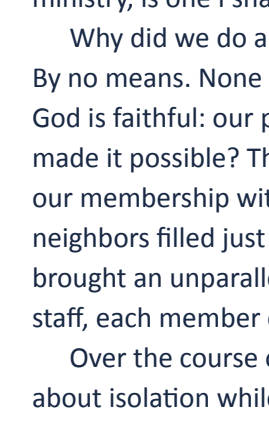


2020 Annual Report

A PIVOTAL YEAR

DRIVE-THROUGHS, VIDEOS & ZOOM



I WOULD LOVE TO BE ABLE TO SAY THAT I REMEMBER EVERY YEAR OF MY MINISTRY SO FAR.

But I do not. I do remember moments and events; people and special occasions. I expect that 2020 will be an exception: it was a year full of drive-throughs, videos, and pivot points. We learned how to host drive-throughs for liturgical events like Joy Gift, for fun events like Trunk-or-Treat, and for service support through "driving-up" and filling up the bins outside the Witherspoon building. We moved classes, Bible studies, and many worship and music opportunities to video formats in order to continue to teach and preach the word and faith. And we learned how to pivot: close the campus; then open the campus with registrations and masks; discovered how to hold outside events; all the while constantly reevaluating our choices and options. The 21st year of my ministry, and the 74th year of WMPC's ministry, is one I shall never forget.

Why did we do all of this? Because ministry in a pandemic required it. Were we prepared for it as last year began?

By no means. None of us, staff or Session, had either training or experience to pull it off. How did we do it? Because God is faithful: our prayers were laid at the feet of our Savior and the Spirit inspired us to keep trying. What ultimately made it possible? The good leadership of our officers and volunteers, the hard work of our staff, and the dedication of our membership with every streamed service, with every financial contribution, and with every red bin of items for our neighbors filled just outside our front door. The year 2020 brought unparalleled challenges, but I would say that it also brought an unparalleled response. Please understand how grateful I am for the chance to work with each member of our staff, each member of our governing councils, and each member of our church.

Over the course of the year your pastors spent more time in prayer for all of you than we can recount. We worried about isolation while you were stuck at home; the emotional pain of being separated from your families; the toll upon our children without school, in our church and in our community; we worried about the wounds of racism in our country and communities; and we worried over the reality of COVID-19 hitting our families near and far as we grieved with those who counted family members among the 500,000 lost. Like I said, we met these challenges with pastoral care and prayer.

I was asked last year by many of you: "is it strange to preach to empty pews?" Yes, it was. But often I found myself imagining all of you. Your notes and emails and texts sustained me. And I often found myself humming the words of Hymn 821 – which was a beautiful part of a recent Sounds on Oberlin music program – under my breath: "No storm can shake my inmost calm while to that Rock I'm clinging. Since Christ is Lord of heaven and earth, how can I keep from singing?"

May grace abound,

Christopher H. Edmonston

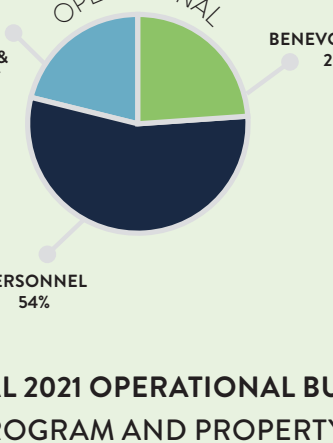
Christopher H. Edmonston
Pastor

A MESSAGE FROM EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR ANDREW AMODEI

Christopher expressed our gratitude for your faithfulness and generosity best. None of us were prepared for all 2020 would bring, but through God's faithfulness, we found ourselves able to meet the challenges of the past year and prepare for a brighter future. We believe it is important for you to know that all of our staff continued to be paid, all of our missions partners continued to be supported, and all of our other obligations were met. 2020 became the highest giving year in White Memorial's history. Thank you for your incredible generosity. Because of your response to God's faithfulness, we have not only been able to remain steadfast in our mission, we have become a partner with churches and agencies through the state and country as they seek for thinking partners in how they might operate moving forward. Serving our community is in our DNA; it is who we are. As we move beyond this pandemic, your church is ready to follow God and serve faithfully.



