



GENEROSITY 2024

# A Letter from Pastor Jason



Dear Friends,

I really hope that you have enjoyed the church-wide study and worship emphasis entitled “Enough: Discovering Joy Through Simplicity and Generosity.” Through this study, we are invited to live simpler lives and discover what truly brings us joy. Cultivating contentment re-orientes our lives toward satisfaction in Christ Jesus.

Our season of Generosity extends beyond the sending and receiving of pledge cards. We all choose different ways of giving. I choose the biblical concept of tithing while others opt to give proportionally. Still others choose year-end giving. We appreciate any of these forms of generosity and invite you to be part of our ongoing ministry. Among our many accomplishments we highlight the preschool, which continues to be a vital ministry of Webster Hills. For over sixty years, this ministry has scattered seeds of faith to the youngest generations.

We are grateful for those who have already completed a commitment card for 2024. For further assistance with commitment, year-end, or planned giving please reach out to the church office. I am anticipating an exciting year of ministry in 2024!

Blessings  
Pastor Jason



## Webster Hills Preschool

For 61 years, Webster Hills Preschool has served as a ministry of Webster Hills UMC. What started as a morning out program for parents has turned into an education staple in Webster Groves. We currently serve 56 kids and 42 families. We have been able to give scholarships to families who wouldn't be able to afford tuition if it were not for the generosity of donors to the preschool.

Webster Hills Preschool is a school for play-based learning through a creative curriculum. That means we focus on the value of play to learn and grow academically, physically and socially-emotionally based on the interests of our teachers and students. We have been blessed with 13 amazing teachers with a combined years of experience of over 75 years teaching. The students have chapel once per month, where they learn about how God loves them and wants to be their friend forever. Preschool families over the past several years have started to worship with Webster Hills, become members and join the many family friendly events held each year.

Under the direction of Amy Musgraves and Kyle Kranes-Rutz, we have extended the hours for our 4/5-year-olds from a 9-12 option to 9-2 option. Additionally, We are hoping to get back to our average number of students at 70 (which was pre covid). Amy and Kyle have petitioned and been awarded an extension to our CUP (conditional Use Permit) to serve our community with the option of part time or full-time care Monday-Friday 8am-5pm.

## CELEBRATION

- Social Justice Committee launch
- New Leaders
- Eight Students Confirmed
- 26 New Members
- 16 Baptisms
- Youth Mission Trip to Quad Cities
- Ongoing full congregational commitment to service & mission

## Service & Outreach

- Pumpkin Patch Fundraiser
- Blessing Box
- Freedom School
- Drive Thru Ashes
- Drive Thru Prayer

## Planned Giving

Planned giving includes cash gifts, gifts of retirement plans, gifts of life insurance. Bequests, and living trusts. Your gift to Webster Hills will help build on and extend the congregation's ministry for generations to come. Your investment is the best way to take care of the place in which you worship and have built your family's spiritual foundation.

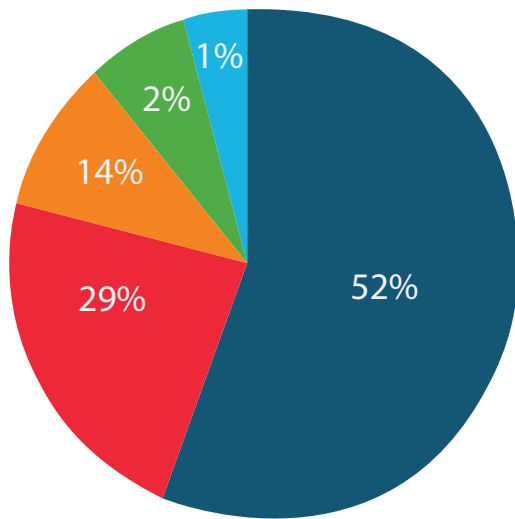
There are many ways to make a charitable contribution to your church. After speaking with your financial or legal advisor to learn the latest about the many tax benefits of planned gifts, please contact our Business Administrator, Amanda Hancock in the church office to discuss how you wish your gift can be used and recognized.



