

"Each of you should give what you have decided in your heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver" (2 Corinthians 9:7, NIV).



Our Scope of Ministries



Manchaca United Methodist Church
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Change

When I think of our world today, the word that comes to mind is change. Change is all around us and the pandemic along with technology have only increased the amount and pace of change. Worship opportunities are available anytime and anywhere through our Facebook page. Our children can now get an iPhone 13 and aspire to grow up to become a "social influencer" instead of becoming a teacher, physician, first responder, or President! The good news is that our church was made for change. To begin with, our church is there with people in times of transition. In times of grief, illness and loss, Stephen Ministers, grief groups, Sunday School classes and worship services are there to assist. Our various missions are there with food, relief and support to people experiencing a change in income or housing. In baptisms, weddings and worship we are there for the more joyful transitions. In addition, our church is wired to facilitate the helpful change we call spiritual growth or discipleship. Through opportunities in education, worship and service we help people become more like Jesus.

To help make change possible our church has worked to become more flexible in order to offer opportunities to connect with people which are safe, convenient and effective.

In the midst of all this change, however, two things have not changed. First, we continue to depend on the Holy Spirit to help us. Secondly, we continue to depend on your faithful generosity to help spread the unchanging love of Christ in a world going through rapid and disorienting change. Because you give, our church can give.

David McNitzky, Sr. Pastor



Scope of Ministries

Ministry is advanced in many ways. This Scope of Ministry provides some examples of the many, varied activities MUMC has undertaken in the last year.

Praising God through Worship and Music

As our area continued to experience the effects of the global pandemic, we remained dedicated to providing



worship services to praise our God and inspire our congregation. Worship services that occurred before Easter met outside and were livestreamed via MUMC's Facebook page. On Easter Sunday, we gathered at the pavilion for three morning services, including a sunrise service. After Easter, our



Sunday morning worship services returned to meeting inside the building while still being livestreamed. Such as These continued to provide music for the Life on the Road service. The Sanctuary Choir and Glory Bells rehearsed weekly and occasionally provided special music at the



traditional service. On September 12, we adopted a new worship schedule which provides time for three morning

worship services and as well as time for Sunday School classes and small groups. The Life on the Road service and the later traditional service continue to be livestreamed on a weekly basis.



Teaching and Equipping Believers for Effective Service and Ministry

Through the ups and downs of the pandemic, Manchaca UMC

continues to offer disciples of all ages an opportunity to learn and grow in their faith. This year we saw the re-opening of our nursery and the return of in-person children's and youth Sunday school classes. We continue to offer a variety of adult classes and small groups online and in-person, and sometimes both! This hybrid learning model will continue into the future



allowing greater participation options and a wider reach.

Mission and Outreach Reflecting God’s Love

FOOD
Saturdays
9-11 a.m.

There are a number of feeding miracles in the Bible. In I Kings 17, a widow shares her last bit of food with Elijah the prophet. However, as long as she keeps sharing with him, her food never runs out! In Mark 6 Jesus prepares to feed 5,000 people with only five loaves of bread and two fish. But as long as the disciples keep distributing the food it also does not run out. Our church has had a similar experience in this pandemic year. We continue to give resources to the community through the Food Pantry, Akins Homeless ministry, Menchaca Backpack ministry, Habitat for Humanity and other missions. Resources keep going out but more resources keep coming in through your generous giving. As a philanthropist said years ago about generosity, “I shovel it out and God shovels more back in; and God has a bigger shovel!” God has continued to allow us to shovel out in these difficult days.



Direct Support for Ministries

The youth ministry at MUMC is a place of belonging. In the words of one teen, spoken at the youth-led worship service in August: “I came and instantly fell in love with it. It’s a family atmosphere.” Sixth through twelfth graders learn the joy of belonging to God and to each other. Weekly we have met for lessons and discussions and games, and there is always a special event around the corner.



This past year they raised over \$1400 through a car wash for Dell Children’s Medical Center, took a trip to Schlitterbahn, had various parties, a family game night, lock-in, Christmas Tree lot sales, and more. We sent 17 teenagers to mission camp last summer in Dallas where they ministered to disadvantaged communities while also developing greater faith in worship and Bible study. All youth are sent a birthday card and celebrated for their individuality. We incorporate youth, parent, and adult leader ideas in all planning through the youth ministry council. In total, we serve around 40 youth and see anywhere from 12-30 of them at the weekly meetings. The youth are grateful for the constant love and support from their church family.



Daily Ministry Support

Ministry support at Manchaca UMC occurs seven days a week. Throughout the pandemic, ministry leaders, worship leaders, committees and the office staff maintained an open dialog in order to support



all ministry efforts. Whether it be through communications, preparing worship tools, assisting with volunteer efforts or just tending to daily details such as fielding phone calls and paying our

bills, our goal is to provide support. As we discovered early on in the pandemic, electronic communications are one of the most important ways that we can get the word out about our ministries. By using social media posts, our MUMC website, text messages, and weekly e-newsletters, we are able to share our ministries with our church family and the community. When ministries require printed matter, our church office contains the machines and supplies to support printing, folding, laminating and cutting for mailings, handouts, flyers, classroom and worship materials. When our electronic sign was disconnected due to the road construction on FM 1626, we quickly resorted to temporary banners to display some of our ministries and our worship times to passers-by. In order to help those seeking out our church and what we have to offer, the Trustees have recently placed permanent signage at our entrances to help direct people into our parking lots.



Places for People and Ministry

We were thrilled to open the doors of the church to in-person worship this year. The “look” of worship has varied to maintain corporate worship while keeping congregants safe. To maximize service to the church and community, worship services were hybrid with online live and prerecorded options. The church received a grant to upgrade the lights at the Pavilion. The Pavilion is used almost every day by the community for a

variety of activities. The church facilities were upgraded two years ago at a total cost of over a half million dollars. Through the faithfulness of the congregation, the note has been paid down to less than \$300,000.



Generosity and Financial Gifts Create Ministry

This description is not intended to replace the tools used by our Finance Team. If you would like to see a detailed line item statement of how ministry funds are used, please contact the church office, 512-282-7274.

2021 Expenditures (January through August)

