space more welcoming and accessible to all.

You and your gifts are essential as we seek to share God’s grace and care for our community.

Grateful,  
Rev. Dr. Jennifer Smith, Rev. Ian Collier, and  
Your Generosity Team

## *A Life Transformed:* **Kyle**

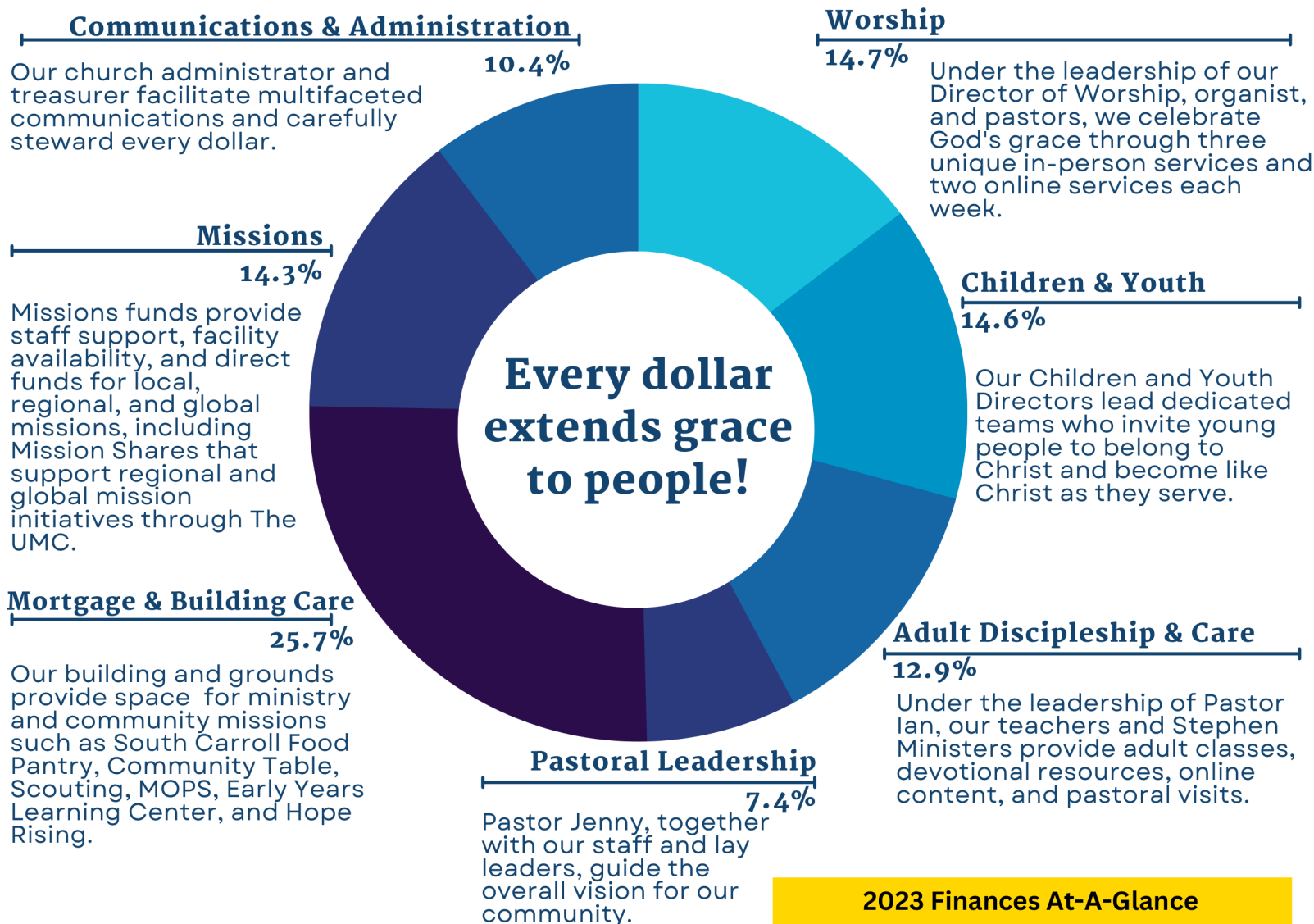


Kyle showed up at Wesley Freedom on May 7, 2023 eager to get to know people, learn about God, and determine what it means to live life as a young adult Christian. Kyle was mentored by pastors and worship leaders, and he was embraced by Christian community at camp. Kyle chose to be baptized in the river this summer as a way to be fully immersed in his new faith. For Kyle, being surrounded by Wesley Freedom members who covered him in prayer after he got out of the river was especially meaningful. As a new person in Christ, Kyle is excited about his future serving God. Kyle was the first of 12 river baptisms this fall!

