

Broadway Church

# LIGHT SHINES IN THE DARKNESS

*"The light shines in the darkness,  
and the darkness did not  
overcome it." - John 1:5*



Dear Broadway,

One of the first conversations I had after arriving as your new pastor on July 1st was with someone who shared with me that, "Broadway saved my life." She went on to share how Broadway had been a safe holding place where she felt completely accepted and loved, and how this created an environment for her to experience healing. You were then, and continue to be now, a beacon of hope and light for so many in the midst of an often dark world.

John 1:5 says, "The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it." Over the past 8 months we have been shaken by the darkness of the COVID-19 pandemic (with over 217,000 U.S. deaths and over 1 million worldwide), the policemurders of George Floyd and Breonna Taylor, a record number of homicides in Indianapolis, an affordable housing crisis, high unemployment numbers, an ever-increasing wealth gap, health care disparities, and broken political and criminal justice systems. The impact of these interlocking crises could have easily led us down a spiraling path of disillusionment and despair, but instead, together we have chosen to lean into this moment as bearers of the Light of Christ. We have not shrunk our ministry during this time of transition, but adapted and expanded it.

I would like to begin by saying, "Thank you!" Thank you for your faithfulness in supporting the mission and ministry of Broadway Church with your prayers, your gifts, and your financial support in the midst of these challenging times, and a pastoral transition. I am honored and excited to be your pastor, and my family and I are looking forward to serving beside you in ministry for many years to come.

I hope the following pages will offer you encouragement and joy as we celebrate the mission and ministry of Broadway in 2020, and also inspire you as we look ahead expectantly to 2021.

Keep Tellin' the Story, Rev. Aaron Hobbs



## Broadway Church

# SACRED WITNESS

### HIGHLIGHTS:

- Full inclusion of LGBTQIA+ persons in the life and ministry of the United Methodist Church
- Black Lives Matter
- Immigrant Welcome
- Environmental Justice
- Affordable Housing & Fair Wages
- Health Care Equity & Access

OUR MISSION - As followers of Jesus Christ, responding to God's love, our mission as the people of Broadway Church is to be a multicultural, Christian community that in its ministry seeks, welcomes and values ALL people.

This mission, which we affirm each Sunday in worship, animates all that we do as the people of Broadway Church. We live our lives as if the Gospel were true as a **sacred witness**, and together we cultivate community, economy, and mutual delight in celebration of the abundance of God and the giftedness of our neighbors.

### **In 2021, the people of Broadway will...**

- Fight for the full inclusion of LGBTQIA+ persons in the life and ministry of the United Methodist Church.
- Commit to act with courage in the face of all injustice, using non-violent means to transform our community, our planet, and ourselves.
- Continue to declare, "Black Lives Matter," and do the antiracist work necessary to end-police brutality, to reform the criminal justice system, to remove inequities in health care access and health outcomes, and to support efforts toward affordable housing and fair wages.



## Broadway Church

# CULTIVATING COMMUNITY

### HIGHLIGHTS:

- Summer Youth Rovers
- “Lots to Talk About” Gathering
- Civic Engagement Hub
- Christmas Store
- Digital Prayer Requests & Celebrations
- Blessing of the Animals



### In 2020, the people of Broadway...

- Supported and participated in the Summer Youth Rover project with a dozen local middle school and high school students who met and helped connect the gifts of their neighbors.
- Stayed connected with each other and our neighbors through our “Lots to Talk About” socially-distant, weekly Sunday evening gatherings.
- Held a Blessing of the Animals, and a Poetry Night this fall.
- Began to receive digital prayer requests and celebrations at [prayers@broadwayumc.org](mailto:prayers@broadwayumc.org).
- Acted as the Fiscal Sponsor for a variety of grassroots organizations.
- Provided technology access for voter registration and 2020 Census completion.
- Will continue to connect with our neighbors through the annual Christmas Store.

### Looking Ahead to 2021, we will...

- Begin work on becoming a Civic Engagement Hub. Voter suppression, polarization, dishonesty, and dysfunction in our political system has caused many people to become frustrated, apathetic, or disengaged from civic life. We will invite neighbors to share and learn about the policy issues, structures, and systems impacting our life together in Indianapolis.
- Continue to run “holy experiments” to find new ways to build and nurture relationships with one another and our neighbors.

