

First United Church of Christ is a place where hope thrives!

As a community we believe that *God is still speaking*. We listen carefully to our ancestors and to one another to hear what God is saying in our time. **Hope** is at the core of our practice. We build hope through spiritual renewal, active social justice work, extravagant and inclusive welcome, and nurturing and caring for each other and all of God's creation.

We have divided our budget into three categories: Practicing Hope, Partnering in Hope and Nurturing Hope. As you see in the graph below almost half of our expenses this year have gone towards Practicing Hope with the remainder split between Partnering and Nurturing Hope.

What do we mean by these three categories?

Practicing Hope: Supporting Worship, Music, and Solace; Caring for Our Congregational Family

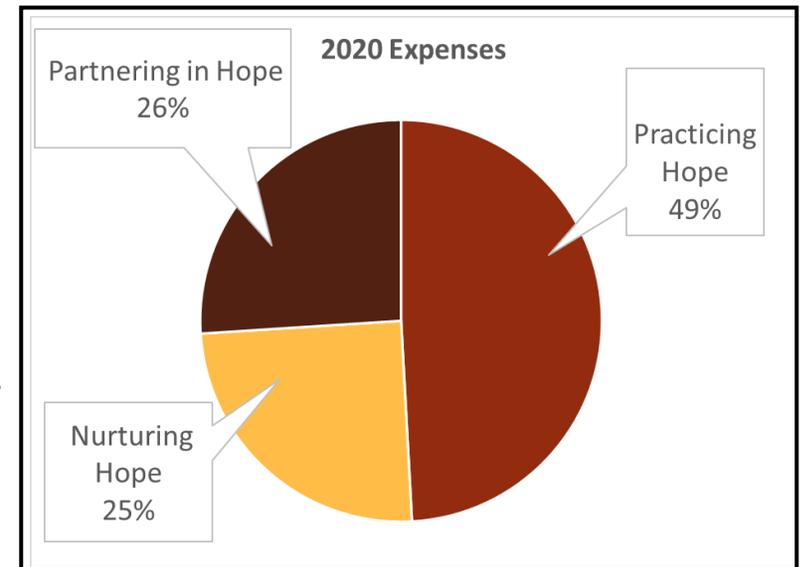
Hope battles despair and makes us resilient to the tumults of life. As a church community we exercise our hope through worship that allows us to gather to pray, sing and build our community with each other and with God. We deepen our understanding and share our stories of hope through worship, sermons, collective prayers and fellowship. First UCC practices hope through our extravagant and inclusive welcome and by affirming our belief in God's promise.

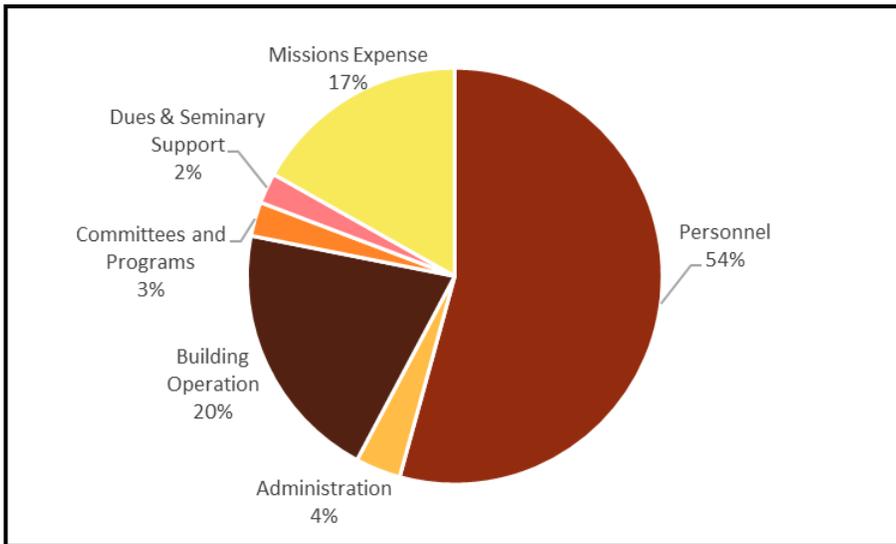
Partnering in Hope: Active community involvement, Investment in the synergy of collective action.

As a church community, we choose hope and join the struggle for hope throughout Northfield, Minnesota and the world. Our congregation commits to being active participants in living God's message and spreading our hope to address community needs. First UCC is a significant contributor to the United Church of Christ and its mission to equip a courageous church (OCWM), and locally an active member in ISAIAH. We are a staunch supporter of the Northfield Community Action Center and an Immigrant Welcoming Church. Adults, families and youth undertake and engage in mission work to partner with communities far beyond Northfield.

Nurturing Hope: Nurturing and teaching all ages

Youth are hope incarnate. Like adults, they need help to nurture and develop their hope and understanding of God's message and its role in guiding them to their future. Similarly, adults engaged in a lifelong journey strengthen their faith and build community. Our church embraces the belief that God is still speaking to us, and that collectively we can grow our hope and understanding of God's message.





Expenses by Functional Area:

Another way to look at expenses is by functional area.

As you can see in the graph at the left, over half of our expenses in 2019 went to Personnel expenses including our ministers, musical and office staff. The next largest area of expense is the cost to keep our building up and running, followed closely by the work we do in the wider world as shown in Missions Expense.

Our hope is able to be built and shared thanks to your support!

What fuels our hope?

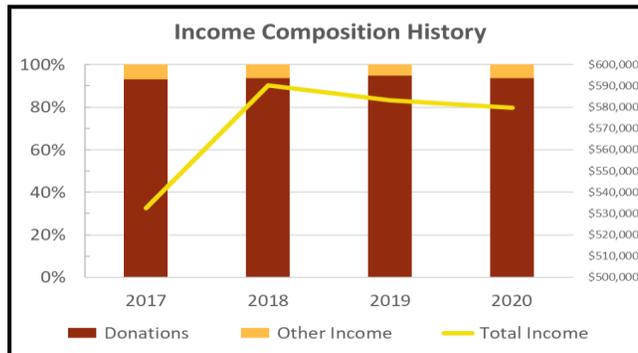
Our church has always been fueled by strong giving. In fact, for the past 7 years, donations have provided over 90% of our income.

Who are our donors?

Our donors are older – almost 80% of our income comes from members 60 or older.

How many give?

First UCC is blessed to have a majority of our households that support its work – Thank You!



Note: this graph has 2 separate scales. The left is what donation sources make up income (the bars), the right shows total income amount (the line).

