

COLUMBIA PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH GENEROSITY UPDATE

OCTOBER 2024

Serve. Connect. Flourish.
Serve. Connect. Flourish.



Experiencing God, Growing in Christ, & Finding our Purpose

FROM PASTOR MATT

Friends,

Two years ago we began producing this fall Generosity Report based on what we learned during the interim period between lead pastors. We felt we needed to do three simple things:

- Increase transparency by giving a visual representation of our missional impact each year.
- Celebrate and testify to how God’s mission is being accomplished through Columbia Presbyterian Church (CPC).
- Give congregants the information they need to make fiscal decisions as they think and pray during our generosity season.



You will find in this report some stories that speak to the way in which our building, staff, and programs are being used to do wonderful things for the glory of God and in service of our neighbor. I have spent most of my first official year as Lead Pastor/Head of Staff working hard and assessing what needs to be done to accomplish our shared mission. I have also been admiring the incredible ways that this church makes an impact at CPC and beyond our walls.

Our hope is that this update will get a little better each year. We are working on what stories and data we ought to share. The staff, elders, and deacons really do believe that God is using this community at CPC in wonderful ways. We hope that you are excited about our mission to Clark County and that you will consider bringing your human and material resources and gifts to bear on the opportunities and challenges that are in front of us. I hope this report fuels your ability to share and testify about CPC as you are out in the community.

Pastor Matt

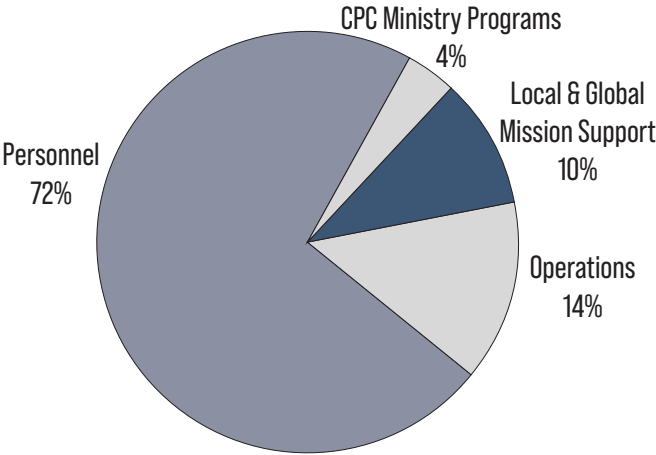


Connect. Flourish. Serve.

GIVING

Thank you again for your incredible generosity. There is no way that we could do the ministry we do without it. It has been a remarkable year at CPC, as you will see in our visual timeline on the next page. Giving has remained steady throughout the year, and our staff and teams have managed their budgets well. However, while there has been sensible spending and good stewardship, there are several challenges we are facing and important ministry needs to fulfill our vision, mission, and goals.

2024 Budget



The first challenge is in **church operations**. During the pandemic, we weren’t sure what would happen with the virus, attendance, and giving, so we delayed several key property projects, software upgrades, and technology upgrades on several fronts. We are now trying to play catch-up. We expect that all of these projects might cost \$200,000–\$300,000 over the next four years. While the church foundation is helping to offset these costs, we would like to get them completed so that we can focus on our mission.

The second challenge is **staffing capacity**. While we feel comfortable with our current church staff and have made it as lean as possible, more and more people who are facing challenges related to economic crises, parental care, health concerns, housing, and psychological concerns are coming through our

doors or reaching out through our ministry partners. Currently, we have no one on staff with the capacity or training to engage these problems from a Christ-centered perspective with excellence. We would like to better address these issues and expand our capacity for Women’s and Men’s Ministries and the Columbia Future Forge Ministry.

The third challenge is **rising costs**. All of us have been affected by inflation and rising costs over the last few years. At the church, we see the costs continue to rise for programming, medical insurance, facility upkeep, and staffing. We feel this pinch on a regular basis.

Our hope is that you might consider generously investing in our community’s efforts to proclaim the gospel and serve our neighbor. Perhaps you could even stretch a little or give regularly for the first time in your life. Additionally, we have provided some info graphics to help you see our overall budget (to the left), our year-to-date income and expenses compared to what we budgeted (below), and the total impact of our various mission work (on page 8).

Year-to-Date Update

	2024 YTD Actual	2024 YTD Budget
Pledges & Offering	\$1,161,358	\$1,091,028
Total Expenditures	\$1,172,000	\$1,255,609
Net Surplus (Deficit)	\$ (10,641)	\$ (164,581)

As of 9/30/2024

A YEAR OF FLOURISHING



OCTOBER 2023
Markee Maternity Center is completed in Terre Blanche, Haiti. CPC has supported Haiti Foundation of Hope since 2008, giving over \$112k in support. The most recent milestone of this ministry to those in Haiti bears the name of CPC members Joe & Linda Markee and serves to support mothers and their babies.

