



# Idlewild Presbyterian Church 2023 Ministry Impact Report



Beloved,

As autumn reveals itself across Memphis, the leadership of Idlewild Presbyterian Church has spent time reflecting on all God has accomplished through our church in 2023.

While Idlewild lives into a new season, seeds planted faithfully over the last few years have begun to bear healthy fruit. In January, we welcomed Landry Duvall as our new Director of Music Ministry, and throughout the year, we have seen the music program blossom as a vibrant ministry. Our Children's Ministry has continued its rapid expansion while our Youth Ministry has undergone an exciting revitalization. OlderWilders, a ministry that did not exist at this time last year, has grown into one of the most engaging and active ministries of the church. Our service to our neighbors has broadened as our participation in Room In The Inn has expanded, and the return of chapel services has ensured that our More Than A Meal guests are fed both physically and spiritually.

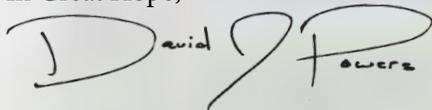
In countless ways, the Spirit of God has been hard at work in our midst, and for that, we are deeply grateful!

As we look with hope to the year ahead and as we dream together about what God will author, we find ourselves at an important moment in the history of Idlewild where your decision to commit generously to God's ministry through our church is more necessary than ever. At present, only 1 in 3 active households make financial commitments to Idlewild, and the future health of our church necessitates that figure increase significantly. We need everyone who calls Idlewild home, who values her mission and presence in the community, to dedicate themselves to generously supporting the ministries of the church. Now, more than ever, your generosity will be critical in shaping our church's future.

As leaders of Idlewild, we believe that God has given us all the resources necessary to do Spirit-inspired ministry, and we firmly believe that our membership will answer the call to *Grow in Gratitude*. As pastor, I am grateful that our Deacons and Elders are leading the way for us. Along with the entire Generosity Committee, Idlewild's officers have already made their financial commitments for 2024. Our hope is that you will join them in committing generously.

We are deeply grateful to those who give, and we want those who love and support Idlewild to rest assured that the leadership of the church is stewarding your gifts faithfully. That is why, in this booklet, you will find a narrative and visual breakdown of how your generosity has made an impact in 2023. We hope it reinforces the commitment made by the leadership of Idlewild Presbyterian Church to be good and faithful stewards of your financial gifts, and we hope it inspires even greater trust and generosity in the year ahead.

In Great Hope,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "David J. Powers". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style. The first name "David" is written in a large, open script, followed by "J." and "Powers" in a similar but slightly smaller script.

The Reverend David J. Powers

## The Budget:

Our budget is a theological document. Just as your household budget communicates your values, how the church allocates its financial resources says a great deal about how we understand and follow the Triune God.

As Christ teaches in Matthew 6:21, “where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.”

To simplify presentation, we have distilled hundreds of line items down to the five ministry units that make up our institutional structure. Since we understand our personnel as vital to our ministries, each category includes a proportional percentage of the investment that we make in staff for the ministries of the church (pastoral, administrative, custodial, kitchen, maintenance, and programmatic).

