

2024 STEWARDSHIP CAMPAIGN

“Fulfilling our Mission”

⁸ Above all, love each other deeply, because love covers over a multitude of sins. ⁹ Offer hospitality to one another without grumbling. ¹⁰ Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others, as faithful stewards of God’s grace in its various forms. ¹¹ If anyone speaks, they should do so as one who speaks the very words of God. If anyone serves, they should do so with the strength God provides, so that in all things God may be praised through Jesus Christ. To him be the glory and the power for ever and ever. Amen.

-- 1 Peter 4:8-11

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2024 STEWARDSHIP CAMPAIGN CHAIR OVERVIEW LETTER

This year at Wakefield United Methodist Church has been an exciting one. We are using our amazing building, a gift from God, to serve our community like never before!

As we begin this year's Stewardship Campaign (October 29th - November 19th), we strive to look for ways to embrace our mission of Inviting, Engaging, and Strengthening.

1 Peter 4:8-11 encapsulates how we are to share our gifts and summarizes this year's theme of **Fulfilling our Mission.**

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As we continue our journey as a church, we have the privilege of fulfilling our mission like never before.

2023 marked our first full year in our church building, and we are using it in ways we've never imagined. In addition to Sunday services, Sunday School, and, unfortunately a few funerals, we now use our building for Wakefield Wednesdays, Vacation Bible School, Women's events, Men's events, Youth events, multiple girl scout troop meetings, baby showers, and much, much more. We are also finding new ways to fulfill our mission. We use "5th Sundays" to invite new people to church, we've enjoyed several engaging sermon series, started a choir, hosted social events, and we have launched church-wide Bible studies. This has led to over 215 visiting families, and over 50 new members, with more planned in the remainder of 2023.

Further, we have created and expanded our missions' focus. In addition to supporting ASP, Methodist Home for Children, Tri-Area Food Ministries, and Ronald McDonald House, we've expanded our relationship with Note in the Pocket and are serving dozens of families with the much-needed Bed Project. And this is just the beginning! With your continued talents, gifts, creative ideas and passion to fulfill our mission, 2024 will be our best year yet!

As we look at 2024, we are asking every member and regular worshiper of our congregation to prayerfully commit to fulfilling our mission in two key ways over the next four weeks:

- "Traditional" financial commitment card as we support operations and missions against a planned 2024 budget of \$625,000. Our goal for this stewardship campaign is over 100 giving units, and over \$500,000 pledged (80% of the budget)
- We are asking each of you to also commit to grow your faith personally this year. Many of us set goals in our daily lives but oftentimes do not include spiritual goals. This pledge

is not something you need to share with us, only to help you with your personal faith journey through which you may find new ways to help us fulfill our mission.

This year's Commitment Cards are included in this package, and have instructions on all the ways to pledge, including 1) dropping your card in the collection basket over the next few Sundays, 2) clicking the QR code and fill out the online form, or 3) pledging online through ACS.

If you have any questions regarding our Stewardship goals, how to set personal goals, our church's mission, or how your gifts will help Wakefield United Methodist Church fulfill our mission, please call or email us. Thank you for your generous support and thank you for your continued faithfulness!

Your Friends in Christ,

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2024 STEWARDSHIP CAMPAIGN COMMITMENT CARD

FULFILLING OUR MISSION: 2024 Stewardship Campaign

YES! I/We pledge to respond to what God is doing in my/our life and church by supporting the church with our financial commitment to Wakefield United Methodist Church's 2024 General Operating Budget.

I/We commit an annual pledge of \$ _____

Name(s): _____

Address, City, State, and Zip: _____

Telephone: _____ Email: _____

Signature: _____



Please check here if you would like to learn more about electronic giving.

This is not a contract, but a statement of your intentions. Pledges may be given on a weekly, monthly, quarterly, semi-annual or annual basis. They can be electronically drafted from a credit card, a checking account, or transferred from stock.

Online giving is available! There are 2 easy ways to give online, or scan this QR code to fill out an online form.

