

2022 ANNUAL REPORT



Transforming into a community through whom God's love flows

OUR MISSION

LOVE GOD
LOVE PEOPLE
MAKE DISCIPLES

3415 ROUTE 19S WARSAW, NY
(585) 786-5445



WWW.VALLEYCHAPEL.ORG
CONNECT@VALLEYCHAPEL.ORG

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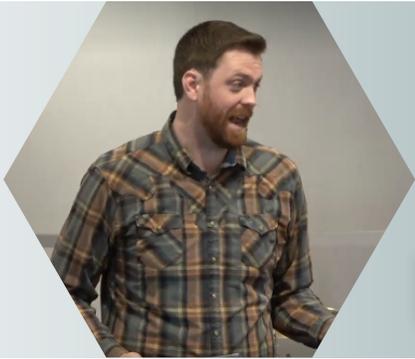
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A MESSAGE FROM OUR LEAD PASTOR

"For in this hope we were saved. Now hope that is seen is not hope. For who hopes for what he sees? But if we hope for what we do not see, we wait for it with patience." -Romans 8:24-25

When repeatedly failing to invent the electric lightbulb Thomas Edison was asked why he kept trying despite so many failures. He replied, "I have not failed. I've just found 10,000 ways that won't work." That response comes from someone who has hope; confidence that something is coming that generates the tenacity to endure whatever effort is necessary to get there.

In our last Annual Report, I wrote, "I am sensing that hope will be an important word for us in 2022." It has proven to be accurate, but certainly not in the way I anticipated. I dreamed of a year of breakthroughs where we consistently drew closer to a light at the end of the tunnel. Instead, it was a year when God asked us, "do you trust me? Do you believe I have a future in store for you?" It was a year when our hope was tested.

Yet, God showed up, did he not? We didn't bury our heads in the sand or pretend our reality was something else. Instead, we put in the effort, drew together, made difficult decisions, and refocused on what's at our core. God met us there and provided when it looked like we would run out, leading to a complete change in direction for our stability as a community.

We are ready to look ahead to RE:23, a year of Recovery, Renewal, and Reimagining. I'm confident this will be another challenging year, but it will be a new kind of difficult. Less because it's a burden we endure and more because we will create something new. Like the father in Norman Maclean's *A River Runs Through It* says, "all good things-trout as well as eternal salvation- come by grace and grace comes by art, and art does not come easy."

Recovery is art; it is the process of taking something broken and tending to it with great effort for the sake of what could be possible in the future. It's about healing a piece of each of our souls and sharing it with God's creation for the sake of those around us. Yet, recovery is also not simply getting things back the way they were. Recovery is not about returning but restoring. Artist Makoto Fujimura says it well.. "What we build, design, and depict on this side of eternity matters because, in some mysterious way, those creations will become part of the future city of God."

God doesn't need Valley Chapel to recover. God doesn't even need us to exist, yet we stand at the front door of this next season, full of hope that our recovery is something of value. We are not mere gears in the machine of the world, but, as Paul says in Ephesians 2:10, "We are God's Masterpiece" or as Fujimura translates it, "Refined works." We are valuable, not purely for our function, but for the beauty, brokenness, and hope God has woven into our lives.

So, let's prepare to put in some sweat equity to recover, renew and reimagine what God will transform us into and what love will then flow out!

WHAT ARE WE

As Christians we are one part of the one body of Christ. We embrace our mission to...

L O V E G O D
L O V E P E O P L E
M A K E D I S C I P L E S

As Free Methodists, we elevate the values that give us a unique role in the church...