## Broadway Church

# CELEBRATING WORSHIP

### HIGHLIGHTS:

- Transition to Worship Online
- Laity & Intern Worship Participation
- Communion Services Online
- Prepare for Safe Return



### In 2020, the people of Broadway...

- Transitioned our Sunday worship gatherings online in response to COVID-19 with an average of 225 views a week on Facebook & YouTube. Special thanks to Jim Fore, Vickie Daniel, Gisele Dollinger, and Rev. Alicia Baker!
- Shared in worship leadership each week by reading Scripture, participating in the Lesson from the Contemporary Church (LCC), and in offering special music.
- Began sharing in online Holy Communion each month.
- Embraced our identity as a teaching congregation, and nurtured the call of three ministerial interns.

### Looking Ahead to 2021, we will...

- Continue to provide high-quality online worship each week that includes lay member and community participation.
- Further develop our ability to provide rich, and varied musical offerings, and online liturgies by cultivating the creative energies of our congregation and larger community.
- Continue to evaluate the health and safety concerns related to COVID-19, and when it is safe to do so, return to in-person worship, while also maintaining our online worship presence.

## Broadway Church

# HEALTH AND WELL BEING

### HIGHLIGHTS:

- IU Health FaithHealth Partner
- Engaging Young Adult Initiative
- Blood Drive
- International AIDS Conference



### In 2020, the people of Broadway...

- Made a COVID-19 plan for a safe return to the building for limited activities, including NA and AA Groups.
- Received a grant for COVID-19 cleaning and personal protection supplies. Special thanks to Cathy Pilarski.
- Hosted a community Blood Drive.
- Participated in the #HealthyMe Congregational Learning Community and created a SMART goal for health and wellness.
- Supported the participation of 14 community leaders in the 23rd International AIDS Conference Virtual. Special thanks to Harold Brown and Todd Fuqua.
- Have supported Rev. Alicia Baker and Rev. Aaron Hobbs in their work on the PATH4U Community Advisory Board for women's health and reproductive justice in Indiana.

### Looking Ahead to 2021, we will...

- Participate in the FaithHealth Partner initiative through IU Health where Broadway volunteers provide encouragement and support to our neighbors who have been recently discharged from the hospital.
- Work with our two Americorp Maternal & Child Health Leaders to develop and implement a congregation-based program to address prenatal and postpartum mental health of our neighbors.
- Seek new ways to provide HIV education to the community, and offer support to persons living with HIV.
- Implement a plan to engage with young adults in our community.

## Broadway Church

# COMMUNICATIONS & FINANCE

### HIGHLIGHTS:

- Completed Fire Remediation Negotiation
- Increased Online Donations
- Improved Financial Processes and Transparency



### In 2020, the people of Broadway...

- Negotiated and paid the final payment for fire remediation and building upgrades. Special thanks to Chris Jacobson.
- Utilized technology grant funding from the Center for Congregations to upgrade our technology to facilitate online worship.
- Provided weekly email communication to over 350 people connected to Broadway. Special thanks to Karen McAleavey.
- Increased the use of online giving to support our mission.
- Hired Carmen Johnson as our new bookkeeper.
- Developed a Fiscal Sponsorship Agreement to clarify our role in supporting the work of grassroots organizations.

### Looking Ahead to 2021, we will...

- Provide quarterly giving statements to congregation members, and make quarterly financial reports available to the congregation.
- Improve the impact of our digital footprint (website, social media, video content) to support the discipleship and spiritual nurture of people throughout our community who are engaging with Broadway digitally now, and who will continue to connect in this way post-pandemic.
- Develop a Gift Policy for Broadway to clarify the intent and purpose of future designated and undesignated gifts.
- Host at least 1 planned giving workshop.