2020 FINANCIALS



\$5,645,932 TOTAL PLEDGES GIFTS AND OTHER INCOME

\$5,146,937

TOTAL EXPENSES

■ PROGRAM AND PROPERTY \$1,348,216

■ PERSONNEL \$2,611,688

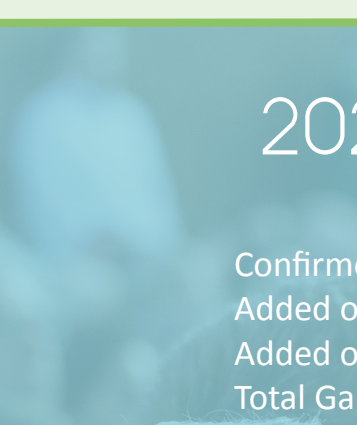
■ BENEVOLENCES \$1,187,033

**2020
Budgeted Gifts
and Pledges
\$4,350,000**

**2020
Actual Gifts
and Pledges
\$4,322,849**

**2021
Budgeted Gifts
and Pledges
\$4,375,000**

2021 BUDGET



TOTAL 2021 OPERATIONAL BUDGET

■ PROGRAM AND PROPERTY \$1,103,473

■ PERSONNEL \$2,894,301

■ BENEVOLENCES \$1,327,200

\$5,324,974



TOTAL 2021 NARRATIVE BUDGET

■ WORSHIP \$1,437,743

■ EMBRACE \$1,703,992

■ SERVE \$2,183,239

\$5,324,974

2020 MEMBERSHIP REPORT

| | |
|--|-------|
| Confirmed members reported December 31, 2019..... | 4,376 |
| Added on Profession of Faith and Reaffirmation of Faith..... | 64 |
| Added on Certificate from Other Churches..... | 28 |
| Total Gains for 2020..... | 92 |
| Loss by Death..... | 31 |
| Loss by Transfer to Inactive/Deletion from Active Roll..... | 28 |
| Loss by Transfer to Other Churches | 11 |
| Total Losses for 2020..... | 70 |
| Net Gain for 2020..... | 22 |
| Membership as of December 31, 2020..... | 4,398 |
| Confirmed Members as of December 31, 2015..... | 4,220 |
| Confirmed Members as of December 31, 2010..... | 3,863 |
| Confirmed Members as of December 31, 2005..... | 3,964 |
| Confirmed Members as of December 31, 2000..... | 3,977 |
| Confirmed Members as of December 31, 1995..... | 3,992 |

OTHER INFORMATION

Baptisms..... 32

Sunday School Enrollment..... 2,424

Teachers and Officers in Sunday School..... 310

THE SESSION OFFICERS 2020-2021

Moderator: Christopher Edmonston
Vice-Moderators: Cape Church Norman
Gloria Johnson, Chip Pope, Grier Richards
Clerk: Kathy Kidd
Moderator Pro Tempore: Jack Clayton

THE DIACONATE OFFICERS 2020-2021

Moderator: Kelly Miller
Vice-Moderator: Melanie Biddell
Secretary: Marlene Batchelor
Treasurer: Rob Wyatt
Assistant Treasurer: Rahn Sutton

Class of 2021

Bill Barnett, Jr., Kristen Beightol, Andy Betts, Alison Cayton,
Jack Clayton, Buck Copeland, Tom Davis, Ryan Eves,
Katherine Gilliland, Wesley Jones, Janet Kalleher, Kathy Kidd,
Grant Livengood, Don Munford, Mabel Pace and Jan Ross

Class of 2022

Stanford Baird, Grace Barnard, Tyler Craft, Erin Duffey,
Angie Faulk, Michelle Jeutter, Brooks Jordan, Burke Koonce,
Marshall Livengood, Danita Morgan, Stuart Phoenix, Julia Reeder,
Ann Rosar, Russ Stephenson, Gregg Thompson and Eddie Williford

Class of 2023

Diane Britt, Jean Carter, Matthew Cooke, Wynn Dorsett,
Gabe Edmonston, Jennings Glenn, Glenn Matteson,
Amelia Mehr, Harry Montgomery, Linda Nummallee,
Linda Robinson, Kevin Thompson, John Towles, Bill White,
Tricia Willoughby, Carolyn Young

