



In a tree, there is a symbiotic relationship between the roots that form and feed the canopy, and a canopy that shades the roots for deeper growth. An individual branch does not grow on its own, only in connection with the whole that sustains it. The same can also be said of a church—individual members sustained and rooted by the support of the whole, but also reaching to benefit the whole in return—with presence, gifts, and service.

## ROOTED & REACHING

From the very beginning—meeting in a tent for worship—Christ UMC has been rooted in joyful generosity. From the annual Strawberry Festival that supported our ministries or investing in facilities to house the homeless for Room in the Inn, our congregation strives to be the hands and feet of Christ, reaching to bring worship to prisoners, building homes, feeding the hungry, and loving those who need it most.

Joyful generosity comes when we are fully rooted in the life of the church—when we show up, serve alongside one another, and offer our gifts with gratitude. Out of that rootedness, we grow, and giving becomes natural: it flows freely and joyfully.

## IMPACT

Your financial gifts support the ability of our ministries to reach out and impact our church, community, and beyond through presence, gifts, and service. Your monetary commitments also assist the finance committee in planning the 2026 budget.

## HOW TO PLEDGE

There are three ways to make a pledge:

1. *In Person*—During worship on Giving Sunday, November 2, or any other Sunday in October.
2. *By Mail*—Mail your card to the church: 508 Franklin Road, Franklin TN 37069
3. *Electronically*—Scan the QR code or visit our website.



**YOU'RE INVITED! SUNDAY, OCTOBER 26, AFTER WORSHIP  
TOWN HALL TO DISCUSS 2026 BUDGET**

...continue to live your lives  
in Him, rooted and built up  
in Him, strengthened in the  
faith as you were taught, and  
overflowing with thankfulness.

**COLOSSIANS 2:6-7**



**STEWARDSHIP CAMPAIGN**

**2026**





# ROOTED

## PRESENCE

Servant-saints for over 25 years were the teaching dynamos of Sharyn and Big John Slaughter. Through their vibrant classroom passed scores of preschool aged children. Showing up year after year, the Slaughters taught multiple generations of our children on Sunday morning while hosting summer swim parties and cookie baking in the fall. Sunday morning couldn't hold all the love they had to share.

## GIFTS

During Christ UMC's early years, worship had been a journey of resilience: six months in a tent, six months in a high school, and two years in the Baptist Children's Home auditorium.

In 1988, guided by deep faith, ten families pledged \$100,000 each as collateral for a bank note. Their bold commitment enabled us to build our first sanctuary. In June 1990, the congregation gathered for the first time in their permanent place of worship. These founding families accepted great financial risk so that Christ UMC could flourish. Their sacrifice and generosity laid a foundation that continues to define our church today.

## SERVICE

Founded in 2001, our Prison Ministry shares the love and forgiveness of Jesus Christ with those in and released from Tennessee prisons. With ministers and volunteers, we lead a weekly communion service at Riverbend Maximum Security Institution, attend parole hearings, and host a holiday dinner for the men and staff. As a congregation, we send cards of encouragement at least four times annually.

# Reaching

THROUGH OUR GIVING  
WE HONOR GOD, AND BY IT WE MAKE  
POSSIBLE THE MINISTRY OF THE CHURCH.

Christ UMC welcomes all, and has a place for all. In addition to worship, there are multiple ways you can reach and grow as a Christ follower, both in your serving and giving.

We have many hopes and dreams that we're reaching for in 2026. We want to focus on social justice issues, keep our children's and youth programs strong and growing, develop new pathways for discipleship, maintain our beautiful facility and make it even more welcoming. We want to look for ways to fill in the gaps for local missions that have lost funding, such as Gentry's Foundation. During the next few weeks we ask you to prayerfully consider all of this. Our reaching will require increased funding, and we can't do it without you.

### REACHING TO SUPPORT:

- Graceworks  
Room in the Inn  
Prison Ministry  
One Gen Away  
Habitat for Humanity  
Last Minute Toy Store
- Meals on Wheels  
Miriam's Promise  
Raise the Roof Academy  
St. Andrew Potato Drop  
Gentry's Educational Foundation  
Center for Living & Learning

## Can You Take One More Step and Reach a Little Bit Further?

It takes generosity at every level to make Christ UMC's ministry happen. The information below reflects the current levels of giving to our annual ministry fund. If you haven't started giving to God through Christ UMC, please consider making a weekly or monthly gift. If you're a regular giver, would you consider increasing your giving, perhaps stepping up to the next level?

Every gift matters! Thank you for your continuing generosity.

ANNUAL GIFT AMOUNT	# OF GIFTS	% OF GIVING FAMILIES
\$0	189	46%
\$1-\$260	20	5%
\$261-\$520	19	5%
\$521-\$1300	36	9%
\$1301-\$2600	36	9%
\$2601-\$5200	44	11%
\$5201-\$13000	50	12%
\$13001-\$26000	14	3%
\$+26000	3	1%