



# ANNUAL REPORT 2021

**United Evangelical Church, United Church of Christ  
Annual Congregational Meeting  
April 3, 2022  
Fellowship Hall**



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An Open and Affirming Congregation

Rev. Catherine J. Oatman, Pastor  
Mr. Robert Gundlach, Director of Music

# REPORTS

## Pastor's Report

Submitted by Rev. Cathy

In some ways, 2021 was a repeat of 2020 in terms of our church life being dictated to us by the COVID pandemic. We all had such high hopes that 2021 would be a better year, but not much was different. Even with a vaccine being developed, the virus continued to affect all of us, including the church, as it shut down events and took lives.

It felt like we have been in a holding pattern for almost two years. This brings to mind the scriptures that speak of waiting on the Lord. The story of Jonah teaches us that sometimes in life it feels like we are in the belly of a large fish, meaning that we are trapped. We can't move one way or another until the fish decides. This is what it is like when we wait on the Lord. We can't change our circumstances, and God is the only One we can turn to.

I turn to Psalm 27:13-14 in times like this. It says, "I believe that I shall see the goodness of the LORD in the land of the living. Wait for the LORD; be strong, and let your heart take courage; wait for the LORD!" I like this scripture passage over others that call us to wait on the Lord, because it inspires hope. It calls forth the faith to believe that we will see God act on the situation we find ourselves waiting in.

To be clear, waiting on the Lord doesn't mean we do nothing. It means we do what we can as God is working on the bigger picture. Jonah, while in the belly of the whale, could only pray. And so while the virus prevented us from having large fundraising events, we were able to resume smaller gatherings which helped restore some sense of community.

We started 2021 having virtual services only. We resumed in-person worship on January 17 and never looked back, even as the Delta and Omicron variants caused spikes in the infection rate. The council felt that practicing the guidelines set by the city would be sufficient precautions.

This meant that we were able to hold Holy Week and Easter Sunday services. We resumed our annual picnic, and had a downsized Tinsel Sunday celebration. Thanks go to the Jankiewicz family, Jennifer and Carol Borkman, Rob Gundlach and Pam Georgiadis for making these events happen. Christmas Eve, complete with cellist Katie Chambers, was relished by those of us who attended, as well as those who watched virtually. There is no way of telling what 2022 holds in terms of the virus, but we know that our waiting on the Lord is not in vain.

We also were in a holding pattern for most of the year regarding the sale of the Sunday School building. However, many things got accomplished trusting and believing that we would see

the sale go through. I want to thank Travis Hogan, Katie McHale, Debbie Vaught and Steven Jankiewicz who helped clean, and paint the Upper Room in preparation for its transition into a space for Christian Education for children.

Thanks also goes out to the countless others who helped move all the needed records, equipment and church paraphernalia from their storage places in the Sunday School building into the church building. We also salvaged other antique and useful items that were no longer needed and held a garage sale where we raised several hundred dollars.

However, the physical relocation is only part of leaving a space, there is also a spiritual aspect. That building has been a part of the church since 1936. It has held many memories for countless people over its 85 years of existence. As a heartfelt farewell, seven young adults of the church held a final sleep-over at the church in June. Previous sleep-overs had been a high point in the memories for those young people, as they would run through the building playing hide and seek in the dark.

That night they all helped move a lot of stuff from the Sunday School building. And that night we also gathered around Christ's table and remembered that Jesus talked about how a grain of wheat must fall to the ground in order for it to bring forth new life. As a church we all understand that we had to let go of the building and grieve its loss, in order for God to bring new life for United Evangelical.

The morning following the sleep over, one of the young people said to me, "That was the best sleep I ever got at a sleep-over." I told him it was the only time he ever slept at a sleep-over, which spoke to the changes that happen in his life going from a youth to a young adult. Just as his life had changed, the life of the church was changing.

In September, as a congregation, we held a service of blessing and release of the building in worship. We celebrated the history of those classrooms and the people who learned and taught of Christ within them. And we asked God to bless the space for those who would occupy it their home. After worship, an older member who watched the service virtually, called me in tears thanking the church for such a beautiful service.

In this person I saw God's past calling on the church, and God's future calling, as she had been one of those people who had learned and taught of Jesus in those rooms and who was now attending her church virtually because physically she is unable to. I know that there is nothing like attending church in person. Feeling the move of the Holy Spirit in our gathering is the promise Christ made to us. And yet the future of this world, and the church, will be different than the days of Jesus. Our responsibility is to be listening to the Spirit as we envision our future.