The Free Methodist Way



Life-Giving
Holiness



Love-Driven
Justice



Christ-Compelled
Multiplication



Cross-Cultural
Collaboration



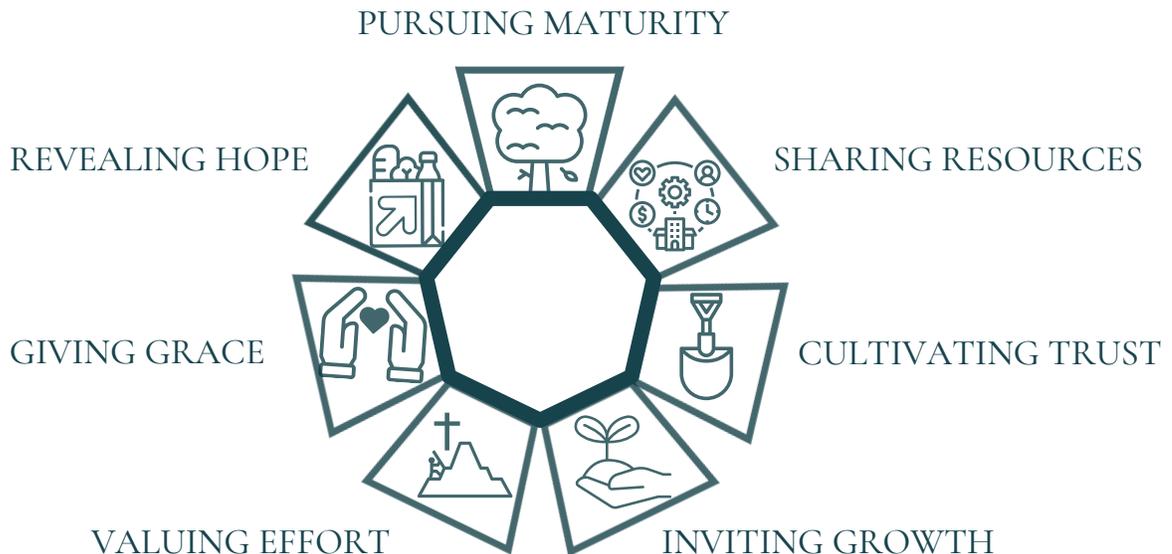
God-Given
Revelation

ALL ABOUT?

As a local church, our vision, the future we see God leading us toward, is that we are...

Transforming into a *community*
through whom *God's love* flows

To do this and draw closer to God and one another, we practice these habits...



OUR LEADERS

In 2022, the Ministry Leaders and Staff provided direction and coordination of all our church's ministries. In 2023 our Ministry Leadership system is undergoing some changes. See pages 17-18 for details



The Board of Administration

The BOA exists to take care of the temporal business of the church as an organization to empower and equip us for the work of ministry. The individuals who serve here are nominated by the Nominating Committee and elected by the congregation's membership.



The Pastor's Cabinet

The Pastor's Cabinet serves as the church's Human Resources Department. They pray for and advise the Lead Pastor and interview and oversee the paid staff of the church. The individuals who serve here are nominated by the Nominating Committee and elected by the congregation's membership.

