

Community of Faith United Methodist Church

www.cofumc.org

2022

Annual Report

*For what happened in 2021 at
CoF ... and what didn't!*



Autos line up 3 across to make room for everyone at Tuesday's food distribution



Each Tuesday between 100-200 families receive groceries served by volunteers from our greater community who give selflessly of their time and energy to help person who live with food insecurity.



www.cofumc.org

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From the Pastor

By Rob Vaughn

Our 2021 annual report reflects the events of the past year and is our eighth annual edition.



God is Good! All the time and all the time, God is Good. That refrain was exemplified in 2021 at CoF, another year like no other. We entered into the second year of the pandemic with weekly worship online and Sunday noontime Holy Communion outdoors each week. When August arrived, we added in-person worship as well until an increase in CoVid moved us back to gathering virtually at the very end of the year. Continuing to deepen faith, remain connected and serve the community have been the hallmarks of this season of our congregational life.

During this past year, we blessed persons who live with food insecurity with a robust and dependable source of groceries through the food distribution ministry. This only happened because of an incredibly dedicated core of volunteers. The administrative complexity of this size an operation meant the hiring of Hannah Godfrey as our food administrator. Hannah has been able to give Cathy & Larry Spaine and Terry Metcalf a lot of their lives back as they had been at church almost daily tending to many of the chores to make the food ministry run.

There are very few folks now in our congregation who have not participated in this ministry in some way. It has not only offered groceries to persons living with food insecurity but also a significant place for many children, youth, and adults to volunteer – giving a pathway to meaningful service.

Even though we could not gather for worship much of 2021, we



By the Numbers

During 2021 Community of Faith:

- Served the equivalent of 45,000+ individuals at the food ministry with a weekly range of 100 – 201 families.
- Received 4 persons into membership from the confirmation class
- Baptized Jack Sampson – great-grandson of Joe Harris
- Recorded 404 persons as members on December 31.
- Average Worship – while we were online only, we averaged about 115 individual viewers at our weekly worship service and 73 each week viewing Tuesday Vespers.
- Average Worship attendance during in-person worship since August ranged from 17-29 persons for the 8:30 service and 20-41 for the 10:30 worship.
- Added Hannah Godfrey as a part-time food ministry coordinator and very part-time communication director.
- Since December 2019, we have been a Reconciling Congregation with Reconciling Ministries Network.

were able to gather with all the appropriate health precautions to be in service to others. Every day there are some on CoF's campus tending to this important ministry.

Having achieved great comfort Zooming, our United Methodist Men's Breakfast and Adult Church School continued to meet and transition to a hybrid experience once meeting back on the campus began. The adult church school continues to be blessed by the skillful facilitation of Mike Folsom and rotating leadership among the members. Several studies throughout the year, some shared with Vale UMC, provided opportunities for learning together.

Thanks to Kelli Timanus and Hannah Godfrey, our children and youth faith development work continued. With help from youth, videos and at-home material were available to our families and once August arrived, persons met outdoors for learning and service. We continue to be incredibly blessed by their creativity and ability to pivot well to help all stay connected.

Throughout the year, our members and friends supported CoF's ministry not only with their service but also their finances. We were not able to fulfill all the denominational giving we desired but were able to close the year in a strong financial position – all thanks to you. The movement to online giving by many throughout the pandemic, with now over 80% of all gifts received this way, has provided for a stable cash flow. Your generosity and that of the community to the food distribution ministry allows for the purchase of food, supplies and infrastructure allowing thousands of individuals to have hope. Thank you.

In the midst of all the challenges of 2021, we've learned a lot and found the truth in a hymn we often sing: *Great is Thy Faithfulness*. Thank you for your faithfulness to God's work in our community through the life of CoF this past year and in the time ahead.

Blessings, Pastor Rob



Children & Youth Ministry at CoF

This year we have continued to be creative with the children and youth ministry. When Community of Faith did not meet in person, we sent to each home lesson plans and videos to help keep our kids engaged.

When we returned to in-person worship, an emphasis was placed on keeping everyone safe and healthy. Children and youth met outdoors with masks and social distancing. Through Storytime led by the youth, crafts, games, and mission projects, the kids and youth have continued to learn and grow spiritually.

Because of high COVID numbers, we went virtual again in January but look forward to being back in person in February with mission projects and fun lessons as we look towards Lent and Easter.