- 1) Go to your bank online or in person and set up your gift to be sent to the church on a weekly or Monthly basis through Bill Pay. Have your gift mailed to: 10701 Common Oaks Drive, Raleigh NC 27614.
- 2) You may also set up online giving with your credit or debit card through Access ACS. Use this link (also found on our website: <http://secure.accessacs.com/access/nonmemberlogin.aspx?sn=400796>).

2024 DIGITAL COMMITMENT CARD



<https://forms.gle/rP1MHFh1AKU48uuG7>

The instructions will ask for your email address and your first and last name. Use the same email address.

WUMC sends email to and the first and last name which are on record with the Church. If everything matches up, you will get a username and password by email. Then follow the screen prompts and setup online giving.

**Please note you must have a valid email address on file in Access ACS. For questions, email finance@wakefieldumc.org.*

***The church pays a merchant fee for each card transaction. Please prayerfully consider adding a 2.5% per gift to help cover these costs or simply give through Bill Pay.*



2024 PERSONAL GOALS CARD

Below are my 1-2 personal goals for 2024 to help “fulfill our mission” as disciples of Wakefield UMC. These are strictly for you, and we encourage everyone to print out and place in a location where you will view and be reminded daily.

Inviting 1. _____

2. _____

Engaging 1. _____

2. _____

Strengthening 1. _____

2. _____

Other 1. _____

2. _____



MINISTRY AREAS AT WAKEFIELD UMC

Adult Study – Seasonal studies are offered throughout the year. A study is an opportunity to gather and learn for a set amount of time, without the commitment to remain a group once the study has ended. Examples include Sunday Morning Studies, Church Wide Studies, etc.

Altar Guild – A group of laity under the direction of the Senior Pastor that prepares the altar and worship space for worship. Responsibilities also include setting up for baptisms and for Communion on Communion Sundays.

ASP – Appalachia Service Project (ASP) is a Christian ministry that inspires hope and service through volunteer home repair and replacement in Central Appalachia. This mission helps Wakefield UMC to live out its original vision of providing a Christian presence in the lives of youth and families in the community. Wakefield UMC has sent teams of youth/adults on an ASP trip(s) every year since 2010, with the exception of 2020.

AV (Audio Visual) Team – A group of volunteers that help run the main soundboard, Facebook livestream and livestream audio, and ProPresenter (slides) during Sunday worship.

Children's Check-In Counter – Located to the right of the sanctuary, when looking from the main entrance, the counter is where parents check in their children for Ignite. Children and parents are given matching stickers for an efficient and secure check-in/check-out.

Children's Ministry Team – Under the leadership of the Children's Pastor, this team organizes and oversees programming to empower and teach children about the love of Christ and how to grow in their discipleship.

Choir – The adult chancel choir practices and performs seasonally under the direction of Shane Ray.

Embers – A group created for the age 55+ members at Wakefield UMC. The Embers meet once a month for fun and fellowship.

Engaging Team – A team of laity under the direction of a chair and Senior Pastor (or administrative coordinator) that plans and oversees church-wide fellowship events at Wakefield UMC.

Fuel – The youth ministry of Wakefield UMC. Adult volunteers are needed to serve as small group discussion leaders, provide meals, etc.

Funeral Hospitality Team – A group of laity that coordinates a reception and offers support to bereaved families when there is a funeral at the church.

Greeters – Greeters from the church congregation are located at both entrances of the building and the Welcome Counter on Sunday mornings to welcome and assist members and guests.

Ignite – The children's ministry of Wakefield UMC. Volunteers are needed to teach Ignite classes, volunteer at special events, etc.

Inviting Team – A team of laity under the direction of a chair and the Senior Pastor that oversees evangelism, specifically through the lens of marketing, at Wakefield UMC. The Inviting Team uses the website, Facebook page, ads, mailers, signs, and other marketing efforts to advance the mission of Wakefield UMC.

Meal Train – A group of volunteers that provide meals to individuals and families following a significant illness, surgery, birth of a baby, etc.

Men's Ministry – The men's ministry includes regular prayer breakfasts that offer fellowship, as well as opportunities for service to the church and the community.

Missions Team - A team of laity under the direction of a chair and the Pastor of Family Ministry that oversees mission and outreach opportunities at Wakefield UMC.