DECEMBER 2023
CPC adopts 3 families through Open House Ministries to support through the holidays. Over 120 gifts - toys, clothing, household items, and gift cards, just to name a few - were collected throughout the Advent season to bless these families in need. Two CPC members also serve on the board of Open House Ministries - Tim Peters and John Van Dinter.

MARCH 2024
The High School Work Camp Auction raises a record-breaking \$41,700. The money goes on to subsidize 55 people building 3 homes in Mexico in July 2024. The Auction also tithes 20% of the proceeds to two outside charities. \$4,300 went to the **Family Community Resource Centers of McLoughlin Middle School, Marshall Elementary School, and Heights Campus**. \$4,700 went to **The Giving Closet**, a free community store for those in need.



APRIL 2024
CPC partners with Columbia Play Project to provide play opportunities for **Open House Ministries** families in their gym. Volunteers help set-up the play area, played with the children, and helped clean it up after the fun.

JUNE 2024
Circle of Friends Preschool has an incredible year as they celebrate winning The Columbian's Best of Clark County for 2023 and 2024 and **Preschool Director Sharon Wallenborn** retires after 30 years of loving and faithful service. Children and Intergenerational Ministry Director, Tifny Mathena, spends the year working closely with Circle of Friends Preschool to revitalize and strengthen the linkage to CPC through **MOPs (now The Columbia MomCo), the Book Fairy, and VBS**.



NOVEMBER 2023
Evergreen Habitat for Humanity dedicates Johnson Village, a cluster of 9 homes for low-income families located near NE 162nd Ave and 34th St in East Vancouver. CPC has assisted in building over 50 homes with Evergreen Habitat for Humanity, which started in Clark County in 1991 through the efforts of CPC members John McKibbin and Nancy Johns (Nancy was at First Presbyterian at the time), and Bill Bryant from First United Methodist.



FEBRUARY 2024
Eric Toumieux of Beer Sheba in Senegal, West Africa speaks at the Columbia Faith & Life Conference. Eric spoke on God's renewal of His creation and shared how the Beer Sheba ministry is improving agriculture, empowering the church, and transforming communities in Senegal. CPC has supported Beer Sheba for over 12 years, and been involved in several mission objectives in Senegal since 1997. CPC has sent 82 individuals over 21 trips to Senegal.

MARCH 2024
Pastor Ted Buck retires as Parish Associate. Ted oversaw the caring ministries of CPC - the Deacons, Health Ministry, and Stephen Ministry. Ted first served CPC in the 1980s as Children's & Youth Director, then finished his seminary education and returned to CPC as the Associate Pastor of Youth Ministry. In 2019 he returned once again to CPC as Parish Associate until his retirement.



Marilyn Roberts retires after serving for 22 faithful years as the CPC bookkeeper.



MAY 2024
Several CPC volunteers start Stepping Stones, a ministry to teen parents, after a local parachurch organization has to close the doors on its ministry to the same demographic.



AUGUST 2024
Backpacks for Mac collects over 150 backpacks and 30 pairs of shoes for the new school year. CPC volunteers also gift their time to **McLoughlin Middle School and Marshall Elementary School** during curriculum nights, craft groups, and science project support. CPC also helps recognize the work of teachers and staff quarterly.



JULY 2024
Mowtown Teen Lawn Care, a ministry of The Columbia Future Forge, currently employs 8-10 teenagers and two adult supervisors. In July, they win a bid to provide landscaping along with **Proud Ground for Evergreen Habitat for Humanity**. Over 50 teens have participated in Mowtown since it began.

SERVE



Amanda Stimmel is married to Ben and they have two teenage children: Sydney and Tyler. The Stimmel family has been attending CPC since 2008. Amanda is a licensed clinical psychologist and uses her education, gifts and talents

at CPC through hosting Youth Mental Health First Aid classes. These classes help people identify, understand and respond to adolescents who may be experiencing a mental health crisis. Amanda also uses her love for supporting local businesses (especially minority-owned businesses) and missions work by coordinating the annual Work Camp Auction. Under Amanda's leadership the Auction continues to grow each year and successfully raises funds to offset the cost of the High School Work Camp.



Chris Burns has been attending CPC since 2020 and serves through his involvement in the adult choir, as a Sunday school teacher, and as a Deacon. As a Deacon, Chris helps coordinate communion servers and the quarterly blood drives that

CPC hosts in the Fellowship Hall. Last school year, Chris was a mentor at Hayes Freedom High School under the umbrella of the Columbia Future Forge in a class taught by Pastor Matt Overton. Chris didn't stop at the high school, he then became a playground supervisor at Helen Baller Elementary School, where he is known for singing any of five versions of "Happy Birthday" as loud as he can for any student who is celebrating their big day.



