

ALL »»»» IN



First Methodist Church  
of Geneseo, Illinois  
*Because People Need Jesus*

# ALL »»» IN

There are today more unchurched people living within ten miles of the corner of State & Park in Geneseo than ever. There is no congregation in the region better situated to lead a resurgence of Christian faith, service, and discipleship in our community than First Methodist. **There has never been a time when it is more important for the people of our congregation to go "All In."**

The COVID-19 crisis sent a wave of uncertainty crashing down on us. In response, First Methodist leaned into these changes by adapting existing ministries and launching new ones. **It is now time to go further by getting our defense off the field and making aggressive plans for drawing, developing, and deploying people for Jesus.** This is a season of opportunity.

Resourcing ambitious mission and ministry plans requires 100% participation by our congregation by our prayer, presence, service, and witness. This also includes our giving. To help our congregation understand and respond to the opportunities before us, we are initiating a new **unified giving model** that will help us go "All In." Consolidating our various pools of resources will allow us to be nimble, efficient, and address the needs in our rapidly changing context.

The funding needs of our ministry fall under three categories. The first is *Operations*. It takes \$785K per year to operate our ministries and maintain our facilities. This amount represents the core of the work we do in our community to draw, develop, and deploy people for Jesus.



We also have *Obligations*. As you may know, First Methodist has a remaining mortgage on the \$4.5 million sanctuary project we undertook in 2014. The generosity of our congregation in three capital campaigns has both serviced and reduced our debt. Our current indebtedness is down to \$2.34 million. Thanks be to God! **We have reached the point in our mortgage where more of the money goes to principal than interest.** But we still have annual mortgage obligations totaling \$254,696. Rather than following our "Leaving a Legacy" Campaign with another three-year effort, our "All In" model calls us to roll both our operations and our debt service into one two-year initiative. Over 24 months, we can further reduce our debt as we continue ambitious ministry plans.

In addition to operations and obligations, we also have *Opportunities*. **The funds provided over and above operations and obligations will be directed toward new ministry initiatives.** We also dream of funding a mid-sized, shuttle-style vehicle that can replace our 30-year-old church van that is clearly at the end of its useful life. Our IGNITE After School Ministry faces serious challenges as we need to transport kids from school to church. Our current vehicle is not accessible and a shuttle with a center aisle would allow senior adults to take day trips together. Our growing youth ministry would also be able to utilize a shuttle bus for mission trips and other events.

I am asking you to pray about what God would lead you to do. This is our season to go "All In" on drawing people to Jesus, developing people in Jesus, and deploying people for Jesus.