Class of 2021

Robert Ange, Marlene Batchelor, Jonathan Broyles,
Rebekah Chavetta, Alex Flynn, Gray Glover, Stephanie Harris,
Scott Lasso, Eric Miller, Kelly Miller, Diane Payne, Lydia Pickard,
William Silverman, Walker Wilson and Parker Wright

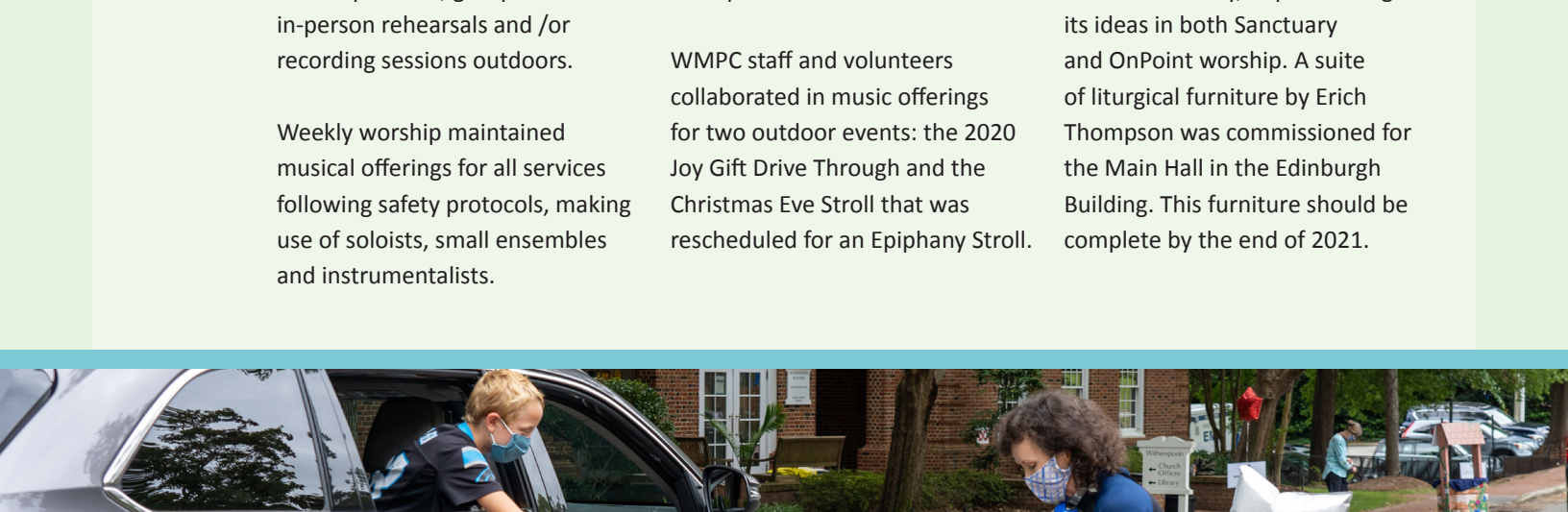
Class of 2022

William Allen, Bill Baker, Beth Barnard, Jeff Bitler, Elizabeth Bond,
Sam Corke, Hill Davis, Amy Hall, Kathy Hart, Lori Jones,
Ford Robertson, Carole Sawicki, Kelli Sullivan, Donna Thagard,
Peter Williams, Rob Wyatt

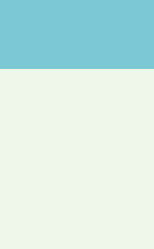
Class of 2023

Susan Allen, Laura Lillian Baggett, Melanie Biddell,
Holly Blanton, Wendy Burkard, Penny Carlo, Lou Anne Crumpler,
Haley Durgin, Bill Fairfax, Julie Leon, Brendan Shore,
Thomas Sigmon, Rahn Sutton, William M. White Jr.,
Winn Williams, Scott Wilson

2020 HIGHLIGHTS



WORSHIP, MUSIC & ARTS MINISTRY



So many things were canceled or altered when we went to a virtual setting: music rehearsals, singing in worship, and concerts. However, like all other ministries we adapted. Choirs and ensembles moved to virtual rehearsals and virtual/pre-recorded offerings. Where practical, groups did small in-person rehearsals and/or recording sessions outdoors.