M.O.P.S. (Mothers of Preschoolers) – M.O.P.S. is a faith-based support group for moms with kids, ages 0-18. It's a place for community, friendship, support, and growth. M.O.P.S. typically meets two Fridays per month.

Prayer Shawl Ministry – Shawls symbolize shelter, peace, and spiritual sustenance and are gifts of hope and comfort. This group crochets/knits new shawls, prays over them, and distributes them.

Praise Band – A group of volunteers under the direction of the Worship Leader who leads the congregation in worship and song on Sunday mornings. All gifts and talents are welcomed! The praise band practices on Wednesday evenings and Sunday mornings.

Scripture Readers – One or two laity read the Scripture lesson(s) during worship on Sundays.

Small Groups – Small groups are usually made up of 8-12 people who are committed to deepening their relationship with God and with one another. Every group is unique. Each group decides together when and how often they meet and what they want to study. Some groups are committed to regular Bible study, while others are primarily focused on building community with each other.

Strengthening Team – A team of laity under the direction of a chair and the Pastor of Family Ministry that oversees discipleship at Wakefield UMC. This team is responsible for suggesting curriculum, promoting spiritual growth opportunities, and helping every member grow in their faith.

Ushers – Ushers for Sunday morning worship stand at the sanctuary doors to welcome people, pass out bulletins, and collect the Sunday morning offering. They also direct the Communion flow on first Sundays.

VBS – Vacation Bible School (VBS) is an annual event for children, between the age of three through fifth grade, held for a week in the summer. The program is coordinated by the Director of Children's Ministry and Children's Ministry Team.

Wakefield Wednesdays – Offered seasonally, this weekly program is meant to be a casual opportunity to eat, fellowship, and learn together. Studies that can stand well on their own are intentionally chosen so that individuals and families can attend the Wednesday(s) that work best with their schedule. Learning opportunities for children and youth are also offered so that the whole family can participate.

Welcoming Team – A team of laity under the direction of the chair and Senior Pastor who act as the hospitality team of the church. Greeters and ushers sign up to volunteer on specific Sundays. Whether or not a member is on the Welcoming Team, all members are encouraged to be a part of the Wakefield UMC culture of hospitality.

Women of Wakefield – Women of Wakefield offers an opportunity for women of the congregation to come together to fellowship, share ideas about our church, and engage in missions opportunities and service projects.

Youth Leadership Team – Youth leaders under the direction of the Pastor of Family Ministry that help to plan and implement opportunities for growth, mission, and fun for the Fuel youth ministry.

2024 GOALS OF THE COMMITTEES AND TEAMS OF WUMC

The work of ministry is not just done by the Wakefield UMC staff... It is the cumulative effort of an entire group of faithful leaders working together to fulfill our church's mission of "Inviting, Engaging, and Strengthening all in our journey with Christ."

Church Council

- Support the teams and committees of the church as they fulfill their goals for 2024
- Keep the church mission statement at the forefront of all decisions
- Have an annual planning meeting to empower church leaders to fulfill their 2024 goals

Finance Committee

- Engage and communicate our funding strategies (including an anticipated 2024 Capital Campaign) and stewardship of our church resource with the congregation, Church Council, and staff to fulfill our fiduciary responsibilities
- Support Pastor Christina and the staff members of Wakefield UMC to enable the mission of the church
- Achieve and maintain the financial wellbeing of our church through engagement from all members of our committee to fulfill financial task of the church

SPRC (Staff Parish Relations Committee)

- Establish annual goals with the pastors in January and review progress quarterly
- Have monthly check-ins between each staff member and their assigned SPRC liaison
- Provide support and encouragement to the staff and act as their advocates in the congregation
- Create an employee handbook

Nominations Committee

- Add three new people to leadership positions that have not previously served at Wakefield UMC

Trustees Committee

- Build up a reserve fund for future maintenance needs
- Create and maintain a 20 year spreadsheet to track repairs, appliance replacements, painting, etc.
- Continue to improve and adjust rental policy for community groups in accordance with demand and market rates
- Work towards completing the building wish list to include landscaping, signage, playground and fence, A/V upgrades, etc.

