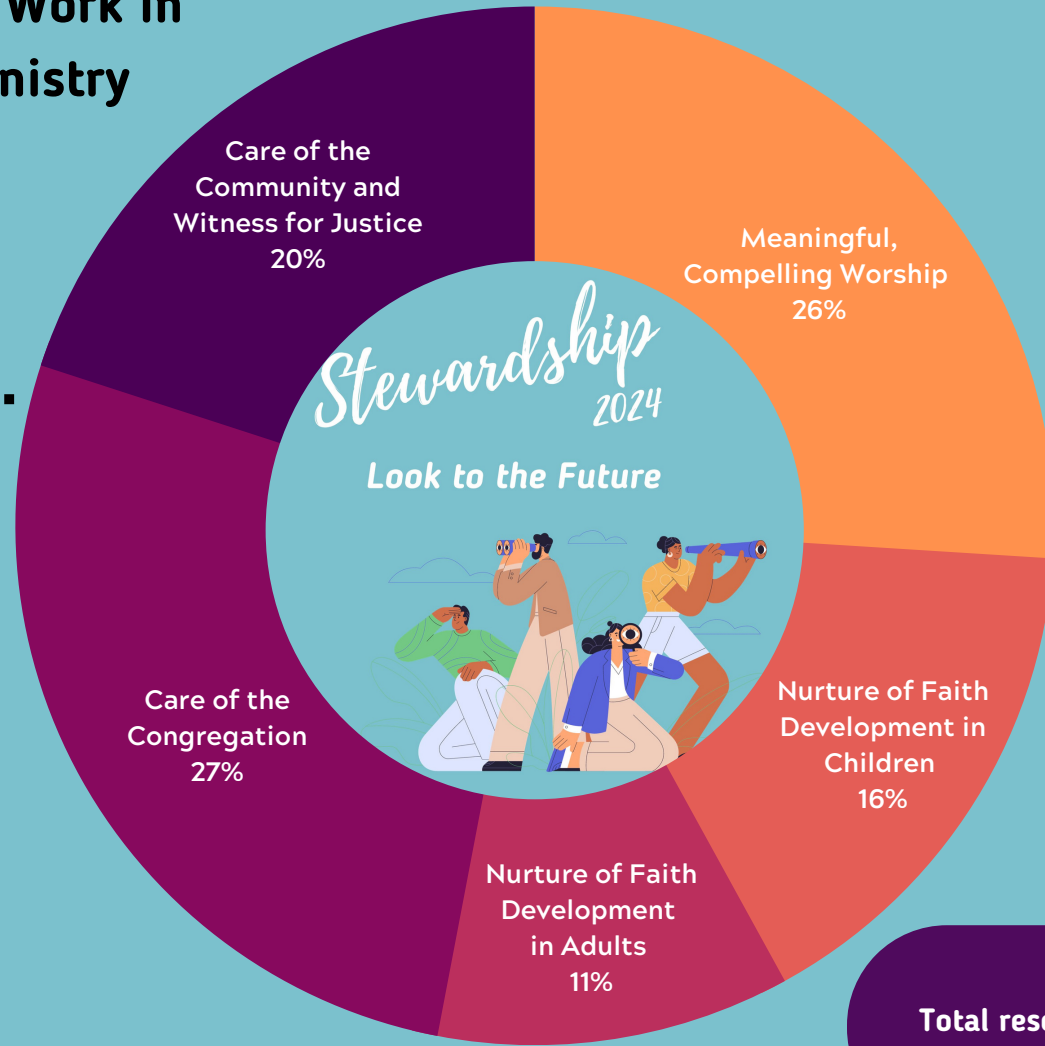


Your young will see visions, and your old will dream dreams ... Acts 2:17

January 2024-December 2024 Your Generosity at Work in Ministry

Does the future ever seem daunting? We all feel like that. We all have times where we wonder how we will meet the challenges ahead. These pages, though, tell a different story. They tell the story of what a group of people can do when they all work together. This is a story of people looking forward to the future with hope and joy!

You can be a part of this future. When you're part of a faith community, a "small" gift is actually the most powerful. Take a look at the vast power of small gifts, and the future we are building together.



Building our future together!

Share your dreams and your gifts with one another as we look to God's future with hope.



\$474,211
Total resources dedicated to carry out our mission and ministry in 2024



We are a congregation **rooted in Christ and reaching out in love!**

How we're building the future:

Meaningful, Compelling Worship

The faith is alive in word, song, prayer and fellowship. We offer a relevant, thoughtful, and hopeful message, meaningful community prayer and rituals, and inspiring music from multiple genres.

\$125,480

Nurture of Faith Development: Children

Children are gifts God has entrusted to us. It's an honor to teach them God's story and watch as they discover God's story in their lives. Our Kid's Club, our confirmation class, and our youth group all provide a loving place to belong.