To learn more about children at CoF, contact Kelli at Children@cofumc.org and for youth, contact Hannah at youth@cofumc.org



Throughout the pandemic, and until the beginning of 2022, our sanctuary had candles in the windows to remind us that we are called to be a light to the world and to witness to the world, God's light is always present.



The Food Pantry

For a video review, [click here](https://www.vimeo.com/673782487) OR go to: www.vimeo.com/673782487

A food distribution ministry of Community of Faith and Epiphany Episcopal



Every day, food is brought to church and on Tuesday afternoon's, the entire facility becomes a grocery staging area. It's both food for the soul and food for the body. Thanks to area grocers, restaurants, and neighbors, the make the food ministry is possible. Thanks to area Scouts, non-



perishables are gathered from the annual *Scouting for Food* event in November. The weekly average number of food clients during the pandemic has ranged from a low of 96 families to a high of 202 families.



Food arrives daily and is sorted on Mondays and prepared for boxing and bagging on Tuesday mornings. On Tuesday afternoons, the prepared boxes are paired with frozen and refrigerated items along with perishables and staged on the sidewalk for placing in client's autos. It takes a lot of folks a lot of hours to make it all work!

Scouting for Food sets a new record

Saturday, November 13 was the largest donation ever for Scouting for Food netting 22,648 pounds of food among 576 boxes and 26 crates were collected. That beat the previous largest level of giving by 38%! Thank you.

To see a video from S4F, [click here](#) or go to www.vimeo.com/647503454



Mission giving 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 Blessing Tree** made possible the giving of 200 Target & Walmart gift cards to our food clients for Christmas. Using a big box store means our clients could choose toys, clothes, or food for Christmas.

Alternate Christmas Giving make possible gifts

- † to the **COF Food Ministry** (\$2,210)
- † to the global work of **Rise Against Hunger** (\$325), www.riseagainsthunger.org
- † to **UMCOR** (\$370) umcmmission.org/umcor
- † to the **Heifer Project** (\$315) www.heifer.org
- † to the **Virginia Interfaith Center for Public Policy** (\$145) virginiainterfaithcenter.org

Christmas Eve Offering provided **\$1425.00** to replace the roof of Chimbe United Methodist Church outside Lodja, Democratic Republic of Congo.



School Supplies for Dogwood Elementary School

Backpacks and binders, crayons and markers, paper of all kinds were just some of the materials given. Dogwood librarian and CoF'er, Terri Orvis helped make a lot of Dogwood folks happy when she arrived with the gifts.



Finance Report for 2021

During 2021, CoF paid all our bills including many of our apportionments (our fair share of mission & administrative costs for our denomination) and concluded the year with adequate balances in the bank.



General Ministry Funds - The General Fund expenses include salaries and benefits for church staff, apportionments, maintenance expenses for the church building and parsonage, utilities, office operating expenses, and program expenses for education, worship, and outreach. In 2021, we received \$376,180.00 in donations and spend \$394,120.00. At the close of 2021 our checking account balance was \$43,195.00 and our money market fund was \$25,015.00.

Future Ministry 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 2020, our account balance was \$254,755.00. When the year ended, we had a balance of \$282,402.00.

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

Dedicated & Restricted Funds:

CoF maintains several dedicated funds whose gifts are used only for a specific purpose. They include:

Pastor's Discretionary Fund (PDF): These funds have blessed many persons and families living in economic stress. PDF gifts provide for gas cards, medication, physician co-pays, rent and utility help and a safe place to stay during times of unusual weather for several in our area that are unhoused.

<i>Pastors Discretionary Fund</i>	
Contributions during 2021	\$ 9,102.00
Monies spent during 2021	\$13,725.00
Balance on December 31	\$ 443.00

The Food Pantry at CoF: Monies for the Food Ministry support the infrastructure of the program as well as purchases of food. In-kind donation from the 20+ groceries and restaurants who donate food is estimated to be in excess of \$500,000. We were fortunate to receive grant of \$4,500 from the Capital Area Food Bank to purchase food from their warehouse.

<i>Food Ministry</i>	
Contributions during 2021	\$ 42,637.00
Monies spent during 2021	\$ 34,962.00
Balance on December 31	\$ 22,543.00

Mission's Fund: Throughout the year, CoF receives contributions for mission support. In 2021, 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.