Women of Wakefield (WOW)

- Offer small and large events to engage all women in the church and community.
- Support and strengthen other WUMC programs (e.g., ASP, VBS, Ignite, Altar Guild).
- Develop periodic fund raisers to become a self-sustaining ministry and to contribute to community causes.

Men's Ministries

- Offer a monthly rhythm of events to generate interest and foster fellowship among men in the church
- Identify special events that can be repeatedly yearly (e.g., Veteran's Day breakfast) to bring the community together
- Explore offering a spiritual retreat

Children's Ministry Team

- Support new members of the Children's Ministry Team and encourage this new set of leaders to gain ownership of the children's ministry program.
- Increase parent involvement, with the hope of 75% of families serving as active volunteers within children's ministry.
- Offer more church-wide events that promote connection and help build relationships with new families.

Youth Leadership Team

- Create new opportunities to hold youth activities that allow youth who cannot attend on Sunday evenings to become more involved.
- Increase parent involvement in youth ministry. Foster a deeper partnership between parents and youth leaders so that youth receive more support.
- Build on the established relationship with Wakefield High School and foster church-wide support to help provide quarterly meals for the Fellowship of Christian Athletes program.

Missions Team

The Missions Team will focus on congregation and community education by...

- Staffing the Missions Counter for Sunday services. We will have a volunteer from our team at the Missions Counter for least 80% of the services in 2024.
- Creating quarterly bulletin inserts focused on church-wide missions to be included in the first Sunday bulletins for January, April, July and October.
- Increasing additional awareness through:
 - Informative church announcements during services (mission updates, results, etc.)
 - Mission Spotlights
 - Mission Leads posting announcements on our church Facebook Page
 - All team members sharing mission information to our community, their extended family and friends through emails and/or posting announcements to their social media accounts and community social media pages

Inviting Team

To increase brand recognition of our church by:

- Participating in community events such as Meet in the Street (in May)
- Inviting the community to church events and services to include a quarterly "Bring a friend to church" campaign with raffle prizes to give out to both the member and their friend, postcards will be pre-printed with the dates of the Bring a Friend Sundays, these postcards will be available at the welcome desk for members to pick up a week or two in advance of Bring a friend Sunday—they can write a personal note and hand them to their friend/colleague/neighbor, etc.
- Direct Marketing / Social Media campaigns including postcards to special services, outdoor message signs, paid Facebook campaigns, printed promotional items, social media sharing, annual push for fresh Google reviews, etc.

Engaging Team

- Support other teams and committees by helping to provide food and beverages for ministry events
- Plan two church-wide fellowship events during 2024 beginning with a chili and apple pie cook-off

Strengthening Team

- Develop a small group culture within our church. This will include offering quarterly small group leader trainings and increasing small group participation by 25%
- Continue offering weekday discipleship opportunities and increase attendance by 33%
- Offer support groups for the congregation, including Grief Share and other groups that promote healing, growth, and connection

