

2021 Annual Report



Community of Faith United Methodist Church

www.cofumc.org

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Published February 2021

Our Purpose:

To build a community where everyone is welcomed and grows in faith to become deeply committed Christians.

Our Vision:

Offering hope, changing lives, and transforming communities

Our Journey:

Knowing, loving, and serving God.

Extraordinary People, Extraordinary Year

Words from the Pastor

Rev. Rob Vaughn

Our 2020 annual report reflects the events of the past year and is our eighth edition.



"I'm glad 2020 is over!" is a frequent saying I hear but in many ways, I only partially share that sentiment. During 2020, the people of CoF reached out to our neighbors experiencing food scarcity and job insecurity witnessing to the love of God in western Fairfax. I've watched folks recognize their blessedness (jobs, income, ability to work from home, extra time) as an opportunity to be a blessing to others.

The year began with the usual richness of winter programming – the winter carnival, fellowship gatherings for fun like trivia night and chili bingo. Several folks were planning to accompany Vale to Guatemala and the weekly grocery distribution had reached the expected winter peak numbers. Our denomination's General Conference was anticipated to be in May which personally involved a lot of travel - one trip to the DRC in January and 3 trips to Nashville by mid-March. Then it happened! CoVid arrived.

Food Ministry | I cannot overstate how proud I am of our congregation and our community and how resilient the people of Community of Faith are. The food ministry pivoted to providing "touchless" food distribution. We hunted down new ways to source food. Terry Metcalf & Cathy Spaine coordinated the work while Brad Fries took over for many of the groups which had been picking up food. It seemed that the 3 of them lived at CoF for much of the year! As many employers laid off or furloughed workers, food insecurity in the community drove what had been a spring average of about 75-80 families each week to what became a peak of 200 families!



As demand for food grew, finding enough food became a challenge during the spring as many of our usual grocery donors had empty shelves. They also found their distribution networks challenged.

Although CoF is a member of the Capital Area Food Bank, we had not needed to purchase from them in past years. Like other suppliers, their inventories were also challenged but we added them to the mix along with a local restaurant supplier. It helped. The generosity of both

church and community provided the resources to make those purchases. Neighborhood food collections were remarkable which added to our sources. Even though folks could not come into the church to "shop" for groceries, CoF still provided several boxes of food to each family. A family receives produce, canned goods,

By the Numbers

During 2020, Community of Faith:

- Served the equivalent of 35,000+ individuals at the food ministry with a weekly range of 77 – 201 families and provided food to a partner which served several thousands more.
- Recorded 400 persons as members on December 31.
- Followed 75 persons on our constituent list (*persons who are regular participants and receive pastoral care but have not yet joined*) – *this increased 40% since 2019.*
- Held 38 on the "Baptized roll" (*persons who are baptized yet not been received into Profession Membership.*)
- Average Worship – Online Worship averages **115 each week** and online **vespers** averaged **72 each week**. This includes those who have watched all or a significant part of the service.
- Adult Education has seen 18-27 persons attend Sunday morning church school during CoVid.
- Completed our first year as a Reconciling Congregation.

perishables, eggs, and meats. Because of the dedication of our incredible volunteers, the food ministry never missed a week! That is significant as over half of the other food banks like ours in NoVa had to close because of their volunteers are often older and needed to isolate due to CoVid.

On Monday and Tuesday mornings, volunteers set up boxes for Tuesday afternoon distribution (current hours are 4PM to 5:30PM). The *Service League of Oakton* and the *Blue Bells*, two groups of Moms and their teenage sons and daughters, continue to volunteer weekly. Since school is online in Fairfax County, they have been able to assist on Monday mornings and Tuesday afternoons. During the fall, we have also been blessed by local missionaries from the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints (LDS). A number of these young adults could not continue in their placements because of CoVid so they've brought their skills and energies to our area. They have blessed us not only with great enthusiasm, but many have Spanish language skills which is our most needed translation help.