Chris Butler is married to Melissa and they have three children: Cohen, Henry and Hannah. The Butler family has been attending CPC since 2011. You might hear people refer to Chris as "Coach Butler" because of his work as a

track and field coach at Camas High School. Chris intentionally invites Christ to use him as a coach. "For me, hitting the reset button everyday is non-negotiable. Kids need us to model the forgiveness that we all receive through Jesus. Some days it is more difficult than others, but we are the adults and we need to act like it." Chris has also volunteered his sports leadership skills to facilitate game time at VBS each summer and just completed a term of service as a Deacon.



Dirk van der Merwe, along with his wife Maritza and son Marco, has attended CPC since 2021. Dirk is employed in the cyber security field and enjoys playing Minecraft with Marco. In 2023 Dirk approached Children's Ministries about

hosting a Minecraft Club. During Minecraft Club, Dirk set up a closed network for about ten elementary-aged kids to build and play within a Noah's Ark themed Minecraft world (the second Minecraft Club is scheduled for November 2024). In January 2024 Dirk offered up his talent and knowledge about cyber security and hosted a "Cyber Security for You and Me" class where he helped people learn how to take precautions against scams proliferated via email and text.

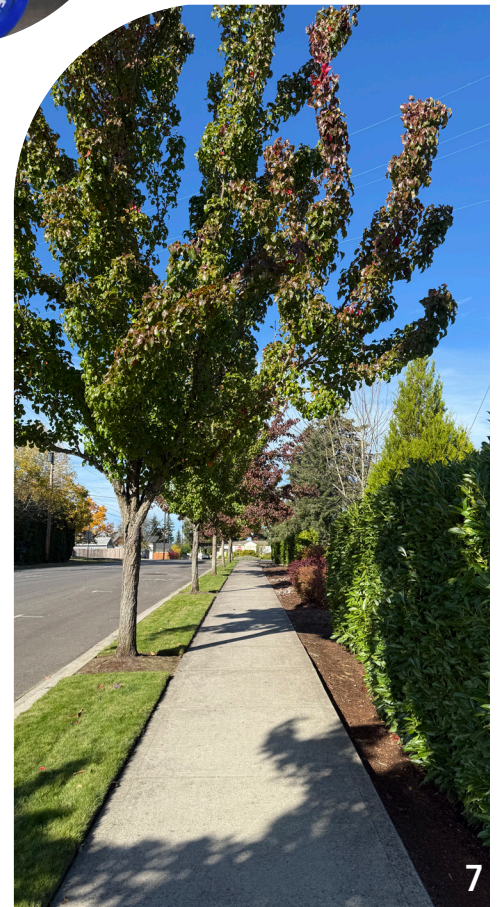
CONNECT

We are often reminded that the Church is the people, but what about this space that we call Columbia Presbyterian Church? Does it matter? You bet it does! If you drop by the church building on any given day, you might see some pretty amazing things going on. Here are just a few ways that this physical space blesses members of the broader community.

Every week over 170 kids walk through the front doors of CPC and hang a left to experience top-notch early education with an emphasis on learning about Jesus at **Circle of Friends Preschool**. Every Friday night men and women from around Clark County gather in LL6 to garner strength and support through the **Al-Anon** program, which brings the loved ones of alcoholics together. Take a stroll up the north set of stairs to the administrative offices and Youth Center and discover the (literal) ground-shaking ministry of **Utmost Athletics** where people of every age are challenged in their physical fitness while also encountering the warmth of Jesus' love. Speaking of athletics, over the last few years we have welcomed different youth sports groups, to use our gym in the lower building. Right now we have 15 female teenage softball players using our facilities through **ShowTime Softball**. However, it isn't just what happens inside the walls of CPC, it's also how the beauty of our grounds blesses our neighbors. Every day, **people from the neighborhood** around us walk up and down our sidewalks and exercise on our stairs. And lastly, the outside beauty of our building is greatly impacted by the employees of **Mowtown Teen Lawncare**, who are ministered to by receiving affordable housing at the Columbia Presbyterian Church Foundation-owned **Beacon House**. So, if you are giving to the general fund of CPC, you are contributing to some really amazing things that can't happen without the physical building - your hospitality is generosity!

