



2023 Local Church Conference
Community Wesleyan Church

Alive Together in the Warmth of Jesus Christ



2023 CWC LCC Ministry Reports

*The list below is both an organizational chart of CWC ministries
as well as a table of contents for this 2023 LCC booklet.*

All ministries are listed in alphabetical order.

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Administration

Pastor Nathan Metz

Facilities Team

Finance Team

Local Board of Administration



Lead Pastor Report

2023 Local Church Conference

Prepared by Pastor Nathan Metz

It's been a year of growth at CWC. We've grown spiritually, organizationally, numerically, financially, in ministry, reach, impact and experience. As you read through this 2023 LCC Ministry Report packet, you will witness the testimony of God's faithfulness and fruitfulness in His people. Here at 161 Myrtle we are responding to His call and reaping His rewards. I'd like to touch on a few key factors that have contributed to this recent growth and a few that will likely/certainly be a component of the road ahead.

First, I see three concepts that have helped bring us to this place. They are (1) an emphasis on young families, (2) improvement of reputation and (3) meaningful investment opportunities.

Emphasis on Young Families

With the exception of a few small details, the Children's Wing and Chapel renovations were completed a few months into this past church year. Under the leadership of Pastor Lyndsey, there has been a burst of energy in our children's ministry, youth group, young adults and young families. Our church took a great hit through the pandemic with the majority of our congregational attrition occurring in families 40 and under. We love the energy and optimism of our young generations and the way they impact our church. God has been good to help us grow in the addition of exciting young families!

Improvement of Reputation

The idea of an "improved reputation" is not specifically related to a "poor reputation" or a reputation specific to CWC. As we discussed at the last LCC, the general reputation of the Church in Licking County has been significantly wounded over the past 20-30 years. Our challenge in spreading the Gospel of Jesus Christ begins with improving our standing in the community. We have put considerable effort into the public facing image through rebranding, website and events. We've also worked hard to make social impacts through a number of outreach ministries led by Pastor Jade. Consistency has been a key focus as we have tried to create and maintain healthy patterns and traditions. We desire to increasingly become a trusted source of health and home.

(cont.)

Meaningful Investment Opportunities

One of the key indicators of a healthy church is the way they invest in each other and in others. Over the past year, our church has grown significantly in this area. The 10X10 challenge created a practical entry point for tithing as a personal and family investment in God's work through CWC. Since the announcement of the 10X10 challenge, we've witnessed a growth in giving paired with a growth in heart-felt awareness and attentiveness. In October last year, we entered into a series called "StepUp" which was paired with a StepUp discipleship workbook. We had a large portion of the congregation that participated in that initial move of discipleship, many of which have continued through today. These meaningful investment opportunities build a sense of purpose that establishes our value and identity as a body of believers.

While the list growth contributors is far longer than I've mentioned here, I do believe these three areas are the most impactful and worthy of recognition. As we reflect on the successes of God's work in the past 12 months, let's also consider His coming movement and the road ahead. Here are a few things to consider as we desire to capture God's vision for us:

Leadership Growth

From my view, there is always an attention to balance in the organizational chart. We don't want to get too 'bottom heavy' where we lack the leadership to guide our growth. We also don't want to get too 'top heavy' where we have more leaders than we need. There's an old saying, "too many cooks spoils the soup". I see the opposite being true as well, "too few cooks spoils the soup". The kitchen needs balance. As we stand right now, we are in need of leadership and development. I believe God will continue bring, call and grow leaders to help us maximize fruitfulness in His calling. I'm so thankful for those who have taken strong leadership roles, owned their contribution to the congregation, sacrificed for the cause and remained consistently trustworthy over the years. Let's pray that God continues to bring the leaders required for the road ahead. (cont.)

Waiting

For three years, since July 1st of 2020, we have had our foot pressed firmly on the gas. I believe it is now time for a season of waiting on the Lord. Perhaps a good verse for the coming chapter is found in Psalm 33:20-22 which states "We wait in hope for the Lord, he is our help and our shield. In him our hearts rejoice, for we trust in his holy name. May your unfailing love be with us, Lord, even as we put our hope in you." What power there is in surrender to the love of God! There is no 'inactivity' in our waiting. Rather, it a heart posture of waiting for the Lord that enables true movement to occur for the Kingdom. Consider the instruction of Moses in Exodus 14 to the Hebrew people as they saw Pharaoh and the Egyptians closing in. He said, "Do not be afraid. Stand firm and you will see the deliverance the Lord will bring you today. The Egyptians you see today you will never see again. The Lord will fight for you; you need only to be still." Be still. We are never given a moment to shrug, idle or sleep. Our waiting is not lethargy or apathy but dependance, trust and victory. Practically speaking, it looks like a focus on today, a trust in God's movement, a rest and peace in the work He is currently doing among us. Maybe it's an "if it ain't broke..." kind of season. Maybe it's a "give time to work" kind of a season. Whatever the case, I believe God will do immeasurably more than we could ever ask, we need only to rest in Him.

I'm so thankful for the role He has placed me in as your pastor. I love being with you and I love who we are becoming. The past three years have been not been easy. I've learned a lot and I still have a lot to learn. I appreciate your grace in allowing me time to grow and learn how to best fulfill God's appointment. In the past couple of months, I've felt the wear of pressing petal to metal for nearly 10 years in ministry. After seven years in Uganda and an immediate transition to three years thus far at Community Wesleyan Church, I'm keenly aware of my limitations, health and sustainability. God has used my wife, children and close friends to help me regain some balance, establish healthier patterns and rest in the loving provision of our Lord. I'm thankful for an incredible pastoral team of Godly leaders working together in great harmony. The next year will surprise us all because God wastes nothing and shows His loving power every day. We're positioned to thrive in this community and see transformation like never before. My heart is with Christ for the Kingdom beginning on Myrtle, then to Newark, Licking County, Ohio and to the ends of the earth. May His name be made great through Community Wesleyan Church.



Facilities Team

2023 Local Church Conference

Prepared by Donald Smith

Ministry Leaders

Donald Smith

Ministry Function

Oversee maintenance and repair of the physical church facility and grounds.