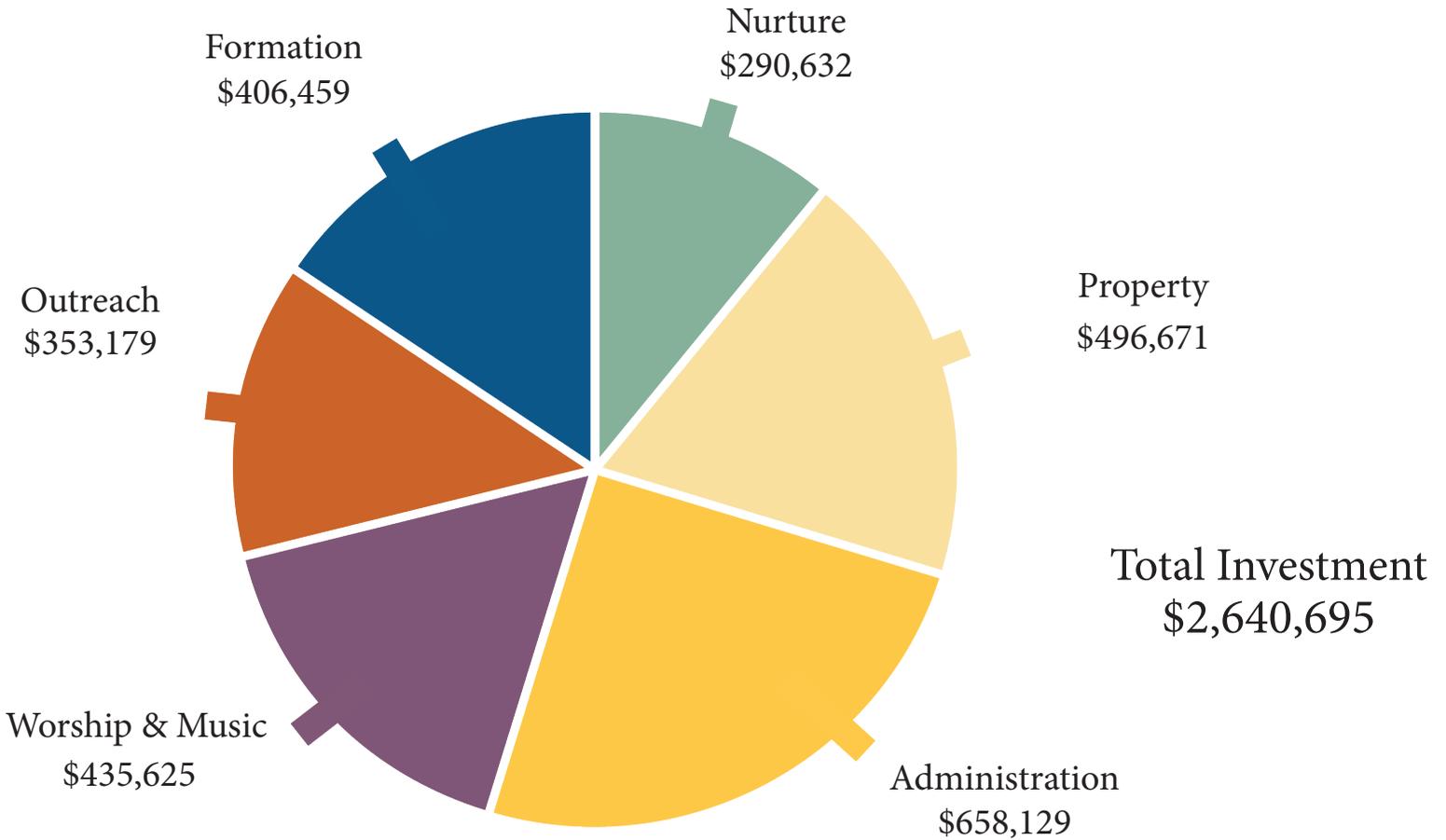
Worship & Music includes the specific investments we make to shape sacred worship services.

Outreach includes our ministries of compassion and justice across Memphis and the world.

Christian Formation includes our ministries to children, youth, young adults, and adults.

Nurture includes Recreation and 1750 Arts as well as the Joyful Fellowship.

Administration includes our communications, property, technology, bookkeeping, food services, and development ministries. We have noted property expenses separately for visual purposes because of their significant financial impact.



# Worship & Music

\$435,625



Worship is our first response to God's love, and it shapes us as God's people. Idlewild is known for excellence in worship, and this year has been marked by exciting new beginnings.

In January, after a yearlong search, we welcomed Landry Duvall as our Director of Music Ministry. Since Landry's arrival, participation in the Chancel Choir has doubled with its roster now boasting 35 members. In August, we launched a new Handbell Choir with 8 ringers, and only weeks ago, 30 children participated in the first Children's Choir event.

Spring was an exciting time for the church as we reintroduced an early worship service in the Chapel to enthusiastic participation. Throughout the year, we have seen in-person worship attendance grow while the number of those worshipping virtually has remained strong. A mix of sermon series and lectionary-centered worship has engaged our minds and hearts to grow in our relationship with God.

*O sing to the Lord a new song;  
sing to the Lord, all the earth.  
For great is the Lord,  
and greatly to be praised!*  
- Psalm 96:1, 4



# Outreach

\$353,179



Serving as the hands and feet of Christ is foundational to our calling as disciples. This year, we made our first visits since 2019 to our longtime ministry partners in both Cuba and Ghana. Being incarnate with our siblings in faith enabled the re-engagement of our internationally connected work as the body of Christ. The expansion of our Care Closet to a larger space and the extension of our Room In The Inn ministry through the summer months allowed us to better connect with our neighbors who are unhoused and to more faithfully utilize the physical space of the church building. Our grant program continued to support important organizations in our community as 37 non-profits received over \$75,000 in funds. Our ministry through McMerton Gardens mentored 13 children from the Binghamton Neighborhood, while more children coming forward for the *Time with the Younger Church* resulted in an increased weekly offering to the Dougbe River Presbyterian School of Liberia. All the while, the consistent, faithful, steady work of all those who serve through Adopt-a-School, Friends of the Mental Health Court, MICAH, Midtown Legal Clinic, More Than A Meal, and No Longer Strangers allowed Idlewild to truly love God and our neighbors.

