



PLATTE WOODS CHURCH

Inviting all people into full life together in Jesus Christ.

2022-2023 Financial Impact Report

Fiscal Year Ending June 30, 2023



It's that time of year...



Rev. Yvi Martin

when the fallen leaves (round two or three by now) are begging to be raked, cleared, composted out of yards, gutters, playgrounds and flowerbeds. As a kid, I never minded this chore. Diving into a fresh pile of crunchy, dry leaves is a singular childhood delight. But do you know what the Live Oak trees of Texas did not deliver into the yard of my youth? Sweetgum Balls.

These ankle-twisting, sidewalk sabotaging nuisances of nature were a treasure undiscovered to me until my later residence in Georgia and then the Midwest. If you know what I'm talking about, chances are you've had to clean them up before.

It's not easy getting a Sweetgum Ball yard back in order. It takes a lot of hands (rakes don't work all that well). The process lasts longer than anyone wants it to. They seem infinite in quantity. The task sometimes feels impossible. But with a willing crew – the work is not so hard. Smaller volunteers bend to the ground more easily. Their hands may hold fewer gumballs, but they collect what they can. Patient gumball hunters move slowly and steadily over time, adding a few gumballs each day to the collection. Every so often a neighbor comes over with one of those fancy hamster-wheel-on-a-pole contraptions that rolls over the yard and absorbs hundreds of gumballs within minutes. And before too long, we look around and things look pretty good. Everyone picked up what gumballs they could, the work was not so hard all together, and the yard is ready for play again!

Generosity, in the Platte Woods Church family, was a lot like Sweetgum Ball cleanup this year! We came out of fiscal year 2021-2022 with a decent harvest of gumballs ahead of us. It seemed like a fairly monumental task. We had anticipated contributions to fall short of expenses, which would have led to using more reserves to maintain ministry initiatives and cover building and other administrative expenses. We had budgeted with that scenario in mind. But it became clear as the year went on that a different reality was unfolding. Because so many different people were picking up what gumballs they could, we ended up exceeding our anticipated contributions and were able to do the work of our church using less of our reserves.

We fell right in line with God's infinite wisdom of how the Body of Christ *should* work, we gave what we could, some for the first time, some at a steady and consistent pace, some at increased levels; and however much or little that might have been, every gift mattered.





In this Financial Impact Report for Fiscal Year 2022-2023 that follows you'll see some remarkable stories of what our life together looks like when everyone steps in and does their part!

You'll see numbers, of course – numbers that reflect growth in the number of people impacted by Platte Woods Church, or represent dollars given away to support and help our community, or signify people (children, youth and adults) willing to say, "Platte Woods United Methodist Church is my church home!"

You'll also find stories - of invitation and welcome, of curiosity as people take new steps on their faith journey, of courage as people step into challenging spaces because of what Christ calls them to do. Everything reflected in these pages demonstrates that, because of our generosity together, Platte Woods Church is a yard ready for play again!

I am proud to pastor a church that is faithful in its generosity – that cares about the spiritual growth of the people in our church AND wants to be a place of belonging for so many more who need to know how much God loves them.

I am proud that we Gather together for worship, Grow in experiencing scripture and prayer, Give of our time and resources, and Go into the world on pilgrimage and with acts of justice and mercy. I am proud that we are courageous and curious and love one another through easy times and hard times.

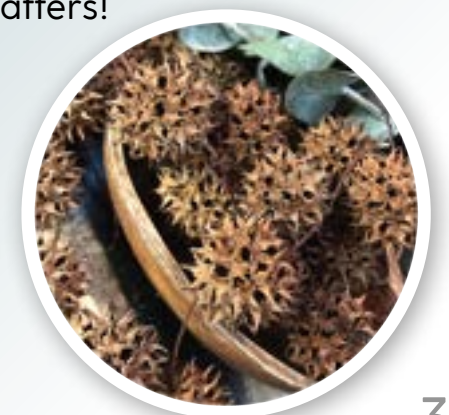
We believe that Jesus has come into the world so that we might have life that is full. That's a life that looks different from what the world would prescribe for us. And it's a life that includes trusting God and practicing generosity in God's church, each doing our own part.

