

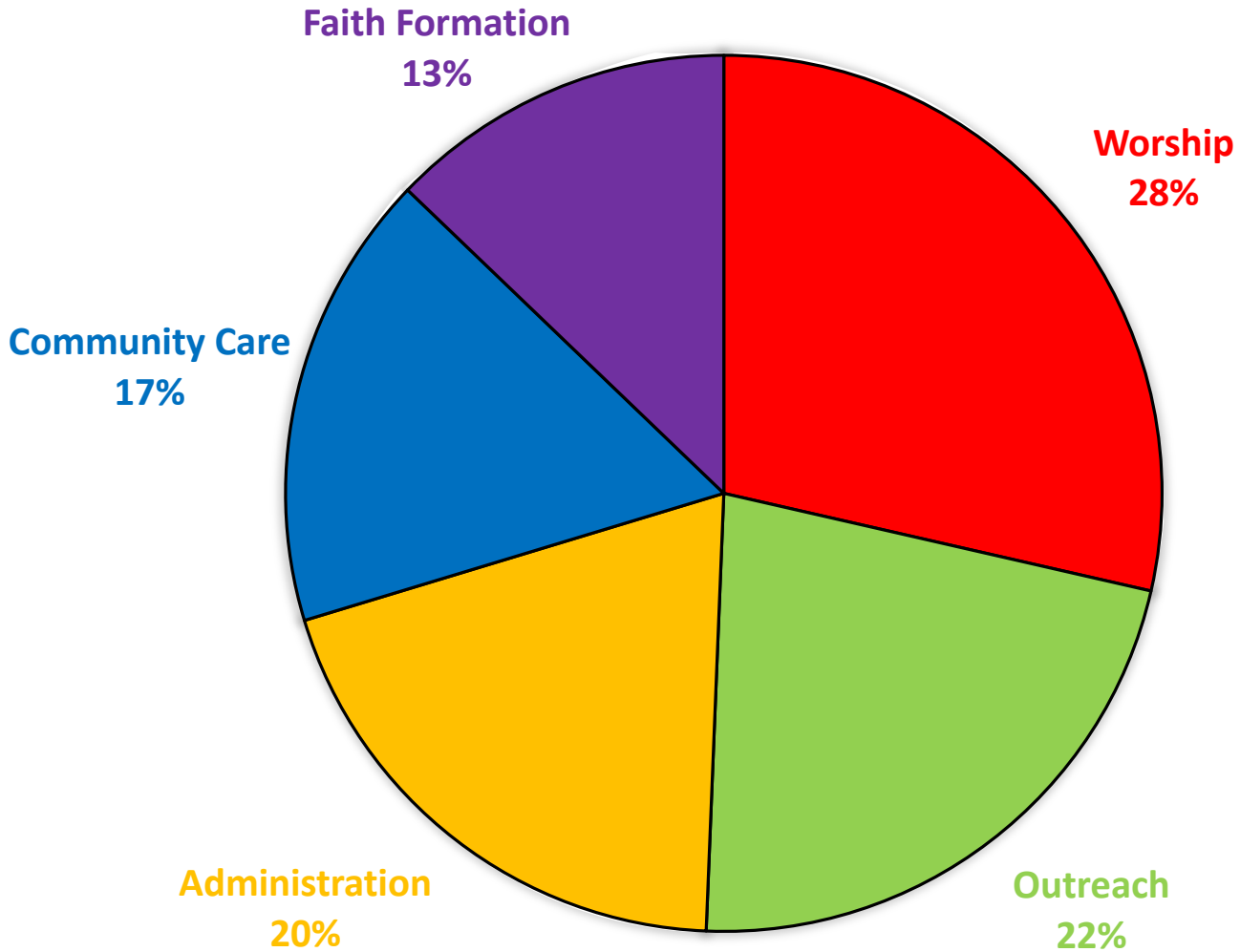
United In Christ



Lutheran Church

2020 Narrative Budget

PROPOSED 2020 BUDGET AT-A-GLANCE



Total Worship:	\$42,182.50
Total Community Care:	\$24,884.80
Total Outreach:	\$32,563.90
Total Faith Formation:	\$18,931.30
Total Administration:	\$29,037.50