*I was hungry and you gave me  
food, I was thirsty and you gave me  
something to drink, I was a stranger  
and you welcomed me.*

- Matthew 25:35-36



# Formation

\$406,459



## Children's Ministry

If you have joined us for worship on a Sunday, you have seen how many children spill over the chancel during the *Time With the Younger Church*; many of whom are three to five years old. We have seen growth in this age group due to our investments in teachers with both early childhood education experience and theological training. We have also invested funds in our *Worship and Wonder* curriculum which provides that age group with a worship service curated for their unique developmental level. Our Sunday School classes have grown from three classes to four with a fifth one on the way.

We re-introduced Vacation Bible School, known as Compassion Camp, where more than 60 kids and 20 volunteers played at the church for a week as they learned to have compassion for themselves and for our world. We were delighted to partner with the EEC as they and their teachers joined us that week too. Our partnership with the EEC is growing. In September, we began offering a weekly chapel service to EEC families.

*Jesus said,  
"Let the children come to me,  
and do not stop them,  
for it is to such as these that the  
kingdom of heaven belongs."*

-Matthew 19:14







## Youth Ministry

New adventures and growth have marked the year in our youth ministry. Months of discernment by a committee of youth and adults resulted in a new partnership with the Council of Protestant Churches of Nicaragua. Over the summer, a dozen high schoolers traveled to Nicaragua on our youth ministry's first international partnership trip in years. Now, the committee is working to identify our mission partners for 2024 with an eye toward serving and learning in the United States.

Our Middle School Ministry has grown substantially resulting in the need to hire an associate to oversee ministry to our 6th through 8th graders. They have their own Sunday School class, fellowship time, and a break out session during Youth Group. This has proven to be invitational to our community as the majority of middle schoolers attending Youth Group are visitors to Idlewild.

Our youth have expressed that with the pressures of academic, extra-curricular activities, and social obligations, attending weekly programming is often difficult; however, they can attend retreats and trips. To maintain the connection our youth desire with their faith family in a way that is conducive to their schedules, we are introducing a fall retreat. In November, in partnership with other churches in our presbytery, our youth will travel to Jonathan Creek Retreat Center in Kentucky for a time of spiritual reflection, community building, play, and sabbath.

*Train children in the right way,  
and when old, they will not stray.*

- Proverbs 22:6





## Young Adult & Adult Ministry

Our journey with Christ is one of continual reformation through our pursuit of Biblical education and spiritual formation. This year we expanded our Christian Formation offerings for adults by reintroducing several intergenerational classes including 20/20 and Tapestry. We redoubled our efforts toward Biblical literacy by launching an intensive Disciples Bible Study group, and we continued our pursuit of anti-racist practices through the immersive experience of Sacred Ground. Our Summer Forum series was facilitated by thoughtful leaders from across the civic and theological spectrums. The Presbyterian Women Ministry offered several exciting opportunities for faith and fellowship including a retreat and a celebration of the 50th anniversary of the Johnson Auxiliary.

Our Christian Parenting classes saw expansive growth from those at different stages of the parenting journey. Our

Young Adult Ministry saw growing participation in monthly meals, and under new pastoral leadership, it is imagining a new season of creative ministry.



