

## Outreach Partnerships in Action

"Oh man is it cold out!" You may have muttered something similar to yourself on the way to church a few weeks ago as you got in your car and saw that the temperature outside was 20°. Or maybe you thought something similar as you stepped out of a warm, dry house into a cold, rainy morning the next week. Thanks to partnerships between Bethel, Grace, and OAPC, twenty-five men of Rock Hill were spared trying to find a place to hide from these conditions during those two cold weeks.

Larry Winsch brought to the attention of the Outreach Committee that one of our 2022 Grace Outreach Partnership Grant recipients, Bethel Men's Shelter, did not have a church to serve as an overflow shelter for the two-week period from January 8-22. The option of Grace serving as a shelter was explored but our facilities were not logistically suitable for this purpose. The Committee was aware that our neighbors at Oakland Avenue Presbyterian Church already serve this ministry as an overflow shelter for two weeks in the winter. The Outreach Committee reached out to OAPC and we were able to partner with them to host the overflow from Bethel Men's Shelter at OAPC for those two weeks.

**Although we did not house these twenty-five men in our building, we are thankful that God provided us with a path to help serve one of our Outreach partners and thankful for our friends at OAPC who graciously opened their doors again to this ministry.**

**Thank you also to all of you who donated backpacks, clothing, and hygiene products for the men at the beginning of the month.** If you feel called to make further donations, BMS has told us that there is a significant need for medium men's boxer briefs, men's large sweatpants, boots, large backpacks, jeans size 30-34, and travel size shaving cream. Any donations may be delivered directly to BMS at 1232 Curtis St., Rock Hill.

Thank you again for your support of our Outreach Partnerships, our ecumenical relationships, and the way we are called to serve our neighbors in Rock Hill!