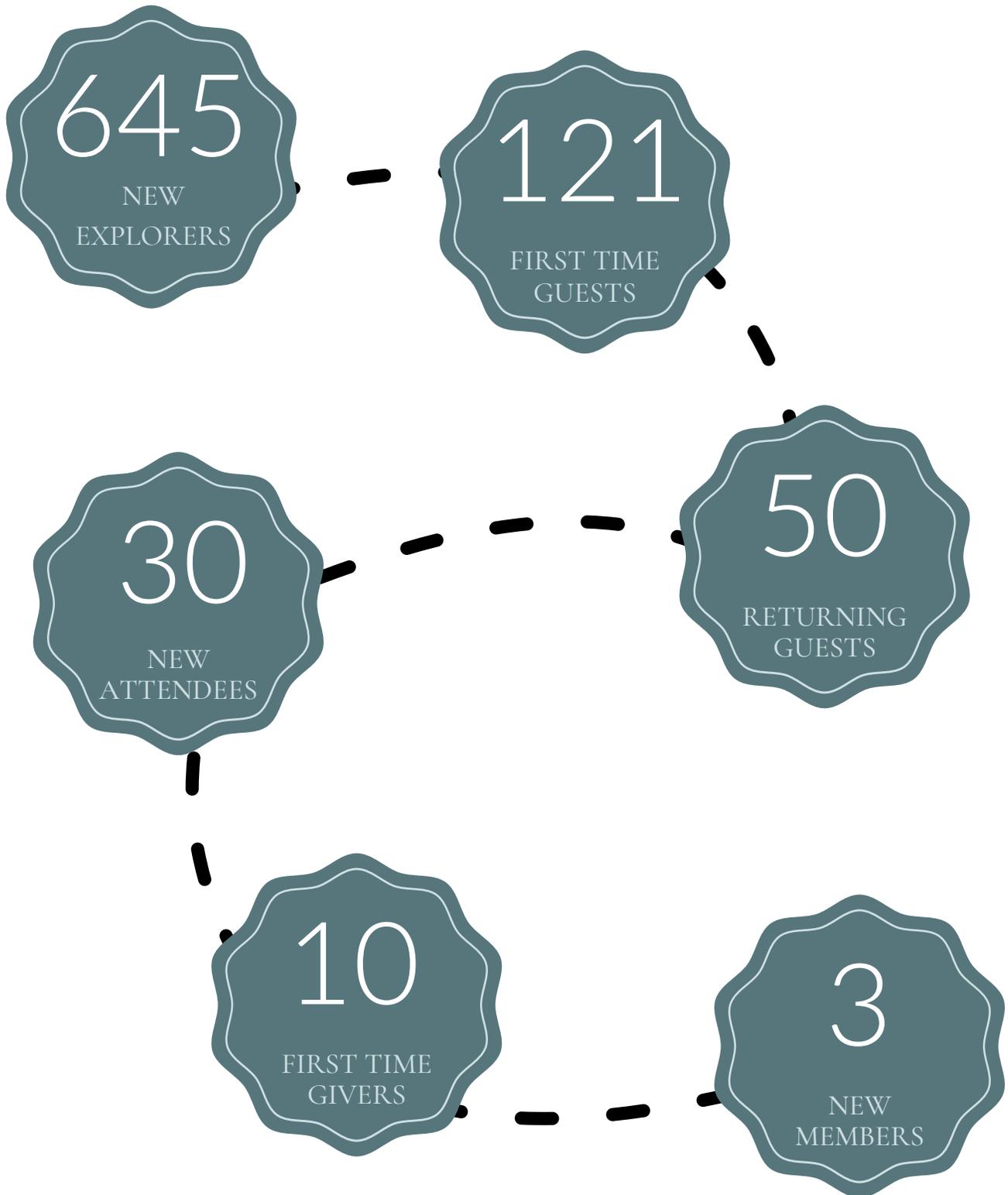


The Nominating Committee

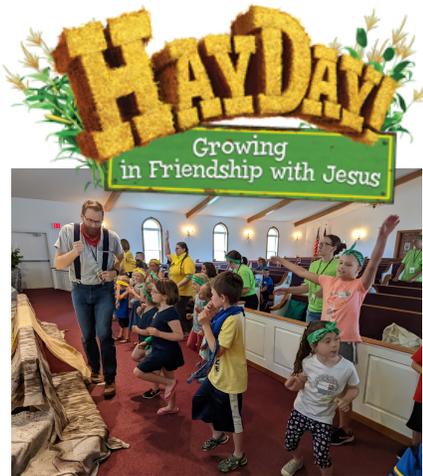
The Nominating Committee nominates individuals for election by the membership of the church to serve in elected roles. The Lead Pastor and four at-large members serve on this committee.



OUR STATS



REMEMBERING 2022



We had a Hay Day with our Farm-themed VBS this summer! We transformed the church into a fun-filled farm with a large barn, windmill, and even a tractor pull! The children learned that "Our Lord Jesus Christ has made us friends of God." (Romans 5:11)

About 50 children join us on Saturday. They enjoyed a petting zoo with animals provided by the Seewaldt family, piglets from Kaitlyn Otis, and a giant bunny from Tori Sutay. The animals were a big hit with the kids!

Sunday morning's closing program and Pig Roast (provided by the Goodenow family) were enormous blessings for the families whose children attended the program. The inflatable obstacle course and dunking booth were super fun. We look forward to serving our community's families again next year!

- Sue Slocum (Outreach Coordinator)

In October, we had our first-ever Color Run and Fall Festival to draw the community together with activities geared towards kids, family, building relationships, and having a sense of community. A place where we could share with others what we do at Valley Chapel, specifically in the Kidz Ministry, and raise awareness and funds to help our program grow.

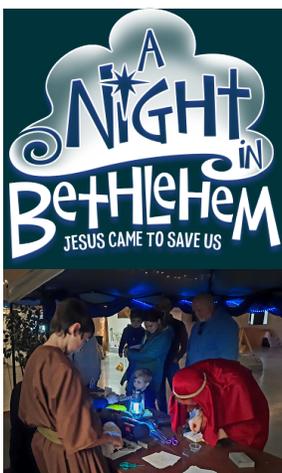
COLOR RUN AND FALL FESTIVAL



Families enjoyed face painting, a bounce house, hammering pumpkins, hayrides, and laughing as they got hit with powder going through the Color Run course. Even though it was a small crowd, with 21 racers in the 1k, and 14 in the 5k, I feel we met our mission by mingling and talking to people... and showing the community who we are.

Any event is difficult to put on the first year and this was no exception. We struggled to maintain a clear focus between the color run and the fall festival, yet the hardships we faced taught us that we aren't doing things just to do them, but to love the people of Warsaw well.

- Chelsie Mantelli (KIDZ Leader)



"It's great to have an activity like this that has purpose and meaning."

Hearing a mom say that was encouraging and showed the direction we are moving in. Kids made fun crafts with their families to take home, which could lead to further discussions about faith, Jesus, and the meaning of Christmas. My hope from this event is that kiddos could share a story with someone about how they got or made an object from the Night in Bethlehem and what they learned while doing it.

Thanks to our amazing volunteers, we were able to create another great event where families are immersed in activities that point their kids toward Jesus while engaging in meaningful conversation with our church community. It's a joy to serve with you!

- Chelsie Mantelli (KIDZ Leader)

REMEMBERING 2022

POP-UP PANTRY

Pop-Up Pantry is a free food distribution. We partner with Foodlink to distribute an over abundance of food to the community.



This year was outstanding! We served a record number of 823 families (493 of them coming for the first time). This year 8 out of 10 distributions were our highest ever. October was our largest distribution with 278 families served in one day.

The volunteers are wonderful! We had 82 different volunteers with 39 of them serving for the first time. There was an average of 29 volunteers at each distribution. They enjoy loving on each of the customers and making them feel a part of this community.

- Lisa McCrary (PUP Site Coordinator)

For the second year in a row, Valley Chapel and St Michael's Catholic Parish have teamed up to offer free drive-through lunches to have and to share. This year, we also opened in room dining! We served 300 beef stew meals, 250 hot dog and macaroni salad meals, 200 spaghetti lasagna meals and 250 turkey dressing casserole meals with homemade cookies provided by the ladies of St Michael's.

That's a total of 1000 meals!

