

2023 ANNUAL REPORT

EBENEZER
CHURCH

Transforming lives
through Jesus Christ
as we connect, heal,
and bring hope to
the world.

GENUINE RELATIONSHIP

- 31 new members
- 30+ active small groups

INSPIRED DISCIPLESHIP

- 10 adults served on mission teams in Sierra Leone and Guatemala
- 39 baptisms
- 51 high school students and adult leaders served on the Summer Mission Trip to Wilmington, NC
- 130 children enrolled in Ebenezer Preschool
- 190 participated in year-long We Are Praying For You campaign
- 240 children and more than 130 volunteers participated in Vacation Bible School
- 461 participated in 12 small faith communities through Love Your Neighbor Network

TRANSFORMED COMMUNITIES

- 63 backpacks collected for children in Costa Rica
- 84 relief kits assembled for UMCOR (United Methodist Committee On Relief)
- 210 backpacks filled with school supplies donated to local students
- 400+ Go For Bo runners and sponsors raised \$50,000 for Helping Children Worldwide
- 500 Angel Tree gifts and food boxes provided to local families and seniors

2023 IN REVIEW

What a blessing to be the hands and feet of Christ in this community! We are living out our mission to transform lives through Jesus Christ as we connect, heal, and bring hope to the world.

We approached this year with prayer and intentionality, living out our core values as we discern God's will for the future. We celebrated 31 new members and 39 baptisms. We continued robust ministry on site at the main campus, online, and offsite in the Love Your Neighbor Network. We dedicated ourselves to a Year of Prayer with a new prayer focus every week. Our Strategic Planning Team met monthly to develop Focus 2030, our new vision for ministry.

Adult Ministries offered relationship and discipleship through more than 30 ongoing small groups. We offered Disciple Bible Study classes, as well as courses in forgiveness, grief, and relationships. Wednesday Potluck Suppers provided informal weekly fellowship, and a renewed Visitation Ministry brought encouragement to those in need. United Methodist Men and United Women in Faith remained active in living out faith through service.

Young people found many ways to deepen faith through Children's and Student Ministries, including Vacation Bible School, Communion Class for 2nd-5th graders, and STEP Preteen Gatherings for 4th & 5th graders. Middle and high school students experienced spiritual growth through weekly gatherings and weekend retreats. High school students learned how they could be part of God's work in action on the Summer Mission Trip to Wilmington, NC.

We continue to transform our community alongside our ministry partners. We helped fight hunger and homelessness with Micah Ministries and the Brisben Center. Ebenezer Acre harvested 1,900 pounds of produce for S.E.R.V.E. We brought joy to local children through our Easter Kits for Kids, Build a Backpack, and Angel Tree ministries. We met our neighbors at Tuesdays at the Park and National Night Out and welcomed them to our campus for Night of Worship and the Imagination Library Pumpkin Patch. Our 13th annual Go For Bo race raised \$50,000 for Helping Children Worldwide. Ebenezer mission teams served in Sierra Leone and Guatemala.