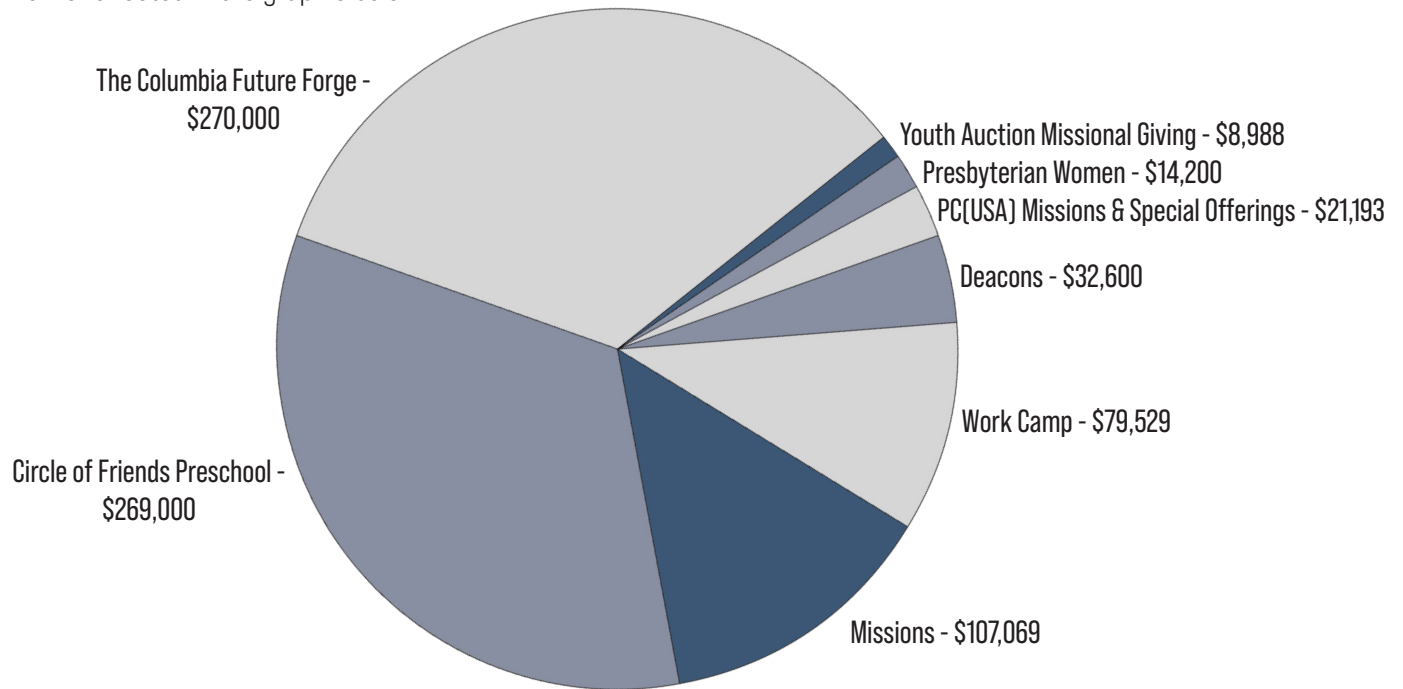


As we reflect on the blessing of our physical space, we also want to highlight the **Columbia Presbyterian Church Foundation** as one more vehicle of generosity. Each year the Foundation distributes four percent of its investment portfolio to CPC. The funds are then allocated for capital projects. In 2024 these funds helped with the office building repair and the paving of the north parking lot - it was able to offset the cost of the repairs by \$69,659.



CPC's 2024 Missional Impact

CPC's 2024 Missions budget reflects a small portion of our dollar impact locally and globally. However, CPC works hard to leverage all our facilities, partnerships, and your financial resources to create even greater Kingdom impact in Clark County and around the world, which is reflected in the graphic below.



- **Youth Auction Missional Giving:** 20% of the money raised at the Youth Work Camp Auction goes to The Giving Closet and the FCRCs of McLoughlin Middle School and Marshall Elementary School.
- **Presbyterian Women:** Through the proceeds of the Annual Sale, the Presbyterian Women support educational scholarships, global missions and local missions.
- **PC(USA) Missions & Special Offerings:** This area reflects the one-time gifts that the CPC community has supported at critical moments of national and global crises.
- **Deacons:** Whether delivering WeCare gifts, Thanksgiving baskets, or financial support in a crisis, a lot of ministry is funneled through the Deacons Fund each year.
- **Work Camp:** 80% of the Work Camp Auction funds went to help 55 CPCers build 3 homes in Tijuana, Mexico through Amor Ministries.
- **Missions Team:** Mission funds support local organizations such as the Clark County Food Bank, Habitat for Humanity and the Columbia Future Forge, and global mission partners in Haiti and Senegal.
- **Circle of Friends Preschool:** A separate 501(c)3, the preschool receives reduced rent and custodial support while providing early Christian learning opportunities for children from a variety of backgrounds at a manageable cost.
- **Columbia Future Forge:** As a separate 501(c)3, the Forge (including Mowtown and Utmost Athletics) is supported financially, and through the use of CPC spaces, so that it can offer mentoring and life skills to youth and young adults from around Clark County.