Vale, Good Shepherd and Floris United Methodist Churches along with Epiphany Episcopal Church have all assisted through this time with volunteers. They shared food collection, people, and a large truck to help pick up special large donations. An Eagle Scout project led by Joseph Kuwashima and enhanced by Monte Kleman constructed a 12-foot poll with two 20,000 lumen lights which now provide adequate lighting when daylight savings time changed.



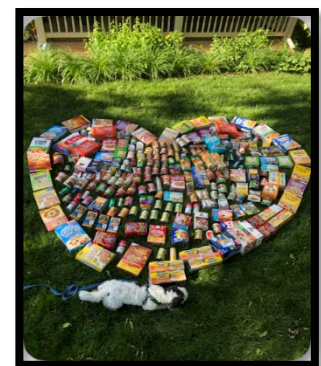
Joseph Kuwashima and crew dig a hole in a cold rain to set up a light pole for our food ministry.



Scouting for Food continued in 2020 with a record number of volunteers. Kelli Timanus, Hannah Godfrey, and Terry Metcalf coordinated much of the well-distanced safety measures caused by CoVid and the logistics of feeding the volunteers. Chris Gohrband, who also serves as a local scout commissioner, helped coordinate the ever-changing protocols from the regional scouting office. Coupled with an Eagle Scout project a few weeks earlier, the two events provided as much food as prior Scouting for Food weekends had received.

CoF's food ministry is significant in so many ways! With one in seven Americans experiencing food insecurity, we address a very real physical and social need. Throughout much of the first 8 months of the pandemic, each week saw from 10-30% of our food clients coming for the first time.

There have been many incredible God moments. When we needed a new commercial refrigerator, the owners of McAlister's Deli, Heather & Steve Ricks, offered a 50 cubic foot refrigerator as they closed their Worldgate location – we only needed to move it. Thanks to four strong Fries men and Michael Swan, it was successfully moved to CoF! We needed a similar sized freezer to leverage some of our food gifts a month later and bought one for \$4500. Within a week, one of our former volunteers upon hearing of our recent acquisition, sent a check for that amount! God is Good!



Many neighborhoods collected food to bring to CoF - above is the collection point of the Clawson-Keeton family's neighborhood before transporting to CoF

Throughout much of 2020, folks like Candy Jones would ask neighbors to bring donations to their home and once

there was a SUV/car/truck load, they would transport it to CoF. Through the early fall, at least four neighborhoods continued to support the food ministry in this manner.

Worship has moved online! Most all our worship services moved online. Regular weekly worship moved online in March 2020 with the addition of a weekly **Tuesday Vespers** a few months later. After a series of false starts, we now have a brief, weekly, **in-person outdoor Holy Communion Service** every Sunday at noon (weather permitting). Communion attendance has ranged from 3-12 persons. To participate, folks registered in advance. MaryAnn East provides piano music, and the liturgy is available electronically from the website each Sunday.



Since March, our musicians have recorded the service music in advance, either in the sanctuary or at home so that worship service can be filmed and edited together. Our services are now posted to Facebook (<https://www.facebook.com/CoFUMCHerndon>) and the website (www.cofumc.org) and the links are emailed along with the worship guide on Sunday morning. The worship team, under the leadership of Carol Larsen, offers meaningfully themed altar arrangements and worship plans each week to deepen and enrich our spiritual experiences. Bane Vaughn serves as our videographer capturing worship elements with a DSLR camera and iPad. **Prayer Time** over Zoom was held twice each Sunday morning to find a way to connect and pray with one another before moving to the current pattern Sunday at 10:15AM. Zoom links are in the worship guide as well as emails.



In September, several new additions to the sanctuary were made to improve our worship experience. In late spring we anticipated being back in the sanctuary by September (how naive back then!) and wanted our infrastructure to support the new ministry of online worship. We dreamed of being able to offer worship that could be online, streaming, or in a Facebook Live format but we needed the infrastructure. We contracted with Hartman & Sons of Baltimore to make that dream a reality. The project replaced a 40-year-old sound board the church inherited, added a permanently mounted camera as well as two other very needed upgrades. A second monitor for the choir and the audio speakers were replaced. When the Young Children's Christmas Eve service had to move indoors, we were able to pivot from an outdoor service to an inside Facebook Live service since we now had the equipment to support it.