<i>Missions Fund:</i>	
Contributions during 2021	\$3,759.00
Monies spent during 2021	\$5,543.00
Balance on December 31	\$3,316.00

<i>Missions Scholarships:</i>	
Beginning & Ending Balance	\$ 741.00

How CoF receives your financial gifts

Online Giving: 81% of all funds contributed in 2021 came from Online Giving. Thank you. Using [OnRealm](#) allows individuals to make gifts through their checking account or credit card. Online gifts may be made for one-time only or scheduled to be made at any time interval (weekly, bi-weekly, or monthly for example).

Weekly Envelopes: Weekly envelopes are provided for all contributors who desire them.

There are other ways to donate as well:

- ✓ **Online shopping through micro-donations:** If you shop with Amazon, CoF is an [Amazon Smile](#) charity and you can direct a percentage of your purchase in that manner.
- ✓ **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.

What do our United Methodist Funds do?

Our United Methodist mission funds provide for hope and life around the world by providing for missions in medicine, agriculture, and education; through evangelistic efforts, building new churches, supporting missionary salaries, offering Bible study, spiritual encouragement and helping God's children everywhere. Our primary fund for this is the **World Service Fund**. This fund is the financial lifeline to a long list of Christian mission and ministry in our denomination. To see just how extensive United Methodist missions are, visit www.umcmmission.org. **During 2021, CoF contributed \$6,000.00 to this fund, 100% of what we were asked to give.**



Within the Arlington District (which includes much of Arlington County, central and western Fairfax, and parts of Loudoun County), we provide **\$3,972.00** to support the work of the district. Arlington is the most ethnically diverse district in American Methodism with multiple Hispanic, Korean, Ghanaian, Vietnamese and Anglo churches!

For the services of our annual conference, **CoF contributes \$44,700.00** to provide for communications, accounting, clergy health care and programs for children, youth and young adults, church vitality and generating new faith communities and more. These funds are called "apportionments" in United Methodist language because they are *apportioned* to local churches as their *fair share* of what it costs to do mission and witness and a church's "fair share" is based on each church's financial health. It is how the 12+ million United Methodists around the world organize and fund our witness to God's love in Christ.

For an incredible number of stories about how lives are transformed through our United Methodist mission funds, visit www.umcgiving.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 a video thank you of how your funds make a difference in the world, [click here](#) or visit <https://vimeo.com/673626542>



CoF welcomed Oak Hill Preschool in September 2021

www.oakhillprek.com/

Expected to open in 2020, Oak Hill Preschool opened this past fall as an early childhood educational preschool and Childcare for children ages 2 to 5. Owned and administered

by Oak Hill neighbors, we are pleased to provide space for this comprehensive effort supporting parents and families in our area. For more information about Oak Hill Preschool, contact them at

info@oakhillprek.com or phone 571-524-8177



Youth Ministry through Scouting and the challenge of BSA & UMC

CoF's ministry with youth and their families is extended through the sponsorship of Cub Scout Pack 1160 and Boy Scout Troop 158. We also host several Girl Scout groups. Never missing a beat during the pandemic, our Scout troop met on Sunday afternoons out-of-doors until late fall when they could meet safely indoors, and our Cub Scouts often met on the grounds throughout the year even holding their annual "Blue & Gray Banquet" as a picnic on the lawn. All our Scouting groups continue to be great partners in service. For example, every week, our Boy Scout troop stages canned goods from the barn in the narthex in preparation for Tuesday's food distribution.



BSA, UMC and the Court Case

This past year also saw a national bankruptcy case between the Boy Scouts and victims/survivors of abuse. While the BSA now has one of the premier child safety protection programs in place with training required of every adult leader, most of their cases of abuse are from the 1950's – early 1970's and the settlement amounts are expected to reach over \$2B.

What does this have to do us Community of Faith? The relationship between a chartering organization and a scouting unit is one where the chartering unit (that's CoF) assumes a significant portion of the liability for the Scouts. (Girl Scouts are organized differently and their national body assumes the cost for their liability coverages). The UMC has committed \$30 million toward the survivor's fund with the provision that all UMC organizations will be indemnified from any individual lawsuits. On January 29, 2022, our annual conference committed almost \$1 million toward Virginia's portion. It is expected that the case will conclude by the end of February 2022 and soon thereafter, new relationship agreements will be available between the local BSA Council and chartering organizations. During this time, our scout groups continued to meet as normal, but our adult leaders had to endure lots of anxiety as the future relationship with United Methodist chartering organizations was uncertain. While our continued relationship and sponsorship of CoF's unit's looks secure, the details of the administrative aspects our sponsorship will be determined the first half of 2022. The UMC is the second largest chartering organization of BSA units. As developments are expected to rapidly change during the first quarter of 2022, a web search of relevant news stores is the best way to keep informed. CoF will offer any new developments as we know of them.