Even with all the work that happened in 2021, there is still lots of transitioning work that needs to happen, including creating both physically space and heart space for the new iteration of United Evangelical Church, UCC.

Even as we are a church in transition, one thing that does not change is God's call to feed the hungry, to cloth those without, to house the homeless and to fight for justice. And so we did not sit on our hands in our waiting in regards to showing love to our neighbors. In September we delivered school supplies that had been collected over the summer. At the end of October we delivered gloves and hats that we had collected in September and October. In November we delivered 30 Thanksgiving food baskets. In December we delivered toys to Hoffman Homes, which has been a long-standing mission of the church, but December also brought a new mission project of providing clothes to the House of Ruth.

In addition to loving our neighbor, we are called to love the Lord our God with all our heart, soul, mind and strength. With that in mind, a virtual Bible Study was started in November. This ministry feeds me as much as anyone and I am grateful for the people who attend every week. If you are looking for a place that offers food for your soul, I encourage you to give this study a try.

Finally in November, T-Mobile, who had bought Sprint, ended our cell tower contract. We knew we were going to lose that income once the building was sold, but it happened a little earlier than expected. As we look toward 2022, we are projecting a \$71,000 deficit. At the November congregational meeting it was discussed how we need to transition the kitchen into a rentable space for start-up companies that need kitchen space. This is something we cannot wait on. We have been blessed with this resource and we need to use it for our future.

The pandemic has changed our world irreparably; there is no going back. In 2022 hopefully we will begin to understand what it will mean to be a post pandemic church, a church that has been changed to meet the spiritual needs of the future. As we end 2021 we are still waiting for the sale of the building to go through. Even so, "I believe that I shall see the goodness of the LORD in the land of the living."

In Christ's love,  
Rev. Cathy

## **Church Council President's Report**

Submitted by Jennifer Borkman

As we enter 2022, on behalf of me and the council, we pray that you and your families have all the blessings of good health, much happiness and prosperity.

Looking back at 2021, our Church, as well as the world, has faced many challenges and losses. While staying in compliance with the ever changing mandates of the City of Baltimore, we have kept the Church open and have all stayed strong in the hopes that the Covid 19 pandemic will be coming to an end in the near future. We have lost members of our Congregation as well as our private families and we will miss everyone dearly and pray for those who are grieving those losses.

Thanks to the dedication of Rev. Cathy, our choir director Rob Gundlach, Katie McHale, and Steven and Josh Jankiewicz our Tech Team, we have been able to advance our services' online viewing audience, as well as enhance the in person services with all of their knowledge and support.

The council has been meeting via Zoom all year. Nothing can stop a church like us from doing what we have to do to and we will continue to adapt as the world changes. We have had many delays with the sale of the Sunday School Building, but we are now in the final steps of completing this long process.

This year will continue with more challenges until everyone is safe from this terrible pandemic, but we will continue to adapt to whatever hurdles we will meet this year and remain steadfast in our faith and love of Jesus Christ.

Blessings,  
UEC Church Council

## **Endowment Committee Report**

Submitted by the Endowment Committee

In 2021 the Endowment Committee met and funded requests for proposals totaling \$12,330.91 \$2,553.93 was awarded to the church's general budget. \$7,276.99 was used towards salaries for our media team, Josh Jankiewicz, Steven Jankiewicz and Katie McHale. Three college scholarships for church members, totaling \$1,500, were funded. And \$999.99 was granted to the music committee for a new sound mixer for the sanctuary.

An additional \$35,000 was removed from the endowment fund to replenish the cash reserves of the church. This money will be repaid to the fund at the sale of the building.

Since the inception of the fund in 2013, \$285,000 has been invested and \$66,318.39 has been withdrawn to fund Endowment requests, while \$206,600 is on loan. The value of the fund at the end of 2021 was \$133,383.78. Currently up to 5% of the entire fund based on a five year rolling average is now available for use in the ministry of the church. The amount available from 2021 year end Endowment fund total is \$ 11,297.13. Requests for Endowment Fund spending proposals will be accepted thru March 15, 2022. The committee will meet in March of 2022 to review and fund spending proposals.

If you would like to make a gift to the Endowment Fund, it is open for contributions. Remember to designate any gifts that you want to go to the Endowment Fund and please consider the church in your will. If you have any questions, please direct them to members of the Endowment Committee: President & Financial Secretary Barbara Matthew, JoAnn Johnson, Susan Rowell, Diane Price and Mark Betch.