How To Pray

wisdom in guiding the church and volunteers.

This has truly been a year of transition for the Trustees. A few of the major shifts have been from large projects to maintenance, Trustees to Facilities Team, and from Trustees to LBA.

The church saw some really amazing transformations that reached far beyond the Trustees and were accomplished by a host of volunteers. As we wrapped up those projects, we shifted our focus to maintaining our aging building. I don't say that in a negative way, but the older the building gets, the more maintenance will be required. Here are just a few things that the Trustees accomplished this year: Upgrades to our sign, including new LED lighting, additional LED lighting installed for new church signage, landscaping clean up, parking lot repairs, LED lighting upgrades inside the church, HVAC repairs and maintenance, youth area upgraded to smart thermostat, motion sensor light switch upgrades, security cameras and lightning, and more.

The next two shifts go together. In accordance with updated disciplines from the Wesleyan denomination, we have eliminated the traditional Trustees Team. Moving forward the Head Trustee will coordinate with the Facilities Team to accomplish the physical tasks of maintaining our facilities. This also means that the LBA has taken on the role of "Board of Trustees" and will assume the administrative duties of the Trustees.

Over the next year I'd like to focus on setting us up for the future, and whatever God has in store for CWC. With your support, we can take excellent care of our building, make energy efficient upgrades, continue to build our Facilities Team, and ensure that our physical facilities are in the best shape possible to support our church and ministries as we grow together.



Finance Team

2023 Local Church Conference

Prepared by Terri Snelling

Ministry Leaders

Terri Snelling

Ministry Function

The Finance Committee and Treasurer team exists to serve Christ and His Church as they advise the Lead Pastor and LBA of finances and resources.

How To Pray

Pray for God's protection and abundant provision and for guidance for the Pastoral staff and leaders in the church to find the best ways to use these funds so that the warmth of Jesus is shown throughout our community and throughout the world and lives are saved and transformed!

It is hard to believe that another conference year draws to a close, but here we are! Well, actually, here you are! I am so sorry that I am not here with you at this time. I am most likely in the middle of Kentucky right now bringing Allison home from her freshman year at the University of Alabama! I would like to thank Pastor Nathan and the members of the Finance Committee taking over for me this evening. I would not be able to do what I do without them. I also appreciate my tellers and secretaries on Sunday mornings who count the money each week and take it to the bank and to the ushers and security team that take it back to the safe each week. A special thank you to Matt Booth for his help in making sure our pastoral staff gets paid and to Becky Bowden for getting the credit card receipts sorted and recorded.

I feel so blessed to be able to report that our church is doing very well even in a post-pandemic environment with high inflation. With one month still left to go we have received in giving for general funds \$375,205. I have faith that our goal of \$387,000 will be surpassed! Our Pastoral staff has been very good at watching expenses throughout the year but utilizing funds in order to serve Christ and share His love with others.

A lot has happened over this past year, some of which you can see physically throughout the church but even more so from the lives that have been saved and transformed throughout the community and the world through the ministry of this church. We still give at least 10% of our giving to domestic (5%) and foreign (5%) missions. (cont.)

Enclosed you'll find a copy of the proposed budget for the 2023-24 fiscal year (Appendix A). The report shows the 2022-23 budget, expenses incurred through April, 2023, and the planned budget approved by the LBA for next year. Additionally, there is a second enclosure that covers the full spending of the 2021-2022 fiscal year (Appendix B) as well as a breakdown of spending from the parsonage sale.

For the past two years the budget was set the same at \$387,000. You will notice that for 2023-24 we have increased the budget to \$420,435. This is an approximate 8.64% increase.

There are many programs in this church that are taking off and we want to do more in the coming year. This may seem like a leap of faith to do so but Matthew 19:26 says: And looking at them Jesus said to them, "With people this is impossible, but with God all things are possible".

There will be checks and balances. Pastor Nathan and the pastoral staff are very good about staying close to their budgets and slowing down spending at times of the year if needed and the Finance Committee and LBA are kept informed of the spending throughout the year.

Finally, this comes with a sad but peaceful heart to let you know that I will be stepping down as the treasurer at some point this year. Believe it or not, I really have enjoyed doing this and this was a hard decision to make. This position takes a lot of time and I need to be with my family more. I will still be serving on the Finance Committee and hope to be assisting the new treasurer whoever that may be to help lighten their load. I appreciate all of the support and love you have given me since 2019. Love you all.



Local Board of Administration

2023 Local Church Conference

Prepared by Jason Hays

Ministry Leaders

Jason Hays
(Vice Chair)

Ministry Function

The LBA (Local Board of Administration) is made up of representatives of the local church body and serves as the chief governing body of the church. The LBA oversees the administrative tasks needed to operate the church and is responsible, with the pastor, for protecting the mission of the church.

How To Pray

Pray God will grant the LBA wisdom with how best our church can carry out His mission in Newark, the surrounding area, and the world. Pray that He will give us a spirit of unity and peace when faced with difficult decisions.

This was an exciting year for CWC! The LBA does not always act as the hands and feet of ministry but has the privilege of empowering and sending the pastors, staff and members of our church out to do the work of Jesus. Some highlights of this year were:

Chapel & Children's Wing Renovation – The chapel and children's wing of our church desperately needed attention. Many years had passed since it received the TLC it needed. Our design and trustee teams worked together to transform our chapel from a place which tried to perform many different functions over the years and ended up performing none of them well into a beautiful place where our church body can comfortably come together for smaller gatherings.

Branding – As you have surely noticed, the outside of the old portion of the church received a fresh coat of paint, new windows, improved lighting and new signage. Next time you drive by, try to picture the way our church presented itself to anyone driving by on 21st street before and after the refresh! Along with this, our website was also refreshed to match.

