



ANNUAL REPORT 2022

**United Evangelical Church, United Church of Christ
Annual Congregational Meeting**

**January 29, 2023
Fellowship Hall**



**UNITED
EVANGELICAL
CHURCH, UCC**
a just world for all.

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REPORTS

Pastor's Report

Submitted by Rev. Cathy

Knowing this annual report will be my last, I am reminded of Paul's letter to the Corinthians where he tells the church how each worker has their job to do. We aren't expected to do all the jobs, just what we are called to. He says, "I planted, Apollos watered, but God gave the growth." I have kept this scripture in the forefront of my thoughts over the last couple months as I entrust all of you to God who will continue to bring growth to the many things we have planted and watered over the years.

One of the hardest things in ministry is to walk away feeling like projects are unfinished. However, the reality is that I will go to my grave and there will be projects that are unfinished for the Kingdom of God. And so I want to thank the Council members and others who have stepped forward to carry these unfinished projects across the finish line as we part ways.

2022 began with me taking some time off in January for personal reasons. I was struggling with a dark night of the soul where I felt completely disqualified to be in ministry. I felt like a fraud and my life felt crazy. I'm very grateful for the support I received from the council and the church.

Over the year I put into place several support systems that have helped me find my way out of that dark night. In January I was in the middle of transitioning to a new therapist, which has since been resolved. I have also joined a 12 step program. I don't have a problem with substances, but I have addictive behaviors and thinking which I have needed to change in order to put in place healthier ways to live. 12 step programs are spiritual programs, in essence they help us find the path to the abundant life which Jesus talked about.

About a month after all that happened, I broke my ankle. Again I felt so grateful for all the support I received from the church. I especially want to thank Rob Gundlach, Katie McHale and Steven and Josh Jankiewicz who made it possible for me to work from home on Sundays. My gratitude also goes out to Pam Georgiadis and Alissa Huber who both assumed leadership roles within the worship service.

As you can imagine, being laid up with a broken ankle for seven weeks was a learning experience. I learned the depth and power of the first phrase of the Serenity Prayer, "God, grant me the serenity to accept the things I cannot change..." It was also a lesson in patience, humility and gratitude as I had no choice but to rely upon others. I see now that this time was preparing all of us for this pastoral transition.

The day I was allowed to weight bear again was the day I felt like I returned to the status of a human being again. I have a new understanding for people with permanent disabilities that I take with me into hospital chaplaincy. Sometimes God takes us through an experience in order to give us the tools for what God is calling us to. This was true for me before I came to United, and I believe it is true at this time as well. Being able to return to in-person worship during Holy Week was an amazing gift. I was filled with a new sense of excitement for holy week. I was living the joy of resurrection.

In the midst of all this, the sale of the Sunday school building went through in March. When construction began, problems dealing with our condo partners also began. All construction projects have bumps, and overall our process has been relatively painless, so I guess we can count our blessings. I still have confidence that we have good partners who care about how they affect their neighbors.

As the Sunday school building is being transformed, we continue to create new storage space within our “condo.” There is still so much to do. Some of it is on hold till things happen next door, but there are several projects that need volunteers to step forward. Please consider giving up a Saturday or a Sunday afternoon to paint or scrape or organize or clean or spackle. Part of being church is being good stewards of what we inherit. As a church, we can't afford to have all the projects done by professionals. We each have gifts that are needed in the stewardship of our space.

One project that did get finished was the cleaning of the kitchen. The hood was upgraded, and the ovens and refrigerators were inspected and serviced as well. A special “thank you” goes to Alissa, Jeana, and John Huber, Bobby Rosenberger, Ceaira Kent and Travis Hogan who made this project happen. We started advertising our space in December and have had several inquiries about the space. To date we have one person about to start using part of the kitchen, and we continue to work with getting others lined up.

I mentioned the use of the kitchen by outside people in last year's report. I emphasized its importance in helping to stabilize the church budget. Things got pushed back with me out of commission for 2 months, so it is exciting to see things starting to happen in 2023.

Going through the transition of selling the school building made it a logical time for the church to embark upon a Visioning Study. Visioning studies encourage us to dream about a future. Selling a church building can feel like we don't have a future because who we have been is no longer the same. However, the truth is that we do have a future. What we don't have any more is the past. It is gone. We have memories, and many of them are good memories, and this is what we carry into the future. We carry the foundation of our faith forward and we continue to build upon it.

United Evangelical has gone through many permutations of buildings in its history. This is just the latest. The task of this church that is in the pews in 2023 is to see the church without the Sunday School building. And so, we spent the summer attending meetings with Jill White leading us through our visioning work. In September, she gave us all the information that was compiled through our work and a Strategic Planning Task Force was assembled to look through the data and write a strategic plan that will guide us into our future vision. "Thank you," goes to Terri Bragg, Kelli Crews, Steven Jankiewicz and Susan Rowell for being our Task Force.

