



2020 ANNUAL REPORT

Extending the love of Christ beyond the walls of our church

A Message From Our Executive Director

In a year defined by change and challenge, we can also celebrate the consistent commitment of First United Methodist Church and the FSFUMC Foundation to our mission – to Believe, Love, and Obey. 2020 pushed us all to isolate and insulate. Even so, in 2020, the Foundation made important moves forward to serve our congregation and our community.



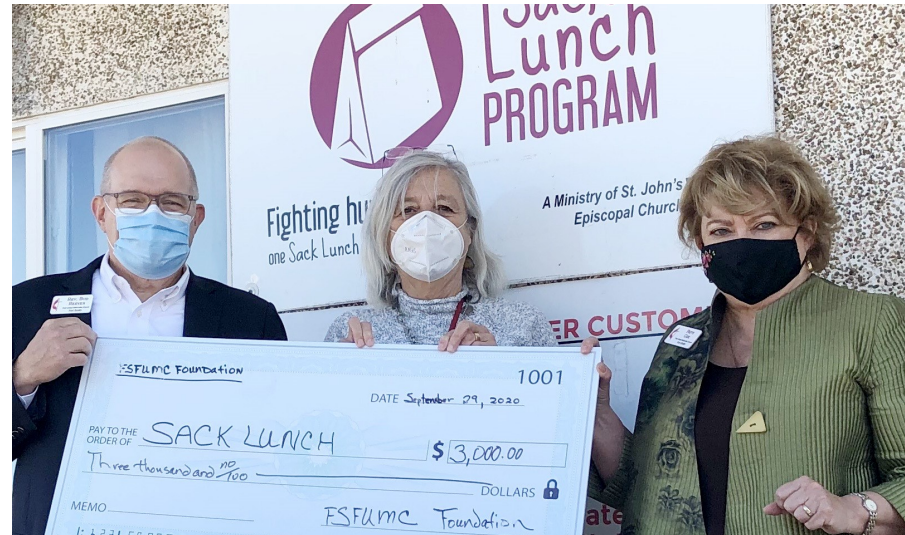
Importantly, the Foundation board made the decision to transfer funds from TIAA to the Methodist Foundation for Arkansas. MFA received \$10,996,272 on July 16th and ended the year reporting total for all accounts at \$12,977,730. The MFA is a faith-based non-profit with a similar mission. MFA is responsive and supports Arkansas United Methodist churches and pastors in many ways – a great partnership with FSFUMC Foundation.

For a second year, the Foundation board approved a cycle of grants to shine the light of Christ in our community. Nineteen proposals were received and 17 were funded. Funded projects included our own Child Enrichment Center; projects to help feed the hungry; projects to protect and care for children; projects to shelter the homeless; Covid-related support projects; and other significant compassionate support for those in need. (See project list for details.)

Despite a pandemic separating us, First United Methodist Church members continue to support the congregation and the Foundation through continued giving. In 2021, you will hear more about the impact of giving, in particular through planned gifts. People give to an endowment 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. There are many ways to give -- bequests, insurance policies, cash, securities, or property, for example.

As we look forward to reconnecting in 2021, please feel free to contact me with any questions or concerns.

Thank you!
Patti Cox
Executive Director



“Once again we want to thank you on behalf of the nearly 6,000 patients we serve annually! We are only allowed to do that because of you! We are grateful beyond measure! Your partnership is everything to Good Samaritan Clinic and those we serve!”

Patti Kimbrough
Good Samaritan Clinic



What does our Foundation do?

First United Methodist Church of Fort Smith encourages legacy giving to endow and support our church's ministry, mission, and future.

Foundation assets are managed by a nine-member Board of Directors with the assistance of an executive director, the finance advisor, and the pastoral leadership team. Recommendations for community grants are made by the Community Grant Evaluation Committee and then presented to the foundation board for approval.

Spending policy set by the Foundation board: Available funds shall not exceed 4 percent of aggregate fund value in a given year.