As you read through this Financial Impact Report, I invite you to consider what Platte Woods UMC means to you – how you have encountered the Spirit of God in this place – how your life is different because this church is here. And then imagine how Platte Woods Church could impact someone else's life, someone new to faith, someone you might never meet who follows after you here. You'll find ways that you can start financially supporting the church or increase your giving on the final page of this report.

How might your own generosity reflect your hope in the year that lies ahead? Every single gumball matters!

With gratitude for who you are as a church,

Ypi Martin
Lead Pastor





Where Your Dollars Go



GIFTS

Charitable Contributions



TUITION

Sunbeams Preschool & PDO Receipts



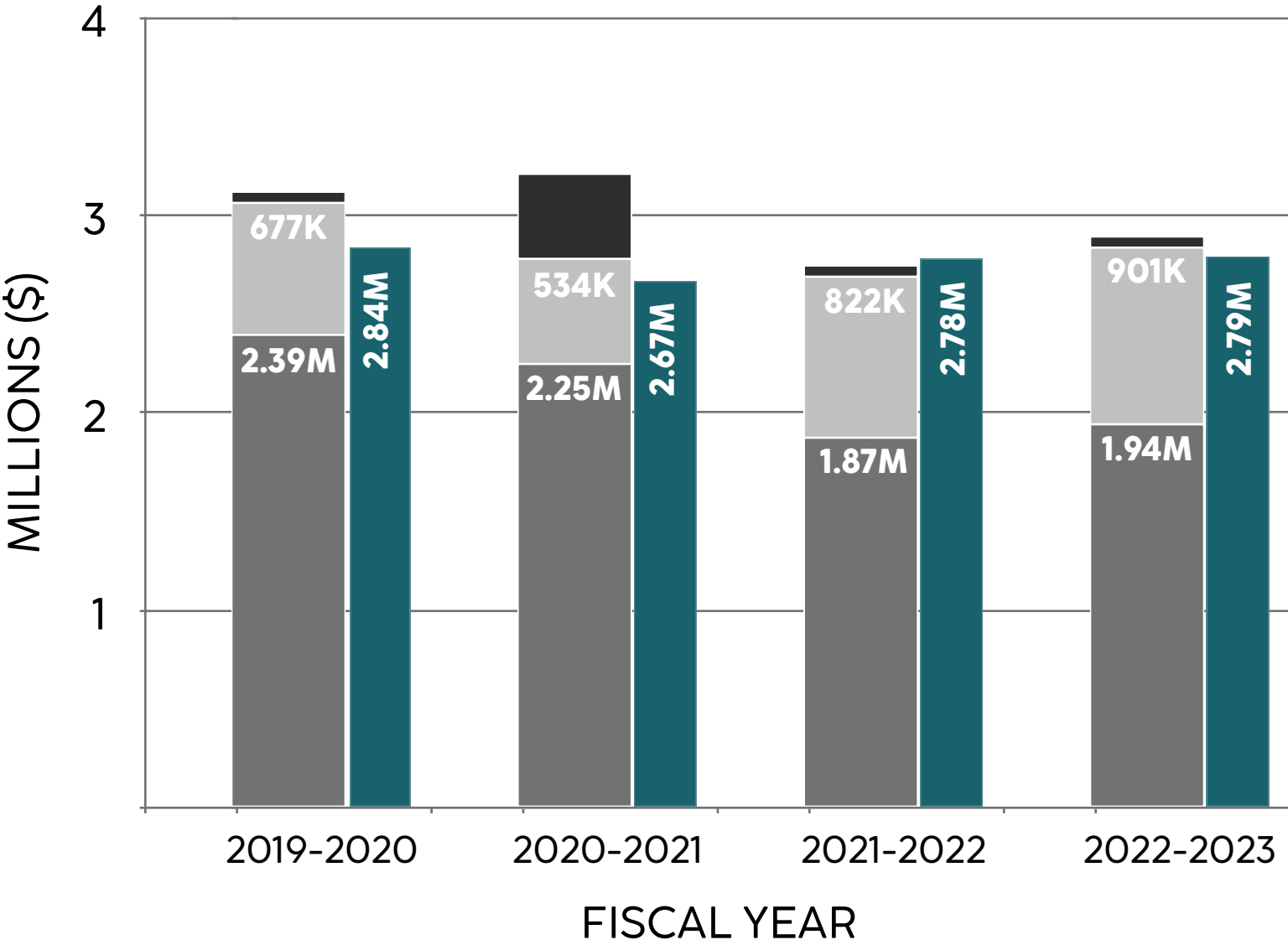
OTHER INCOME

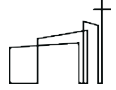
Non-Deductible Receipts (Building Use, Interest, PPP)



EXPENSES

All Spending From The General Fund

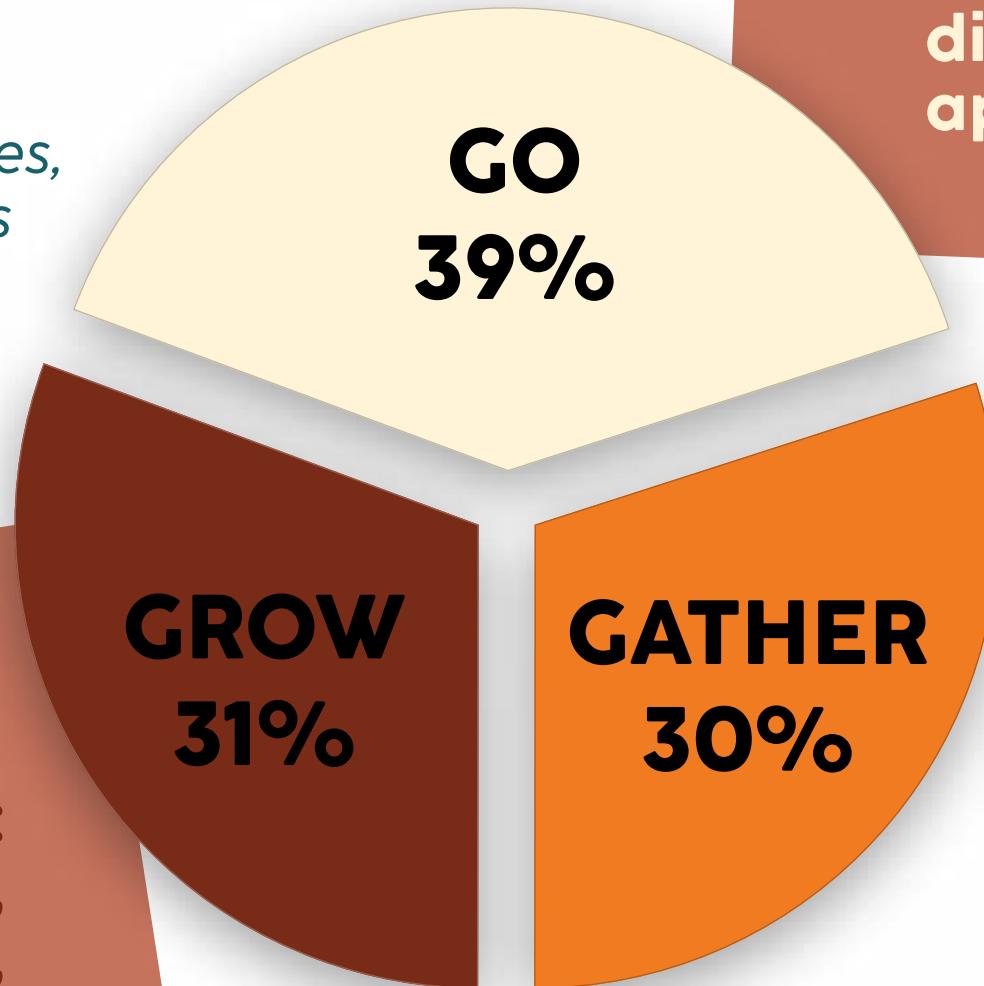




Where Your Dollars Go

The pie chart represents all general operating expenses.

