





GREAT IS THY FAITHFULNESS

2023 YEAR IN REVIEW













At the Walla Walla University Church, we affirm the deep and abiding truth that we are all God's children. We gather, as the faithful yet flawed family of God, to pray, sing, study, serve and worship. We rehearse the divine ideal of Koinonia – covenantal fellowship – in small and large groups. We reach out, enacting an ethic of love that draws others in and lifts Jesus up.

Reflecting on 2023, I marvel at the manifold evidences of God's grace – in the life of this church and the lives of our members.

As you look through these pages, I hope they remind you of how the Lord has led and blessed His children. As we look to the start of 2024, I commend to you these words as our north star:

I will open my mouth with a parable;
I will utter hidden things, things from of old—
things we have heard and known,
things our ancestors have told us.
We will not hide them from their descendants;
we will tell the next generation
the praiseworthy deeds of the Lord,
his power, and the wonders he has done.
—Pealm 78.2+4 (IIV)

With deep affection,

- acri

Andreas Beccai Lead Pastor, Walla Walla University Church

CONNECTING WITH STUDENTS

Freshman Connections

For the incoming freshmen, we implemented a unique OR code system embedded on keychains, offering them a chance to enter a prize draw and get acquainted with the University Church, Pastor Jose utilized the VideoAsk platform to forge pathways, facilitating personalized. asynchronous conversations with new students. The connections made through this initiative resulted in numerous requests for Bible studies and volunteering apportunities, for which we are grateful to God.

Worship Services - 56,254 Attendees

In 2023, our sanctuary welcomed members and guests alobally, with a total of 56.254 attendees at worship services. Combining physical attendance and live streaming, we connected with 26,908 individuals in person and 29,346 online. While special events like graduations, alumni gatherings, and tournaments drew our largest crowds, the average weekly attendance reached 573 in the sanctuary and 638 online.

Week of Worship - 1,500 Daily participants

During the Week of Worship, nearly 1,500 individuals participated daily, experiencing the outpouring of God's spirit. I had the privilege of delivering a message titled "In My Feelings," encouraging attendees to view emotions such as anxiety, fear, comparison, and shame as opportunities for growth in Christ, not as obstacles.

Hospitality - 1,200 Participants

The Longest Table event saw over 1,200 participants, many of whom were our students. Volunteers dedicated early hours to set up, ensuring the event's success Additionally, our team of elders and volunteers prepared 25 Apple Crisps for Walla Walla University students and quests after Vespers during the annual tournament weekend, adding a sweet touch to the memorable occasion









Lead Pasto









Outreach Pasto

ADMINISTRATION AND OUTREACH

Sabbath Schools - 8,861 Participants

Our six adult classes at 10:30 am on the University campus are vibrant hubs for fellowship, study, singing, and supporting congregational needs. With a combined weekly total of 189, these groups have collectively contributed thousands of dollars to all individuals in need worldwide.

Eden's Pantry - 2,920 Students

Addressing food insecurity on the WWU campus, our congregation provides weekly support through Eden's Pantry. Donated cash, food, garden produce, and purchased supplies ensure students can shop for essentials. The Pantry isn't eliminating hunger, it's reducing hunger, and assisting students without transportation or international students without family support in the country.

Spring Food Drive - 332 Families

Annually partnering with the College Place Public School System, our Spring Food Drive gathers contributions from residents, food banks, and discounted purchases from local stores. This collaborative effort feeds over three hundred families facing food insecurity, involving volunteers from our congregation alongside public school teachers and students

Blood Drives - 167 Pints

The gift of life comes from congregation and community members alike as we donated 167 pints of blood at four clinics in our church fellowship hall. This outreach initiative is in collaboration with the Red Cross Blood Bank and WWU's Center for Humanitarian Engagement.

Completed Kitchen

After an 18-month renovation, we express gratitude to the University Church family for their patience. Despite challenges from the City of College Place and economic inflation, the dedicated kitchen space now serves our congregation's hospitality ministry, benefiting children, youth, university students, members, and the broader community.

COMMUNICATION AND WORSHIP

Student Volunteers

Another positive trend in 2023 was the increased involvement of WWU students with the church's audio-visual teams. These teams are an essential part of our worship service, but they also provide opportunities for intergenerational connections and mentoring. While there is still room for growth in this area, more and more students are deciding to attend and support the service with their technical talents; it is a genuine blessing. However, the growth in student involvement extends beyond behind-the-scenes roles, with an increasing number of students actively participating in 'platform roles.' This includes leading worship and sharing their musical talents, adding a uniquely diverse element to our

How Many? - 2,000 Volunteer opportunities

For those curious about the average weekly service volunteer participation, our services see an estimated 30-40 volunteers involved each week. This includes roles such as greeters, deacons, technical volunteers, musicians, and speakers. As a result, we have an annual total of 1,500 to 2,000 volunteer apportunities, excluding the involvement of WWU ensembles like the orchestra or choirs. We extend our gratitude to you for your willingness to serve, fostering a sense of shared commitment.