After our October meal, a large donation was made by someone who believed in the cause. This has allowed us to continue the program even through hard financial times within our church. Be sure to come and pick up a meal for yourself and a handful to share with your friends and neighbors.

- Sue Slocum (Outreach Coordinator)



EASTER PARADE



After our Easter Sunday worship Celebration we had a blast decorating our cars and parading through Warsaw to share the joy of the Resurrection with those who couldn't get out. We went past local nursing homes, group homes, and senior living facilities honking and waving, the folks at Connect 55+ apartments were particularly grateful for the ability to celebrate with us way up on the hill.

REMEMBERING 2022

SANCTUARY UPDATES

For the last few years, Pastor Ryan and I have talked/dreamed about renovations to the sanctuary. Many of the plans are costly, so we divided them into smaller tasks to make them more feasible.



First, we improved the appearance of the Sanctuary. Instead of keeping the walls the same color as the rest of the room and needing to decorate for every season or sermon series, we decided to find a paint color that was adaptable and would work with our lighting. Additionally, we received a used high-end projector for the front of the room. We saved money by framing in a space on the back wall (thanks to Larry Almeter and Alan Roth) and painting with high-density projector screen paint rather than buying a custom drop-down screen that would easily have been thousands of dollars! Austin Kirkland has professional painting experience and made it possible to finish in one week!

With the new "screen" on the back wall, we had to relocate the handmade cross previously in the center. Al Roth shared his time and talent to resize the cross, remove excess weight, and hang on the right side of the stage. Larry Almeter also took it upon himself to make a permanent wooden version of our church logo, which balances the stage perfectly by hanging on the left side of the stage. I cannot express with words how much of a blessing it is to have such amazing people that have such a wide range of craftsmanship in our church family! Thank you to everyone who is part of transforming THIS building as part of our community!

- Scot Mantelli (Tech Leader)



GERRY MCNAMARA HUNGARY

We enjoyed a meaningful visit from Gerry McNamara, our missionary partner in Eastern Europe, shortly after the start of the war in Ukraine. We learned about the work the church was doing in response and about Vis-de-copil (A Child's Dream), a Romanian children's home that we hope to partner with in the future.

WORSHIP TEAM LEADERSHIP

In January, we welcomed Pastor Shannon Blankenship, a CMC (Conference Ministerial Candidate), to our team for a 6-month trial period as Worship Pastor. CMCs explore their sense of calling into vocational ministry by practicing under supervision. Toward the end of her trial period, We invited Pastor Shannon to move away from her role as Worship Pastor to test other aspects of pastoral ministry. She chose not to step into that. We pray for her and her family on their journey of serving and following Jesus.



Afterward, we attempted to hire a Worship leader but failed to find an available candidate. Pastor Ryan has taken on the leadership of the band until God provides either a volunteer called to the role or the funding to re-open the job to applicants.

REMEMBERING 2022

THE BOARD OF ADMINISTRATION

The BOA is a group of elected members at Valley Chapel who enable our community to accomplish our mission and realize our vision by creating policies, managing our budget, and overseeing our property.

FILLING SEATS

We started the year with an empty seat, and in April, two members (Nic Gunning and Becky Noon) resigned. In June, we welcomed our three newest members (Gary Towner, Larry Almeter, and Austin Kirkland), bringing us back to a full BOA just in time for the year's second half.

SECURITY/FIRE SYSTEM

We finalized a long process of updating our 20+ year-old fire and security systems. We now have fully functioning security alarms, smoke detectors, emergency lights, and motion detectors communicating with the Doyle Security company. Our next step in security is developing a policy to guide how we provide a safe and secure environment during church events.

PROPERTY SALE

We cannot thank Michelle Hoyt enough for the hours she has volunteered legal services to her community to advise us through selling the back lot. The sale is still incomplete as it is waiting on a final step from the buyer's lawyer. Still, we anticipate it will be completed soon, generating \$6,500 earmarked to replenish funds used for the fire/security system update.

THE BUDGET

The budget was a central point of conversation throughout the year. See pages 11-12 for more details.

POLICY WORK

In June, we hosted our first-ever "Policy Party," where over the course of one fun-filled Saturday, we made significant strides in some of our outdated or nonexistent policies. We learned how policies keep us safe by creating healthy boundaries around what must and mustn't be done. We updated our "Ministry to Minors" policy, we bolstered our "Facility Use" policy, and we created a "Receiving Financial Gifts" policy. Lastly, after learning that we had none, we created "Bylaws" governing how official decisions get made. Copies of all our policies are available in the office.