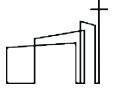
All administrative expenses, including personnel costs are split equally.



GO = Missions, including district & conference apportionments

GROW = Ministries: Children, Students, Adults, Care, PDO, Sunbeams Preschool

GATHER = Worship & Events



Where Your Dollars Go

**For FY Ending
JUNE 30, 2023**



\$390K

General Reserve Balance



\$105K

Net Income



\$189K

Reserve \$ Used



\$230K*

Principal of Loan Paid Off



\$482K*

Capital Loan Balance

**As of October 31, 2023*



Gather

GATHER

"Worship the Lord
with gladness;
come before him
with joyful song."
Psalm 100:2



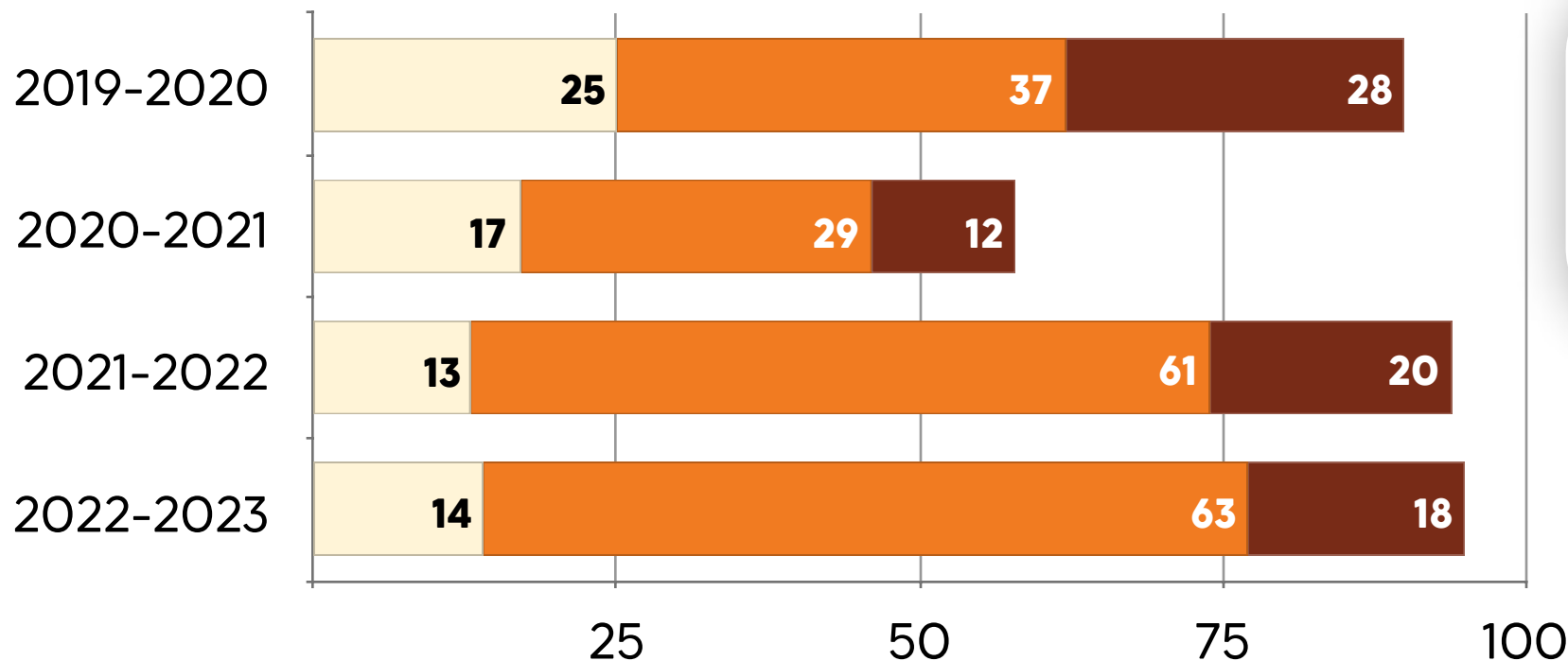
Confirmands



New Members



Baptisms



Avg Worship Attendance

Based On Headcount & Online Views

FY 2019-2020: **808**

FY 2020-2021: **475**

FY 2021-2022: **504**

FY 2022-2023: **538**

273

1st Time Visitors This Year



In PWYouth...

we constantly challenge our students to invite a friend to join them at youth group because we believe PWYouth is a place where all students can find full life together! But when I would ask students why they were not inviting a friend, a common response I would get is, “Oh! I did not think you were serious about that!” Which is fair and understandable because it takes courage to share faith or church with your friends, whether you are 12 or any age, really.

So now each year at PWYouth, we make a point to challenge students to invite one friend, someone who doesn't normally come to church, to something throughout the school year such as Serve events, Fall Retreat, or Sunday night youth group. To do this, at the beginning of the school year, students write names of their friends on a ping pong ball and place it in a large jar. This jar sits in the front of the Student Center as a reminder to students to take the next step and invite a friend. When students extend the invitation, and their friend joins them at PWYouth, some of them will proudly exclaim, “This is the friend I wrote on the ping pong ball!”

This ping pong activity is so simple, but it has changed the way students live out our mission of **inviting all people into full life together in Jesus Christ.**



Janessa Aston
Director of Student Ministry





Grow



GROW

"They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer." Acts 2:42