2023 is the church's 150th anniversary. From my perspective there are many exciting things happening in the life of United Evangelical. However, and sadly, these things are not for me to do. It is time for someone else to plant and water. I leave you in God's hands, which is where I found you, and is where you have always been. I have simply been the lucky one who was invited to walk these past 20 years of the church's life with you. I know that right now God is preparing the next pastor of United Evangelical Church. Until they arrive, "...ask that our God will make you worthy of his call and will fulfill by his power every good resolve and work of faith, so that the name of our Lord Jesus may be glorified in you, and you in him..." 2Th 1:11-12.

In Christ's love,
Rev. Cathy

Church Council President's Report

Submitted by Jennifer Borkman

As we enter 2023, on behalf of me and the Council, we pray that you and your families have all the blessings of health, happiness and prosperity.

Looking back at 2022, the thing that stands out to me the most is the strong faithful group that makes up our small, but vital, congregation. We have had many members step up and become readers during worship, as well as join the Council and other committees.

In March of 2022, we sold the Church Sunday School Building. This was a long time coming. Although we do not have that building any longer, the love we have for our church children lives on in our New Sunday School room led by Carol Borkman. Carol has been teaching United's children about God for over 50 years. We thank God for her and all the others who have taught our church children.

Over the past year we have lost beloved members of our congregation and families. We miss everyone dearly, pray for those who are grieving those losses, and remind them they are not alone.

Due to the dedication, knowledge and support of Rev. Cathy, Choir Director Rob Gundlach, Media Ministry Developer Katie McHale, and Tech Team Steven and Josh Jankiewicz, we have been able to advance our online and in-person worship services. We were even able to have virtual pastor lead in-person services for a few weeks when Rev. Cathy was out with her broken ankle.

The Council has been meeting both virtually and in person this year, enabling all members to still attend the meetings and give their valuable input. Nothing can stop us from doing what we have to do, and we will continue to adapt as the world changes.

This coming year, brings us new challenges, as Rev. Cathy has decided to step down as the Pastor of United Evangelical Church and take a full time chaplain position at Johns Hopkins Bayview. We have been blessed with a pastor who worked hard for our Church for over 20 years and has been a spiritual anchor and blessing to us all. She will be missed dearly by everyone.

Please remember, over the next year, that with our faith in God and each other, we can get through this journey of finding a new Pastor to lead us in our Faith.

The Council looks forward to continuing to serve United and letting every member know they are appreciated. May we all continue to praise God and share our blessings both in and outside of the church as we move forward serving and welcoming all who seek God's Love.

Peace be with you,
UEC Council

Endowment Committee Report

Submitted by the Endowment Committee

In 2022 the Endowment Committee met and funded requests totaling \$11,294 which was the maximum amount allowed from the endowment. Request proposals submitted to the Endowment Committee totaled \$12,472, which left \$1,179 of the requests unfunded. The committee made the following decisions regarding funding. \$2,258 was awarded to the church's general budget. \$7,268 was used towards salaries for our media team, Josh Jankiewicz, Steven Jankiewicz and Katie McHale. This amount represents a \$79 shortfall for the total cost of those salaries which was made up through the church budget. Three college scholarships for church members, totaling \$1,500, were funded. And \$347 was granted to the music committee for a high-hat pedal, bass pedal & audio compressor. This left the request for a new camera for the sanctuary costing \$1,100 unfunded. A member of the endowment

committee and their family personally funded that request. We are grateful to Carol Rowell and her family for their generosity.

At the sale of the building \$246,400 was returned to the endowment fund, which was the total amount the church had borrowed from the fund.

Since the inception of the fund in 2013, \$285,000 has been invested and \$77,601.39 has been withdrawn to fund endowment requests. The value of the fund at the end of 2022 was \$289,788.57. 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 2022 year end Endowment fund total is \$10,476.65. Requests for Endowment Fund spending proposals will be accepted thru March 15, 2023. The committee will meet in March of 2023 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 JoAnn Johnson, Financial Secretary Susan Rowell, Diane Price, Carol Borkman and Mark Betch.

CHURCH RECORDS FOR THE YEAR 2022

BAPTISMS 7/10/2022 Austin Lee Kent, Jr.

FUNERALS

1/8/2022 Stephen Calvin Savage
 1/22/2022 Colleen Dorothy Conrad
 4/4/2022 Joan Gertrude Klingelhofer
 4/7/2022 Anna Marie Broscious
 4/9/2022 Alesia Angela Shapiro
 5/14/2022 Lois Margaret Duvall
 5/20/22 Danyel Jean Dube
 8/18/2022 John Manning
 8/24/2022 Mary Elizabeth Graddy
 9/28/2022 William Robert Raddatz
 10/1/2022 Marlene Marie Denham
 10/26/2022 Ruth Jean Rund
 12/21/2022 Joan Hilda Stinchcomb

NEW MEMBERS

7/14/2022 Kelli Jo Crews
 7/14/2022 Marian Lynn Crews
 7/14/2022 Jeana Marie Huber
 7/14/2022 Nancy Marie Litz
 7/14/2022 Kathryn Cleary Patel

MEMBERSHIP AT START OF 2022	106
NEW MEMBERS	5
MEMBERS LOST	7
REMOVED FROM ACTIVE MEMBERSHIP	0
TOTAL MEMBERS	104
TOTAL ACTIVE CHILDREN	5