



HOW MONEY BECOMES MINISTRY

2015-2016

*We are a church that seeks to reach people for
Christ and make disciples by being the visible love of
Jesus Christ in our communities.*



Forest Hills United Methodist Church is a multi-generational community of believers, committed to live out our passion for Jesus. We encourage one another to grow in faith as we support, fellowship, learn, worship, and serve with one another. We are committed to loving and serving families in our communities with children, youth and young adults, and increasing families who make Forest Hills their church home.

Forest Hills holds the Bible as our primary source for knowing about God and our relationship with Him. We are a biblically based church, and our ministry, life, and connection are interpreted through the Bible.

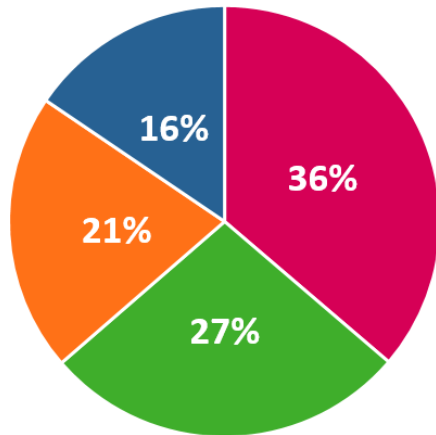
James 2: 14-16 asks us many questions; *What good is it, my brothers and sisters, if someone claims to have faith but has no deeds? Can such faith save them? Suppose a brother or a sister is without clothes and daily food. If one of you says to them, "Go in peace; keep warm and well fed," but does nothing about their physical needs, what good is it?*

In verse 17, the response is clear: *In the same way, faith by itself, if it is not accompanied by action, is dead.* At Forest Hills our faith is alive as we are a church of action. In seeking to serve the whole person, we will strive to provide basic, tangible needs for those in our communities and the world.

"When the church becomes an institution, people are nothing more than volunteers to be recruited. When the church is a movement, our stewardship becomes the unleashing of our God-given gifts, talents, and passions."

- Erwin McManus

2015 Expenses

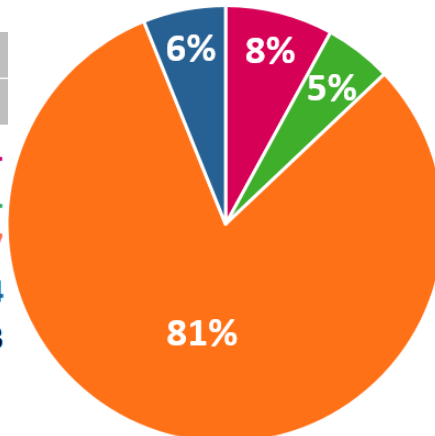


	2015
	Expenses
Worship	\$94,854.12
Growth	\$71,559.20
Serving Others	\$54,536.60
Kids	\$40,595.91
Total	\$261,545.83



2015 Dedicated Giving

	Dedicated
	Giving
Worship	\$7,756.01
Growth	\$4,834.51
Serving Others	\$78,719.57
Kids	\$5,933.34
Total	\$97,243.43



*Does not include Capital Fund Drive

GIVING

Each of you should give what you have decided in your heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver.
2 Corinthians 9: 7

Each of us has our own, personal reasons for how we use our time, talents, and financial gifts. By supporting Forest Hills Church, you contribute to the support of the various ministries in which the church is involved. As a group we are better equipped to reach more people for Christ. As a group we are able to combine talents to help others. Your faithful contributions and service enable us to provide programs to meet our mission; to reach people for Christ.

Funds received may be intended for the general fund, or budget, while other gifts are dedicated for specific use. The funds collected are managed and distributed by leadership elected by the members of the church.

The budget includes planned expenses such as staff salary, utilities, the mortgage, and program maintenance. These resources are needed to provide for the ministry programs.

The Capital Fund drive is in it's third, and final year. The projects completed with this drive includes refurbishing the restrooms, the parking lot, and replacing the siding on the north side of the building. The drive continues through June 2016.

Our dedicated accounts provide funding for many of the programs. While these funds are not part of the budget, they are an integral part of our financial giving. Included in the dedicated accounts are funds raised and for multiple outreach missions.

WORSHIP

Let everything that has breath praise the Lord.