Because People Need Jesus,

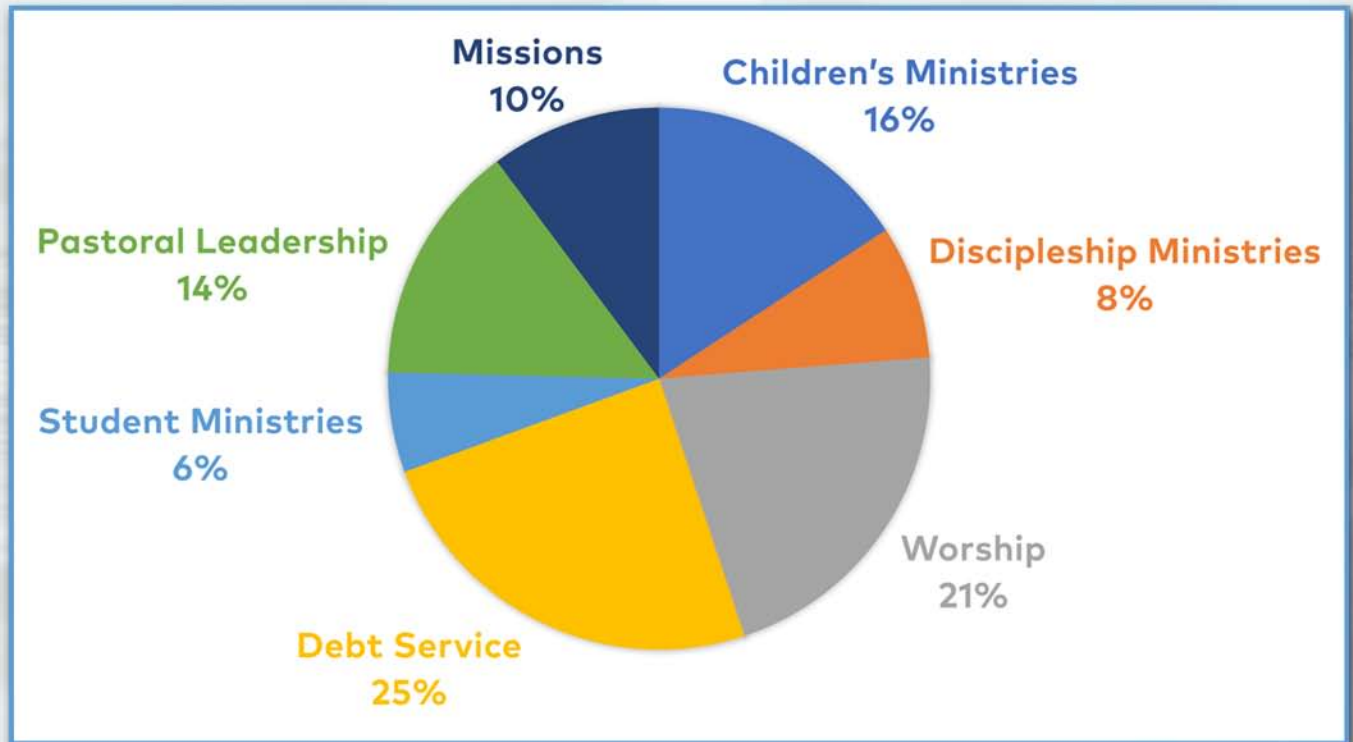
*Pastor Chris*

Pastor Chris

# ALL IN MINISTRY BUDGET 2022



Our 2022 Unified Ministry Budget provides a \$1,039,854 investment for the Gospel in our community and world. This is a 3% increase from 2021 and represents our financial commitment to *draw people to Jesus, develop people in Jesus, and deploy people for Jesus*. Here is a description of the work your tithes and offerings support.



## Worship \$220,000

*Worship is at the heart of who we are as a congregation.* Our four weekend worship services provide a variety of opportunities for people to gather to praise God, pray, hear God's Word preached, and celebrate the sacraments. Since 2020 we have offered online worship for those unable to join us in person and these virtual experiences help keep us connected and welcome new people from all over our nation and world. Tim Brinkman, our Director of Worship, leads *Celebrate the Season* at Christmastime and *Celebrate the Savior* at Easter. We also gather for prayer services, concerts, outreaches, and special worship events. Our large and diverse worship ministry allows us to feature a choir, bands and ensembles, a Bluegrass group, drama ministry, handbell choir, dance ministry, and orchestra. Tech Team, social media, and video production are also part of worship ministry. This category provides the space, staffing, and resources to provide opportunities to worship and reach our community and world with the gospel.



## Children's Ministry \$164,000

Children are the church of tomorrow... and the church of today. This category supports the staffing, facilities, and programming that draw, develop, and deploy children for Jesus. Christina Swain is our Director of Children's Ministries and oversees our church nursery, Sunday School, Children's Church, IGNITE After-School Program, and Vacation Bible School. We host special events for children and their families including an annual Easter children's outreach, Fall Festival, and Trunk or Treat. Although Little Green Apple Preschool is self-supporting, we provide the space and insurance for this excellent program.



## Missions \$106,200

This category represents monies that go beyond our local church to make an impact in our world. As a United Methodist congregation, we share in mission causes with other UM churches on the level of the conference and global denomination. As a local church we also support missionaries and local Christian organizations. For the first time, we are rolling our HOPE Scholarships into our regular budget. This vital program targets an area of critical need by sending 100 needy children to school in Guinea, Africa, annually.

## Discipleship Ministries \$83,000

Developing people in Jesus is one of our pillars at First Methodist. This category provides the space, staffing and materials for us to offer high-quality experiences to grow people in their walk with Jesus. In addition to core courses we offer regularly, we hold special events to enrich marriages, support Christian parenting, comfort the grieving, and help people understand the faith. Our Senior Adult ministry is also an important group in our multi-generational church. Yvette Biddle, our Director of Discipleship, leads the ministries that welcome new people. She also oversees ministries of relief like Matthew 25, Beds for Kids, and our outreach to the homeless through Christian Care Center in Rock Island. Our Forge Men's ministry sponsors fellowship, group studies, and special events.



welcome and wanted. We value discipleship and are proud of how our youth step up to serve in the church as a whole, providing crucial leadership in Children's Ministry, Music, Vacation Bible School, Host Team, and other areas.

