

# ANSWERING THE CALL



God calls each of us to lives of service and connectedness. God also calls the church into ministry. Together, we are working to discern God's call for Woodland in its next chapter! Your offerings of creativity, curiosity, time, and resources are essential to help us answer the call. Read on to learn how we have made an impact together in 2022!

## LIFE AT WOODLAND

### 2022 IN REVIEW

- Receiving seven new members
- Welcoming 106 first-time visitors
- Coordinating weekly Saturday night suppers for our food-insecure neighbors
- Providing fellowship with the return of monthly potlucks
- Leading a study of The PC(USA) Creeds during Sunday School
- Opening our doors to two more support groups this year – one Al-Anon and one LGBTQ+ targeted AA group.



At Woodland, we embrace tradition, explore theology, and seek to create sacred Sunday mornings that will feel familiar while stretching us into new ways of thinking and being. Worship and education at Woodland this year have been no exception! We've been grateful to maintain our weekly hybrid worship format, allowing folks from all over the place to join us.

Education hour, faithfully led most weeks by Brett Withers, returned to the building just in time for Lent, when we explored the theme "Full to the Brim" with the help of materials from A Sanctified Art. We've also studied the lectionary texts and the creeds of the PCUSA! Thanks to Barbara, Cliff, and others who bring snacks for the 9:45 am Sunday school class and 10:30 am fellowship time.

This year in worship, we've welcomed 24 preachers to the Woodland pulpit to help us hear God's Word, receive encouragement as we work together for social justice, and experience the comfort of God's presence and love as we navigate life's griefs, concerns, and joys as a family of faith. We have gathered three times in joint worship with our friends at Eastminster Presbyterian Church! Our two Vanderbilt Divinity Hubbers, Adrian and Joryán, led a bilingual Ash Wednesday worship just a few weeks before graduation. We also shared joint worship for Pentecost and World Communion Sunday. In July, we had the absolute blessing of celebrating the baptism of Julia Harley Smith, daughter of Rachel and Brandon.

We've loved bringing back a few beloved Woodland traditions this year! At our first Easter service in the sanctuary since 2019, the dulcet tones of Woodlanders came together as a choir led by Jo. With the help of Eliza Blades and the hospitality team, we have brought back our monthly potlucks, typically on the first Sunday of the month.

Sunday morning provides a weekly opportunity to answer God's call to worship God, deepen our faith, and strengthen our bonds as a community!

# LOOKING AHEAD

Woodland Presbyterian Church has benefited tremendously from five years in partnership with Ministry Architects and The Hub as we have actively discerned God's call for the future of the church. The Session of Woodland announced in June our plans to shift toward a new model, including hiring a part-time, temporary pastor.



We are excited to share some information about this work at the congregational meeting on November 20th, along with additional updates from Session about Woodland's ministry and finances this year and next.

For now, we simply want to express our gratitude to all those who have committed their time, energy, and gifts to Woodland as we continue to navigate this transitional season. The leadership of the Session, the collaboration of Ministry Architects staff and Hubbers, and the insightful encouragement of the Presbytery of Middle Tennessee and our church development partner Project Thrive have all been essential.

We are grateful to each of you for being part of the life of Woodland and look forward to seeing what God has in store for us in 2023!



# TECH TEAM SPOTLIGHT

Whether you worship at Woodland in the sanctuary or on Zoom, our tech team is committed to making sure you have a wonderful experience! In the world of Audio/Visuals, the less you notice it, the more work goes into creating it. Hubbers Sara, Destin, and Cory, along with dedicated volunteers Mason and Todd, have committed countless hours to getting the right equipment, perfecting the set up, and running A/V each week to ensure those in-person and online can experience the sights and sounds of worship.

For this team, it's a chance to build skills, express their passions, and serve the church.

Sara says: "I love being able to do something that interests me and has always been a passion of mine, while offering a virtual space for anyone and everyone to be part of such a special community."

Todd adds: "I'm thankful that God is using the audio engineering skills I've learned over many years to help Sara, Cory & Destin as they serve our Woodland community so faithfully."

We are also thankful that a \$5,000 grant from the Presbytery of Middle Tennessee has allowed us to upgrade microphones and purchase some additional equipment to continue improving this part of our ministry.

# REACHING OUT

Loving our neighbors is just a part of the DNA of the Woodland family. This year, thanks to the partnerships with other churches and non-profits and the hard-working efforts of Barbara Fay and her dedicated volunteers we continued to provide a weekly Saturday night meal for our neighbors



## 2022 expenses at a Glance

- Facilities: \$47,033
- Personnel: \$40,439
- Loan Payment: \$12,976
- Finance and Administration: \$14,599
- Program: \$5,827
- Presbytery Contribution: \$4,050

(as of 9.30.22)



Join in this year's stewardship by making a pledge to financially support our operating and/or capital expenses in 2023! Fill out the pledge card enclosed with this mailing, or visit <https://woodlandnash.org/2023-commitment>. Cards are also available at Woodland.