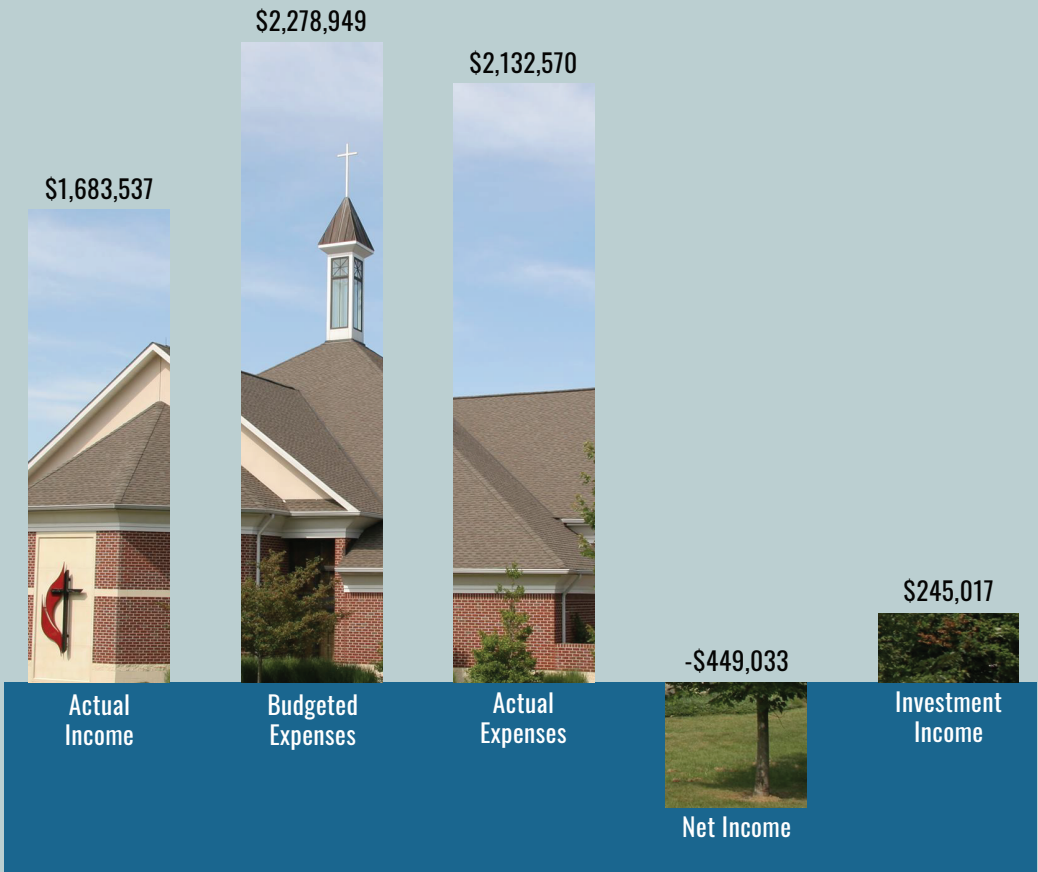
We look forward to ministry in 2024 as we begin our Focus 2030 vision emphasizing Connection through Worship, Multi-Generational Discipleship, Missional Service, Community Presence, Serving, and Giving. This is how we will grow in faith as we love God and love our neighbors. Thanks be to God!

Pastor Emily Moore-Diamond

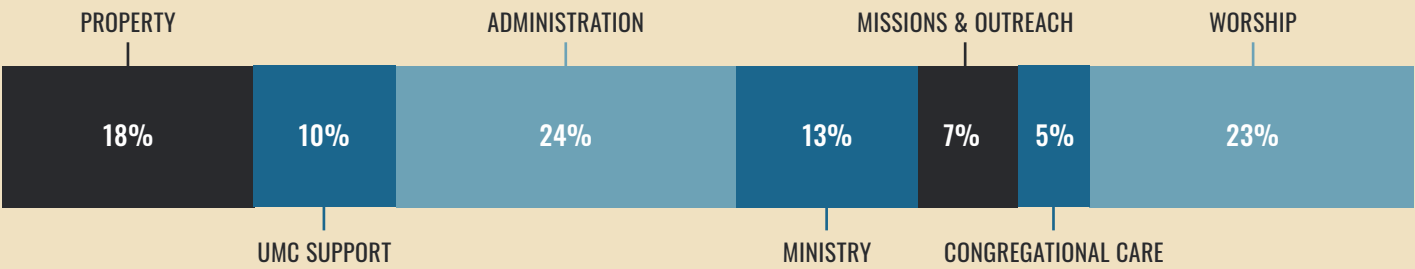
GENERAL FUND AT EBENEZER

Total General Fund income for 2023 was \$1,683,537. This is \$190,750 less than last year. However, in 2022 we had an extraordinary transfer of \$150,000 from a state grant that the Preschool received. General Offerings were down 7% compared to the previous year.

After reducing planned expenses by almost \$146,379, Total Expenses for the year were \$2,132,570, creating a deficit of \$449,033. After applying investment income of \$245,017 toward the shortfall, we ended the year with a net deficit of \$204,016. Note that investment income is not reported as General Fund Income.



WHERE WAS OUR MONEY SPENT IN 2023?



Property – costs of maintaining the physical church

UMC Support – includes apportionments paid to both the district and the conference

Administration – general expenses associated with supporting all aspects of the church’s mission, including general office, communications, finance, etc.

Ministry – includes children, student, young adult, and adult ministry expenses

Missions & Outreach – includes support of local, national and international mission partners and individual assistance

Congregational Care – includes counseling, connection services, and lay leadership

Worship – includes expenses associated with the pastors, worship leader, music ministry, and supplies associated with worship services