



Quarterly Report from our Executive Director

Visit our Website



Love God, Love People, Serve All!

2020 Highlights

Many have said good riddance to the year 2020 and while I do share in some of those sentiments, New Song Church made an incredible impact in our community. Pastor Chad was able to share a lot of those tidbits in his End of Year report, but I did want to highlight some very important accomplishments.



- Held multiple safe Baptisms and new virtual membership classes
- Our live stream has reached near and far including friends in Ohio, Florida, Michigan, Colorado, Pennsylvania, etc.
- Over **2,500** "New Neighbor" letters were mailed to new residents in and around our zip codes
- Posted a first-ever Christmas Worship Team CD – (our first 6 songs are on the website!)
- Have generated nearly **25 small groups** this year running at different schedules and have welcomed over **230 individuals** as participants in various small groups
- Generated an online Church database (CCB) that is helping us better connect and reach out into our community ([Sign Up Here Today!](#))
- Held an "Adopt-a-Senior" event for all of our *Class of 2020* Graduates
- Performed a yard work service project for local families: raking and mowing
- Held a drive-thru Mother's Day event for families with Roma's Italian Restaurant
- Distributed Father's Day kits to all our registered families
- Held our first-ever Virtual Vacation Bible School
- Saw many friends drive-through our MASK-er-ADE event to pick up masks, sanitizer and supplies
- The Backpack Ministry has distributed backpacks every week to **80+ families**
- Held a successful School Supply Drive to benefit Cold Harbor Elementary School in August
- Held **13 Food Drives** which collected over **5 tons** of food for local food banks
- Began supporting **2 new missionaries**: Whit & Sydney Jackson (Campus Crusade/CRU)
- Distributed over **\$3,000** in gift cards for food, gas and prescriptions through Financial Assistance
- Over **100** meals taken after surgeries, stays in the hospital, new babies, funerals and more
- Close to **\$2,000** worth of donations were collected for our CARITAS apartment sponsorship
- Our Easter Offering supported United Methodist Family Services (UMFS) towards adoption and foster care services and also Mechanicsville Churches Emergency Functions (MCEF)
- We distributed thousands in rent, prescription, mortgage and utility support in 2020
- We donated **\$2,800** to the PACE Campus Ministries at VCU
- We donated **120+ units of blood** through our Community Blood Drives (more are scheduled!)
- Collected and delivered over **130 shoeboxes** for Operation Christmas Child
- Our Giving Tree "provided Christmas" for multiple families in Hanover County
- Bi-monthly trips have been taken to Our Shepherds Way to serve warm meals to the homeless
- Donated **\$4,000** to assist Moments of Hope Outreach for their Room in the Inn program
- Donated additional funds to provide each student in the Backpack Ministry a grocery gift card of \$25 for December and again in January
- Our Christmas Offering supported Moments of Hope and Mission of Hope
- Our counselors on staff completed **over 1,330 hours** of counseling (most by Zoom) and spent

Thank you for your generous spirit and willingness to serve those in need. We gave **HOPE** to those who needed it most last year, but we're not done! How can we show the love of Christ more in 2021? How can we march into this new year with a more fervent prayer to love God with all of our heart and love our neighbor as ourselves?

"Teacher, which is the greatest commandment in the Law?" Jesus replied: " 'Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.' This is the first and greatest commandment. And the second is like it: 'Love your neighbor as yourself.' All the Law and the Prophets hang on these two commandments." Matthew 22:36-40 (NIV)

In Christ,
[Katie Payne](#)

Facility Updates

We have been able to make some very positive changes to our facilities and equipment this year. We were able to update and add new sound boards. We added a complete outdoor sound system. We've made improvements to our camera system. We have fully converted to natural gas for our HVAC needs and future upgrades. We recently replaced the HVAC unit at the parsonage that was over 20 years old. We did a lot of painting, reflooring, organizing and redecorating all over the church.

Currently, we are working with an architect to finalize plans for our building expansion. Our 4,400 square foot expansion will include an expanded lobby, additional bathrooms, a large children's ministry room, a conference room, additional storage and office space. In addition, we will also be adding additional parking spaces near the pond and our new picnic pavilion. We will be sharing every step of the process with you. In the meantime, please feel free to visit our [Forward In Faith website](#) to get additional information.