*They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and fellowship, to the breaking of bread, and the prayers.*

- Acts 2:42

# Nurture

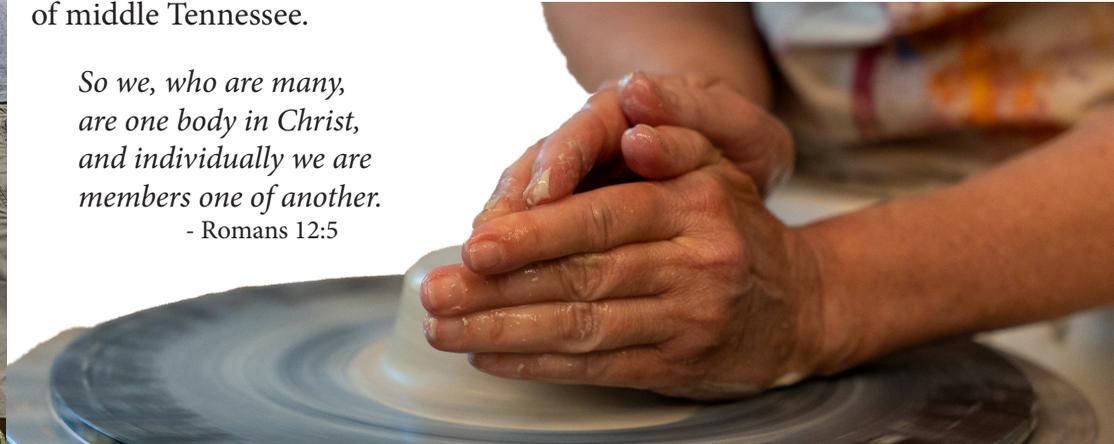
\$290,632



The church is called to care for the physical body, creative spirit, and the joyful fellowship of God's people, and our Nurture Ministry has accomplished this calling in countless ways throughout the year. The return of congregational meals on All Saints' Day and Pentecost as well as the introduction of regular *Food and Fellowship* events allowed the congregation to share time at table together. Inspired lay leadership propelled our OlderWilder ministry to a new level of vitality and engagement. Several *Community Connection* events held across the summer months garnered more participation than could have ever been anticipated. The Transportation Ministry continued to make church accessible for our members who are unable to drive. Our Recreation Ministry saw healthy growth in its soccer and basketball programs while weekly pickleball gave our neighbors the chance to enjoy play in our beautiful gymnasium. Our churchwide retreat at NaCoMe will provide the opportunity for members of all ages to sabbath in the beauty of middle Tennessee.

*So we, who are many,  
are one body in Christ,  
and individually we are  
members one of another.*

- Romans 12:5



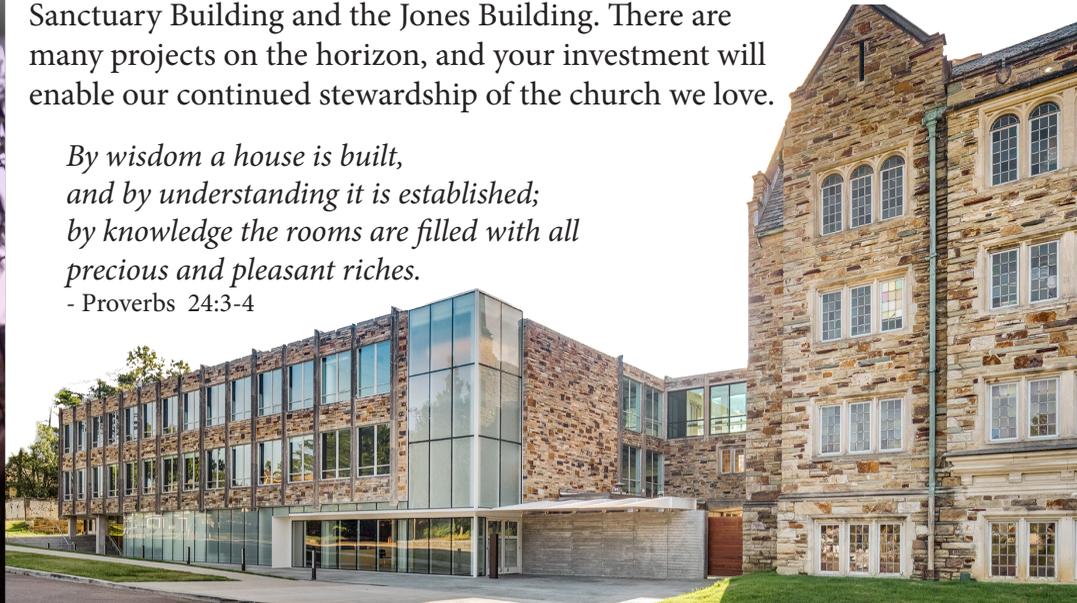
# Property

\$496,671

We believe that God planted Idlewild Church at 1750 Union Avenue so we might seek the welfare of Memphis. While we know that God's people are the Church, we also believe that God has gifted the church with precious buildings and grounds in order to enhance the ministry of Christ through Idlewild. This year, we made significant investment in the Sanctuary Building by replacing the heating and cooling systems that service the Choir and Strock Rooms. We undertook an extensive study of our drainage system which resulted in the resolution of several long standing water issues. Along with countless other projects, the House and Property Committee developed a long-term plan to address deferred maintenance issues related to our Sanctuary Building and the Jones Building. There are many projects on the horizon, and your investment will enable our continued stewardship of the church we love.