Discipleship – As many of you know, except for isolated pockets, discipleship is an area our church has struggled with over the years. Many programs and initiatives have come and gone, and none have managed to stick for very long. We needed a cohesive vision to help those in our body pursue a deeper relationship with Jesus in step with one another, not leave each person on their own to figure it out. The launch of Step Up and the emphasis on pursuing Jesus together was much needed. This program shows great potential, and our youth are leading the way! We encourage our pastoral team to keep up the good work in discipleship and to not grow weary in spurring us on to greater depths in our relationship with Jesus. We encourage you, our local church body, to not view this as something that others need to do. This is for all of us, young or old, male or female, new believer or seasoned prayer warrior. We all need each other to successfully run this race.



Outreach

Pastor Jade Metz

Celebrate Recovery

Night To Shine

Operation Christmas Child

Sewing Sisters

Women's Ministry



Outreach

2023 Local Church Conference

Prepared by Pastor Jade Metz

Missions Committee

Tom & Kathy
Bradley, Kristina
Booth, Sherin Collins
and Jeff Jones

I am so proud of how we incorporate missions into every area of the church. Mission's isn't only about prayer and giving...it's about action too! It makes me so excited to look back over the year and to see how God has woven missions into disc golfing, Scripture memory, sewing quilts, cooking chili, running 5K's, serving breakfast, drinking tea and dancing the night away! I truly love this church! God is so good!

We at CWC give 10% of our tithe to missions.

Five percent of our budget goes to Domestic Missions.

We invest in: Fostering Further, Hope Landing, Heartbeats, Seven Baskets, Echoing Hills, Vertical 196, Trail Life, American Heritage Girls, Fairmount Camp Scholarships, Benevolence, Celebrate Recovery and Night To Shine

We are continually blessed by our partnership with Fostering Further. For the last two years, Fostering Further has given us the opportunity of hosting their annual Christmas Party for foster care families. The Speeders Group as well as The Booth's Sunday school class served breakfast to all the families who attended.

We also partner with Fostering Further by being a Hope Landing Partner. In 2021, Fostering Further purchased an apartment building and asked churches to adopt units in the building. Every month CWC invests funds in Hope Landing to help keep the operations going. We have been blessed with the opportunity to invest in 4 young adults since August 2021. Days before our new tenant arrives, CWC volunteers deep clean and stock the apartment with dozens of Welcome Home items. When our young adults arrives, their apartment is fully equipped with everything they could possibly need! From pots and pans, toothbrushes and toothpaste, a pantry full of food, trashcans and brooms, to a perfectly made bed to collapse in. It's incredible! In April, the young man living in our apartment (who works 3 part time jobs and attends college) had an urgent need for repairs on his vehicle. We were able to pay for the tow and repairs for him. We praise God for allowing us to serve youth aging out of foster care in this way!

We are partners with the Licking County Education Center, who have counselors in our schools. Our church equips the school counselors with Couch Surfing Kits. When counselors know of children who are in unstable living situations and are essentially "couch surfing", they can discreetly equip the children with this kits. The kits are filled with all the essentials needed for an overnight stay! (cont.)

We also give to Heartbeats, a faith based ministry that provides pregnancy tests, ultrasounds, support groups and parenting classes for vulnerable men and women in our community. Seven Baskets, a faith-based community development corporation that works to break the cycle of generational poverty through tutoring and mentoring, is another organization we regularly give to. We love investing in Echoing Hills, who for 50 years has supported thousands of families through camps and outreach to people with disabilities. We support Vertical 196, a daytime drop-in HOPE center for the homeless population in Licking County. Vertical 196 offers lunch, showers, haircuts, laundry facilities, Bibles and clothing to the community. We not only financially support Vertical 196 but this year we participated in their 5K as well as donated non perishable food several times.

We love our CWC students! We support them by offering scholarships to Kids Camp and Teen Camp at Fairmount Wesleyan Camp as well investing in Trail Life and American Heritage Girls meetings and events.

Our Benevolence Ministry has been able to bless dozens of people in our community with financial help, food and fuel over the last year. We blessed a young women visiting Licking County from Estonia with a bike, provided a ramp to family in our church and helped a woman in our neighborhood repair her fence from a fallen tree. It's a blessing to be able to help people in real time when they need it most. Those we have offered assistance to are always so grateful for the practical ways we are able to offer them support!

Celebrate Recovery relaunched at CWC in March of 2022. Our average weekly attendance of adults and children is 35. We have between 45 and 60 people who attend our Testimony nights! Praise the Lord! Celebrate Recovery is a Christ-centered, 12-step recovery program for anyone struggling with hurt, pain or addiction of any kind. Nationwide statistics show that only 3 out of 10 people who attend Celebrate Recovery have a drug or alcohol addiction. That means 7 out of 10 people are investing in their personal growth of overcoming things like anger, stress, loneliness, grief, depression, anxiety, food addiction, sexual addiction and codependency. Incredible!

Night to Shine is an unforgettable prom night experience, centered on God's love, for people with special needs ages 14 and older. In February, we had 495 guests, volunteers and buddies at CWC for Night To Shine. There were 600+ host churches worldwide, in 46 countries, with tens of thousands of Kings and Queens who participated in Night to Shine. What an awesome night!
(cont.)

Five percent of our budget goes to Foreign Missions.

We invest in: Operation Christmas Child, Global Partners Missionaries, World Gospel Mission Missionaries, and The Dignity Project

We support Operation Christmas Child, a project of Samaritan's Purse, an international relief organization. Their mission is to provide local partners around the world with shoeboxes filled with small toys, hygiene items, and school supplies as a means of reaching out to children in their own communities with the Good News of Jesus Christ. Community Wesleyan Church covers the expense of the postage of every shoe box we fill as well as collecting boxes packed full of meaningful gifts to children in need.

We support Ryan and Sarah Schmitz with Global Partners, serving in Nicaragua as well as another GP missionary *J* in an undisclosed location. We've had the blessing of being visited by both of these GP missionaries this year! In June 2022, we hosted 'Tea With Sarah' and in March 2023 'Tea With *J*'. Our CWC women gather for tea and listen to our missionaries stories. We laugh, pray, cry, drink tea and eat scones! It's a huge blessing for us and for our missionaries too!

