

# First United Methodist Church **FOUNDATION** **ANNUAL** **REPORT**



**2022**

# Dear friends in the Fort Smith First United Methodist Church family,

We are living in a challenging time in many ways: still recuperating from the pandemic, navigating economic instability, political hostility, and denominational division. Trying to be a church that preaches good news and remains positive carries its own set of challenges. But in these days, we have much for which to be thankful. God is good; Christ is Lord; love is still the way. And we are blessed at our church to have a robust and thriving Foundation.



Because of the foresight of faithful disciples a generation ago, we have been building a substantial ministry generator through our endowed giving to FSFUMC. First and foremost, our Foundation supports the ministry of our church. Without the Foundation's support, we would have to endure significant reductions in staff and program ministries, building upkeep, and outreach into the community. In addition, through our Community Grants, we also make a huge difference in Fort Smith through our partner mission organizations.

As you read this report, I hope you will feel the joy of the saints who gave to make our Foundation a reality. And I would like to ask you to do three things:

1. Say a prayer of thanksgiving to God for the work of the Foundation and for the Board of Directors who oversee this wonderful ministry.
2. Tell the story of the Foundation in the church and the community. It is a great asset, not that we have tons of money socked away, but that every dollar that we can spend gets put into use doing ministry for the church in the name of Jesus Christ.
3. Consider and pray about ways you can support the Foundation with an estate gift or some other form of donation. We are where we are today because of the faithfulness of previous benefactors. We will be where we will be in the future because of people like you who choose to make a similar commitment.



Thank you, and God bless you on behalf of the FSFUMC Foundation!

A handwritten signature in dark ink, reading "Wm O Reeves". The signature is fluid and cursive, written in a professional but personal style.

Rev. Dr. William O. (Bud) Reeves  
Senior Pastor

# FIRST UMC FOUNDATION BOARD OF DIRECTORS

**CHAIR:** Dalton Person

## **CLASS OF 2023**

Clay Gilliland  
Dalton Person  
Laura Lanier

## **CLASS OF 2024**

John Alford  
Bill Culp  
Beth Knox

## **CLASS OF 2025**





Eric Bunnell  
Hui Apple  
Barry Hunter

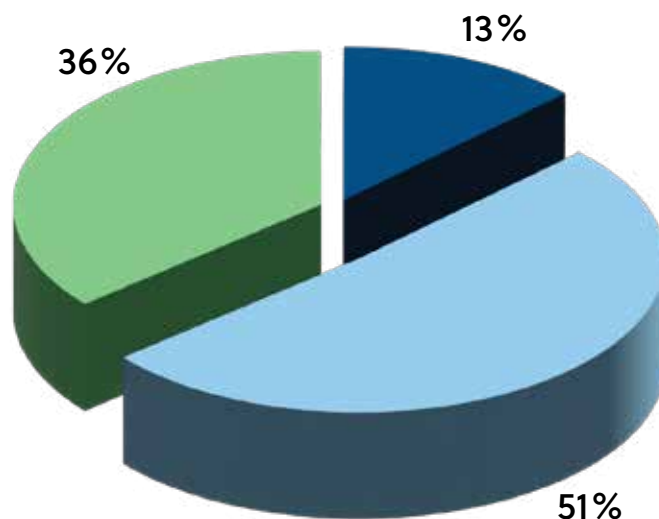
**EX-OFFICIO:** Bud Reeves, Patti Cox, Diane Wing, DeeDee Autry, Robert Young, Marlin Fretheim

## IMPACT OF THE FSFUMC FOUNDATION

Our spending policy limits the disbursements of the Foundation to 4% of the aggregate value of the endowments annually. This policy protects the endowed principal of the Foundation. Because of excellent growth and less spending in the last couple of years, the Foundation was able to make disbursements under its policy to support the ongoing maintenance of our facilities.

## FOUNDATION DISBURSEMENTS FOR 2022

-  Funds disbursed to FSFUMC ministries: \$410,185.51
-  Grants to Community and missional projects: \$107,744.28
-  Grant to the Trustees' Fund, a maintenance fund administered by the church Board of Trustees: \$290,000
-  Total disbursements for 2022: \$807,929.79



**TOTAL VALUE OF FOUNDATION ENDOWMENTS 12/31/2022**  
**\$11,386,312.31**

# 2022 COMMUNITY GRANTS

In the last four years, the FSFUMC Foundation has provided about \$100,000 a year to deserving non-profits in the Fort Smith region who are doing amazing ministry for God's children. Our community grants help human needs and broaden the scope and reputation of our church in the community. The recipients of the 2022 Community Grants were:

- All Kids Bike Program—bicycles for elementary students in Fort Smith public schools
- Antioch Youth and Family—Thanksgiving and Christmas baskets
- Bost School—adaptive art program
- CASA—training for child advocacy volunteers
- Children's Service League—hygiene program for students
- Community Clearinghouse Back Pack Program—hunger program
- Community Rescue Mission—supplies, utilities and food for residents
- FUMC Back to School Bash—community outreach to children starting school
- FUMC Feed the Fort (2 projects)—church feeding ministries
- Girls Inc.—toward the purchase of a new van
- Girls Shelter—utilities expenses
- Good Samaritan Clinic—EKG and Ultrasound equipment
- Gregory Kistler Center—repairs to therapy equipment
- Hope Campus—utilities expenses
- Methodist Village—training for medication technicians
- Modern Widows Club—FUMC ministry to widows, for Christmas gifts
- Next Step—birth certificates and ID's for homeless
- Ronald McDonald House—expenses for families staying at RMH
- Sack Lunch Program—supplies and preparation for feeding ministry
- Shared Beginnings—support for birth mothers giving children for adoption
- Single Parent Scholarship—scholarships and food baskets
- Sleep in Heavenly Peace—beds for children in Fort Smith
- UAFS Emergency Student Services—emergency assistance for college students