See Kyle’s interview at  
[wesleyfreedom.org/give](https://wesleyfreedom.org/give)

# YOUR OFFERINGS AT WORK

Like your family budget, our church budget is the most tangible expression of what we believe and value. With every gift, your beliefs become tangible expressions of God's grace. Look at how much ministry \$100 can accomplish!



## 2023 YTD Financial Update

Giving to the General Fund empowers ministry every day. Spending currently exceeds giving by ~\$30,000. Please give generously to ensure we can fully fund our ministry in the final months of 2023. As you make your 2024 pledge, consider how much you can stretch and sacrifice to increase your weekly giving so that together we can meet a projected 6% budget increase.

Designated Funds are set aside for large repairs, upgrades to buildings, and investments in missions. As you can see, we are spending our equity from previous years. Your gifts to the Thanksgiving Offering, the Wesley Freedom Endowment, and legacy gifts are crucial for replenishing these funds to allow mission and building upgrades to continue.

## 2023 Finances At-A-Glance

### General Ministry - 1/1/2023-9/30/2023

Weekly Contributions	\$701,393
EYLC Contributions & Interest	\$99,751
<b>Total General Fund Income</b>	<b>\$801,144</b>
<b>Total General Fund Expenses</b>	<b>\$830,756</b>
<b>Net Income (Loss)</b>	<b>\$(29,612)</b>

### Designated Funds - 1/1/2023-9/30/2023

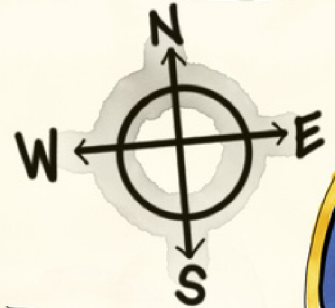
Designated Income	\$102,439
<b>Total Designated Expenses</b>	<b>\$186,954</b>
<b>Equity Income (Loss)</b>	<b>\$(84,515)</b>



# YOUR PLEDGE: SETTING OUT IN FAITH

**EMBARK** BEGIN  
YOUR JOURNEY \$20/WEEK

I'M EXCITED TO  
HEAR WHERE  
THIS GOES TO...



...IT FEELS AMAZING TO  
SUPPORT OUR COMMUNITY

**LIFT A SAIL**  
LET THE LORD LEAD AND  
PROVIDE, GIVE A PERCENTAGE  
OF YOUR INCOME

**FULL SAIL AHEAD!**  
BE PROPELLED FORWARD BY FAITH,  
COMMIT TO TITHING 10%

WE CAN DO SO MUCH  
MORE TOGETHER IN  
*faith*

**SEE WHERE GOD WILL LEAD.**  
LET GOD CARRY TO UNEXPECTED  
BLESSINGS. GIVE ABOVE A TITHE.

## A Transformed Life: MJ

MJ's first exposure to WFUMC was at an Easter Service, but she really got to know us through the "friendly and welcoming" Craft Group. With her love for volunteering, she continued to show up, participating in the Women's Retreat, which helped develop her relationship with God. Through the pastors' sermons and her bible study groups, MJ's faith has become personal.

MJ's continuous love for community led her to join the Stephen Ministry team to help others find hope in Christ and grow in faith, just as Wesley Freedom has done for her. See MJ's interview at [wesleyfreedom.org/give](http://wesleyfreedom.org/give).





# Thanksgiving Offering

## Sanctuary Restoration

We believe that God is worthy of our worship and that our worship life and space should welcome all people into God's presence! Our 2023 Thanksgiving Offering is dedicated to replacing our failing organ, improving accessibility, and refreshing our worship space. We invite every worshiper to make a one-time special Thanksgiving Offering!

Our sanctuary was built in 1992 and the original organ, carpet, and paint have served well for over 30 years. The organ keys and pedals are now broken, the carpet bears years of wear and tear, and we have persons eager to lead worship who are limited by the steps.



**Your gift of \$50-\$50,000+ will help us reach our goal of \$100,000** to fully accomplish this generational refresh to our worship life. If you are able and willing to fully fund one of the projects below, please contact Pastor Jenny ([jsmith@wesleyfreedom.org](mailto:jsmith@wesleyfreedom.org)) or Donald Kropfelter ([dkrop1313@gmail.com](mailto:dkrop1313@gmail.com)).