We also support Tiffany Janofski with World Gospel Mission, serving in Albania. Tiffany will be visiting us in August 2023. We can't wait to have her!

The Dignity Project, a ministry of World Gospel Mission, is another Foreign Mission we invest in! For many in Uganda, disposable sanitary products are simply not affordable. Women are forced to use ineffective and often harmful alternatives. Young ladies frequently miss school and humiliation burdens them every month. The Dignity Project is providing hope in the face of this basic need.

This year we've also had the opportunity to help provide emergency support in global tragedies. We provided 8 tents and dozens of pounds of food for families in Turkey who lost their homes in the earthquake. We have also continued to help families in Uganda and Ukraine with emergency food relief.

I am so grateful to the Missions Committee, who prayerfully help CWC steward the missions funds God has blessed us with! They are wise, generous and sensitive to the Holy Spirit.

It is an honor serving as the Outreach Pastor at CWC!
Thank you for giving me this privilege.

Jade Metz



Celebrate Recovery

2023 Local Church Conference

Prepared by Rich Riley

Ministry Leaders

Rich Riley &
Steve Duggins

Ministry Function

Celebrate Recovery is a Christ-centered, 12 step recovery program for anyone struggling with hurt, pain or addiction of any kind.

How To Pray

For Celebrate Recovery to continue to be a safe place where people find community and freedom from the hurts, habits and hangups that are weighing them down.

There is a saying in recovery that, “people change when the pain of not changing becomes worse than the pain of changing”. What we have seen over the past year in Celebrate Recovery is the change that our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ can make if we just get out of the way and let Him. If you were to walk into the room on Monday night you would see laughter, fellowship, and most of all willingness. We have been blessed with amazing leaders and volunteers. Every week, we continue to see new people investing in their recovery. Our average weekly attendance of adults and children is 35. We have between 45 and 60 people who attend our Testimony nights.

It warms my heart to see all the sacrifices that have been made to create a safe place for those of us brave enough to take the first step in recovery. Thank you to the leaders and volunteers who show up every Monday night and put on a meal, serve coffee, take out the trash, wipe down tables, babysit kids, set up and tear down the rooms, greet people, lead worship, print out flyers, teach lessons and share testimonies, run sound and provide a safe place for people to invest in their recovery. You do all of it in the name of our Lord!

We have celebrated so many recovery milestones! There is no doubt that the Holy Spirit is present!



Night To Shine

2023 Local Church Conference

Prepared by Sherin Collins

Ministry Leaders

Sherin Collins

Ministry Function

Night to Shine is an unforgettable prom night experience, centered on God's love, for people with special needs ages 14 and older.

How To Pray

Please pray for the 200 guests who attended NTS. Pray they continue to deeply know that they are seen and loved by God and our community! Please pray for our leadership team as we plan a Summer event for our NTS guests.

February 10, 2023 was truly a Night to Shine for CWC and our community. About a year ago God placed Night to Shine on my heart, and I just prayed if this is Your will, make a way. A few months later Amy Brown told me NTS was on her heart. Soon after Amy Riley approached me, then Nikita Moore, Sarah McMaster, and the amazing duo Donald and Emily Smith rounded out our team. I can honestly say that God moved through this entire event. This team was able to communicate, plan, and execute an amazing event. With God's help the team did all this while being good stewards of our time and finances. This years event cost just under \$4,000.

On February 10, 2023 our church hosted around 495 people in our building including, our amazing kings and queens, and our fantastic community members who volunteered. I can honestly say one of my favorite parts of the entire event was Friday morning. Our leadership team and members of the church met and before we started the day to prepare for the evening's event, we walked through the church laying hands on and praying over every entrance into the building, all rooms and areas that would be used for karaoke, popcorn, party bus, hair and make up, coat check, flowers, the sanctuary where the dance was, and even the kitchen where Ellen and her amazing team cooked a meal for all our guests. That evening, we got to crown our over 200 guests with special needs from our community as kings and queens of the prom, reminding them that they are special, they are seen, they are loved by their community but more importantly, they are loved by God.

Thank you CWC for all the ways you volunteered to make this night possible. You made cards, hung signs, folded napkins, cooked food, baked treats, swept carpets, blew up hundreds of balloons, set up and tore down rooms, cheered loudly, danced joyfully, loved purely and so much more! Stay tuned as we have plans to Shine On this Summer!



Women's Ministry

2023 Local Church Conference

Prepared by Pastor Jade Metz

There are weekly, monthly and semi-annual opportunities for CWC women (and friends!) to gather together! Whether you want to take a deep-dive into the Bible, sew a quilt, have girl time at a local restaurant or sip tea and encourage missionaries, we have a seat waiting for you!

Every Wednesday morning from 10am-12pm we have Ladies Bible Study! Several dozen women gather every week to take a deep dive into the Bible, encourage one another and pray together. It's a time of rich fellowship and learning! Want to join? Contact Deb Pintz at: depintz@gmail.com

Thursday mornings are for sewing! Are you a creative person who loves using your hands for God's glory? Come sew and write cards with Sewing Sisters! This wonderful group of women truly desire to encourage the Church and community through the gifts of creating! They meet every Thursday from 10am-12pm. Want to join? Contact Ellen Leckrone at: ellenleckrone@gmail.com

Are you an Empty-Nester looking for community? It can be really tough when our children are launched into the world! As an Empty Nester looking for community, Marcee Richardson wrote one hand written invitation at a time to women in the same season of life as her to dinner. One by one the women said "yes" to dinner, proving that we are all looking for friendship and belonging! Now, on the first Thursday of every month a vibrant group of women gather at a local restaurant to eat, talk and share the highs and lows of life together! Not an Empty Nester but love food and fellowship? Join us! Contact Marcee Richardson at: rich30525@gmail.com

Semi-Annually the women of CWC gather together over tea and scones and get to know our missionary women. We hear from our missions around the world and spend the morning encouraging and praying for them. It's a huge blessing for us and for our missionaries too!