Worship during 2021

Through much of 2021 we worshipped online with services prepared in advanced and posted to our Vimeo.com site. Each Sunday, we held a brief, outdoor Holy Communion Service. Thanks to the incredible work by our worship team, chaired by Carol Larson and music coordinated by Mary Ann East, worship online was a rich, meaningful, and creative as possible.



Easter Sunday began a series of monthly, outdoor worship on Sunday morning. Pentecost Sunday welcomed the graduates of our Confirmation class – Hazel Lindquist, Jackie Larsen, Will Driscoll, and Ali Greenberg.

August 1 brought the opportunity to return to in-person worship with a preparatory video prepared by our worship team and Hannah Godfrey. As fall arrived, online worship migrated to Facebook Live for the 8:30AM service. In-person worship continued through Christmas Eve which expanded to 2 services to provide for smaller numbers in the sanctuary and increase the worshipper's comfort. The Sunday after Christmas saw services returning to online only for four weeks as the COVID numbers saw a huge increase.

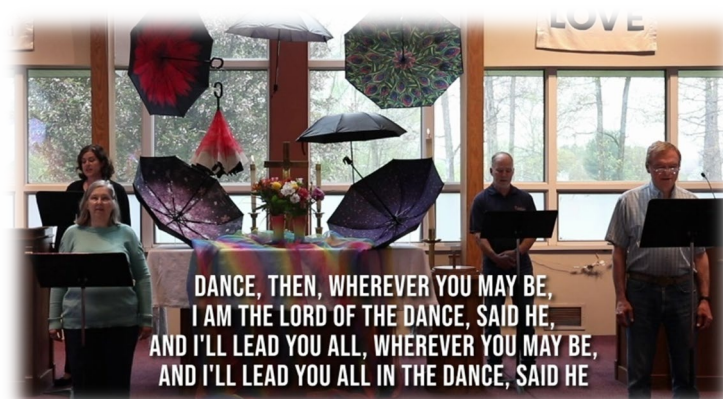
Although there are several ways to count how persons worshipped online during the first 7 months of 2021, we estimated (using our provider's analytics) between 75-130 individuals watching some portion of each Sunday online worship and between 39-71 individuals watching Tuesday Evening Vespers.

Attendance at in-person worship ranged from about 80% of usual at the 8:30 worship service to about 20-40% of pre-pandemic levels at the 10:30 service where most of our families with young children attend. Children and Youth were able to participate in study, service, and fellowship out of doors this summer, led by Kelli Timanus and Hannah Godfrey.



[Worship April 11 2021](#)
The Season of Easter

All of our videos are archived at Community of Faith's Vimeo site at <https://vimeo.com/user87801901> and our live-streams of the 8:30AM worship service can be found at our church Facebook site at <https://www.facebook.com/CoFUMCHerndon>





2022 Leadership

Ministers - The Entire Congregation

Lay Leader – Jocelyn Gabriel
Associate Lay Leader - Ghazal Chilean
Administrative Council Chairperson - Lynne Mowery
Treasurer – Greg Carter
Council Recording Secretary – Ghazal Chilean
UM Men – Bill Minto & Raj Bartakke
United Methodist Women – Terri Timanus
Trustees - Larry Gittings
Fellowship Ministries – Susanne Jewell
Finance – Chris Gohrband
Financial Secretary – Jenny Winstedt
Staff-Parish Relations – Sandra Baron
Worship – Carol Larsen
Education – Bane Vaughn
Adult Church School Coordinator – Mike Folsom
Missions Chairpersons - Terri Orvis
Annual Conference Delegate – Rajiv Bartakke
At-large council members: Justin King

Church Staff

Music Director: Mary Ann East
Music Accompanist: Kelly Nam
Children's Coordinator – Kelli Timanus
Food Ministry Administrator, Youth Director, & Communications Director – Hannah Godfrey
Nursery Care – Miyo Shimoda
Office Manager – Di Hannum Beatty
Pastor - Rev. Rob Vaughn

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

United Methodist News Sites

visit www.umnews.org, www.um-insight.net or www.umc.org

Blessing of the Blessings was held out-of-doors during August 29 worship



Welcoming Statement (Adopted December 2019)

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.