Adult Education on Sunday morning saw record attendance in 2020 with usual attendance between 20-26 folks each week! Mike Folsom facilitates the class with an enthusiastic and deeply thoughtful style preparing for each Sunday with an incredible number of hours of study. Each week folks keep up with and see each other. The class is held from 9-10AM Sunday mornings (Zoom links are found in the emails and worship guide). In response to issues of racial justice, Hannah Godfrey led a robust book study during the summer of Jim Wallis' *America's Original Sin: Racism, White Privilege and the Road to a New America* and we joined with Vale's congregation after Christmas to engage in the Virginia Conference curriculum on *Race in Virginia*.

CoF's **Healthy Church Team (HCT)** continues to help navigate keeping us safe through this season of CoVid. Consisting of Beth Carter, Jeff Mowery, Carol Larsen, Kelli Timanus, Hannah Godfrey, and MaryAnn East, they have reviewed the extensive protocols offered by our annual conference and developed plans to ensure safety for any gathering on the CoF campus. Every protocol & policy they have developed has been reviewed by the Arlington District Superintendent to be sure we are following our annual conference. CoF's HCT continues into

2021 to ensure a safe return to in-person activities either outside or inside at Community of Faith.

Throughout the pandemic Kelli Timanus and Hannah Godfrey had provided exceptionally creative ways of keeping our families with youth and children connected. Our children and youth have played an important role in the production of the weekly Sunday School videos. In addition, this summer, children, and youth were partnered together as "Summer buddies." They met online, read books, played games, colored pictures, and built relationships and friendships. Each week, Kelli and others provide a video lesson for our children so they may continue their faith journeys with the assistance of their parents. From outside scavenger hunts to prayer walks and assembling materials for various mission gifts, our children and youth have not been deterred from living out their faith.

A grand gift to the congregation and community was December's **Live Nativity**. With great props by Bonnie Machado, our children and youth offered a great Christmas gift with a downloadable audio guide to prepare for Christmas. The weather turned out to be wonderful (after an earlier scare!).

When couples plan on a wedding far ahead of time, they anticipate lots of alternatives, but no one expected the pandemic! But love will not be deterred, and we were still able to celebrate the joys of Christian marriage for three couples thanks to videoconferencing and some very flexible couples.

Why all the Christmas lights all year? Throughout the pandemic, CoF has kept lights in our windows to emphasize the light of Christ continues to shine here – that while our building is closed to much of its usual activities, the many ministries of Community of Faith continue to make a difference is witnessing to Christ's presence in our neighborhood. I'm feel humbled and privileged to be the pastor of such a caring, mission minded community. May you continued to be blessed and continue to be a blessing to our community and world in 2021.

Peace, Pastor Rob

2020 celebrated the Christian weddings of

Jake Fries & Courtney Hurd on May 2, 2020

Jack Alexander Folsom & Jennifer Lynn Shields on October 4, 2020

Robinson Chyi Lee & Okako Bellonne Omadjela on October 17, 2020



Children's & Youth Ministry at CoF

2020 has been an interesting year for Children's Ministry. Our year began with a well-attended Winter Carnival for young children. As our building closed, we sought ways to connect with our youngest members in a meaningful way. Children and youth continued to serve as readers on the first Sunday of the month service. Via email, our children have received Sunday School papers and we've developed an online Sunday School weekly lesson that includes readings, songs and puppet plays provided by teens and tweens.