Sewing Sisters

2023 Local Church Conference

Prepared by Ruth Steffee and Ellen Leckrone

Ministry Leaders

Ruth Steffee &
Ellen Leckrone

Ministry Function

Our purpose is to share love and support to the people of our congregation with the comfort of a quilt, blanket or cards in their time of need.

How To Pray

Please pray that everyone who receives blankets, quilts or cards from us will know the love and warmth of Jesus Christ!

Our group meets every Thursday 10-12 noon in Room 112. Everyone is welcome to join us, you don't have to be a seamstress. We average 10 ladies and have a special time of fun, fellowship and of course, doing some sewing together.

Our quilts were given to 9 people and were delivered by our sewing group. We also have crocheted lap quilts made by Yvonne Miller to be used for our special giving.

Our card ministry mailed more than 170 cards to people in need of a special "pick me up" and were prayed for during our meeting. Our group assisted in the Night to Shine evening, serving in the kitchen areas.

We made many craft items for Operation Christmas Child and packed 117 shoeboxes this year from our sewing group. We collect our items all year round. We prepared 300 shoeboxes, packed them with literature and placed the empty boxes under Christmas Tree in the sanctuary for our congregation members to take and fill. Several of our ladies assisted with the National Drop-Off Week as well.

In the near future we will be making some sitting mats for The Children's area.

Finally, we have measured, cut and matched materials to make 75+ Dress-A-Girl dresses to be sewn and sent to children who need them around the world. We were gifted 100 crocheted 2½" flowers to be used on the dresses. Thank you for your gift!

Blessings!
Ruth and Ellen



Operation Christmas Child

2023 Local Church Conference

Prepared by Ruth Steffee

Ministry Leaders

Ruth Steffee &
Ellen Leckrone

Ministry Function

To provide local partners around the world with shoeboxes filled with small toys, hygiene items, and school supplies as a means of reaching out to children in their own communities with the Good News of Jesus Christ.

How To Pray

Please pray for the 31,674 children who received shoe boxes this year. Pray for their salvation and discipleship.

Our 2022 National Shoebox Collection Week was Nov.14-21 and what a great week! This was our 6th year as being a designated Drop-Off location for our community. CWC received a special 5-year recognition plaque in September for our support of Operation Christmas Child/Shoebox Ministry.

Shoeboxes have been filled and delivered since 1993 & now reaching out to many countries. Three new areas: unreached Himba people, hearing impaired children in Namibia & children in Suriname. During collection week 2022, over 9.3 million Shoeboxes were collected in the U.S. Thank you for giving your filled shoebox. Every shoebox is a special gift you made possible for a special child.

Our congregation filled 141 boxes, American Heritage Girls 26, Quilting Ladies 117, for a total from CWC 284. Thank You! Community Drop-offs 459, YMCA & Look-Up Center 2272 for a total 3015 Shoeboxes packed in cartons, loaded on 26' U-Haul to Etna, then transferred onto 5 semi-trailers for delivery to Zenia, then to Charlotte, N.C., where final inspection of each box is done & sealed for shipment. We are part of Columbus East Division in Etna, with our total shoeboxes being 31,674 opportunities to Witness the Gospel of our loving Lord.

Thank you to my 20 volunteers & 193 hrs. of loving labor the week of collection! Our expenses were \$1,763.49 for 26' U-haul, postage, shoeboxes, some items to make crafts & purchased items to complete essential needs for boxes. Our Quilting ladies collect & make items all year round and of course, watch for sales.

We are preparing for another great year of packing Shoeboxes. Thank you for being generous and faithful in filling Shoeboxes. Your prayers are encouraged for this ministry.



Spiritual Formation

Pastor Shawn Barrett

Kind at Heart

Men's Ministry

Refresh

Speeders

Stephen Ministry



Spiritual Formation

2023 Local Church Conference

Prepared by Pastor Shawn Barrett

Ministry Leaders

Pastor Shawn Barrett

Ministry Function

to guide and encourage our congregation, and leaders, to spiritually engage the areas of creative arts, congregational care, and generational ministries

How To Pray

that we continue to receive fresh revelation of God's love and truth for our lives, resulting in transformation and freedom

We have experienced so much in the last year. We have celebrated together, we have cried together, we've made important decisions, and left old ways behind. We've grown in many ways, and this Local Church Conference is a moment to reflect and celebrate God's goodness to us. I have the honor of serving as your Spiritual Formation Pastor. My areas of ministry include Creative Arts, Men's Ministry, Speeders, Stephen Ministry, Hospitality, Pastoral Care, REFRESH Prayer Gathering, and our newest ministry, Kind at Heart.

Ministry is not a solo journey. I have the support of not only the pastoral staff, but also a group of dedicated and faithful leaders that represent the various ministry areas under my supervision. These individuals make ministry happen, and they deserve recognition for their ongoing efforts to provide meaningful opportunities for spiritual connection and growth. Joining me on this journey is the Men's Ministry leadership team - Walt Barrett, Dick Barrett, Robert Campbell, Matt Booth, and Brian Denton, Alice Morgan for Stephen Ministry, Dick and Ruth Barrett for Speeders, Wendy James, Deb Pintz, and Cosetta Priest for REFRESH, Mike Filkins, Marcee Richardson, Ron Moss, and Tonya Fleisher for Hospitality, and Rev. Bruce Knudsen for Kind at Heart. These ministries exist to provide spiritual nourishment and encouragement to our congregation.

