



We Are
The
Church

WE ARE...THE CHURCH

Most of us have surely realized in this year – perhaps like no other – that **WE are the church!** While our beautiful and incredibly useful building enables all manner of ministry to happen, it is clearer than ever that the church is not a structure – it is the living, breathing body of Christ, made up of its members and friends. I love Lynn’s cover for this brochure, made up of the faces of Westminster households. We are – THIS church!

A weekly pandemic-survey from a national faith resource and research group invites my response to the same questions every week. One question asks how concerned I am about the survival of the congregation I serve. In the midst of one of the most challenging seasons any of us can remember – Westminster is not only surviving, it is **THRIVING**, thanks be to God!



Westminster was exceptionally visionary several years ago, and therefore blessed to already be fully online with **live-stream worship**. Our Sunday and Wednesday worship attendance is more than triple the weekly average during pre-pandemic in-person weeks. A host of volunteer musicians and technical support persons have aided staff in keeping “the stream” vibrant and alive.

Hundreds of members and friends rallied to a completely new Outreach venture, participating in the **World Vision Global 6K**, raising more clean-water-funding dollars than any other congregation from any denomination in the country! We have opened our building to the **Red Cross** for a blood drive, and will do so again. Members and friends have **sewn masks** for distribution; we have filled more than **200 backpacks** for school children; **funded all of our mission partners** during a challenging economic season; and have had **virtual mission trips** to Honduras and Mexico.



Our **Journey classes** have had dozens attending each week. **Vacation Bible School** was a virtual blessing to households far and wide. We had our first ever **baccalaureate service** for high school seniors – via ZOOM. Elders and pastors heard confirmands share their **statements of faith** in virtual chat rooms; and we welcomed **15 new members** into the life of the congregation through a virtual new members class.... ALL DURING A PANDEMIC!

Our **Memorial Garden** is being renovated; long-overdue **painting** is taking place in offices and hallways. As a congregation, we have enjoyed sticky buns, strawberries and peaches with videos of **Café 10 West “Chef Terry.”** Numerous long-standing as well as new **small groups** have found ways to gather

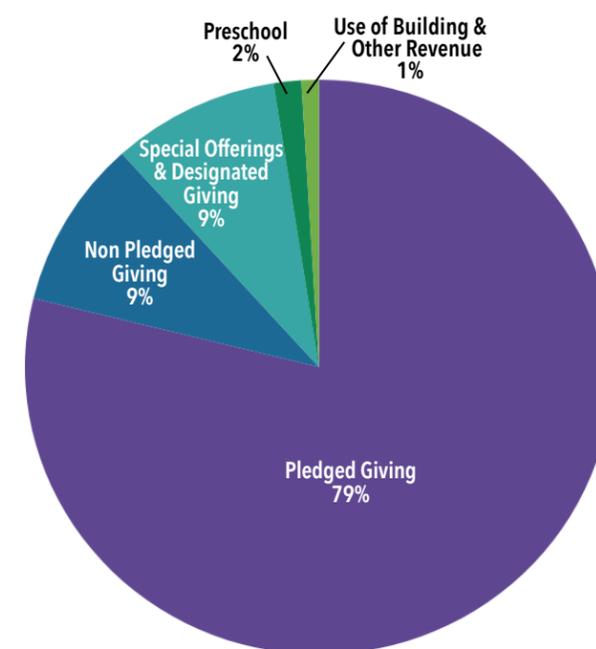
in-person outside, or virtually, to maintain fellowship and offer compassionate care. A significant portion of the congregation engaged in our **21-Day Race Equity Challenge** – just one more sign of our desire and willingness to “Be The Church” in the world.



ALL of this happens because of your faithful support of mission and ministries. And it will continue to happen next year if all of us consider anew how we will financially support our common ministry as a congregation. We anticipate we will face deficits in the coming year in areas like plate offering, concert revenue, and preschool income. We are currently, and will continue, to keep a tight rein on operational costs, and focus on only essential spending – except in the area of Outreach – where we hope to fully fund and perhaps even expand our giving to mission partners in this time of great need.

We are asking all who are able to consider at least a 2% increase in your pledge for 2021. We recognize some households are facing furloughs, unemployment or financial strain, so generosity from those who have the resources will keep this thriving congregation strong. Please help make Westminster be an even more effective ministry outpost in these uncertain times. Prayerfully consider increasing your pledge to fund our mission and ministry in 2021.

Where does \$2,602,854 come from?



How do we spend \$2,602,854?