Weekly worship maintained musical offerings for all services following safety protocols, making use of soloists, small ensembles and instrumentalists.

In September, Eric Nanz joined our staff as Associate Director of Music and Worship Arts. OnPoint worship resumed on October 11, both in person and via live stream. The youth worship band resumed weekly rehearsals and offered pre-service music at OnPoint worship, once per month.

WMPC staff and volunteers collaborated in music offerings for two outdoor events: the 2020 Joy Gift Drive Through and the Christmas Eve Stroll that was rescheduled for an Epiphany Stroll.

The *Sounds on Oberlin Concert Series* offered a couple of virtual recitals in the fall including Joe Robinson, oboist; and Kirsten Homdrom and Karl Zinsmeister, organists.

The Liturgical Arts Guild continued to meet monthly, implementing its ideas in both Sanctuary and OnPoint worship. A suite of liturgical furniture by Erich Thompson was commissioned for the Main Hall in the Edinburgh Building. This furniture should be complete by the end of 2021.



CHILDREN'S MINISTRY

LEARN

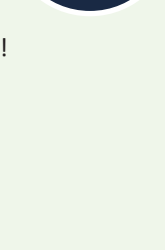
Live, online Sunday School with Bible storytelling, Faith in Action, and Sacred Music
Family Faith Formation webinars with national expert Traci Smith
Weekly E-Blasts, filled with faith ideas for families

WORSHIP

Our traditional Bell Service, Virtual
Children's choirs, Christmas pageant, and ringing in the JOY – our hearts grew three sizes!

TOGETHER AT A DISTANCE

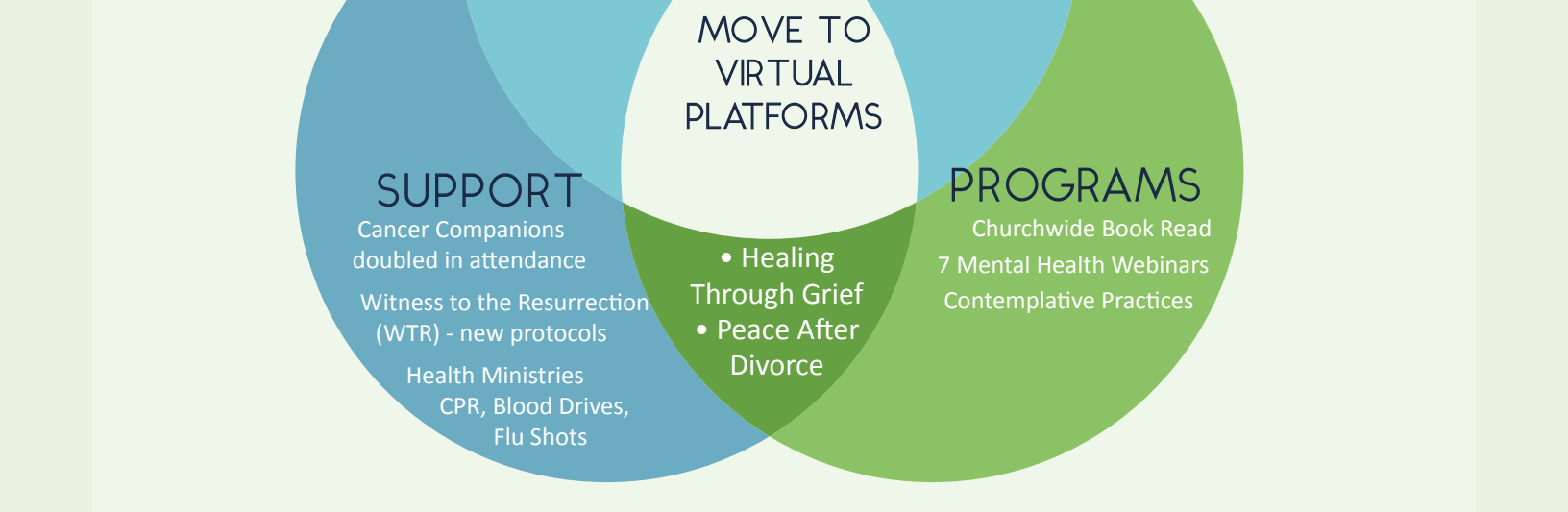
Drive-by CARnival
Winter ADVENTure
VBS At Home: Compassion Camp