Financial Updates

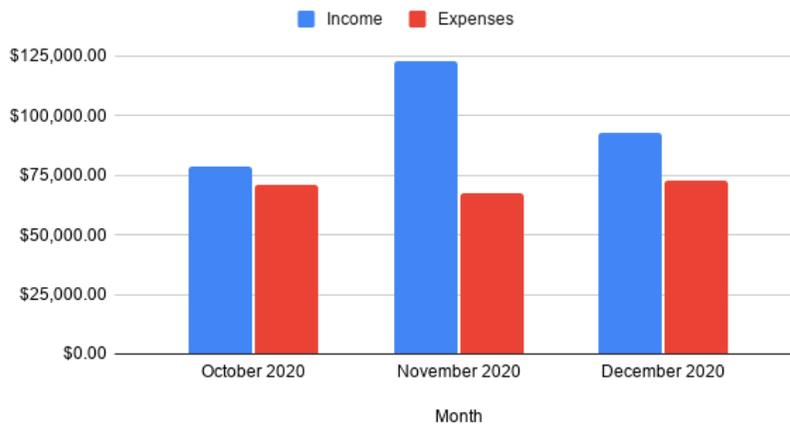
Last year, we had to pivot in many ways, one of those being how we received tithes. In 2020, more transactions were made online than ever before with some weeks as high as 88% online! We secured grants for the Community Garden and the Backpack Ministry. We also have applied for more grants through FEMA and another in support of the Backpack Ministry. We pray for a positive result from those as well. We received PPP funds in the amount of \$75,200 from the CARES Act in April.

We launched our Forward in Faith campaign with a generous donation of \$100,00.00 as a matching challenge. We met and exceeded our goal and actually raised \$101,285.04. In August of this year, the mortgage was at \$525,000, but as of today it is now \$307,500! You will see those fundraising efforts in the chart below.

New Song has always paid 100% of our apportionments and 2020 was no different.

While we've had our challenges, we remain grateful for God's provision.

2020 Fourth Quarter Income vs. Expenses



E-Giving using Pushpay

Please don't forget that you can utilize our electronic giving platform, Pushpay! This platform allows you to easily give a one-time gift or a recurring gift, and you have the ability to give from your computer or smartphone anytime or anywhere during the week!

It's easy to give, just:

1. Visit our website at [New Song Giving](#)

2. Text the word **newsongchurch** to the number 77977

*A link will be texted back to you

*Click the link you receive and you will be taken to the Pushpay Giving portal

*Fill out the requested information and then press Submit.

3. Download our church app

*Go to your smart phone's App Store

*Search for New Song UMC

*Press the button to Download

*Set notification settings (this will automatically appear on certain phone models; if not, do not worry with this step.)

*Open and Explore: news, events and giving opportunities!



If you have questions about Pushpay or giving in general, please contact [Ann Farmer](#), our Church Administrator.

Ash Wednesday- February 17th



Ash Wednesday marks the beginning of Lent and serves to remind each of us that we are sinful. God does not let the story end there. We are also invited to confess our sin and repent (or change our ways & direction). Ashes have often been used as a sign of our mortality: they represent the dust to which we will

return, in addition to being a powerful, experiential symbol. We are reminded on this night of our call to participate in the call to repentance and reconciliation as Christ's people.

This year, we will be offering COVID-friendly kits for you to take home. These kits include:

- pre-bagged cotton swabs rubbed in ashes,
- Holy Communion elements,
- a candle, and
- a prayer card

Our take-home kits are available for pick up on:

- Sunday, February 14, 2021 at or after our 10:00 AM Worship Service
- Wednesday, February 17, 2021 from 12:30 PM-1:00 PM and from 6:00 PM-6:30 PM

Our Ash Wednesday Worship Service will be held on Wednesday, February 17th at 7:00 PM on Facebook Live.

Facebook Live

A look ahead...

COMING SOON: Our 2021 Community Garden



Plans are in the works for our 2021 Community Garden! We will have 20 garden plots available and will be releasing our application very soon. We are looking forward to sunshine and beautiful, spring weather. We'd love to have you join us.

No gardening experience? No problem! We have many *green thumbs* on our team that would love to help. We also partner with the Hanover Master Gardeners Association for tips and tricks. It's a great time to learn a new skill, help others with food donations, and enjoy one another's company (socially distanced, of course).

If you have any questions, please email the [Community Garden team here](#).
