

“Each of you must bring a gift in proportion to the way the Lord your God has blessed you.”
(Deuteronomy 16:17, TNIV)

Our Scope of Ministries



Not What I Expected

In our house when you hear the phrase, “It’s not what I expected,” it is not ordinarily a compliment. How was the meal? “It was not what I expected.” How was the show? “It was not what I expected.”

So, when asked about the year 2020, I’d have to say, “It wasn’t what I expected.” I did not expect to have to hunt for weeks to find toilet paper and months to find disinfectant wipes. And as for church, I did not expect to be prevented from

leading worship and studies in person or to be banned from visiting hospitals and nursing homes. However, in the Bible normally when God’s people did not get what they expected, they got a lot more! Abraham expected a child and got a nation; Moses expected to help a beaten slave and ended up leading all the slaves out of Egypt to the Promised Land; and the disciples expected a Messiah to free them from Rome and ended up being freed from the effects of sin and death! In the same way 2020 has brought to our church more than I ever expected. You can read here about some of those things including a greatly expanded food pantry, a growing youth ministry and online technological advances which has led to a much broader audience in the community for the gospel message of hope, help and home. All of these unexpected gains are the result of God’s grace and your generosity.

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Scope of Ministries

“You will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, in all Judea and Samaria and in the greater Austin area and to the end of the earth.” Acts 1:8b, CEB

Ministry is advanced in many ways. This Scope of Ministry provides some examples of the many, varied activities MUMC has undertaken in the last year.

Praising God through Worship and Music

In the wake of COVID-19, the act of gathering for worship as a faith community has evolved in various ways. At the onset of the pandemic, while we ceased worshiping in person, we chose to gather virtually through MUMC’s Facebook page.



Both the traditional and Life on the Road services were streamed online. To enhance the quality of the service via livestream, we purchased a professional camera, purchased software, subscribed to streaming services, and took necessary steps to enhance the sound systems in both worship spaces. As the pandemic has eased some, many of our congregation gather outside

the church building in person, with appropriate social distancing, at 8:30 a.m. by the bell tower

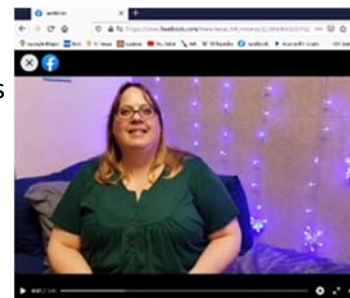


for traditional worship as the service continues to be streamed live via Facebook. The Life on the Road service

continues to be streamed live every Sunday. We have also offered an opportunity for our faith community to participate in Holy Communion by providing “Drive-in” communion on the first Sunday of the month thanks to the purchase of a FM transmitter.

Teaching and Equipping Believers for Effective Service and Ministry

MUMC offers disciples of all ages many opportunities to deepen their faith, grow in their understanding of Scripture and love others through service. Despite the pandemic, we have been able to continue education and faith formation ministry for all ages. Christians in every stage of their faith journey can still find support, learning, and



caring community through online Bible studies, fellowship groups, Friday fun nights, youth groups, book clubs, and even a virtual Vacation Bible School.

Mission and Outreach Reflecting God's Love



The food pantry has been busy since the early days of the pandemic. Marbridge reached out to MUMC for help in feeding their hourly employees at the

beginning of the shut-down, when grocery stores were low on food. The pantry was able to help. Shortly after that, the food pantry was completely emptied out and all items donated to the Baptist church across the street in a combined effort to continue feeding the community.



Like Joseph's store-houses in ancient Egypt, our choir room is filled with food and other grocery items donated by individuals and with food purchased by your generous gifts to the church. As Joseph emerged from prison to feed a hungry world, so our weekday food pantry emerged from temporary closure brought on by the pandemic. The pantry came back strong as a socially distant appropriate Saturday morning drive-through. As many as thirty-five families find help each week as they receive bags of food and toiletries. The smile and relief on their faces says it all. Most never expected to find themselves in this crisis, but neither did they expect to receive

such gracious gifts of love from the church with no strings attached.



From Miss Scarmardo, Akins High School Social Worker: *"As with many things in our world right now, we are seeing an increase in our student's needs related to a variety of issues including financial strife, grief and loss, homelessness, mental health issues, technology accessibility, and more. We are so grateful for the partnership we have with the community at MUMC as your support has been so crucial to helping our student's needs for the past five years."*



MUMC through the Mission team has served students at Akins High School by providing snacks, food bags, clothing items, personal hygiene gift bags, masks, hand sanitizer, toothpaste, tooth brushes, floss, deodorant, shampoo, conditioner, lotion, washcloths and even encouraging notes. Gift cards for haircuts have been made available to students.

At Menchaca Elementary, MUMC purchased and delivered school supplies for students in need when the school opened this fall.

Other outreach programs to the community are our Pumpkin Patch, Christmas Tree Lot, and the Annual Craft Show. These activities are taking place but have been scaled back due to COVID. The income from these events support many MUMC ministries.

Direct Support for Ministries



Despite the pandemic, we have seen growth in our youth group. Students attended weekly zoom

meetings throughout the summer as well as twice-monthly outdoor social events like water games day and putt-putt. This fall our youth alternate

between zoom meetings and meetings at the bell tower. A youth ministry council was started, made up of teens and adults. The group has done a few service projects and will be selling Christmas trees. They look forward to an overdue mission trip next summer.



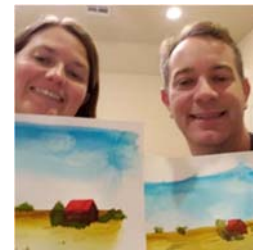
Daily Ministry Support

Before the pandemic, the church office was the hub for daily individual ministry work preparation, as well as the place to keep track of our financial status, individual giving, membership and attendance records.



The food pantry was operated from within the office, with help of office volunteers. With the onset of COVID, the staff began working

from home, and electronic communication became the norm. Weekly emails outline important events, announcements, and reminders about our worship schedule and our ministries. The staff remains diligent in returning phone calls, answering email, and addressing posts/questions on social media. Prayer requests have gone digital through a prayer request link on our website, or through the comments during our live-streamed services. For those unable to connect online, an effort is made to reach out through calls, notes, or socially distanced visits.



Places for People and Ministry

In March 2020, to care for each other, most on-campus activities were discontinued. This included all worship services, Sunday School, all small group meetings, committee meetings, outside groups and church office activities. The church has maintained the facilities, and, hopefully soon, we all will be returning to the buildings. We have made major investments in the heating and cooling systems. Several years ago, the church held a capital campaign and used funds to refurbish the main Sanctuary Building and the Family Life Center. To apply 100 percent of the capital donations to the facility, we are paying loan interest from our operating budget. Even with the facilities largely idle, custodial support is used to maintain and upkeep the buildings and grounds.

Generosity and Financial Gifts Create Ministry

This description is not intended to replace the tools used by our Finance Team. If you would like to see a detailed line item statement of how ministry funds are used, please contact the church office, 512-282-7274.

2020 Expenditures (January through August)