## Student Ministries \$62,000

We are the only congregation in our community that provides full-time staff leadership to youth and young adult ministries. Conner Brinson, our Director of Student Ministries, joined our team in 2021. We offer middle school and senior high youth groups, a young adult ministry, confirmation, and youth Sunday School. This category also supports special outreach events to reach more students for Jesus. Our South Campus provides an accessible facility in the center of Geneseo where youth feel

## Pastoral Leadership \$150,000

Our congregation is led by Rev. Dr. Chris Ritter, an ordained elder in the Illinois Great Rivers Conference of The United Methodist Church. Our appointed pastor leads our congregation, preaches God's Word, celebrates the sacraments, provides spiritual guidance, supervises staff, conducts weddings and funerals, teaches the faith, and keeps us connected to the work of God in the larger world. Our pastor is the chaplain for State Police District 7 and participates in the Geneseo Ministerial Association. He also serves on the global council of the Wesleyan Covenant Association. This category allows us to maintain our church parsonage, provide salary and continuing education, participate in the clergy pension plan, and provide a health insurance stipend.



## Debt Service \$255,000

The new Sanctuary, Commons, Information Center, kitchen, Common Grounds Coffee Bar, quiet room, prayer room, patio, and music room that we added in 2014 was the biggest financial project ever undertaken by First Methodist. This major new addition has allowed us to draw people to Jesus and become a center for activity for our community. It also put in place the technology that allowed us to immediately offer a multi-camera livestream service when that became a critical need in 2020. Through the generosity of our congregation, we have paid for all but \$2.34 million of this \$4.5 million project. We are now at the point in our mortgage where most of the payment is applied to principal instead of interest. For the first time, our 2022 budget fully incorporates this debt service into our regular budget.

# THE GIVING LADDER

## *Moving to the next step in giving*

Before beginning any journey, there are two questions to ask: "Where am I?" and "Where do I want to go?" The Giving Ladder is your guide to increasing your generosity.

Generosity happens one step at a time!



**TITHE PLUS  
GIVER**

**Tithe Plus Givers** donate over-and-above tithe (10 percent) giving. They go beyond the minimum the Bible asks and are prompted and enabled by God to invest more in His Kingdom.



**TITHE  
GIVER**

**Tithe Givers** faithfully donate 10 percent of their income. They realize the blessing that comes with giving and are ready to commit to giving the tithe - 10% - that Scripture asks of believers.



**CONSISTENT  
GIVER**

**Consistent Givers** donate regularly at less than 10 percent of their income. They dependably give to the work of the church and realize consistent giving is a crucial part of the life of a believer.



**EMERGING  
GIVER**

**Emerging Givers** are on the first step of the Giving Ladder. They are new to giving or occasionally give and are discovering how generosity is a part of trusting God.

As you pray for discernment on giving, ask God to inspire and challenge you toward greater generosity to fulfill our mission to **Draw, Develop, and Deploy People for Jesus.**



**OCT. 2/3** **OCT. 9/10**  
*Vision Weekend #1* *Vision Weekend #2*

**OCT. 16/17** **OCT. 23/24**  
*Vision Weekend #3* *Commitment Weekend*

**JAN. 2022**  
*First Fruits Month*

Be sure to check the step on the Giving Ladder you're moving to - and draw an arrow from where you were. **Thank you for your commitment!**

After filling out your contact info, put the dollar amount you are **currently** giving on the first line.

Then, as prompted by God, pick an **additional amount** that reflects your commitment and willingness to grow your faith and generosity.

Add together the numbers on the previous two lines and write in the total here. This will reflect your total commitment for one year.

Multiply the previous line by two and write in your total commitment for the next two years.

This final line will reflect your **total ALL IN commitment** for the next two years. If you have stocks or other resources you wish to donate, write that gift in the line above and be sure to add in this amount on your last line.