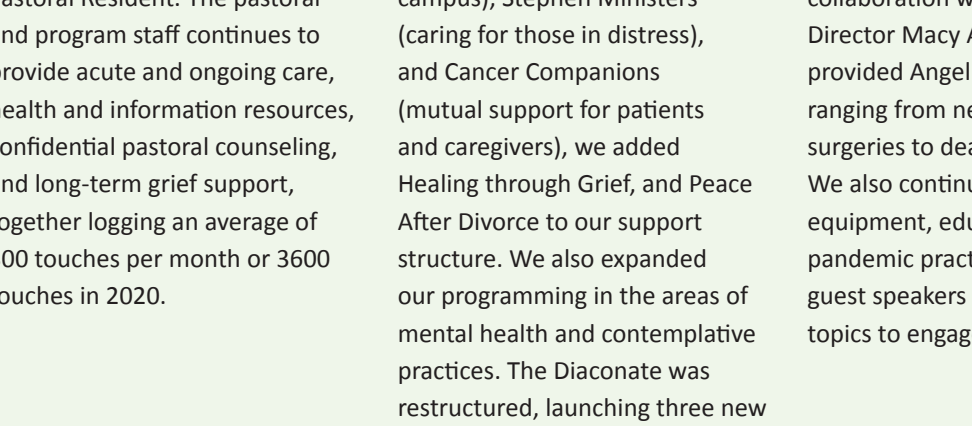
On March 30, 2020 we began 9@9, our online Bible Study led by Grier Booker Richards, Chip Pope and others. In 2020 we covered such themes as Living the Fruit of the Spirit, The Beatitudes, Revisiting the Story of Esther, Christmas in July, Listening to our Youth and Young People in Scripture, and many more. 9@9 continues via Facebook Live Monday-Friday at 9:00 a.m. and has become, not only a platform for Christian education and faith formation, but a community of support during these isolating times.

In 2020 we offered two *Believing and Belonging* @WMPC new members classes. 44 attendees were welcomed into membership following these classes and another 49 joined through our Confirmation ministry for a total membership gain of 92.

This past year we were able to offer two drive-through events for our White Memorial community: Blessing of the Animals and Trunk or Treat. Over 40 members and friends of WMPC participated in the Blessing of the Animals and Trunk or Treat was well-attended with over 150 coming out for a safe and socially-distanced "treat parade."



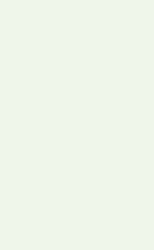
CONGREGATIONAL CARE



Our Congregational Care Team grew again this year with the addition of Anne Gallilher as Pastoral Resident. The pastoral and program staff continues to provide acute and ongoing care, health and information resources, confidential pastoral counseling, and long-term grief support, together logging an average of 300 touches per month or 3600 touches in 2020.

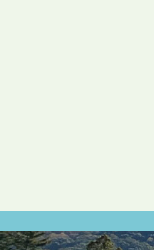
In addition to our Agape Care Teams (ministry of presence to those who cannot come to campus), Stephen Ministers (caring for those in distress), and Cancer Companions (mutual support for patients and caregivers), we added Healing through Grief, and Peace After Divorce to our support structure. We also expanded our programming in the areas of mental health and contemplative practices. The Diaconate was restructured, launching three new care teams: Deacon/Bereavement Care, Growing Families, and New Members. All these groups are a large part of the health of our church, especially as we navigate pandemic restrictions.

Health Ministries held their annual blood drives, flu shot clinics, and CPR certification training. In collaboration with Food Services Director Macy Aguirre, we provided Angel Food to people ranging from new babies to surgeries to deaths in the family. We also continued to loan medical equipment, educate regarding pandemic practices, and host guest speakers on a variety of topics to engage our congregation.