Online Church - 49,000 Views

In 2023, our church saw continued growth in its online audience, with an average of 600-700 viewers tuning in weekly to share in worship with this community as they could not attend in person for some reason or another. We anticipate reaching nearly 2,000 subscribers on our church's YouTube channel by the end of the year, reinforcing the trend of hybrid attendance observed over the past few years. Notably, there is now a greater online viewership than in-person attendance in the sanctuary, All in all, by the end of 2023, our church's YouTube channel is projected to reach 49,000 views, a 9% increase year over year.





CHILDREN AND YOUTH MINISTRIES

Vacation Bible School - \$423,10 Raised

This Summer, during the Fiercely Faithful Vacation Bible School program, 100 volunteers served 112 children in our community. This was an event that showed our families, as well as the families in our community, that we, as a Church family, truly care about their children! Thank you to all who have served! Additionally, VBS students raised \$423.10 for ADRA.

Family Church - 50 Participants

Several families had a vision to create a worship service that would specifically give our children opportunities to serve in worship every week. Kids as young as 2 and as old as 18 have come up front to sing their favorite songs about Jesus. Additionally, kids have also led in reading scripture, helping with sermon illustrations, and being a part of the AV team!

JUMP and High Five

This Fall also saw the relaunch of two beloved youth programs: JUMP and High Five. These programs provide a midweek time of spiritual emphasis to our 5-6th graders and our 7-6th graders During these programs, students lead out in music, play object lesson games, and team building activities, as well as leading out in Bible study time. It is fun to see kids leading small group Bible studies durina these times.

Fall Outreach - 700 Kids

Marci Knouft and her crew also helped organize a fantastic Harvest booth at the City of College Place "Trunk-or-Treat" event, where we were able to share the story of Daniel and the Lion's Den with over 700 kids in the space of three hours!

Walla Walla Valley Schools

The pastors have also been at the schools every week, interacting with K-12 students.



MEMBER CARE AND DISCIPLESHIP

Member Care

In 2023, Member Care thrived, offering weekly bread deliveries, home, hospital, and nursing facility visitations, and coordinating Meal Trains for members facing crises. The Benevolent Fund, supported by Adult Sabbath School Groups, aided members in personal and financial crises, covering travel, bills, and memorial costs. Assistance extended to moves, yard work, and organizing events like Funerals, Memorials, Gravesides, Weddings, and Baby Showers.

Grow Groups - 21 Groups

Launched in September, 21 diverse Grow Groups, from serious Bible Study to activities like Pickle Ball, fostered meaningful connections. Groups addressing Grief, spiritual trauma, and addiction provided valuable support. Planning a January relaunch for nine more weeks, these small groups continue to strengthen bonds within the church and the broader community.

First Wednesdays

Introduced in October, "First Wednesdays" dedicated a day to community prayer, fasting, and gathering, initiated after a September prayer vigil. Each First Wednesday, participants engage in day-long prayer and fasting, culminating in a Prayer Meeting with testimonies, songs, and communal prayers. Attendance has surged, and the healing presence of the Spirit is palpable during these monthly gatherings.

Hospitality - 40 New members

In our pursuit of community, initiatives like serving infused water after church and hosting Summer Picnics and Sabbath Breakfasts encouraged post-service connections. In December, we anticipate a New Member Luncheon, integrating new members into the vibrantife and mission of the University Church, which has welcomed over 40 new members actively contributing to our engaged community.







The funds crucial to sustaining the activities at the University Church currently require your assistance. Upholding our congregations tradition, we set a substantial challenge for ourselves, aiming to surpass our goal in the final five Sabbaths of the year. This year is no exception, and achieving success will require collective effort. To reach our target, we must raise \$363,509 in December. While we've received generous \$10,000 gifts (or more) earlier this year, we anticipate and welcome further contributions.

Weekly financial support in the form of thousands, hundreds, and tens of dollars is essential for full funding. We believe in our oblity to achieve this, but it requires everyone's participation. We can do it, but it won't happen if we think, "Other people will give, I don't need to." Your contribution is crucial at this moment, and we express our gratitude advance for heeding the guidance of the Spirit as you support the ministry and mission of University Church—God's church.



Make your gift using AdventistGiving.org, a tithe envelope, or CashApp.





Walla Walla University Church

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