*By wisdom a house is built,  
and by understanding it is established;  
by knowledge the rooms are filled with all  
precious and pleasant riches.*

- Proverbs 24:3-4



# Endowment

\$3,187,182

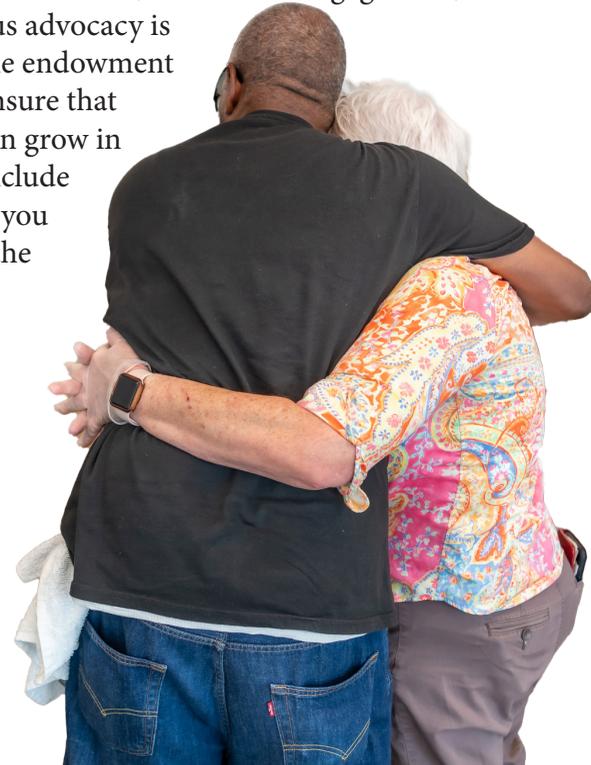


Within the fabric of our city and denomination, the legacy of Idlewild is deeply rooted. As a leading Presbyterian voice, our witness has been one of welcome and depth scarcely seen in 21st-century American Christendom. As the landscape of religious life undergoes significant changes, Idlewild's vitality grows more and more crucial.

A church that emphasizes radical inclusion, intellectual engagement, abounding grace, and courageous advocacy is critical to our city and world. The endowment is an important instrument to ensure that the legacy of Idlewild Church can grow in the decades ahead. When you include Idlewild in your estate planning you ensure your legacy by ensuring the legacy of Idlewild.

*For the promise is for you,  
for your children,  
and for all who are far away,  
everyone whom the  
Lord our God calls to him.*

- Acts 2:39



# Generosity by the Numbers

## Breakdown of Total Generosity:

	2021	2022	2023
Commitments	367	332	301
Average Commitment	\$5,996	\$6,639	\$6,617
Total Amount Committed	\$2,200,501	\$2,204,095	\$1,991,839

### Takeaways:

- Our top 10 commitments make up 20% of total giving.
- The most significant opportunity for growth is with our members under the age of 50, where only 64 out of 371 households make commitments.
- Uncommitted giving, which more than doubled during the 2022-2023 fiscal year, bridged the gap from a decrease in commitments.

## Breakdown of Commitments:

Age	Households who Commit	Total Households
20 - 29	3	90
30 - 39	30	155
40 - 49	31	126
50 - 59	49	135
60 - 69	58	142
70 - 79	65	136
80 - 89	46	85
90 +	6	30

**Generosity Committee:** Jody Brown | Ben Clark | Keith Cole (chair) | Carol Fields  
Ellis Haddad | Debi Havner | Karen Matthews | Pete Sanders | John Thatcher



Thank you for your commitment to God's work through the life and ministries of Idlewild Presbyterian Church.

Please fill out the commitment card below and bring it to church on October 29, as we celebrate Commitment Sunday.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

I commit to give \$ \_\_\_\_\_ (total) in 2024.

I plan to give  weekly  monthly  quarterly

I would like assistance setting up a recurring gift in Realm.

I would like information on including Idlewild in my estate planning.

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_



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