Creative Arts includes the Sunday morning Worship Team and Media Team, as well as weekly supplemental resources with the Table Talk Podcast, and online sermon posts on Facebook and YouTube. We desire to create meaningful Sunday morning worship experiences that invite the congregation to encounter God in fresh ways. Our Table Talk Podcast offers listeners a chance to dive deeper into Pastor Nathan's sermon topic for the week and helps them to have expanded takeaways for (cont.)

their daily living. The REFRESH monthly prayer gathering is closely tied to Creative Arts, and the REFRESH team have put together some unique and meaningful prayer experiences this past year, with everything from a bonfire to a night of painting, a night of worship, and prayer time focused on the pastoral staff and our various ministry areas. Men's Ministry has been meeting monthly for Saturday morning breakfast, where they share a meal and an encouraging devotional challenge. We've also joined together for a number of larger events, including a men's retreat last October, and most recently we gathered to watch the March Madness tournament. Men's ministry has some exciting plans for the coming year, with a monthly discipleship gathering slated to begin in the early Fall. Speeders continues to minister to our over 55 community. This past year they made many visits to those in need, as well as sending gifts of encouragement. Stephen Ministry continues to actively provide Christ-centered care to people in the congregation and the community who are experiencing life difficulties. In the past year, they have met the needs of nine people through their ministry. Hospitality and Pastoral Care are under the umbrella of Congregational Care, and these ministry areas were recently placed under my supervision. In the coming year, we plan to implement effective strategies for connecting with people who visit our church on a Sunday morning, as well as connect with those in our congregation who may need a visit from a pastor. Finally, Kind at Heart is our newest ministry, and it seeks to meet the needs of those in our elderly community through the means of encouragement, visitation, and home improvement. This is a much-needed ministry in our church, and we are grateful for the leadership of Rev. Bruce and Sena Knudsen, as well as the Kind at Heart committee.

This is an overview of these areas, and these are only a few areas of ministry in our church. No description or recap can fully explain the meaningful work that is happening on a weekly basis. Ministry happens because you say yes to God's call to serve. I need to take a moment to give our congregation and lay leaders a word of encouragement. I believe in you. I believe in more than just the work that you are doing in ministry. It's more than your output – I believe in your hearts. It's what you're made of that is admirable, and it drives what you do. It's who you are when no one is looking. It's integrity, it's compassion, it's a longing for communion with God and it spills over into how you serve. Ministry is hard work, and we do it for the ultimate honor of one day hearing, "Well done, good and faithful servant". We know that we cannot earn our salvation or repay God through our effort. But we serve because we desire to be a living sacrifice for his honor and glory, and that is how we worship him. I encourage you to seek truth and walk in innocence and purity. The Holy Spirit will give you discernment and lead you to those who need healing and restoration. There are many who are waiting to hear the Gospel, and you may be their best opportunity to experience the transforming power of Jesus. Stay the course, live for God one day at a time, listen to the Spirit, and know that you are being prayed for and loved.



Kind At Heart

2023 Local Church Conference

Prepared by Pastor Shawn Barrett

Ministry Leaders

Rev. Bruce &
Sena Knudsen

Ministry Function

to share the warmth of Jesus Christ by discipling the aged and persons with disabilities through encouragement, visitation and home improvement.

How To Pray

pray that we can effectively connect with those in need, and offer hope in the name of Jesus Christ.

Kind at Heart may be a new ministry to Community Wesleyan, but the Knudsens have years of experience in Arkansas with the ministry and they are excited to bring not only the name but the heart of the ministry to our church. Kind at Heart exists to serve those who face hardship due to age or disability. The three main areas of focus are encouragement, visitation, and home improvement.

Encouragement takes the form of phone calls, sending birthday cards, or just being sensitive in the recognition of difficult milestones. Visitation can happen as a home visit, a nursing home check-in, or even administering in-home communion for those who are unable to attend a service in person. Finally, home improvement can provide some much needed freedom by installing a wheelchair ramp, grip bars in a shower, or even handrails to assist with movement around the home.

This new ministry just kicked off a couple weeks ago, but momentum is already building for adding new volunteers as well as connecting with those in need of assistance. It cannot be stated enough how important it is for our elderly population to experience community and interaction on a regular basis. Kind at Heart provides care on many levels, and we pray that we may be a welcomed addition to the many important ministries at CWC.



Men's Ministry

2023 Local Church Conference

Prepared by Pastor Shawn Barrett

Ministry Team

Dick Barrett
Walt Barrett
Matt Booth
Robert Campbell
Brian Denton

Ministry Function

empowering men to
live transformed
lives that reflect
integrity, humility,
and passionate
devotion to Jesus
Christ.

How To Pray

continued
participation of men
in discipleship and
service
opportunities.

Men's ministry had a number of meaningful events that connected them to one another and to the community. We had our inaugural men's retreat in early October 2022, heading to Dillon State Park and spending some time together in nature. We dodged some rain playing disc golf, watched an OSU game, played some actual golf, and had some great reflection time by the campfire with a guest speaker and worship leader. We're excited to make our 2023 retreat even better, and we hope to make it an annual highlight for the ministry.

We had some recent events with a fun March Madness get together, as well as a meaningful service opportunity to remove a local neighbor's fallen tree from their fence. All of this happened in addition to a monthly Saturday morning breakfast that gave men an opportunity to share a meal together and receive some spiritual encouragement. In the coming months, we will be introducing an exciting new monthly discipleship gathering. Men's ministry is heading toward deeper discipleship and more intentional opportunities to gather and have fun, grow together, and serve together.



Speeders

2023 Local Church Conference

Prepared by Dick Barrett

Ministry Team

Dick & Ruth Barrett

Ministry Function

to provide
encouragement,
prayer and
fellowship for those
age 55 and older.

How To Pray

please remember to
pray for all of our
seniors who have
health issues.

Speeders is our senior group at CWC for anyone over age 55. We focus on encouragement, prayer and fellowship. We have a monthly breakfast on the third Saturday of the month, at 9:00am. As a team, we have visited 100 people who are shut-ins, in nursing homes, assisted living, or in the hospital. We gave out Christmas fruit baskets and Easter gifts to shut-ins. We handed out 20 Afghan blankets that Yvonne Miller made. We sent out 40 cards of encouragement, including get well cards, and those that had statements of prayer and thinking of you. We also helped put on the foster kids breakfast. We will always show God's love to one another. We have been blessed by the honor to serve one another!



Refresh

2023 Local Church Conference

Prepared by Wendy James

Ministry Team

Deb Pintz,
Cosetta Priest &
Wendy James

Ministry Function

To deepen believer communication and love relationship with God through prayer.