**ALL  IN**

## 2-YEAR COMMITMENT

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

CITY \_\_\_\_\_ STATE \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_

EMAIL \_\_\_\_\_

### I AM/WE ARE STEPPING UP TO:

**TITHE PLUS GIVER**

**TITHE GIVER**

**CONSISTENT GIVER**

**EMERGING GIVER**

\$ \_\_\_\_\_

WHAT I/WE NORMALLY GIVE IN A YEAR  
(INCLUDING OPERATIONAL GIVING & BUILDING OFFERING)

+ \$ \_\_\_\_\_

MY/OUR EXPANDED ANNUAL GIVING FOR ALL IN

\$ \_\_\_\_\_

1 YEAR SUBTOTAL

x 2 YEARS = \$ \_\_\_\_\_

+ GIFT FROM OTHER RESOURCES (STOCKS, SAVINGS, ASSETS, ETC) \$ \_\_\_\_\_

= MY/OUR 2-YEAR ALL IN COMMITMENT \$ \_\_\_\_\_

WANT TO COMPLETE YOUR PLEDGE ONLINE?  
USE THIS LINK: [www.peopleneedjesus.org/allin](http://www.peopleneedjesus.org/allin)

# Generosity in Action



“We became members in 2010 and we could feel the Spirit moving through this church like no place before. When the new Sanctuary was built in 2014, we felt a very strong call to be part of the new coffee bar ministry, and it’s our spiritual gift—it’s our calling. And that’s what we’re giving to the church as far as our abilities and time.

But with the new building here, this new building is such a powerful symbol of love and hope in this community. Even at that time it was like, ‘We’re gonna be *all in*.’ We want to serve this church and we are dedicated to using our spiritual gifts and our money to help support this church and this mission—not only here, but as this mission expands around the world.”

— Heidi & Greg Rastetter



“The other day I went to my Bible app and this passage came up: 2 Corinthians 9:7: ‘Each of you should give what you have decided in your heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver.’

I think for us, based on prayer and talking about it, once the yearly message came up about giving we’d already prayed on it and we prayed a little bit more. Then hey, it’s time to really start a commitment... tithing and making sure the church can carry on its legacy and provide what it’s provided for us—but for everybody.

To me, “*all in*” means you’re not just gonna put a toe in the water; you’re full in... What better way to glorify God than to go all in for your faith?”

— Lisa & Jacob Hamerlinck

# FAQs

## **Q: WHAT IF I'M NEW HERE?**

A: The All In initiative is about the vision for our church and we believe the local church is one of the most compelling missions to give towards. We would love for you to make First Methodist your church home and join us in our mission. If you're ready for it, this is the perfect time to put your stake in the ground and make this your church. We need you on our team!

## **Q: WHAT ARE YOU ASKING ME TO DO?**

A: First, we ask you to pray for God's guidance on what He's asking of you. Prepare your heart to hear Him and then listen to what He says. Talk with your spouse, family, and friends about what this commitment will mean in this next exciting season of your life. We are asking that you make a sacrificial commitment to generosity—no matter where God leads you. Follow His lead.

## **Q: WHAT IF MONEY IS TIGHT RIGHT NOW?**

A: We believe God calls us to action in times of hardship just as much as He does in times of abundance. That looks different for every person. We would love everyone—no matter their season of life or circumstances—to be a part of All In as we support, encourage, and love one another in these days to come.

## **Q: HOW DOES THIS CHANGE MY GIVING?**

A: During the upcoming two years, every contribution to First Methodist is a contribution to the All In initiative. Rather than direct our giving into separate funds, every aspect of our ministry vision will be funded through these gifts. This simplifies giving on your end and helps assure you that everything donated goes to the mission of the church.

## **Q: ARE THERE ADDITIONAL WAYS TO GIVE BESIDES CASH?**

A: We encourage you to be creative as you explore ways you and your family can provide special gifts to this initiative. Stocks, bonds, property, and real estate are all tangible assets that could be given to support the church.

## **Q: WHO DO I CONTACT TO DISCUSS A GIFT OF STOCKS, INVESTMENTS, OR PROPERTY?**

A: Please contact Terry Haars, Financial Secretary, at [t.haars@peopleneedjesus.org](mailto:t.haars@peopleneedjesus.org) or 309-944-2793.

## **Q: HOW DOES ALL IN DIFFER FROM PREVIOUS GIVING INITIATIVES?**

A: Previous campaigns have asked for a three-year commitment. *All In* is a two-year commitment which uses a "One Fund" approach to support all ministries. Everything we do in ministry matters. The All In goal is to ensure all ministries are well-funded while reducing our debt and investing in our future.

# OUR GOAL:

*Primary*

**100%**  
**Participation**

Our primary goal is 100% participation. We are asking 100% of those who call First Methodist home to be open to the call of God regarding generosity.

*Secondary*

**\$2.1**  
**Million**

Our secondary goal is to receive \$2.1 million through the generosity of God's people over the next two years in order to carry out our Christ-centered mission.

**ALL»»»IN**

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