THE OFFERING MOMENT

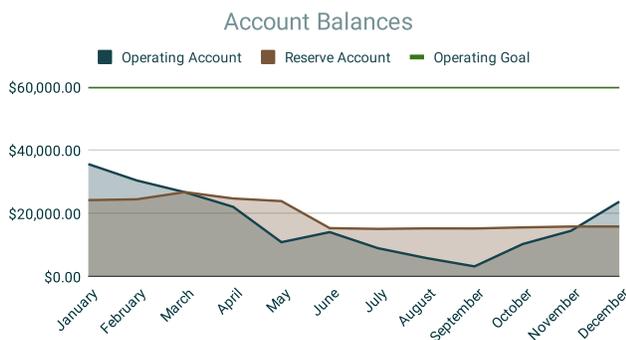
We regularly conversed with God and one another about how and how often we discuss giving as a community. We saw a great deal of value in having intentional moments to "recognize" and "practice" giving in our worship, but we wanted to be careful not to "push" giving on anyone. In the end, we have found including a giving liturgy at the end of our announcements to be a meaningful way to keep giving in our minds every week without it being too much of an "asking for your money" situation. The conversation is far from over, and we intend to continue being intentional about how we worship through giving.



2022 FINANCIAL SUMMARY

2022 was one of the most challenging financial years of our church's history; between rising utility costs, the departure of long-time giving families, and dramatic changes in attendance patterns, we used up just about every bit of financial margin we had at the start of the year. To respond to this before running out of resources, we made the difficult decision to eliminate missionary support from our budget. At the same time, we ceased the search for a worship leader, put a spending freeze on ministry budgets, requested reduced denominational dues, and began a pre-RE:23 giving campaign.

All of these factors, fueled by the provision of God, led us to make a dramatic turnaround in the final quarter of the year. Thank you to all those who contributed to our response; your giving generated hope in an otherwise scary financial situation. We are not out of the woods yet. We still hope to revisit how missionaries are financially supported, our overall staff remains underfunded, and our reprieve from denominational dues is only temporary. Still, in the end, we managed to only reduce our reserves by less than \$7000.



ACCOUNT BALANCES

OPERATING ACCOUNT

GENERAL FUND	23,749.94
PETTY CASH	50.00

OPERATING TOTAL 23,799.94

RESERVE ACCOUNT

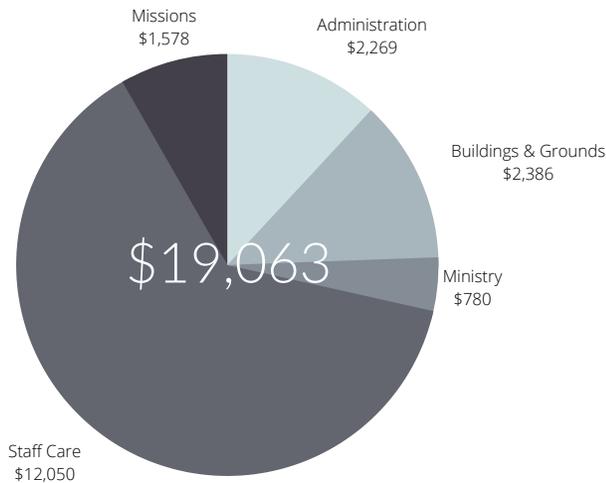
CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS	-347.87
EMERGENCY SAVINGS	12,031.39
BENEVOLENCE FUND	565.63
MEMORIAL FUND	3,682.50
JEDREJEK MEMORIAL	235.00
COLTER MEMORIAL	150.00
HARVEY MEMORIAL	2,020.00
MACCONNELL MEMORIAL	1,277.50

RESERVE TOTAL 15,931.65

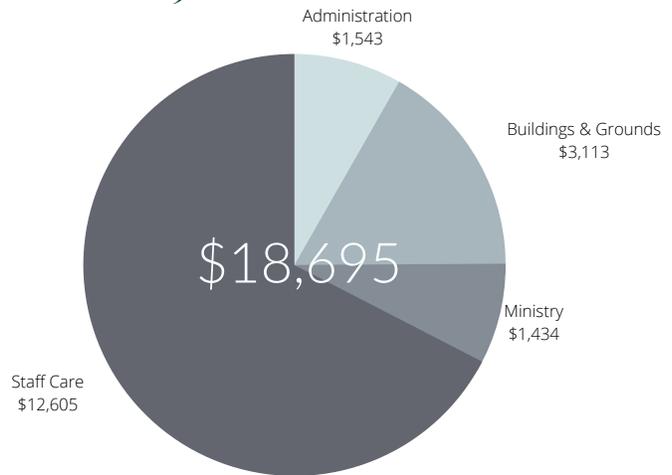
TOTAL IN ALL ACCOUNTS 39,731.59

BUDGET SUMMARY

2022 MONTHLY SPENDING



2023 MONTHLY BUDGET



CATEGORY	BUDGET January - 2022	BUDGET May - 2022	ACTUAL 2022	BUDGET Season 1 - 2023
ADMINISTRATION Operational costs unrelated to building or staff	38,195	30,507	27,222	6,172
BUILDINGS & GROUNDS Maintenance, Repair, Utilities, & Projects	33,600	36,027	28,632	12,453
MINISTRY Programs & Activities	14,075	14,049	9,356	5,735
STAFF CARE Salaries, Benefits & Payroll Expenses	153,137	145,916	144,563	50,419
MISSIONS Local & Global Ministries We Support	23,706	22,488	18,940	0
TOTAL EXPENSE	262,713 5052 per week	248,987 4788 per week	228,713 4398 per week	74,799 4399 per week
INCOME Offerings, Facility Use, Other	261,681	247,800	221,953	
BALANCE	-1,032	1,187	-6,760	

NOMINATIONS

At Valley Chapel, our Members (those who have committed to partner with us on mission) are eligible to serve in several official elected positions. These positions include the Delegate, the Board of Administration (BOA), the Treasurer, the Pastor's Cabinet, and the Nominating Committee. Each role has specialized responsibilities that help us maintain the structure we need to accomplish our mission and realize our vision. These wise leaders work together with the Pastoral Staff and our appointed Advisors to steer the ship that is Valley Chapel.