Our commitment to mission and service has not stopped. Our teens and tweens filled treat bags for Halloween for Food Pantry clients, made bag lunches that were distributed at Scouting for Food with leftovers going to families served by a shelter. They decorated the sidewalks with notes of thanks and encouragement to the food pantry volunteers. In addition, this group made 150 luminaries, and moved their annual Christmas play outdoors with a drive through live Nativity. Children assembled Christmas bags and colored pictures for residents at Sunrise Assisted Living. Families picked up back to school bags, special Advent activities for Advent and filled the parking lot with chalked decorations on Halloween for our first (but not last) *Chalk the Lot* activity.



Confirmation class which has begun just prior to the pandemic and facilitated by Hannah Godfrey, continued during the year both online and in-person... something possible with a class of three!

2020 was a challenging year but it also was a year in which all our children and youth continued to play an active role in the life of our church.

To learn more about children at CoF, contact Kelli at Children@cofumc.org.

Youth Ministry through Scouting

CoF's ministry with youth and their families is extended through the sponsorship of Cub Scout Pack 1160 and Boy Scout Troop 158. Girl Scouts organize without similar institutional sponsorship; however, we are proud to be able to offer space and support to several Girl Scout Troops.



During the pandemic, our Scout troop has continued their meetings, after several months pause, outside on Sunday afternoons. It's been a successful way to stay safe as well as continue needed fellowship and learning. Each week they've continue to assist the food ministry with moving needed canned goods to the narthex in preparation for Tuesday's food distribution.

Josh Paulen organized the collection of 140 boxes of food over an October weekend for his Eagle Scout service project

More Mission to the world

In addition to serving folks in need around western Fairfax County through our food ministry and our denominational missions throughout the world, there are more places CoF is in mission. **The Christmas Blessings Tree** found offerings of gift cards for children's toys for our food clients. In December, over 200 gift cards were distributed offering over \$5,000 from Target, Walmart, and Giant. Annually School **Supplies for Dogwood Elementary School** are collected and distributed, and this year continued the tradition.



Finance Report for 2020

During 2020, CoF paid all our bills including **68%** of our apportionments (*our fair share of mission & administrative costs for our denomination*) and concluded the year with adequate balances in the bank.

Ministry Funds - The Ministry Fund expenses include salaries and benefits for church staff, apportionments and missions, maintenance expenses for the church building and parsonage, utilities, office operating expenses, and program expenses for education, worship, and outreach. In 2020, we received **\$423,672.00** in donations and spend **\$412,665.00**. At the close of 2020 our checking account balance was **\$64,286.00** and our money market fund was **\$25,012.00**. To aid in this unusual year, CoF received **\$44,270** in the Payroll Protection Loan program which was almost the same amount we lost because several of the groups and congregations which rent space from us could not continue due to CoVid. Of the pledged giving for 2020, 99% of the pledges were received. All of this meant we could maintain at the salaries of all our staff throughout the year.

Capital Projects – Upgrades to the sanctuary audio system, adding new monitors and a camera for future streaming video possibilities cost \$23,975.00. The parsonage underwent several capital projects as well, the HVAC was replaced, and a water leak caused damage which was primarily underwritten by our insurance coverage along with Larry Gittings skillful painting work. Those projects cost \$13,000.

Investment Funds - In 2015, the church negotiated a lump sum payment in lieu of some future rent from the cell tower. This money was invested through the Virginia United Methodist Foundation, an annual conference organization which exists to serve local churches in their efforts to expand their programs and ministries through planned giving and endowment funds. At the close of 2019, our account balance was **\$227,840**. During the year, 2020 concluded with a balance of **\$254,755**, an **11%** gain.

We are grateful for a dedicated finance 2020 team comprised of Chris Gohrband (Finance Committee Chairperson), Lynne Mowery (Administrative Council Chairperson), Barbara Reiff (Treasurer), Jenny Winstedt (Financial Secretary), Larry Gittings (Trustee Chairperson), Greg Carter (Lay Leader), Di Hannum (Office Manager/Bookkeeper) and Bill Huff (Counter's Coordinator).

How CoF receives your financial gifts

- **Online** at the church website www.cofumc.org. Or [click here](#).
- **By Text** to 73256 and in the message, enter COFUMC,
- **By Mail** - checks can be made payable to Community of Faith UMC and mailed to 13224 Franklin Farm Road, Herndon, VA 20171-4034.