TOTAL PROPOSED BUDGET: \$147,600



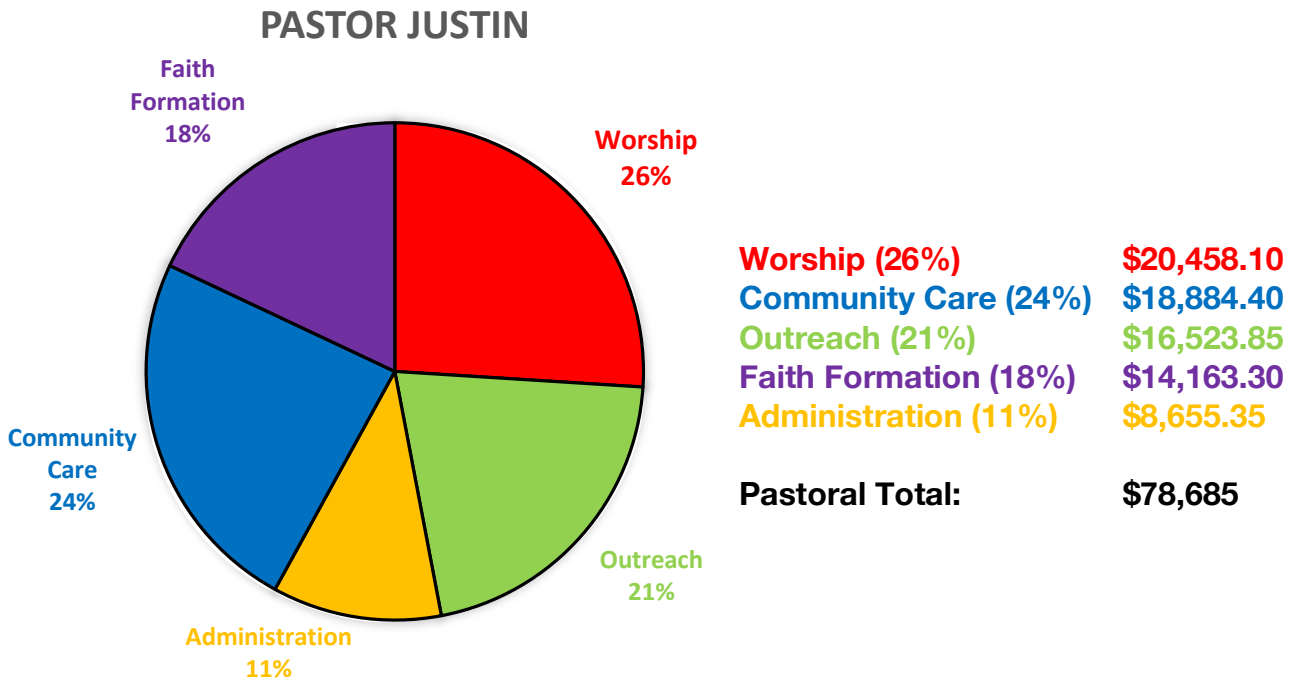
How do we figure?

Wondering how we got these numbers? Let us show you!

We started by simply examining the line item budget and placing each singular item in a given category. For example, the money designated for “Special Events” under Fellowship was accounted in the **community care** category. Likewise, the money allotted for “Organist” was placed in the **worship** category while the line for “Confirmation” was placed under **faith formation**.

Naturally, some items in the budget did not fit into a singular category. For those items, the cost was split among the pertinent areas. For example, the \$300 designated for Youth Activities straddles the line between **community care** and **faith formation**. As such, we split the total line, accounting for \$150 in each category.