### Thanksgiving offering priorities:

- Purchase of a new organ (\$57,000).
- Ramp or lift for platform accessibility (\$ 10,000).
- New hearing assist technology (\$1,300).
- Building a functional and aesthetically pleasing technology booth (\$3,500).
- Re-Carpeting of the full sanctuary and chancel with minor platform adjustments (\$15,000).
- Replacement of failed projector.
- Professional Painting of Sanctuary.



**South Carroll Food Pantry** feeds hungry people. This year, ten percent of our Thanksgiving Offering will be tithed to SCFP.

This year, we serviced –

- 340 people monthly at our Saturday pantry.
- 60 people monthly at our new Crossroads popup pantries.
- 30-40 people weekly as drop-ins.

And we added frozen and refrigerated storage!

**Still, eight percent of South Carroll residents remain food insecure.**

Each month, we need to purchase ~2,800 pounds of food and collect another ~4,500 pounds. Your generous giving will help us purchase food and expand our capabilities to overcome transportation and storage limitations to bring the food to our neighbors.



# MAXIMIZE YOUR GIFT

Cash donations are the easiest way to fund the ministry that is happening today. But many of us have also been blessed with assets that can fund a project or sustain ministry for generations to come. We encourage you to consider how to **maximize** both the **impact** of your gift and your **tax advantages**. For special assistance, contact David Schafer at [dschafer@liftoffdc.com](mailto:dschafer@liftoffdc.com) or Donald Kropfelter at [dkrop1313@gmail.com](mailto:dkrop1313@gmail.com)

## High Impact Gifts



## Ensure This Will Continue

### Stocks & Bonds

Do you own stock that has grown in value and that you have held for more than one year? This can become a substantial gift, made at a low net cost to you. You still receive a charitable deduction for the donation of these assets, and it's based on their fair market value on the date of the gift. AND there's a bonus—you avoid all federal capital gains taxes.

### Legacy Gift

Do you have a Last Will & Testament? Are you in the process of doing a Will and/or Trust? Have you considered including the Church in your Will? It is quite simple and with the help and guidance of your legal advisor and your family, it can be customized to meet your specific giving needs and legacy goals.

### Qualified Retirement Plans

Do you have a qualified retirement plan, such as a 401(k) or an IRA? Are you required to take a required minimum distribution (RMD)? This can be another tax advantage to maximize your giving. By making a direct gift from a qualified plan to a charity, known as a qualified charitable donation (QCD), you do not pay any taxes on that money because it is not included in your adjusted gross income. You may contribute up to \$100,000 each year.

### Wesley Freedom Endowment

Your gift to the endowment fund can provide sustainable resources to fund ministry and capital improvements for generations to come. By making a gift to the endowment, you can be assured your gift will keep on giving. The initial gift is safely invested in competitive funds that meet our social beliefs while the proceeds from the investment perpetually fund ministry.





## Thank you for giving!

Please return your Generosity Pledge Card and your Thanksgiving Offering in the envelope provided during worship in November, through the mail, or visit [www.wesleyfreedom.org/give](http://www.wesleyfreedom.org/give) to make your online pledge and/or offering.



To establish or increase your recurring electronic gift or to give online, visit [www.wesleyfreedom.org/give](http://www.wesleyfreedom.org/give)

Switch  
to EFT  
& avoid  
the fee!

### ELECTRONIC FUNDS TRANSFER (EFT)

The website provides a form to schedule or modify recurring (weekly or monthly) electronic funds transfers straight from your bank account. You can return this form with your Generosity Pledge in the envelope provided. Forms are also available at the Generosity Table.

### ONLINE GIVING THROUGH SUBSPASH

You can give anywhere, anytime through our website. Click on 'Make A Gift' and select if you want to make a one-time gift or set up a recurring offering. Follow the simple steps to set up your account and donate securely through your checking account or credit card.



### Our Finance Team is here to help

Stop by the Generosity Table any Sunday in November with your questions. To ask specific questions or arrange a conversation to discuss how to maximize your gift, impact, or tax advantage, email Donald Kropfelder at [dkrop1313@gmail.com](mailto:dkrop1313@gmail.com), or David Schafer at [dschafer@liftoffdc.com](mailto:dschafer@liftoffdc.com) or call the church office to schedule an appointment @ 410-795-2777.