# CHURCH RECORDS FOR THE YEAR 2021

## **FUNERALS**

1/19/2021 Rose Elizabeth Guy  
5/20/2021 Harry Lee Rosenberger  
7/2/2021 George Frederick Claes  
7/17/2021 Ronald Dean Mitchell  
7/26/2021 Geraldine Mildred Morgan  
9/3/2021 George Anthony Bogdan  
10/15/2021 Lorraine Evelyn Klaiss  
11/6/2021 Joseph Vincent Rohr, Jr.  
11/19/2021 Catherine Barbara Collins

## **WEDDINGS**

8/15/2021 Joshua Andrew Pearson and Brandi Leigh Rosenberger  
8/21/2021 Brandon Michael Hovermill and Shantaya Mileena Thomas  
10/1/2021 Princess Michelle Hester and Karen Southern

MEMBERSHIP AT START OF 2019	109
NEW MEMBERS	0
MEMBERS LOST	3
REMOVED FROM ACTIVE MEMBERSHIP	0
<b>TOTAL MEMBERS</b>	<b>106</b>
<b>TOTAL ACTIVE CHILDREN</b>	<b>7</b>

**THE UNITED EVANGELICAL CHURCH OF BALTIMORE, MARYLAND**  
**Financial Report 2021-Budget 2022**

	Budget 2021	Actual 2021	Budget 2022
<b>REVENUE</b>			
Regular Envelopes	51,000.00	52,682.50	51,000.00
Christian Education Dept. Offering--Regular	0.00	0.00	0.00
Communion Envelopes	1,900.00	1,909.00	1,950.00
Holiday and Special Day Envelopes	2,500.00	3,046.00	3,100.00
Initial Envelopes	200.00	67.00	100.00
Improvement Fund	2,000.00	1,911.00	2,000.00
Memorials	3,600.00	2,360.00	2,800.00
Love Gifts	4,000.00	2,575.00	3,800.00
Unity Candle	50.00	100.00	50.00
Cash Donations	1,000.00	1,210.95	1,000.00
Holiday & Altar Flowers	250.00	340.00	200.00
Charities, Benevolence	1,400.00	1,333.80	1,050.00
Miscellaneous Fund Raisers	3,000.00	699.25	1,500.00
Building Fund Raffle	1,300.00	1,601.00	1,300.00
Sale of Misc. Items	0.00	12.00	0.00
Use of Facility	500.00	550.00	250.00
Interest on Accounts	25.00	17.77	25.00
Sprint Rental Income	21,900.00	27,447.58	0.00
Parsonage Rental Income	34,800.00	31,900.00	31,900.00
Estate Bequests--Received	0.00	0.00	0.00
Estate Bequests--Transfer to Investment	0.00	0.00	0.00
Distribution from Endowment	7,638.00	37,331.00	11,798.00
Endowment Fund Disbursements	(6,113.00)	(9,321.88)	(9,439.00)
Other, General Fund	0.00	9,522.00	0.00
<b>Total Revenue</b>	<b>130,950.00</b>	<b>167,293.97</b>	<b>104,384.00</b>
<b>PASTORAL EXPENSE</b>			
Pastor's Salary	18000.00	18,000.00	18,000.00
Housing Allowance	20000.00	19,999.92	20,000.00
Auto Expense Stipend	1750.00	1,749.96	1,750.00
Insurance, Health and Life--Total			
Insurance payments	13462.00	14,737.12	14,694.00
Insurance reimbursement	(100.00)	(100.00)	(100.00)
Pastor's Pension	3660.00	0.00	3,660.00
Professional and Education Exp.	800.00	0.00	800.00
Supply (Guest) Pastor	750.00	600.00	750.00
<b>Total Pastoral Expense</b>	<b>58,322.00</b>	<b>54,987.00</b>	<b>59,554.00</b>