Next came the tricky part. For staff whose positions cross any or all of these categories, we had them estimate their time by examining a given month and estimating the amount of time spent in each area of ministry. Then, taking the total packages of those positions (including health insurance, FICA, disability insurance), we prorated their packages into each category based on their percentages of time. For examples, see Pr. Justin’s breakdown below:

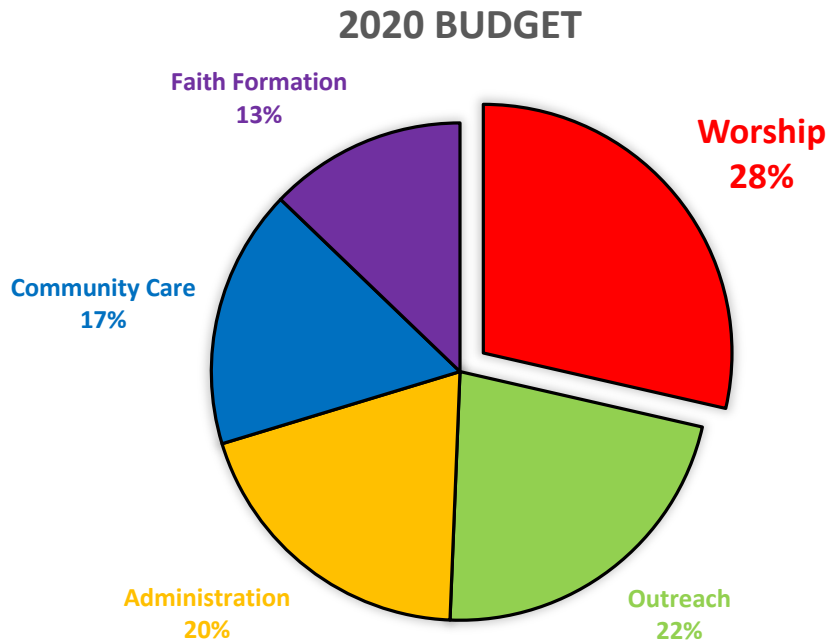


Finally, each category was independently totaled, then divided by the total budget to find the proportionate percentage of the total budget itself!



Worship:

Week after week we **worship** as a community, gathered around Word and Sacrament, to give thanks and praise to the God who comes to greet us. From Advent expectations to Easter celebrations, from the solemnity of All Saints and Good Friday to the bliss of Christmas and Pentecost, our life of **worship** touches the full spectrum of life's journey.



Notes:

- Perhaps unsurprisingly, the maintenance of **worship** at United In Christ is by far the largest spending category. Given that this practice unites us in the first place, our spending reflects the high priority we have on **worship** of God here.
- While constituting over a quarter of the total budget, **worship** also constitutes just over a quarter (26%) of Pastor Justin's time. This includes the time it takes to plan our rotating liturgies, line up the details of special holidays/services, prepare a sermon each week, and then actually lead **worship**.
- Holding **worship** here also puts a slightly stronger strain on the resources of our property, given the size and location of our sanctuary, accounting for 21% of our property costs.
- In order to make sure everything is prepared and set each Sunday, Terri spends about 30% of her time each week seeing that the details are taken care of, including formatting and printing the bulletins.



WORSHIP HIGHLIGHTS



"I love coming to worship here because the pastor is kind, cool, and funny. The lollipops are good!"

Leanne Larson

"I love coming to worship here because Leanne always has a morale boost right around the corner!"

Pr. Justin

Every week we gather around the ordinary elements of bread and wine to bear witness to God's divine drama unfold in extraordinary ways. This past year, we welcomed our neighbors into **worship** with us in new and exciting ways. We hosted the Milton Legion to commemorate Memorial Day together in May; in January we celebrated Scouts Sunday with our chartered Troop and Pack (*fun fact: did you know that Scout Sunday was our second most well-attended service of the year? Only Christmas Eve saw more people in **worship***); over the summer we saw the return of our Holy Humor Seusscharist; this Fall we tried our hand at a new service designed specifically to welcome and include our students throughout **worship**. Our life of **worship** thrives in this place, all of which is made possible by the commitment of disciples willing to be formed together week in and week out! Well done!