# A LOOK AT NUMBERS



## 2023 Ministry Support - Revenue Total \$870,566



Endowment \$253,000

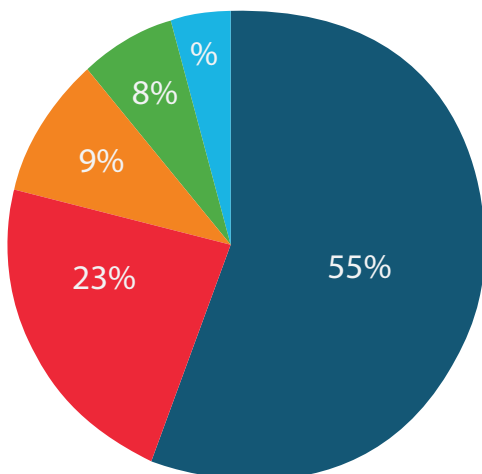
Giving \$455,715

Designated Gifts \$14,360

Pumpkin Patch \$24,851

Building Use \$122,640

## 2023 Ministry & Missions Budget - Total \$860,973



Personnel \$476,485

Property Care \$202,000

Apportionment \$75,610

Programs \$78,604

Administration \$28,814

# Frequently Asked Questions

## **Q: How much should I give?**

**A:** At Webster Hills, we lift up the Old Testament model of giving 10 percent of your income. Some start with more or less and grow in their giving each year.

## **Q: How do I decide what to give?**

**A:** We believe it's important to start by giving a set percentage on a regular basis. You may choose to give weekly, monthly or annually. Before giving: Ask God for direction. Choose a percentage and commit to it. Remember that everything is a gift from God. Let your giving be an act of faithfulness and give with joy.

## **Q: What if I want to give more, but now is not the time?**

**A:** We know that the idea of increasing your giving can seem overwhelming. We encourage you to grow in your practice of giving. Figure out the percentage of your giving over the past year. Before giving, ask God to help you determine the percentage you will give this year. Taking a step forward in giving can have a tremendous impact on your relationship with God and the ways you use your personal resources.

## **Q: What's a pledge and why should I make one?**

**A:** A pledge is a way for you to make a commitment to give a particular amount to Webster Hills UMC in 2023. After you pray about your gift, writing it down is a step toward creating a plan to make your decision come to life.

## **Q: What methods can I use to make my offering?**

**A:** You may make your offering during worship, online, text, or use your bank's bill payment service. Creating something automatic is an easy way to give regularly and makes the practice of giving meaningful and stress-free.

## **Q: What if my situation changes?**

**A:** Life is unpredictable and your church wants you to give without worry. If your financial picture changes, let us know. We want to pray for you as you face new challenges in life. You can also let us know the adjustments you need to make in your pledged giving. Of course, if life changes for the better, one way to celebrate can be with a special gift or an increased pledge!

## **Q: What else should I know?**

**A:** Your gift is tax deductible. We will provide you with records of your giving to Webster Hills UMC. If you need help making arrangements for an online donation or making changes to your online giving, contact our office. You are welcome to talk with our pastor or any member of our leadership team to better understand the finances of our church. If you would like to donate stock or other resources, contact our office for guidance.

## **Q: Why Consider giving more?**

**A:** Your church is growing and changing the lives of many people. We are dedicated to investing in staff, resources and our physical and online campus so that ministry can not only continue but grow. We are asking you to prayerfully consider increasing your giving in the year ahead. We are grateful for each and every gift and promise to carefully use the resources you share.

## Next Steps



To make your commitment, Fill out the Commitment Card you were given over the past few Sundays. Bring it to worship this Sunday, November 19th. We will have baskets up front during Worship.

If you would prefer to fill out your Commitment Card on-line you may do so at

<https://websterhillsumc.ccbchurch.com/goto/forms/24/responses/new>

## Why choose us?

We are a community connecting together in Worship. Growing deeper in small groups and serving down the hall, outside our doors, and around the world.

Being social justice minded we embrace with open hearts, minds and open doors equity for all of God's creation. We strive to stand up against evil, in justice, and oppression in whatever forms they present themselves.

Join us as we live out our mission to follow Jesus and change the world.

**WEBSTERHILLSUMC.ORG**

# Prayer to consider:

“Lord, help me be grateful  
for what I have,  
remember that I don't  
need most of what I want,  
and that joy is found in  
simplicity and generosity.”

— Adam Hamilton, “Enough”



Webster Hills United Methodist Church  
698 W. Lockwood Ave Webster Groves MO 63119  
[www.websterhillsumc.org](http://www.websterhillsumc.org)