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	Budget 2021	Actual 2021	Budget 2022
<b>OFFICE EXPENSE</b>			
Secretaries' Salaries	14491.00	14,769.51	16,380.00
Social Security and Medicare	1108.00	1,129.96	1,253.00
Office Supplies & Bank Charges	1200.00	667.06	1,000.00
Copy and Computer	2000.00	2,286.16	2,250.00
Bookkeeping	1200.00	1,200.00	1,200.00
Postage	1500.00	1,135.80	1,200.00
Church Telephone & Internet	4500.00	4,760.32	4,700.00
<b>Total Office Expenses</b>	<b>25,999.00</b>	<b>25,948.81</b>	<b>27,983.00</b>
<b>MAINTENANCE EXPENSE</b>			
Cleaning Supplies, Service	9,000.00	9,700.00	10,400.00
Church Insurance	21,000.00	21,155.90	26,629.00
Gas, Church	4,000.00	4,086.01	4,000.00
Electric, Church	4,500.00	4,023.85	2,500.00
Water and Sewer, Church	2,100.00	2,595.43	2,100.00
Repairs, Supplies, Maintenance	4,500.00	11,833.16	6,000.00
<b>Total Maintenance Expense</b>	<b>45,100.00</b>	<b>53,394.35</b>	<b>51,629.00</b>
<b>SANCTUARY AND MISCELLANEOUS</b>			
Music Director Salary	14338.00	14,337.84	14,338.00
Social Security and Medicare	1097.00	1,096.80	1,097.00
Ass't. Organist/Pianist/Musicians	0.00	300.00	0.00
Music and Choir Expense	1250.00	2,724.41	1,700.00
Organ/Piano Service	1250.00	1,639.85	1,500.00
Altar and Sanctuary Supplies	750.00	541.57	500.00
Flowers and Decorations	800.00	702.10	800.00
Receptions and Refreshments	400.00	844.29	600.00
Education and Study Materials	700.00	748.51	700.00
Advertising	400.00	140.00	200.00
Recreation	0.00	0.00	0.00
ONA	200.00	0.00	200.00
Building Fund Raffle	600.00	600.00	600.00
Offering Envelopes	250.00	222.40	250.00
Paypal Fees	0.00	226.63	220.00
Misc. Fundraising Costs	350.00	0.00	350.00
Misc. Expenses	700.00	700.75	500.00
<b>Total Sanctuary and Misc.</b>	<b>23,085.00</b>	<b>24,825.15</b>	<b>23,555.00</b>

**THE UNITED EVANGELICAL CHURCH OF BALTIMORE, MARYLAND**  
**Financial Report 2021-Budget 2022**

	Budget 2021	Actual 2021	Budget 2022
<b>CHRISTIAN ED. DEPT. EXPENSE</b>			
Curriculum and Lesson Supplies	500.00	0.00	500.00
Mission Projects	0.00	0.00	0.00
Miscellaneous Expenses	0.00	0.00	0.00
Youth Group Projects	0.00	0.00	0.00
<b>Total Christian Ed. Dept. Expense</b>	<b>500.00</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>500.00</b>
<b>BENEVOLENCE</b>			
Heifer International	350.00	0.00	350.00
Central Atlantic Conf.,(OCWM)	1800.00	1,800.00	1,800.00
Chesapeake Association	816.00	816.00	816.00
Hoffman Home	500.00	441.04	500.00
Homewood Home	400.00	620.67	400.00
Eden Seminary	400.00	400.00	400.00
Lancaster Seminary	400.00	400.00	400.00
One Great Hour of Sharing	300.00	250.00	300.00
Earl's Place	800.00	800.00	800.00
Other Benevolence	1000.00	625.00	1,000.00
<b>Total Benevolence</b>	<b>6,766.00</b>	<b>6,152.71</b>	<b>6,766.00</b>
<b>IMPROVEMENTS AND EQUIPMENT</b>			
Repairs and Improvements	2,000.00	0.00	0.00
Purchase of Equipment	500.00	0.00	0.00
<b>Total Improvements and Equipment</b>	<b>2,500.00</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>0.00</b>
<b>PARSONAGE RENTAL EXPENSE</b>			
Property Management Fees	0.00	32.95	2,900.00
Improvements & Equipment	0.00	0.00	0.00
Repairs & Maintenance	500.00	780.00	500.00
Utilities	0.00	552.00	0.00
Property Taxes	3,185.00	3,183.66	3,185.00
<b>Total Parsonage Rental Expense</b>	<b>3,685.00</b>	<b>4,548.61</b>	<b>6,585.00</b>

**THE UNITED EVANGELICAL CHURCH OF BALTIMORE, MARYLAND**  
**Financial Report 2021-Budget 2022**

	Budget 2021	Actual 2021	Budget 2022
<b>TOTAL OPERATING EXPENSES</b>	165,957.00	169,856.63	176,572.00
<b>TOTAL OPERATING REVENUE</b>	130,950.00	167,293.97	104,384.00
<b>AMOUNT UNDER (DEFICIT)</b>	(35,007.00)	(2,562.66)	(72,188.00)
<b>Total all Church Funds as of 12/31/2021:</b>			
Wesbanco ( checking account)	11,842.06		
Wesbanco (savings account)	4,876.34		
Petty Cash--Office	200.00		
Petty Cash--Fundraisers	400.00		
The Cornerstone Fund CD	6,566.42		
United Church Funds Endowment Account	132,188.72		
<b>TOTAL:</b>	<b>156,073.54</b>		