Reflection Time:

- How have you felt God working on you through **worship** this year?
- What is your favorite part of the Sunday service?
- What is your favorite **worship** service of the year?

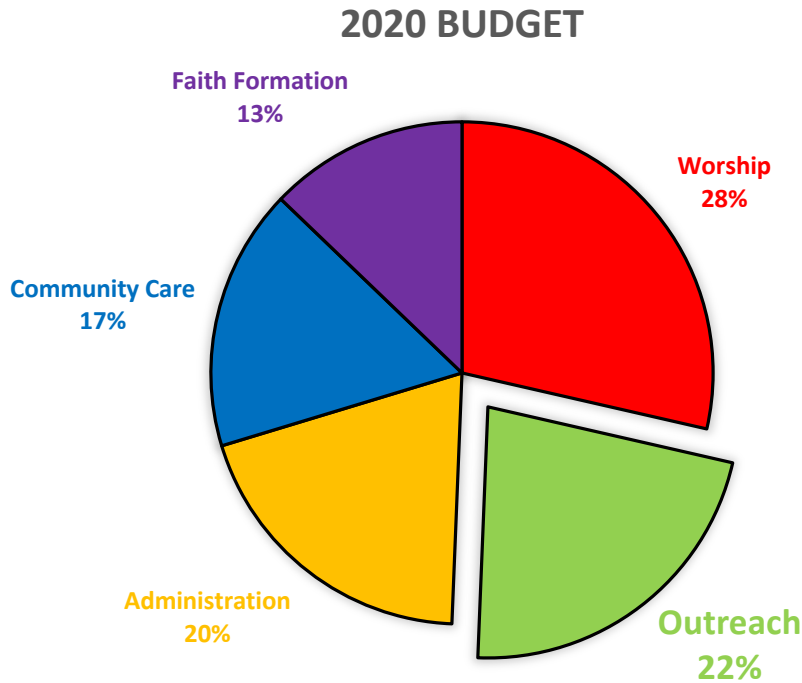
"What I love most about **worship** at United In Christ is the joy of singing, hearing, and being guided by the Word. The family shares the joy and love of our Lord to/with each other, with visitors, with community, and in prayer for God's children we've never met. God is so good – and alive at UIC!"

Cami Zimmerman



Outreach:

As we at United In Christ seek to continue the work of building God’s kingdom in our little corner of the world, we are challenged to reach beyond ourselves to the neighbors who surround us. From hosting four thriving Scouting organizations to a free monthly senior center, from hosting a free diaper pantry to supporting the Upper Susquehanna Synod and it’s work for the larger Church, **outreach** is all about the ways in which we feel God calling us to look beyond our walls and our members to see the Holy Spirit at work.



Notes:

- About 1/2 of the costs associated with **outreach** at UIC are composed of Pr. Justin’s time spent in relationship with groups and organizations that serve beyond our members. This includes gatherings within the synod, building relationships with local non-Lutheran clergy, and events that promote our visibility and serve our community (ex. God’s Work. Our Hands Sunday). This also includes his time spent with OAKS each month.
- Another 1/4 of the costs of **outreach** is composed of the use of resources on our property to facilitate multiple organizations and ministries that serve beyond our congregation (e.g. Scouting organizations, OAKS, Diaper Pantry). It also includes about 10% of Terri’s time as OAKS director and the extra time Terry spends setting our spaces for these events/ministries.
- The final 1/4 of costs of **outreach** is made up of our annual benevolence to the Upper Susquehanna Synod. The 2020 budget includes an allotment of \$8,400 to the synod, which represents 6% of the budget as we grow towards the practice of tithing a full 10% of our budget to the synod here at UIC.