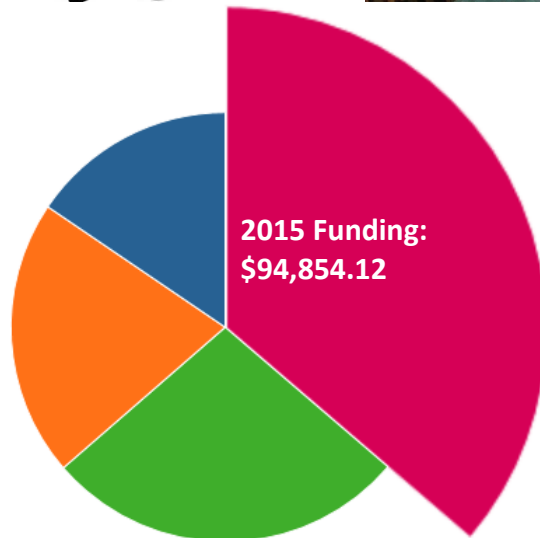
Psalms 150: 6

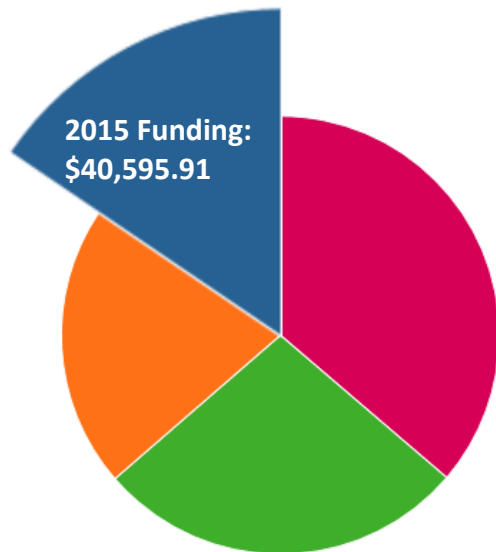
At Forest Hills we focus on creating a worship space and a worship experience that is welcoming, inclusive, and meaningful for all who come. We strive to foster a living faith that people live out every day. Each week the pastor gives a message that not only digs into the Bible, but also applies directly to everyday life.

In 2015 we continued to act on our conviction that worship is bigger than just what happens on Sunday morning. During the month of August we hosted weekly neighborhood BBQ's. We had great success and we were able to provide food, fun, and fellowship to almost 100 people each Wednesday. New this year, we featured live music which included talent from within our church, as well as talent from our local community.

As we look forward to 2016 we will have a big focus on projects that had begun in 2015 but still need attention. We will finish our branding project and begin to use our icons or images in church communications and decorations. This will impact our continued lobby design. Our goals in these updates are to create an even more friendly setting that encourages community and to communicate our beliefs to those who enter the lobby.

Our Director of Worship and Outreach works with the Pastor and our Worship Team to craft meaningful worship experiences with a view toward proclaiming the good news of Jesus Christ in a way that engages and makes sense to the culture around us. We will work toward creating a culture of hospitality within our church family in order to be a church that is welcoming to everyone, including visitors and guests.





CHILDRENS MINISTRY

Jesus said, "Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of heaven belongs to such as these."

Matthew 19: 14

On Sunday mornings, Forest Hills crafts an age-appropriate worship experience for children from four years of age through the 6th grade. Younger children may visit our nursery, where a trained attendant cares for the children, ensuring a safe environment for the children's physical and spiritual well-being.

During the school year, children gather on Wednesday nights for our Awana program. Each student works through their handbook in an effort to memorize certain portions of Scripture. Included in the evening is a short worship time with age appropriate songs and time to enjoy games together.

On Valentine's Day children from the community were invited to spend an evening with us at the church, while their parents enjoyed an evening child-free to have a special night out. The night included games, treats, and age appropriate movies.

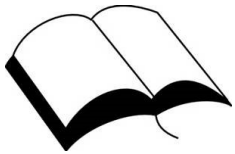
In August, 34 children attended Vacation Bible School, which was hosted at the VFW to bring it closer to the community.

We celebrated All Hallow's Eve (Halloween) with children and families in the community through "Trunk or Treat". In addition to handing out treats to the kids, parents received care packages.

Our Director of Children's Ministry is beginning a new focus looking to service the families who live near our church. As this ministry moves forward, we plan to put on regular/monthly events to reach out and engage the families who live in our community.

SPIRITUAL GROWTH

*Therefore encourage one another and build each other up,
just as in fact you are doing.
1 Thessalonians 5: 11*



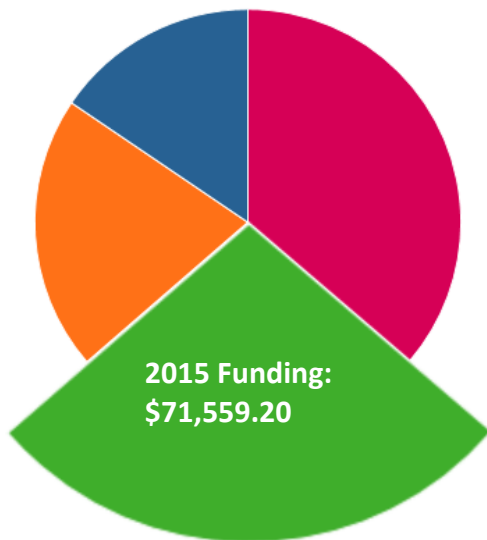
Spiritual growth is a life –long process of continuing to seek God’s will for us and living according to His will. We are called to support each other in this growth. Forest Hills offers many opportunities to participate in group activities with others, to keep you connected and growing.