Gifts to the foundation fall into one of two categories determined by donor:

- **Restricted Endowments:** Gifts or bequests that are invested to create an income source for a specific purpose or set of purposes. The principal remains intact in perpetuity, or until sufficient assets have been accumulated to achieve a designated purpose.
- **Unrestricted Endowments:** Gifts or bequests made to support the mission of the Church with expenditures determined and approved by the Foundation board. Like restricted endowments, the principal of unrestricted endowment remains intact.

2020 FOUNDATION HIGHLIGHTS

IMPACT AND GROWTH

- Move to Methodist Foundation for Arkansas
Total Assets as of 12/31/2020—\$12,977,730

EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS AND INFORMATION

- Seminar with Janet Marshall and Dalton Person

COMMUNITY GRANTS

- For the second year, the FSFUMC Foundation was able to shine the light of Christ into our community through support for 17 projects.

FOUNDATION LEADERSHIP

Chair Ben Shipley
Clay Gilliland
Dalton Person

Ed Starr
Laura Lanier
Les Smith

Sonya Hall
Taylor Prewitt
Tom Webb

“Your support helps us to provide quality services and caring treatment. Thank you for your support and for helping us provide a place of hope to families in our community.

Aaron Lee,
The Gregory Kistler Treatment Center

COMMUNITY 2020 AWARDED GRANTS

- FUMC Child Enrichment Center \$25,000.00
- Antioch Youth and Family \$8,000.00
- Community Services Clearinghouse Back Pack Program \$7,500.00
- Casa Volunteer Training \$2,860.00
- Community Rescue Mission \$10,000.00
- Community Service League \$1,500.00
- Fort Smith Schools Friday Closet \$1,344.00
- Good Samaritan Clinic \$7,500.00
- Gregory Kistler Center \$1,150.00
- Hope Campus \$2,000.00
- Interfaith Community Preschool \$5,000.00
- Lincoln Childcare \$2,780.21
- Methodist Village \$10,000.00
- Next Step Day Room \$4,000.00
- Sack Lunch Program \$3,000.00
- Salvation Army \$4,000.00
- Single Parent Scholarship Fund \$4,500.00

WAYS TO GIVE

Did you know there are ways to give which can provide income and additional tax benefits? (Consult your financial advisor.)

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 by a policy to provide a charitable gift to organizations or causes important to them? 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.

You can also give through a simple donation or bequest from an estate.



Extending the love of Christ beyond the walls of our church

Dear Church Family and Friends,

2020 was anything but business as usual. In all aspects of our ministry, we had to find new ways to accomplish the mission God calls us to fulfill. What a comfort it was to know that we had the FUMC Foundation as a resource for ministry. We could confidently pursue new directions, keep our staff employed, and maintain our buildings, knowing that if we got into a tight spot, the Foundation would be there for us.



As it turned out, we did not have to draw on the Foundation for operational expenses in 2020. The supporters of our ministry were extremely faithful to continue their giving, and because of the suspension of on-campus activities, our expenses were lower than normal. It was an unusual year.

What that means is that the endowment funds in our Foundation just continued to grow (at an annualized rate of almost 20%), and they will be available for ministry needs in the future. As we make progress toward a renewed schedule of activities and events, I plan to need that money!

I am so happy to have the leadership we have overseeing the FUMC Foundation. Patti Cox brings great experience and expertise as the executive director of the Foundation, and the Board of Directors is engaged and excellent. We are blessed with great leadership!

Let me encourage each family in our church to consider how they can support the FUMC Foundation. Through our Faith Forward Capital Campaign, we contributed \$404,200 to the Foundation Unrestricted Fund in 2020 and will do more as the campaign wraps up this year. By including the Foundation in your will, setting up a charitable trust, or just making a gift in honor or memory of someone, you can ensure that the ministry of your church will continue to be strong as long as the church is here (and that's much longer than any of us will be here).

We have a great asset for ministry in the FUMC Foundation. God has blessed us through the generosity of many saints so that we can be a blessing for many others. We are accomplishing that mission.

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

FUMC
FOUNDATION

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