**"Thank you all for the generous donation of \$6,000 ... we rely solely on the kindness such as yours and others to help our families here get back on their feet."**

**The Community Rescue Mission Staff**







**“Thanks so much for the most generous foundation grant**

**to Children’s Service League designated to go toward the purchase of hygiene products. So far this school year, we have clothed close to 100 kids in grades K-12! ... we strive to do our best to make a difference in these kids’ lives! ”**

**Tara Kifer**

**Children’s Service League**



**“The Modern Widows Club ... has identified four families with a total of eight children ranging in age from 18 months to 22 years of age... We want Christmas to be a special time for all these children and their moms. ... thank you for your support. ”**

**Gail Oakes**

**Modern Widows Club (now River Valley Widows Group)**

# THE MILLER-HUTCHESON ENDOWMENT FOR EVANGELISM

## DONOR SPOTLIGHT

Through a gift from the Windgate Foundation and Bob and Nadine Miller, we have an endowment to provide funding for special events and speakers that will draw people to the church. In the past, this endowment has brought distinguished speakers such as Dr. Len Sweet and Bishop Ken Carter. In 2022, we celebrated the centennial of our sanctuary building. The Miller-Hutcheson Endowment provided

funding for the event, including Bishop Cynthia Fierro-Harvey, an update to our church history, a wonderful banquet, and beautiful decorations for the event—even a life-size likeness of Dr. Fred Roebuck!

## NEW FOR 2023: FRIENDS OF THE FOUNDATION!

Friends of the Foundation, a new group with an old mission, will gather this spring to celebrate the history, growth, and future of the First United Methodist Church Foundation. As we seek to share the wonderful work of the Foundation today, we want to thank those individuals and families for their prayerful continued support. A gathering of friends will spark conversation and be a forum for learning and celebration. More information coming soon!



## There are many ways you can support the Foundation:

We often think of charitable gifts as outright gifts of cash, of stocks, or real estate. Many of us make gifts through our estate plans or simple wills. Did you know there are other ways to give which can provide income and additional tax benefits?

### Charitable Remainder Trust (CRT)

A CRT is a tax-exempt irrevocable trust that generates a potential income stream for the donor to the CRT, or to other designated beneficiaries, for a period of time with the remainder of the donated assets then going to a favorite charity or charities.

### Charitable Gift Annuities

Through a charitable gift annuity, you can donate money to a non-profit like the FSFUMC Foundation, enjoy a tax benefit, and receive a stream of income for the rest of your life.

### Life Insurance

Did you know many Americans buy a policy to provide a charitable gift to organizations or causes important to them? You can designate a charity like the FSFUMC Foundation to receive the payout from a life insurance policy and create a legacy of support for the church in the future.

# FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

The Fort Smith First United Methodist Church Foundation exists to endow and support the ministry of First United Methodist Church and its mission. Established by forward-thinking church members in the 1960s, the foundation continues to grow its resources, mission, and ability to truly serve our congregation and community in meaningful ways.

Despite 2022's economic downturn, at year end the foundation endowment funds totaled more than \$11 million after disbursements of more than \$400,000 to our church, and more than \$100,000 to community projects through Year Four of the FUMC Fort Smith Community Grants Program.

The Methodist Foundation for Arkansas actively stewards the foundation endowment through this challenging market period, all the while keeping your FUMC Foundation board informed through monthly reports and responsive leadership.

The vision of the Community Grants Program is taken from Matthew 25:40 and is simply to shine the light of Christ in the community, region, and world through a grant program designed to empower and engage others in meaningful mission.

The Foundation received 23 proposals in 2022 (the highest number ever received); six proposals were from first-time applicants. A grants committee appointed by Rev. Bud Reeves reviewed the 23 requests totaling \$177,613 and recommended full or partial grant funding totaling \$100,046.

Numbers are nice, but I hope you will look at the photographs of grateful folks as checks were delivered and prayers lifted to bless the work of the many volunteers in our community. The full list of grants is included elsewhere in this report.

Our congregation is a giving and growing congregation. You will hear more this year about the impact of giving through donations, estate gifts, bequests, insurance policies, securities, or property. People give to a foundation for many reasons – sometimes a one-time gift in honor or in memory of someone, for a particular purpose or cause, or to build a foundation for future ministry.

This much, however, is very clear: In a challenging financial year like 2022, because of gifts to the foundation over the past 50 years, the foundation was able to support the work of our church and reach out into our community to be the hands and feet of Christ.

I look forward to talking with you about ways to strengthen the foundation through your support.



Thank you!



A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Patti Cox".

Patti Cox  
Executive Director  
First United Methodist Church Foundation





The Methodist  
Foundation  
for Arkansas

## FOUNDATION ENDOWMENT MANAGED BY THE METHODIST FOUNDATION OF ARKANSAS

The Methodist Foundation for Arkansas (MFA) currently manages over \$200 million in assets. It works with 170+ churches across the state of Arkansas and distributes nearly \$6 million annually to its local church/institutional clients and grant recipients. The Foundation is committed to partnering with clergy and church leaders to promote a culture of faithful living and faithful giving. Churches can rest assured that their money is invested in socially responsible ways; the fees are extremely competitive; and they have complete control and access to their account. Additionally, the Foundation uses its profits and earnings for grants to churches and institutions for ministry in Arkansas. MFA invests with Wespath, which is an agency of the United Methodist Church that handles all of the pension plans for Methodist clergy around the world.

**FUMC**  
FOUNDATION

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