We have a great line up of events and activities on the calendar that provide both fun as well as meaningful service opportunities for our youth. Each weekly youth group gathering provide a time for activity, discussion, and exploring our relationship with God.

Adult Grow Groups meet on various days and times, with varying topics of study. Some groups are for short term study topics, while other groups stay together and switch from topic to topic. Many of these groups provide for fellowship time in order to build deeper relationships with other groups members.

Multiple men's and women's groups meet for times of fellowship and shared activity. This includes “handy man” jobs, quilting, knitting, and eating.

In mid-2015 a new staff position was added to focus on our spiritual growth programs. The Director of Spiritual Growth is working with the leaders to develop a new ministry plan, including building resources for leadership training, planning a 2016 retreat, and new small group opportunities.



SERVING OTHERS

*"For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat,
I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink,
I was a stranger and you invited me in."*

Matthew 25: 35

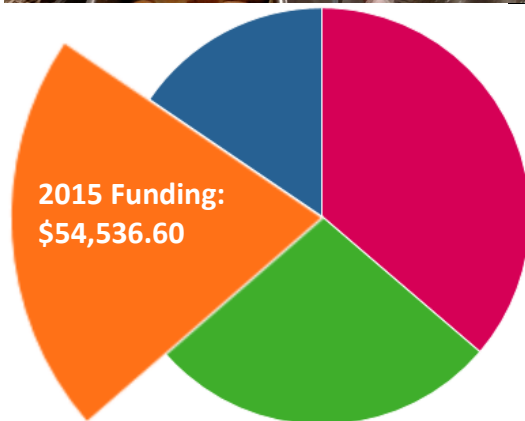
As part of our commitment to meet the tangible needs of our community, we distribute food to over 150 people on the third Saturday each month. During that time, individuals may also be helped with simple car repair and maintenance. This ministry is a cornerstone in our efforts to serve.

Our Wednesday evening programming includes a community meal, which is provided free to anyone who attends. We average 70 meals per week and donations are accepted.

In February 14 adults went to the lower Louisiana peninsula on an annual mission trip. The 2016 mission trip is planned for the last week of February.

In July 10 workers, including multiple youth groups members, traveled to Superior, WI to participate in 'Wildfire', helping to refurbish various properties in the community.

Church leadership is currently engaged with other area faith groups in an effort to address the homelessness in our community. We are committed to continuing these efforts to make a meaningful change in the Forest Lake region.



BE INVOLVED

*Then I heard the voice of the Lord saying, "Whom shall I send?
And who will go for us?" And I said, "Here am I. Send me!"*

Isaiah 6: 8

Forest Hills offers many opportunities to join with others in service projects and fundraising.

One Sunday each month the church participates in an "Action Pack" event after the morning service. Past events include assembling 51 bags of school supplies, donating 4 garbage bags of shoes, creating 16 shoe kits, and creating 7 care packages for college students and a member training in the Army medical corp.

The last Saturday of July finds the church out in force at Lakeside Park, where we work with other churches to host a Bluegrass Festival to raise funds. In 2015 we were able to raise \$5,550 for missions, while connecting with the community over great music, food, and fun.

Another annual fund raising effort occurs during the Christmas season. In 2015 we were able to give \$2,340 to help the homeless, with funds given to help refugees and Haven Home.

Through support of prison ministry we have purchased 120 books for federal prison ministry, along with providing hygiene items for 7 inmates and assisting with child care for 1 inmate's children.

Through the Good Samaritan fund the Pastor has been able to assist multiple families with rental assistance and gas cards.

The budget also include conference outreach, also known as "apportionments".