## Broadway Church

# OPERATIONS AND FACILITIES

### HIGHLIGHTS:

- Completed Fire Remediation
- Developed Reentry Plan for post COVID-19
- Provided support to our Partners in Ministry



### In 2020, we, as the people of Broadway...

- Developed a building re-entry plan.
- Completed Fire Remediation work on the building.
- Continued to work with our ministry partners like the Metropolitan Youth Orchestra, Our Sons Bakery, RG Collaborative, C Todd Creations Photography & Art, SomaBolo Studio, and the Ilbada Dance Company.
- Continued to provide a supportive place for volunteers to complete hundreds of hours of supervised community service helping move people out of their probationary journey.
- Began the process of preparing a Historic Structures Report with Kieser Consulting Group to identify short and long term projects and grant funding to maintain the structural integrity of the exterior of our historic structure.
- Will celebrate the completion of the Sanctuary organ rehabilitation project by the end of the year.

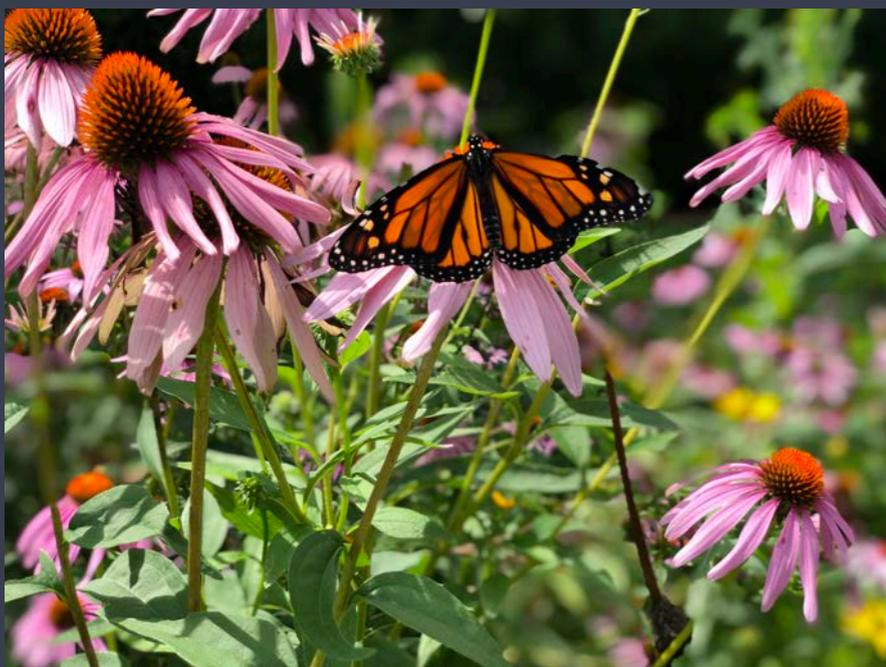
### Looking Ahead to 2021, we will...

- Continue to be good stewards of our facility by building our relationships with both new and existing partners in ministry.
- Host a Bridal Expo with local wedding vendors to highlight the possibilities available at Broadway's beautiful facility.
- Finish the final punch list items remaining from the fire remediation and improvement project.

## Broadway Church

# 2021 ESTIMATE OF GIVING

We encourage you to consider estimating a gift that is both responsible and significant based on what God is calling you to give to support the mission and ministry of Broadway.



I hope that after reading through this document you can see that in and through Broadway, the light does still shine in the darkness, and our mission to seek, welcome, and value ALL people is vitally important at this time and in this place. Stewardship is always connected to discipleship, and in 2020 you remained faithful in your giving which has allowed Broadway to continue to be a beacon of hope and light both in our neighborhood, and the wider community. For that, I am truly grateful. Thank you, Broadway!

As we plan for ministry in 2021, I invite you to consider growing in your giving to support the mission and ministry of this congregation. This is as much a spiritual practice as it is a financial one. We have all received so much from God, and gratitude is the posture by which we steward the financial resources we've been given individually and collectively. Allow the Spirit to guide your decision making on what you are being asked to give in 2021, and we will trust that God will provide the financial resources necessary for Broadway to carry out the mission and ministry to which we have been called as agents of Christ's light which shines brightly in the darkness.

Keep Tellin' the Story, Rev. Aaron Hobbs

### **Consecration Sunday is November 8th**

- Estimate of Giving Pledge Cards will be available online at [www.broadwayumc.org](http://www.broadwayumc.org) beginning October 23rd. Printed cards may also be requested, and mailed or picked up in the church office.
- While we will not be able to gather for a celebration meal this year, we will celebrate together on Zoom after worship on November 8th to share stories and be together in spirit.