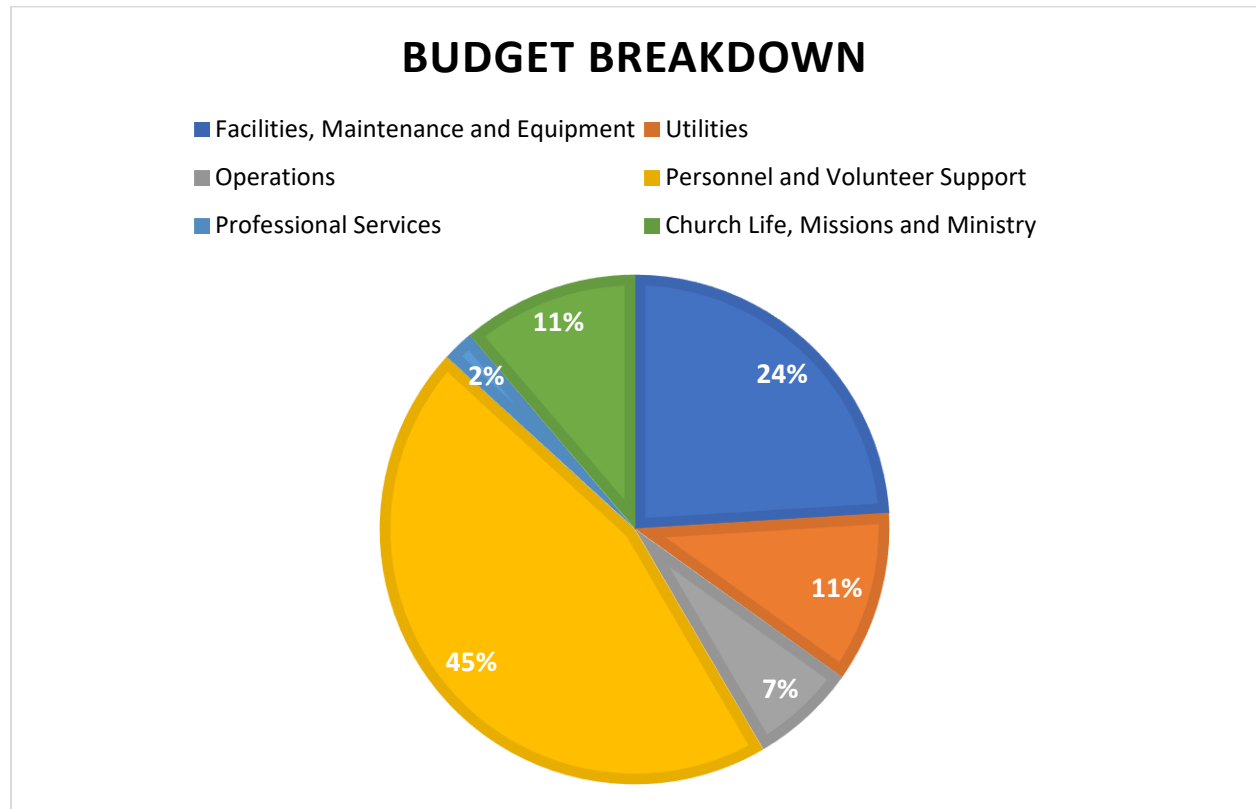
Welcoming Team

- A monthly greeting tip or reminder will be emailed to our team by Christina Bowman, Greeters Lead, to encourage our team to continue to be as effective as possible.
- Our Note Writers Team sub-committee will continue to ensure that all visitors to Wakefield UMC feel our welcoming presence even beyond their worship experience. Each recorded visitor will receive a personalized welcome note or email, offering to answer any questions they may have about our church.
- An Encouraging New Members Team sub-committee will be formed. Volunteers will serve as an encouraging point of contact for new members. In 2023, we had 50 new members join the church! We want to continue making them feel welcome and help them get involved at WUMC.

2024 WUMC OPERATING BUDGET

The current 2024 draft budget is \$625,000.

Our goal during the stewardship campaign is for 100+ giving units, and over \$500,000 in pledges, equating to 80% of the budget.



For context, here are the current 2023 comparable metrics:

- \$607,000 budget -- anticipated will end up closer to \$580,000 in expenses
- ~83 giving units and ~\$430,000 in pledges
- Expected 2023 total giving assuming historical end of year giving trend is ~\$525,000
- This balance will be covered from operational reserves which were built over the last couple of years. Today our reserves are approximately \$55,000
- Building fund balance is currently \$125,000
- The Cornerstone capital campaign which is the source of the building fund kicked off in April of 2021 with targeted pledge fulfillment by December 2023. If you have questions about your pledge balances, please contact finance@wakefieldumc.org



ON THE RADAR: 2024/25 CAPITAL CAMPAIGN

To ensure the long-term health and viability of Wakefield UMC, we anticipate a launch of a new capital campaign targeting \$500,000, likely to begin in Q2 of 2024, and running through the end of 2025.

This campaign will focus on three (3) key areas:

- Prepare for any major repairs as warranties expire (e.g., HVAC)
- Prepare for 2025 loan refinancing
- Build up reserves

While nothing to do now, we ask everyone to prayerfully consider in planning to support this campaign in addition to annual tithing commitments.

THANK YOU
WAKEFIELD UMC
CONGREGATION FOR
YOUR ON-GOING
SUPPORT!!