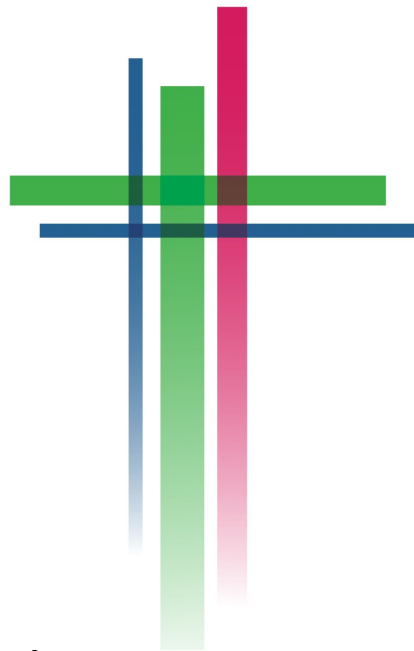
**2015 Dedicated
Giving**

\$78,719.57

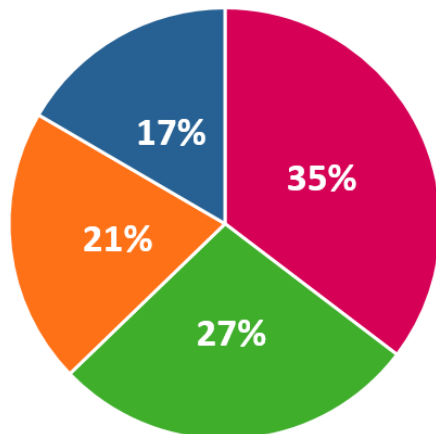
Love.

Grow.

Serve.



2016 Budget



	2016 Budget
Worship	\$101,208.92
Growth	\$78,509.47
Serving Others	\$59,083.53
Kids	\$47,490.25
Total	\$286,292.17

2016 PLANNING

In everything I showed you that by working hard in this manner you must help the weak and remember the words of the Lord Jesus, that He Himself said, 'It is more blessed to give than to receive.'
Acts 20:35

Going into 2016, we will continue our efforts to meet the needs of the community as we evaluate our ministry action plans and identify areas of focus.

Discussions are beginning for a next phase of our capital improvement campaign. The Building Team will work with leadership from all area's to discern the vision and the property changes needed to support that vision. As we strive to be a welcoming and inclusive environment, we work to ensure our building is accessible and supports the planned ministry.

One area of focus will be spiritual growth. One way we grow is through activities of faith. Some activities we do on our own, and some we do with others. It's important to be connected to others and Forest Hills offers many opportunities for you to connect with others to grow and serve.

For information on how you can connect and serve in 2016, please see the church website or e-mail the church office at office@foresthillsumc.net.

WAYS TO GIVE

Give generously to them and do so without a grudging heart; then because of this the Lord your God will bless you in all your work and in everything you put your hand to.

Deuteronomy 15: 10

There are many options available to make contributing convenient for you. The multiple options help your discipline for making consistent contributions.

- EFT – Electronic Funds Transfer – This allows you to set the schedule and amount for a transaction to transfer funds on a regular basis from your account directly to the church. Forms to sign up for EFT may be picked up in the church office.
- On-line Giving – Through the church website you may give to the general fund or any dedicated fund. The contributions may be done for one-time donations or set up to be recurring, similar to the EFT. No paper work is required. If you plan to contribute regularly you may build a profile to reduce the information you need to enter on-line.
- Easy2Give Mobile App – This application was developed by the UMC to make it easy for making donations to any UMC church with the EFT service. The application is available in the iTunes application store for Apple, or Google Play for Android. Donations through the Easy2Give app will be applied to the General Fund.
- Cash or Check – During Sunday worship service there will be an opportunity to place cash or checks in the offering plate. Please be sure to include your name so your contributions can be included on your giving statement.
- Bill Pay – If your bank offers “bill pay”, they will remove the funds from your account and mail a check to the church on your behalf. Please be sure to provide your bank with the church address and monitor your contribution statement to confirm receipt.

GIVE RESPONSIBLY

Let no debt remain outstanding, except the continuing debt to love one another, for whoever loves others has fulfilled the law.

Romans 13: 8

Many people no longer use checks or carry much cash. Many people opt to use a pre-paid credit card to control their funds. For some, the various reward points available drive them to use a credit card.

We respect your right to make personal decisions regarding managing your finances.

It is not our intention to encourage accrual of debt. If you elect to use a credit card to make your donations, please do so under a sound financial plan to minimize your debt.

Online and mobile giving are provided through a secure third party provider, Vanco Services LLC.

Tax Deductible Contributions

Giving to the church is generally 100% tax deductible. Contributors receive statements from the financial secretary a few times a year, including after year end. When you contribute electronically, the financial secretary receives the information necessary to credit you for your donation. If you choose to give cash it's important to use a specially provided offering envelope indicating your name and any special designation for the funds. Please consult your legal or tax advisor for any questions.

Our Purpose

**Love God
Love One Another
Grow in Christ
Serve Others
Share Faith**



Forest Hills Church

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