The terms of these officers are limited to ensure there are always fresh voices in leadership and to ensure that officers stay energized while serving in these often challenging roles. Therefore when an officer's term ends, the nominating committee recommends members to the "society" (the active members of Valley Chapel) for election at society meetings.

This year, 4 positions are opening up, the Delegate, the Reserve Delegate, and two at-large BOA members.

- The Delegate is a liaison between the pastor, the congregation, and the denomination. To this end, they serve on the BOA, the Pastor's Cabinet, and attend Annual Conference to vote on denominational affairs on the congregation's behalf.
- The Reserve Delegate is a member of the BOA who stands in for the delegate when he or she is unable to attend to their duties.
- The BOA cares for the temporal business of the church (finances, facilities, & policy) to empower and equip us for the work of ministry.

We invite Members and attendees alike to cast votes. Per denominational requirements, we only "count" the votes of members, but the voices of all who call Valley Chapel "home" are valuable, so please engage in the process if you like!

THIS YEAR'S NOMINEES (Feb '23-Jan '25)

For the roles of Delegate & Reserve Delegate

Gary
Towner



Lauren
MacConnell



For the 2 remaining At-Large BOA seats

Tina
Johnson



James
Rasmussen



BALLOTS WILL BE AVAILABLE AT THE SOCIETY MEETING ON SUNDAY 1/22/2023

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SERVICE! (All served since Feb '17)



SCOT MANTELLI
Reserve Delegate



SUE SLOCUM
Delegate



JEN MONTELEONE
BOA Member

RE:23 RECOVERY

A YEAR OF RECOVERY,
RENEWAL, AND REIMAGINING

The first word in our RE:23 initiative is recovery. Like a joint needs time and physical therapy to recover from an injury, so does our church. Recovery will not happen by accident. If we ever hope to consider ourselves recovered financially, we need to know what that means explicitly and what it will take to get there.

For starters, sustaining three months of expenses in our operating account is both wise stewardship and a clear sign of financial stability. As you saw in our Budget, a month at Valley Chapel costs a little less than \$20,000, so our goal for recovery is \$60,000. As our church (and Budget) grows, we will aim to maintain the 3-month standard, allowing that line to guide us whenever we ask, "can we afford that?"

This stewardship is for more than just the sake of maintaining our existence. God doesn't need Valley Chapel to exist, but God has us here to be transforming into a community through whom God's love flows as we Love God, Love People, and Make disciples. We are seeking this stability to empower and resource what God would have us create in this next season.

The following 4-step plan is already underway, with Step 1 completed with room to spare.

PHASE 1

LAUNCH: 25% | \$15,000

Before kicking off 2023, we hoped to be 25% of the way to recovery, yet God provided through you to bring us past 33%! This is a solid launching pad for the rest of the year.

PHASE 2

REST: 58% | \$35,000

An injury needs time to rest before the hard work can begin, but that rest is only a short season, and it is time to get to work. This is a season to focus on slow and simple practices that don't create new injuries before the originals heal.

PHASE 3

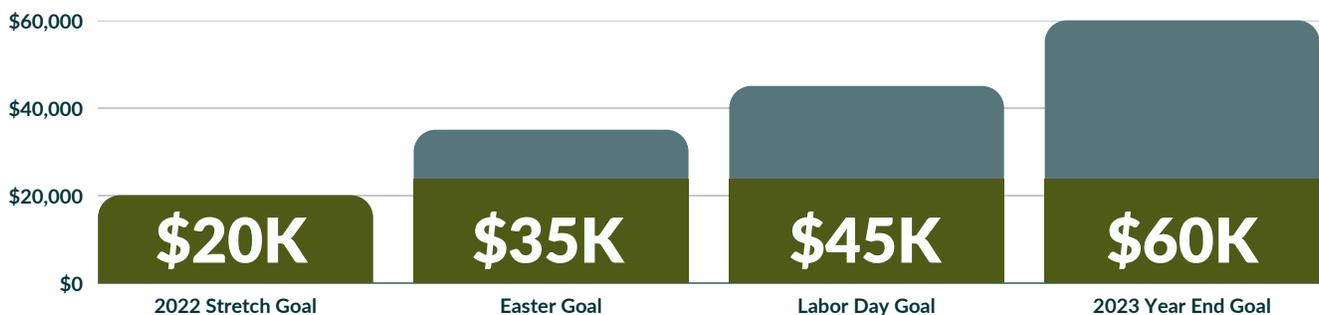
RECALIBRATE: 75% | \$45,000

No recovery goes exactly according to plan, so let's plan on it! Summers are busy and they change our schedules, so we will be ready to make adjustments to our budget accordingly.