The Ladies Bible Study, with an average of 35 in attendance each class, is among the 35+ children, youth and adult groups engaging in faith growing opportunities each week.

In March, our **4th and 5th graders** had a new opportunity specifically for them to go on a pilgrimage to Omaha for an overnight pre-teen youth conference called **SuperStart**. Ten students modeled the practices of courage and curiosity as they grew in their faith and their relationships with each other.

PWC hosted the immersive **Cost of Poverty Experience** in February with 77 participants gaining insight in the lives of low-income families living in our community.



From our first Sunday...

at Platte Woods Church, we resolved that we would not get involved. As we sat in the parking lot, I rehearsed the game plan with my kids. Like a seasoned football coach, I stressed the importance of a proper defense.

“We’re just gonna check it out and see what it’s like.” I assured them. “If you guys feel uncomfortable about anything, let us know.”

Sommer emphasized our commitment to the noncommittal approach, “We’re not joining a small group. It’s only an hour and if it’s really bad, remember we can get donuts on the way home.”

Despite our best efforts, Mila and Lauren, our elementary schoolers, loved Kid Connection and our middle schooler, Perry, attentively listened to the message. Sommer connected to the sermon too and some tattooed sneakerhead I met on the way in turned out to be a pastor. Church wasn’t bad. We all agreed. We still bought donuts on the way home.

Looking back now, I can see that we needed a place to respite. Shortly after my father’s death, we moved to a new community. We left our jobs, relationships and support systems – all in the heart of the pandemic. We felt emotionally exhausted and longed for a place to recover and rest. Platte Woods Church allowed us this rest. Platte Woods Church is a safe place. After many years of ministry, we needed a safe place for our family to heal and grow.

God meets us in every season of life. Sometimes God breaks through even our best defense and brings comfort, renewed purpose and peace.

Tim Nelson & Sommer Hatfield

Tim and Sommer made their commitment to and joined Platte Woods Church on February 26, 2023. Their son, Perry was baptized and confirmed that same day.