In 2020, online giving accounted **63%** of all gifts given to CoF's Ministry Fund – thank you.

Additional ways to financially support the ministry of CoF

Online shopping through micro-donations: CoF is an [Amazon Smile](#) charity where you can direct a percentage of your purchase to Community of Faith.

Corporate Dollar Matching: Some corporations have a dollar match option for charitable contributions - if you work for a company that has this type of program, it may be possible to offer a gift that would be matched by your employer. Several individuals have found ways to double their gifts to the food ministry or scouting program through this program in this manner.

Dedicated Mission Funds:

"Dedicated" or "Restricted" funds are those whose gifts are used only for a specific purpose and some for a limited period. They include:



Pastor's Discretionary Fund (PDF): Throughout the year, these funds have blessed many persons and families living in economic stress. The PDF gifts provide for gas cards, medication, physician co-pays, and a safe place to stay during times of unusual weather for several in our area that are unhoused. PDF gifts also have helped to keep on or restore power and water as well as helping to keep folks from being evicted.

The Food Pantry at CoF: With the increased need in 2020, funds were used for food purchases from the Capitol Area Food Bank and a restaurant wholesaler along with PPE (gloves & masks) and needed equipment infrastructure. In-kind donations from the 20+ groceries, restaurants, and neighbors are estimated to have exceeded \$750,000.



Mission's Fund: Throughout the year, CoF receives contributions for mission support. In 2020, the missions fund supported our United Methodist mission both domestically and around the globe. In addition to money for missions, there is a small fund to support scholarships for mission trips. The year began with a balance of \$3,497 and ended with \$5,100 for the mission fund. The mission scholarship fund remained unchanged at \$741.00.

Hospitality Fund: Provides Sunday morning snacks and hospitality during in-person Sunday morning worship. The year saw income and expenses of \$126.78.

Learn more about how your giving transforms lives here:

For an incredible number of stories about how lives are transformed through our United Methodist mission funds, visit www.umcsgiving.org or one of groups that work for the church such as:

General Board of Church & Society www.umcjustice.org

General Board of Global Ministries www.umcmmission.org

General board of Discipleship www.umcdiscipleship.org

For United Methodist News both domestically and around the world, visit www.umc.org

2020 Chili Bingo

It was a fun time for everyone – including this year's repeat winner, Sandy Jones! Of course the evening could not have happened without experienced Bingo callers, Jeff Mowery and Suzanne Jewell.



Valentine Brunch



2020 Carnival

Great fun for all!!!!



Trivia Night Winners January 2020



Scouting for Food was a bit different for Pandemic 2020

As time led up to November's S4F weekend, there was much uncertainty as the Scouting Council continued to change their recommendations about CoVid protocols. Fortunately, Chris Gohrband was an excellent liaison and local coordinator. Scouting for Food continued for 2020 with several Packs still participating. The Cub Scouts were able to drop off requests to neighborhood homes for canned goods and then return a week later to pick them up. The **largest group ever** of volunteers assembled worked to both maintain as much physical distance outside as possible. Kelli Timanus coordinated local arrangements with Terry Metcalf coordinating all the food sorting and packing and Steve Metcalf managing the barn.

We were very blessed with great weather and generous neighbors. Just a few weeks prior, an Eagle Scout Project contributed over 100 boxes of food and coupled with S4F-2020 the total numbers of boxes exceeded previous years.



Children Stories with Hannah Godfrey

Spring & Summer, 2020

Just click on the title to see the stories again!



