



## New Sanctuary Lighting Installed

Hurricane Productions of Findlay/Lima completed a new sanctuary lighting project for First Church. This Trustee project was partially paid for with the Easter offering 2022 and the remaining cost covered by Trustee funds. The project was completed just before Christmas due to supply chain shortages. The above pictures were taken by Hurricane Production workers and provide some unique perspectives from high above the main floor.

The Chancel (stage) area was greatly enhanced with new LED spots that were previously incandescent bulbs and contained old, broken-down wiring. The new spots increase the brightness and life, eliminating the need to change bulbs by nearly 8x the life of the previous bulbs. The stained glass windows, including the Shepherd's Window are now lit brightly for the public to see from the outside at night. House chandelier light fixtures were also updated with LED bulbs. Our on-line video is greatly enhanced as is our inside and outside appearance.

Thank you to all who donated to this project through your Easter Offering gifts last year.



## Pipe Organ Update



The revitalization project of our Noehren Pipe Organ has now entered its next phase. Lima Pipe Organ has begun removing old pipes that will render the organ unusable for the next few months. The Chickering grand piano will lead traditional worship and accompany the Chancel Choir until this phase is completed.

Old pipes which have been damaged over the years are being replaced, repaired, and re-tuned. In some instances, wooden (plywood) pipes are being replaced with a higher quality poplar wood and/or switched to metal pipes. Once all pipework is complete, the organ chamber will be increased in size to give more space between pipes, making future tunings and repairs easier to access.

The final phase is tonal finishing and polishing of the pipes. This will be completed by Duane Prill, a nationally sought-after finisher, and a Van Wert native as well as organ student of Gloria Wendel and piano student of Annette Hoverman. Duane lives in New York, but his work takes him from coast to coast.

We hope to have the organ functional by Easter of this year!

# Financial Report for 2022

## *Here is the current financial situation at First UMC.*

Our 2022 budget was \$637,701.00.

2022 Giving for the Operating Budget was \$624,951.00

2022 Expenses for the Operating Budget was \$574,933.00

2022 Contributions over Expense = \$ 50,078.00

Our expenses were lower than expected due to changes in staff and some positions not filled for an entire year. The finance team anticipates 2023 expenses to rise. Staff and the finance team will continue to watch expenses closely.

Operating Cash Balance as of 12/31/2022:

Checking Account \$216,166.00

Edward Jones Savings \$194,286.00

Total Cash \$410,452.00

Our 2022 average monthly expenses were approximately \$48,000.00. So, in 2022 we added another month to our reserve funds.

*Thank you to the First UMC members who have faithfully given through difficult years and have allowed us to continue quality ministries to the community and congregation.*

## Other giving includes:

Building Maintenance Fund \$106,685.00

Food Pantry \$ 6,681.00

Agape Fund \$ 25,696.00

Festival of Sharing \$ 2,491.00

Preschool Budget & Scholarship \$ 2,212.00

Isaiah 58 \$ 520.00

Youth Mission Trip \$ 5,514.00

Project 216 \$ 3,684.00

Operation Back to School \$ 5,181.00

Organ Fund \$ 87,274.00

(plus Memorials thru the Trustee Accounts)

Plus other things like: VBS, Easter, Blanket Sunday to name a few.

**If you have any questions or want more detail,  
please contact Jana Thompson, [jana.thompson@vanwertfirst.net](mailto:jana.thompson@vanwertfirst.net).**

## 2022 FUMC Building Projects

January: Replace Heat Exchanger in Roof Top Unit  
Finish painting and carpeting project in office area  
Preparing Krout for contemporary worship services

April: Replace toilet in women's restroom

May: Repair plumbing in preschool bathroom  
Re-key church

June: Polish pews in the sanctuary (all summer)

July: Paint Cristi's office

October: Re-paint exterior signs

November: Cleaning sanctuary rafters

December: Sanctuary lighting project