Give

GIVE

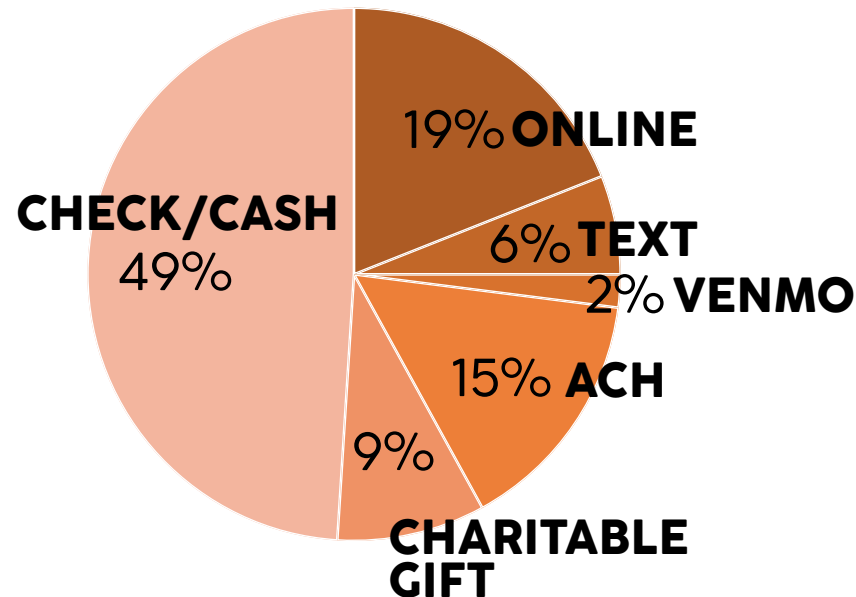
"It is more
blessed to give
than to receive."
Acts 20:35b



Ways People Give To The General Budget

134

New Givers This Year



Avg Giving Units

Based On Household
Giving To General Budget

FY 2019-2020: **684**

FY 2020-2021: **521**

FY 2021-2022: **524**

FY 2022-2023: **550**



Give

Financial Gifts to our Ministry Partners



Local Ministry Partners \$69K

Care Portal
Northland Assistance
Hillcrest Apartments
Hillcrest Blessings
Iglesia De Camino
Della Lamb
Feed Northland Kids
Southeast Elementary
Individual Benevolence

Global Ministry Partners \$65K

Numana
United Methodist Committee on Relief
Organization for the Development of Indigenous Maya
Pine Ridge Indian Reservation
Mozambique Initiative

2022 Christmas Offering
\$80.4K





Go

GO



“Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others, as faithful stewards of God’s grace in its various forms.” 1 Peter 4:10



Numana Meal Packing: 28,000 meals for Ukraine

CarePortal: served more than 200 local children

School Partnership: 50 teachers adopted by the Adopt a Teacher program and sponsorship of quarterly new student breakfast

House to Home: Supported 15 House to Home set-ups which includes fully furnishing and stocking pantry/refrigerator.

Holiday Impact:

- 100 Families received Holiday Meal boxes
- Between Adopt a Family and Angel Tree we served 48 families in 2022. Approximately 65 adults and 105 children.



Go



The Justice Ministry Team...

meets monthly to plan opportunities to explore and celebrate our shared humanity. The members of this team, led by Pastor Choongho Kwon, highlight three focus areas: racial equity and awareness, LGBTQ+ inclusion and belonging, and community organizing for fairness and access.

The Racial Equity Team hosts topical conversations and visits various racially and culturally significant places around Kansas City and a series featuring UMC-produced, “The Faith and Race Podcast.” The team plans to host more events and discussions about faith and race, in and beyond the church.

The LGBTQ+ Inclusion and Belonging Team has hosted discussions based on the book, “The Savvy Ally.” Topics ranged from historical context to current terminology, to planning intentional hospitality for those who may not have felt welcome in other faith communities. Look for more information about future activities.

The Community Organizing Team engages in frequent conversations with others across our city and region, who are committed to bridging physical distances to unite around specific needs and campaigns to enhance residents’ experiences.