How To Pray

that Holy Spirit would move in each believer to deepen our communication and love relationship with God through prayer. May God the Father, Jesus Christ, Holy Spirit make us Kingdom Warriors, filled up, prayed up, readied up to do His Will, His Way, for His Glory.

We, CWC, remember, celebrate and thank You, Lord, for all of Your answers to our prayers. We remember the saints before us who were a people of prayer, who planted the seed that has now become this flourishing place we call CWC. Building on this firm foundation of prayer, Refresh: A Year in Prayer launched in Fall of 2022. Our goal was to pray, to educate about prayer and to raise up a people of prayer, for the Glory of God. On the first Wednesday of every month, our beautifully renewed Chapel opened its doors to a themed hour of specially focused prayer.

Throughout the year we have enjoyed gathering in small groups and large, covering such topics as all CWC pastors, their families and ministries, a seasonal emphasis on giving thanks and on Jesus's birth and resurrection, an active invitation to Holy Spirit to speak through worship song and art events, and hundreds of hours of general prayer by individual worshippers. God has heard our prayers and He has responded so faithfully, and we thank Him. Testimonials have been shared of healings, prodigals returning, the youth group enlarging and growing stronger together, community and world outreach meeting multiple needs, Holy Spirit led revival, The Word of God preached and prayed and received, CWC ministry teams expanding and activating.

Through Refresh we have lingered, loved and leaned in to all that God IS and is doing, in and through, by His Power. We have come together and communicated with each other on common ground before the Lord. We have looked to SEE, listened to HEAR, sensed to FEEL, finding ourselves and our church, Refreshed. Throughout the coming year, look for an increase in Open Door Chapel prayer-time, as we go to a weekly format of invitation to "sanctuary" with The Lord in prayer. All are welcome!



Stephen Ministry

2023 Local Church Conference

Prepared by Alice Morgan

Ministry Leaders

Alice Morgan

Ministry Function

offer a way to provide high-quality, confidential, one-to-one, Christ-centered care to people in the congregation and the community experiencing life difficulties.

How To Pray

pray for our Care-Recipients as they deal with many difficult situations. Some of them are not Christ followers, and our ultimate goal is to lead them to a personal relationship with Jesus. Pray for our Care-Givers that they will be full of the Holy Spirit and good listeners as they meet with their individual each week. Pray for people to be aware of this ministry and that those who need help will reach out to us.

We meet bi-weekly for continuing education and supervision. This year we completed the book, “Don’t Sing Songs to a Heavy Heart.” By Kenneth Haugk and “Caring Criticism” by William Diehm. These books have taught us a lot about how to interact with people who are hurting and learning that our words can bring devastation or blessings. Our motive in Continuing Education is this: “Christian life - like all life is dynamic. It has direction and involves growth. Eph 4:15 reads “Instead, by speaking the truth in a spirit of love, we must grow up in every way to Christ who is the head.”. God calls us to grow. We are always moving, but never arriving. We grow in our awareness of our need for growth.

Our supervision, led by Deb Pintz, helps us to be the best care-givers we can be for those we minister to and for accountability.

This fiscal year, we have ministered to nine (9) people through their individual crisis or difficulty. Care-Givers have spent an average of one hour a week with their care receiver. Our Care-Givers have been able to see real growth in their Care-Recipients, and have seen them become more emotionally healthy through their weekly care. Currently we have four Stephen Ministers who have no Care-Receiver.



Student Ministries

Pastor Lyndsey Harshbarger

Children's and Youth Ministries

American Heritage Girls

TrailLife

Young Adults



Student Ministries

2023 Local Church Conference

Prepared by Pastor Lyndsey Harshbarger

Ministry Leaders

Pastor Lyndsey
Harshbarger

Ministry Function

to develop consistent,
vibrant and healthy
families who are
passionately following
Jesus through
discipleship and fun

How To Pray

for continued
spiritual growth,
depth with Jesus and
a continued spirit of
defeating sin and
furthered holiness in
our students

Hey Church! Wow, what a year we have had! I am still incredibly in awe that this is my JOB! I seriously love this life I am living. I am still working to further my education at Indiana Wesleyan University as well as working with Pastor Nathan to get my district license. Additionally, Josh and I are adopting if you don't already know. We are just patiently waiting on that phone call!! YAY!

The CWC student ministries are SLAYING! Let me teach you an important lesson, my church family. This year the word the teens have taught us is "slay". It means awesome, cool, amazing, fantastic, great! So there is your teen lingo lesson. We have had salvation and baptisms and we have not only grown numerically but in a healthy culture through discipleship, TIDE and dying to the flesh. This past year the student ministries have continued to memorize scripture and have family events. Pastor Jade and I had another successful Chili Cook off to raise money for the youth retreat.

This past year brought about something really exciting and that is the Turning the TIDE family work books. Pastor Nathan and I have worked together and developed a parent and teen workbook to help families develop healthy family culture. This was birthed from a conversation I had on Nathan and Jade's front porch. I was expressing that I wished I had a tool to give families to dialog with their teens in a healthy way. These books have been reviewed by professionals of various kinds like, professors and Doctors. As well as parents and teens themselves. The reviews we have received have been outstanding!

Additionally, I have started to create a TIDE Elementary curriculum. I have pulled the four key words from those handbooks and broken them down over a years worth of learning and inviting scripture to transform and shape Trust, Identity, Discipline and Emotion in the lives of Elementary students. (cont.)

I believe these topics are foundational in preparing kids for their teen years. I have a creative team that is doing a fabulous job at helping me create activities and games to go along with the Bible Stories. We are hopeful to have the year's curriculum near completion by August.

This year in the Children's Ministry we have changed our structure a bit and added two Liaison roles. We have added a Sunday Morning Liaison role and a weekly Liaison role. Our Sunday morning liaison, Lisa Yost, is awesome!! She comes in early and prepares the rooms and walks from class to class as service starts to make sure the teachers are all good and assist in any way she can. Our weekly Liaison, Alina Hare comes in once a week and pulls curriculum materials and supplies for the classrooms. She ensures that we have supplies and the tools to complete Sunday morning activities. She is amazing!!