<u>Sneetches and Other Stories</u>	August 23, 2020
<u>The Brave Little One</u>	August 16, 2020
<u>Old Turtle and the Broken Truth</u>	August 9, 2020
<u>Brother Eagle, Sister Sky</u>	July 26, 2020
<u>Old Turtle by Douglas Wood</u>	July 19, 2020
<u>The Rabbit Listened</u>	July 12, 2020
<u>Jesus Loves Helpers</u>	July 5, 2020
<u>Kindness Makes Us Strong</u>	June 28, 2020
<u>When God Make the World</u>	June 21, 2020
<u>A Flicker of Hope</u>	May 24, 2020
<u>It will be Okay</u>	May 17, 2020
<u>Whoever You Are</u>	May 10, 2020
<u>I Can Talk with God</u>	May 3, 2020
<u>What is Faith</u>	April 26, 2020
<u>God's Love is for Sharing</u>	April 19, 2020
<u>Jesus and the Big Parade</u>	Psalm Sunday 2020
<u>The Grumpy Easter Bunny</u>	March 29, 2020
<u>The Giving Tree</u>	March 22, 2020

All the *Children's Stories*, *Tuesday Vespers* and online *Sunday Worship* services are archived at Community of Faith's Vimeo site.

Just [click here to visit](#).

Community of Faith Welcoming Statement

Whoever welcomes you welcomes me, and whoever welcomes me welcomes the one who sent me. (Matthew 10:40).

At Community of Faith, we believe each individual is of sacred worth and dignity as part of God's creation and as demonstrated by the life and ministry of Jesus Christ. We celebrate the beautiful diversity of all races, nationalities, and ethnicities. We welcome and affirm you whether you are rich or poor; love the Church, have never been to Church, or have been wounded by spiritual communities; gay, straight, or whatever your gender identity, expression, and sexual orientation may be; married or single; a person with children or without children; able-bodied, differently-abled, or challenged with mental or emotional health issues; certain of many things or full of questions. We vow to be a safe community truly open to everyone to grow in faith - God's love has no bounds.



2021 Leadership

Ministers - The Entire Congregation

Lay Leader – Jocelyn Gabriel, igabriel6257@gmail.com

Associate Lay Leader - Ghazal Chilan, gh.chilan@gmail.com

Administrative Council Chairperson - Lynne Mowery, lynne.mowery@amec.com

Treasurer – Barbara Reiff finnreiff@comcast.net

Council Recording Secretary – Ghazal Chilan, gh.chilan@gmail.com

UM Men – Bill Minto mintofamily@verizon.net & Raj Bartakke rajbartakke@cox.net

United Methodist Women – Terri Timanus territimanus@gmail.com

Trustees - Larry Gittings lgitt69@aol.com

Fellowship Ministries – Susanne Jewell susannej.oakhill@gmail.com

Finance – Chris Gohrband cagohrband@yahoo.com

Financial Secretary – Jenny Winstedt, jWinstedt@hotmail.com

Staff-Parish Relations – Sandra Baron, 1smb323@gmail.com

Worship – Carol Larsen carol@kandinskymusi.com

Education – Bane Vaughn banevaughn@gmail.com

Adult Church School Coordinator – Mike Folsom cofaec@gmail.com

Missions Chairpersons - Terri Orvis, Happy2read@yahoo.com

Annual Conference Delegate – Rajiv Bartakke, rajiv.m.bartakke@gmail.com

At-large council members: Justin King, Justin307@gmail.com

Church Staff

Music Director: Mary Ann East maryann.east@gmail.com

Music Accompanist: Kelly Nam smyung2@gmu.edu

Children's Coordinator – Kelli Timanus children@cofumc.org

Student Ministry Coordinator – Hannah Godfrey hmgodfrey@gmail.com

Nursery Care – Miyo Shimoda tshimoda@hotmail.com

Office Manager – Di Hannum Beatty Office@cofumc.org

Pastor - Rev. Rob Vaughn, drrobvaughn@gmail.com

Denominational Leadership

Arlington District Superintendent – Rev. Dr. Sarah Calvert

Virginia Conference Bishop – Bishop Sharma Lewis

Denominational Websites

Arlington District – www.novaumc.org | **Virginia Conference** – www.vaumc.org

United Methodist Church - www.umc.org



***Love God
Love One Another***