\$73,583

Nurture of Faith Development: Adults

Our small groups change our lives. Sharing God's story in a group where we are welcome and known makes God's love real. Our faith is stronger and our lives are richer because of our small groups. Every week, we have over 100 people meeting together to intentionally grow in their faith.

\$51,494

Care of the Congregation

This is the place people turn to when life becomes painful, confusing, or overwhelming. Our pastors make home and hospital visits, meet for conversation, and connect the community in prayer. We build the future not just in words, but with actions.

\$129,769

Care of the Community and Witness for Justice

We build the future of God's community with jeans and t-shirts, with cans of beans and mac and cheese, with blankets and quilts, with transitional housing for those who are homeless. Who knows how far our reach goes?

\$93,886

How can I help build a future of hope?

Why I give ...

Our giving changes the world. It also changes us. Giving slowly changes our way of life, helping us realize that everything we have is a gift from God. Understanding God's graciousness helps us understand that we are called to pass on a portion of our resources to our neighbors. Giving helps us use our resources wisely, with joy and generosity.

What is a pledge?

A pledge is a commitment to give a specified amount of money to Marysville United Methodist Church in 2024. Everyone is invited to turn in the enclosed pledge card or on or before Sunday, October 29. You can also fill out a pledge card online at marysvilleumc.org/2024pledge.

Why are pledges helpful to Marysville United Methodist Church?

Our budget for ministry, staff, facilities, and mission is funded by the generosity of the people in our faith community. We do not depend on any other income stream. Pledges enable us to responsibly plan for 2024. We want to steward our resources well; your pledge helps us accomplish our goal.

Isn't The United Methodist Church dividing? Is our future uncertain?

About 16% of UMC local churches have disaffiliated, or left the denomination, in the last year. The majority of these have been in the southeast part of the US. In our conference, 13 churches have left, only 0.5% of our total churches. While this process has been painful, we believe that our denomination will be healthier and more inclusive without the incessant fighting. We look forward to a healthier, more dynamic future!

How much should I pledge?

Take the time to pray and think about it. We encourage giving a deliberately-chosen percentage of your gross income. We are challenged to set a tithe (the Biblical word for 10% of our income) as a giving goal in our lives. Start where you can and begin that journey. Some fully tithe, some give more than a tithe; others take an incremental approach-increasing their gift by 1%, 2%, or 3% per year to gradually move toward 10%.

I am ready to give!

- Set up an automatic recurring gift with your bank account, or with your credit/debit card.
- Place cash or check in the offering plate during Sunday worship (weekly or monthly).
- Give online with your credit/debit card via our website or text message.

What if my financial circumstances change? If you need to change your commitment at any time, just let us know. Simply contact Susan Blackburn at finance@marysvilleumc.org

Questions? Contact Jeff Clark at (360) 618-2551.

Full copies of our 2024 proposed budget are available on request by contacting the church office.

Stewardship at Marysville UMC 2024



We often talk about change as if it's something coming at us from the future that we don't like and don't want. In truth, though, change is happening all around us all the time, and we are a part of it! We are part of shaping the world around us, slowly changing it from what it was to what God wants it to be. We are part of building God's future!

Think of all the ways we've changed the church in our lifetimes!

- Our retired pastors often remind us what the church was like when they started their careers in ministry. It was led by mostly men, mostly white, mostly from similar backgrounds. Now, the larger church is like a rainbow explosion!
- It's easy to celebrate the ways our local church has changed. In the last ten years, we've deliberately built a congregation that is inclusive rather than exclusive.
- We're moving away from a faith of trite and unhelpful clichés—"God won't give you more than you can handle"—and toward a faith that is robust, healthy, nuanced, dynamic, and stronger.
- Our church staff—four women in their 40s—were recently reminiscing about what acolyte training was like when we were youth: the robes, the precision, the strict schedules, and high expectations. We have moments of nostalgia, but when we see our kids lighting candles, with adults to help and show them it's okay not to be perfect, we're grateful for the ways we've evolved.

We celebrate these changes! When we look back, we can see God at work, slowly leading us forward into faithful service. **As you look back at your life and faith, what changes do you see and celebrate?**



General Conference 1968

It's hard to have a conversation about anything these days without talking about how the world is changing. The changes have been extensive, fast, and powerful. It is easy to lose our bearings. Looking at how God has moved us forward in the past, though, can give us hope and excitement for our future. Yes, we will experience some of this change as a loss, and there will be some grief. *And* there will also be opportunities, achievements, and delights. The church of tomorrow will not look like our church today. Our church today doesn't look like the church of the past! We have changed it! We will keep changing it, as we build God's church for the future.

What are your hopes for the church of the future?

- A place where lonely people can find friends?
- A group of people who commit to loving God and loving each other?
- A force in the community for justice, love, and hope?
- A movement where life is celebrated, laughter is abundant, burdens are shared, and God's love is known?

All of these things are possible! We can make them together, with God's help. When we all give from who we are and what we have, we will build the Kingdom of Heaven on earth. We can look to the future with hope.

Will you join us?



General Conference 2019

Pastor Meredith