OUTREACH

2020 was a challenging year, but thanks to our members, we not only met our budgeted outreach commitments, but we also provided an extra \$45,000.00 to our community partners. Many of these funds had matching opportunities, so our dollars went even further. We also had a wonderful and very successful response to requests for donated items.



HAND IN HAND

During the summer, we worked with our neighbor churches along Oberlin Road in serving 8,290 weekend meals provided by Western Region Food Security Group.

NEW SPACE

The Outreach Room was up-fitted with tables, chairs, counter space and cabinets. Funds were provided by Presbyterian Women. This room will be a hub for outreach programming and education. It is a wonderful and inviting space that will offer opportunities for outreach expansion.

HAITI

We were able to send 31 boxes of needed school and health supplies to our mission partners in Haiti. After several trips had to be canceled, we were happy that we found a way to ship items to them.

SOCKS, SOCKS AND MORE SOCKS

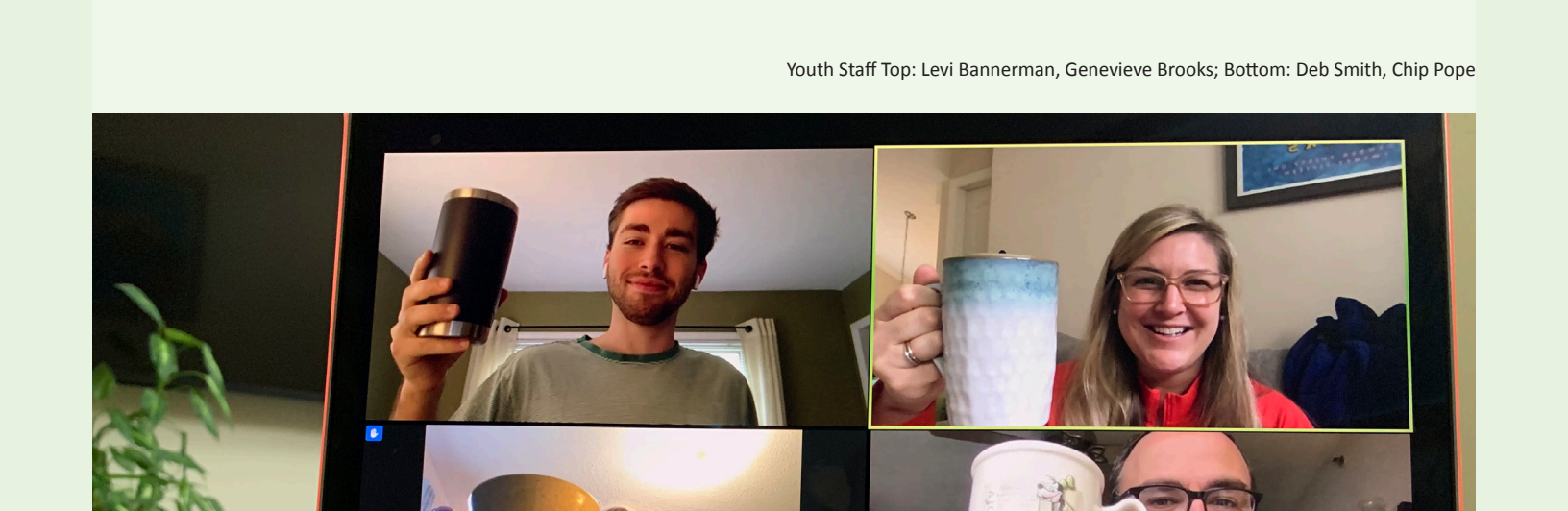
Socks are the number one item requested by our agencies working with the homeless population. Due to a church member connection, we were sent 2,000 pairs of socks that went where they were most needed.

COMMUNITY GRANTS

We provided \$210,000.00 in community grants dealing with hunger, housing, youth at risk, teaching life skills, etc.

STEPUP RECOGNIZED AS LEADER IN DIVERSITY

In October of 2020, StepUp was recognized as a Leader in Diversity by the Triangle Business Journal. They were able to continue working virtually with program participants during the year by providing support, stability and employment assistance.