In the Children's ministry we have implemented live Bible story teaching, and are launching in August live worship for the kids. Jessica Jenson is our fearless worship leader for the kids! She is going to be teaching them a worship song once a month, teaching them how to interact with worship and how to respond in worship. We are so excited to implement this in August as the benefit of having someone leading our kiddos in worship will teach them and prepare them for worship in youth group but further than that teaching them a way to express their love for Jesus.

OUR. TEENS. Goodness, I could go on and on about all the amazing things that have happened this year in our teen ministry! From camp to retreats to weekly discipleship to one on one meetings. We have about 20 students who have been meeting for about 16 weeks for discipleship. They come on Sunday evenings and meet from 5-6pm with their discipleship partners. The culture that is being created is one of vibrancy, depth and vulnerability. They are teens who include others and make new people feel welcome quickly. The youth "programming" is run 70% by THEM! From opening prayer, announcements, welcome, scripture reading to the worship team. They are taking ownership of the youth group and leading each other! We have students playing on our worship team and there are others in the making to join. You will begin to see our teens leading and serving every 5th Sunday! They are eager to serve you and to invite you into their world.

Our teens are growing and it is an exciting time in the youth group! I am so excited to see the day that they are teaching my kids. Watch out, they are coming with passion, fire and lots of love to give the world!

Thank you for partnering with the student ministries this past year! We could not do what we do without the support of our church members and family. Thank you volunteers for the hours you put into serving and preparing. Thank you parents for trusting me with your kiddos.

With love and sunshine,
Pastor Lyndsey Harshbarger



American Heritage Girls

2023 Local Church Conference

Prepared by Kristina Booth

Community Wesleyan Church is home to American Heritage Girls (AHG) Troop OH0148. AHG is a Christ-centered character and leadership development program for girls 5 to 18 years of age. AHG is dedicated to the mission of building women of integrity through service to God, family, community, and country. We have approximately 40 girls in AHG Troop OH0148. The 2022-2023 AHG program theme was Shine. We are reminded that even in the darkest night, we can reflect His light, which pierces through the darkness.

Areas of emphasis for this program year included faith, leadership, life skills, friendship, and citizenship. Girls in the troop earned badges in Our Flag, Emergency Preparedness, and Sustainable Living. Some highlights include learning how to participate and lead a flag ceremony, getting CPR training, and learning how to can foods. We also had many girls attend our Faith Award sleepover, where girls learned the building blocks of faith and memorized scriptures.

The troop was involved in many service projects this year including Wreaths Across America and Operation Christmas Child. We also made blankets for Fostering Further and donated supplies to the Humane Society. Our troop served at Night to Shine at the popcorn station and cheering at the red carpet. Another favorite service project was volunteering and cleaning the horse stalls at Heart of a Warrior Farm. These girls definitely know how to work and do it with a smile!

We are excited about our upcoming end of the year party and awards night, where we will celebrate all the accomplishments of our girls and volunteers. We are also looking forward to warmer weather and some camping opportunities this summer.



TrailLife

2023 Local Church Conference

Prepared by Richard Rudolf

Ministry Leaders

Richard Rudolf

Ministry Function

Trail life is a boy-focused program aided at helping to guide, mentor, and develop boys into godly men while being outdoor focused. Trail Life is intended to develop leaders by allowing the trail men to take increasing responsibility.

How To Pray

We would ask for you to pray for guidance for our leadership team, dads of the trail men to step up in leadership and for our trail men to grow in their walk with God.

Trail life is a Christ-centered, boy-focused program aided at helping to guide, mentor, and develop boys into godly men while being outdoor focused. Trail Life is intended to develop leaders by allowing the trail men to take increasing responsibility in the program planning, scheduling, and activities as they advance from Woodlands Trail to Navigators and then onto Adventurers. The program is for kindergarten through 12 grade boys. Our mission is to guide generations of courageous young men to honor God, lead with integrity, serve others, and experience outdoor adventure. Our Trail life motto is “Walk Worthy” - Colossians 1:10 “... that you may walk worthy of the Lord, fully pleasing Him, being fruitful in every good work and increasing in the knowledge of God;...”. The past year was a transition period for our troop. We were still transitioning into new leadership in May 2022 but by the beginning of 2023 had mostly found our rhythm and had a full schedule of activities for 2023. We had some trail men drop out of the program during the past year, but replaced them with new members. Our troop currently has 31 youth and 16 registered adults. Our future plans include community service, a continued Worthy Life study, fundraising, and outdoor activities such as nature hikes, fishing, kayaking, and campouts. We plan to continue skills training in the areas of woodsman’s tools (axe and knife safety), outdoor cooking, fire building/safety, etc. The Worthy Life award is where trail men learn and explore biblical principles through devotion and discipleship activities. This award can be completed at each of the five Trail Life levels.



Young Adults

2023 Local Church Conference

Prepared by Sarah McMaster

Ministry Leaders

Sarah McMaster

Ministry Function

to create a vibrant, vulnerable gathering to walk through life together, in the valleys and mountain tops while deepening our relationships with Jesus and each other.

How To Pray

Pray for God to swing wide the doors of opportunity with Jesus in our community. Young adults are often the largest population without a relationship with Jesus. Pray for them to storm our doors with eagerness to learn more about Jesus!

This year the CWC young adults enjoyed some fun activities, and meaningful small group times. Keegan and Alina Hare opened their home and hosted a weekly small group that allowed for the young adults to continue getting to know each other and grow in closer relationships together. There were also some great activities such as a Thanksgiving dinner at David and Wendy James home, a fun Christmas party, games nights, and more. Since there are some new young adults at CWC one of the focuses over the past year was simply to work on relational warmth and togetherness as a group. In the upcoming months, the young adults would appreciate your prayer as they dig into some deeper study of the Word and topics that are discussed in the weekly sermons. The hope of the leadership of this group is that it will be a place where friendship, community, vulnerability, and life transformation are encouraged and shared. Thanks for your support and prayers!