PHASE 4

RENEW: 100% | \$60,000

We're feeling good and ready to hit the final stretch. For the end of the year, we will be pushing our way through to the finish and enjoying all that's possible thanks to our newfound financial stability.



Totals as of 1/1/2023

RE:23 RENEWAL

A YEAR OF RECOVERY,
RENEWAL, AND REIMAGINING

The second word in our RE:23 initiative is renewal. In September 2020, Valley Chapel officially became 100 years old. We had big dreams of a 100-year celebration festival pulling out all the stops, and you can guess what got in the way there.

We are well into year 102 as a church community, year 26 in our current building, and year 11 for our ministry center. Just as in a home, time transforms the shiny into dull, fresh into stale, and new into old. Then one day, it hits you, "Woah! It's been that long? I thought we just did that."

It reminds us of one of the core verses in Romans 12 that define our vision...

Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, so that you may prove what the will of God is, that which is good and acceptable and perfect. - Romans 12:2

We believe that transformation is never done, so in our vision statement, we don't say we are "transformed," but we are "transforming." It's an ongoing process of being formed further into the humans we were made to be. And did you catch that there is a specific way transformation happens? By the renewing of our minds!

We will only be transforming if we actively pursue renewal. Just as plans need to be made to renovate an outdated kitchen, so must we make plans for renewal.

We start with renewal in our minds, taking a good hard look at our old beliefs and asking, "is this still helpful, faithful to scripture, and aligned with God's movement in my life?" This may mean challenging some long-held beliefs and welcoming new ideas that challenge us to think deeper. It may also mean exploring some ancient practices from our theological attics that, if given a good dusting and a fresh coat of paint, can bring us great joy and meaning today. We will do this by seeking to understand (stand under) the scriptures in the lectionary while celebrating the liturgical seasons of Advent, Epiphany, Lent, Eastertide, Pentecost, and Ordinary Time.

Renewal is not just intellectual but embodied and woven into the spaces we inhabit. Look at these two pictures, and think about which space you want to spend time in.

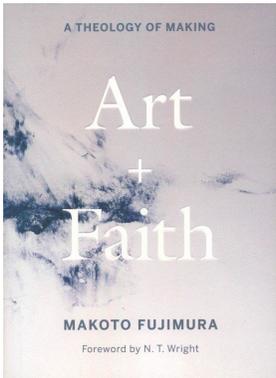


French writer Joseph Joubert said, "All gardeners live in beautiful spaces because they make them so." Gardening is simply working hard to cause beautiful and functional life to grow and flourish. Bringing about beauty and function is what God designed us to do.

In 2023, we will be taking good close looks at our gathering spaces that have wonderful functionality and asking, "is it also beautiful?" We already got this started by painting the sanctuary, but that's just the start. May our hearts and gathering spaces shine with beauty and function to draw us and our community, closer to God.

RE:23 REIMAGINING

A YEAR OF RECOVERY,
RENEWAL, AND REIMAGINING



If you would like to understand the heart of our third core Re: word, "Reimagining," I have a book recommendation for you.

"Art + Faith" by Makoto Fujimura was gifted to me by the Genesis Conference for Pastor Appreciation Month, and I have come to believe this gift was guided by the hand of the Holy Spirit for just a time as this. Fujimura offers us a rich and profoundly scriptural theology of Making. At the core of this theology is the belief that God, the creator of all existence, began creation not with what will get the job done but with forming something dark and chaotic into something with order and beauty.

Then God created humans, not to efficiently use that beautiful creation, but to carry out "Loving Stewardship" (in Hebrew "radah") of it. He claims that "radah is a Making word, rather than a forceful domination" We are creatures made by God, not out of God's own need, but because our existence brings joy into the heart of our maker. We can imagine what it could be and then form it into reality. He says that

"the essence of humanity may be in what we deem to be 'use-less' but essential."

Art is the natural outpouring of our lives when we are close to the ultimate maker. I would argue that the opposite is true; if our imaginations are not alive, then we are not close to God. Creativity is risky, inefficient, and not always "useful," but it is absolutely "essential" to our church's future. If allowed to run free, your imagination may lead you into new territories; it may move you away from what was comforting and familiar, but if it remains in a relationship with God, it will always result in good.

This intuitive and expressive side of faith can feel threatening to those who have seen faith as a matter of factual beliefs and logical consistency. As Fujimura puts it,

"Christians have many presuppositions about what Christianity is that are often based upon an analytical approach to understanding truth as a set of propositional beliefs, such that understanding and explaining take dominance over experiencing and intuiting. But that grounding is based less on a biblical, generative path than on the mechanistic, postindustrial thinking of utilitarian pragmatism."