YOUTH

ADAPTING YOUTH MINISTRY TO OUR *NEW NORMAL*

The pandemic brought on many challenges that required the youth staff and volunteer leadership to adapt programming to fit our new normal. Programs and events that have been offered in the past have taken on new forms thanks to innovative and creative thinking. In 2020 we were able to adapt and offer the following events and programs despite the pandemic: Virtual Sunday school, Senior Sunday, Summer Devotional Series, Youth Kickoff Carnival, Campfire Theology, Middle School Small Groups, Family Fall Retreat, Joy Gift and many more.

JUSTICE ORIENTED PROGRAMMING

This year we developed and offered several new justice-oriented offerings for our youth. We took on a 21 Day Racial Equity Challenge as a youth group that offered independent resources as well as small group discussions. We also created the yearlong Be About the Change group for high school youth that meets twice a month to discuss and learn about the history and future of mission and service in the church.

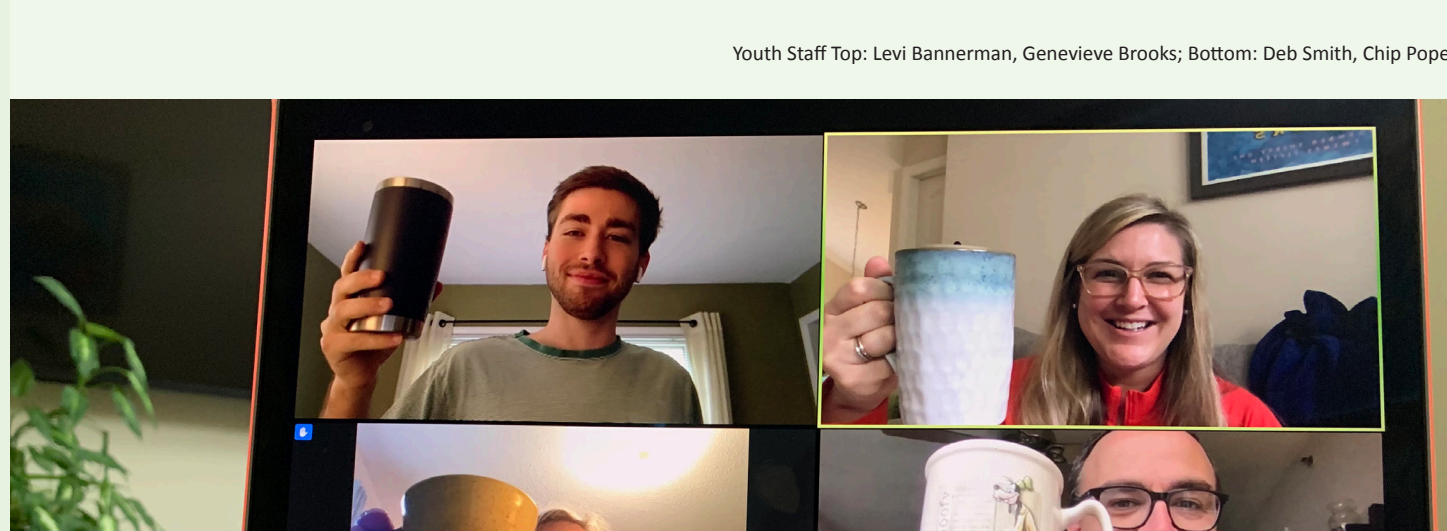
STUDENT LEADERSHIP

In the summer of 2020, we created our Middle School Leadership Team that has grown to 21 current seventh and eighth grade students that meets virtually every week to grow in faith, leadership skills, and plan programs. The High School Leadership Team was launched and began accepting applications in December. High school seniors Marshall Livengood and Maggie Montgomery began their internships serving the youth ministry as a part of their studies at Livingston High School.

ADAPTING

The Youth Ministry trips fundraiser, Community Table, held on February 21, 2020 was the first special event held in the Main Hall of the newly completed Edinburgh building. Lucas Jones, newly ordained pastor who grew up at WMPC, served as a youth adviser while he was in college at NCSU, and is a graduate of Columbia Seminary, was the keynote speaker for this wonderful event for 105 attendees.

Youth Staff Top: Levi Bannerman, Genevieve Brooks; Bottom: Deb Smith, Chip Pope



worship | embrace | serve