In February, the Justice Ministry Team voted to join the **Reconciling Ministry Network** (RMN) of the United Methodist Church. Pastor Choongho explains that this means the Justice Ministry Team is now considered a reconciling community at Platte Woods Church. According to the RMN, to be affiliated with the RMN means that the Justice Ministry Team embraces the following statement: *We celebrate God’s gift of diversity and value the wholeness made possible in community equally shared and shepherded by all. We welcome and affirm people of every gender identity, gender expression, and sexual orientation, who are also of every age, race, ethnicity, physical and mental ability, level of education, and family structure, and of every economic, immigration, marital, and social status, and so much more. We acknowledge that we live in a world of profound social, economic, and political inequities. As followers of Jesus, we commit ourselves to the pursuit of justice and pledge to stand in solidarity with all who are marginalized and oppressed.*

“This work is important for Platte Woods as we strive to live like Jesus. We are demonstrating our values of being a church where everyone is encouraged to **Belong, Be Courageous, and Be Curious**. We hope these initial conversations, studies, and “Serve and Learn” opportunities lead to even more participation and awareness of how we can each do our part in making our community even better.”

Susan Mason

Member at PWC since 2010.

Among the many stories of compassion and community building...

two partnerships stand out as a testament to our commitment to reach beyond the walls of our church: the Numana food packing event that brought together hundreds of volunteers to create 28,000 meals for those in need in Ukraine; and our CarePortal partnership that has allowed us to serve more than 200 local children and families in the last 12 months.

On the day of the food packing event, people of all ages, from within and beyond our church, filled the Dining Hall with a shared belief in serving others. The meals packed were not just about sustenance but were symbols of Christ's love and the power of community.

Through our partnership with CarePortal, we receive vetted needs from social workers for families in our own neighborhood. Thanks to the generosity of the people of PWC, we have been able to connect with families and help them during a time of crisis. For one family, it began with a request for 1 twin size mattress but became an opportunity to provide so much more support to a single mother of 6 children (ages 8 - 18) trying to make ends meet in a small two-bedroom apartment. The family shared one mattress with no bedding; although they didn't ask for more, when our team offered, the mother gratefully acknowledged that it would be nice to have more bedroom furnishings. We partnered with other churches in the area to provide each family member with their own bed in the space allowed. The family was emotional and overjoyed on the day we delivered the beds. The mother remarked that this was the first time she had a bed. The oldest daughter said, "We are so grateful for your help and kindness! I'm just happy and grateful to you guys when I see the excitement from my little sisters."

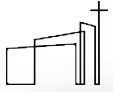
It is our prayer that all those we serve feel the love of Jesus through these acts of generosity. Thank you for being a caring church!



Numana



Brandi Molina
Director of Missions



Ways To Give

If you want others to experience what **you** have found at PWC, please make a gift to the ministries of **Platte Woods Church**.



Scan for all
the ways
you can
Gather,
Grow, Give
and Go.



We all come to faith in God in different ways and at different times. And we each have different stories of what brought us here, to PWC - a church home where we can explore our questions and curiosity, and live out our struggles and celebrations. Whatever your story is, we are grateful that you are part of PWC. We encourage you to keep practicing your faith as we **Gather, Grow, Give, and Go** together! Someone before you gave of their resources so this could be your church home. How will you respond in giving today to make it a home for someone else?

Text

Text PWUMC \$___ to 73256

Online

Visit www.plattewoodschurch.org and select **GIVE** for options through credit card or checking account.

ACH

Request ACH Giving Form from **Misty Wilkinson** to set up an automated bank draft.

In Worship

Place gifts in secure giving boxes in the Worship Center and Sanctuary.

Mail

Platte Woods Church
7310 NW Prairie View Rd
Platte Woods, MO 64151

Venmo

@plattewoodschurch

CHARITABLE DISTRIBUTIONS, STOCK GIFTS AND ESTATE GIFTS:

Contact Misty Wilkinson,
Financial Manager
816-285-0825
mwilkinson@plattewoodschurch.org