Let's allow our imaginations to dance with God in 2023. Let's experience what God has for us and express it in beautiful and new ways. This year I have appointed our friend Debbie Johnson as our "Director of Transformational Art" (DoTA), an Advisor (see page 19) who will resource us to reimagine our expressions of faith through art. In our first season, we will do this through an Art gallery in our fellowship hall that will run during Lent. If you would like to get involved in reimagining through art, then be sure to sit down and chat with Debbie.

I can't wait to see what God inspires you to create this year. It may be a traditional art like painting, drawing, writing, or sculpting, but it could also be something unique to you that doesn't fit specific categories of "Art." In the end, I pray that we reimagine how God may work through us in ways that break us free from the confines of "usefulness" toward to fullness of "flourishing."

MINISTRY TRAIL MAP

We believe that every human being has been created to cause flourishing in the world and that every Christian has been given a mission to Love God, Love People, and Make Disciples as a part of a community of believers. God's unique invitation for you to be an agent of New Creation here on Earth is essential to who we are at Valley Chapel. Let this trail map help you find your bearings, identify what might come next, and map a pathway customized to you and your journey while being integrated into our shared community.



EXPLORER

You are just starting your journey with God through this community at Valley Chapel. You may have connected through an event, worship, social media, or a number of other ways. It is so great that you're here!

WHAT NEXT?

- Introduce yourself at the Connect Center or Valleychapel.org/connect.
- Volunteer at an Event.
- Join us for in-person worship a few Sundays in a row.
- You can connect with someone you've met here and ask about their faith journey.
- Download our App and explore all the cool resources.
- Invite a friend to explore with you.
- Send Pastor Ryan your questions by email at ryan@valleychapel.org

ATTENDEE

Valley Chapel is your current church home while you attend to your faith. You may be worshipping with us regularly, participating on teams, attending and/or volunteering at events, giving, learning to practice the 7 habits and seeking a rich and nourishing faith. You make us who we are and we're glad you're a part of our shared community.

WHAT NEXT?

- Get baptized or share your baptism story.
- Join in communion
- Sign up for messaging on our app to connect with others in the church
- Volunteer on a Team.
- Invite a friend to serve with you.
- Become a first-time or regular giver.
- Learn more about our Mission, Vision, and 7 Habits.
- Talk with a Leader, Member, or Pastor about how your interests and gifting might contribute to the mission and help you grow in your faith.

LEADER

God has invited you to take things to the next level and lead others in their faith. You are a leader if you have been trained to officially lead an Event (something on our calendar), a Team (where volunteers are trained and scheduled), or a Cause (where you are advocating for something on behalf of our church). Or if you are teaching others in our community.

WHAT NEXT?

- Attend seasonal Leadership Summits
- Explore training specific to your area of leadership.
- Explore other areas of leadership you haven't tried yet.
- Take an explorer or resident under your wing and show them how to lead.
- If you aren't a member yet, explore membership with Pastor Ryan.
- Keep growing through regular attendance, participation, and giving.

MINISTRY TRAIL MAP

MEMBER

You attend worship regularly, participate actively, and give consistently and you want to be able to lead with your vote, as an elected official, or as an advisor with a specialized assignment in the community. Our Members are partners on mission who, serve as the lead voices directing the movement of our church.

WHAT NEXT?

- Attend and engage in a Society or Community Meeting
- Get elected to serve on the Board of Administration
- Get elected to serve on the Pastor's Cabinet
- Get elected to serve on the Nominating Committee
- Consider Leading an Event, Team, Cause, or Teaching.
- Talk with a Pastor about becoming an Advisor with a specialized assignment aligned with your unique giftings and passions that impacts the church as a whole.

Schedule a Meeting with Pastor Ryan if you would like to explore any of the following three parts of the trailmap.

CANDIDATE

You have sensed a possible calling to ordained ministry, and your church agrees that it's worth exploring. You begin this season as a Local Ministerial Candidate (LMC) serving at Valley Chapel while you explore the process. Then, suppose the calling continues to be affirmed. In that case, you will be received by the Genesis Conference as a Conference Ministerial Candidate (CMC), where you explore, under the guidance of the Ministerial Education & Guidance (MEG) Board, whether ordination is in your future.

DEACON

You are an ordained Deacon in the Free Methodist Church, taking authority to minister the Word of God, faithfully proclaiming His Word, declaring His forgiveness, celebrating the sacraments, and shepherding His people. You are still a local church member, but you are appointed by the Conference and under the supervision of the Superintendent and the Ministerial Appointments Committee (MAC).

ELDER

You are an Ordained Pastor in the Free Methodist Church, taking authority to minister the Word of God. Faithfully proclaiming His Word, declaring His forgiveness, celebrating the sacraments, and shepherding His people. You are no longer a member of a local church but of the conference. You are appointed to serve in the local church as an itinerant pastor, meaning that you serve where you, the local church, the Superintendent, and the Ministerial Appointments Committee (MAC) discern God has you in a given season.



WWW.VALLEYCHAPEL.ORG

3415 RT 19S, WARSAW, NY 14569

EMAIL: CONNECT@VALLEYCHAPEL.ORG

PHONE: (585) 786-5445