OUTREACH HIGHLIGHTS



While **outreach** is something we do almost intrinsically with all of our activities here at UIC, many ministries and activities certainly go above and beyond to extend God’s love and care outside our walls to greet the neighbors across our communities. This past year our **outreach** extended beyond the hill to serve our neighbors in numerous ways: we lent a hand multiple times at Camp Mount Luther to help them host students all summer; we sent a group on a service trip to Buffalo, NY where they served multiple communities through a hunger initiative with local congregations and through housing development with Habitat for Humanity. Additionally, we continued to host multiple community organizations in our space, including our monthly senior center (OAKS), which saw approximately 35-60 people join us every month, four Scouting organizations (*did you know Troop 600 has over thirty scouts?*), a Bonsai Club, and a local chapter of Woodmen’s Life.



“It means a lot that we reach out to the community because outreach is a vital role of any church. We help those less fortunate and thereby show others in the community what we have to offer.”

Jane Mertz

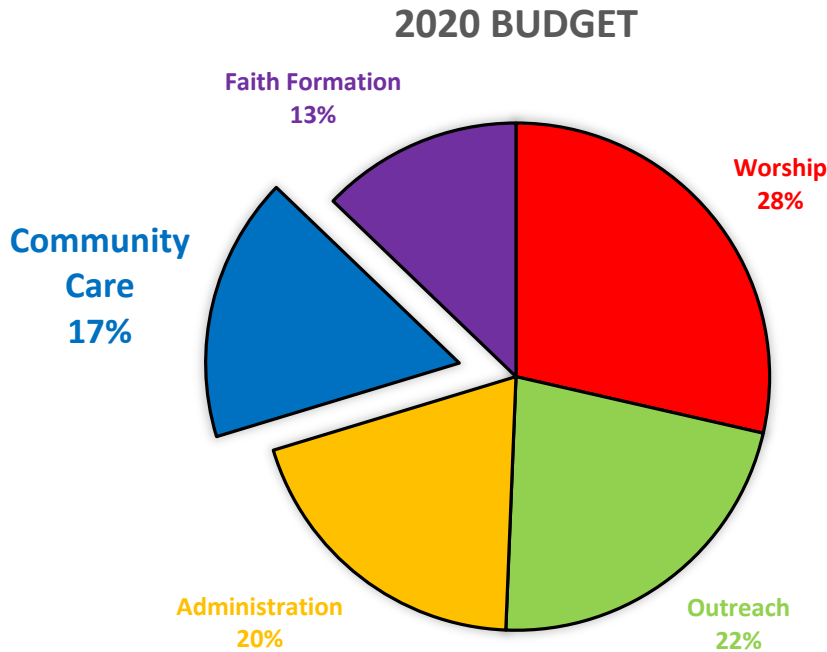
Reflection Time:

- How else do you see UIC serving our neighbors in our community?
- What does UIC have to offer that we can invite others to be a part of?
- What has been your best experience of serving our neighbors through UIC?



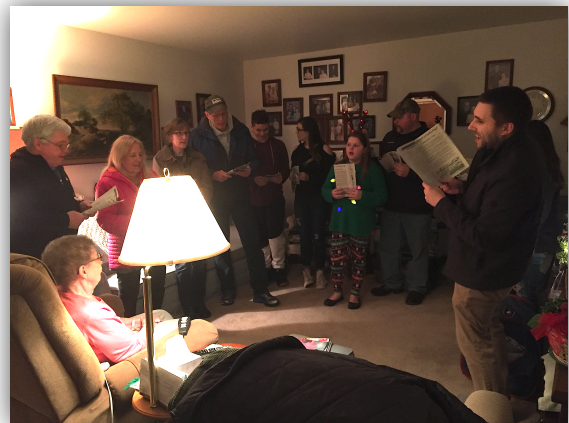
Community Care:

One of the blessings of gathering together as a community is the way we can serve as resources and well-springs of joy for the neighbors who quickly become family in this place. From counseling sessions to funeral receptions, from lock-ins with no sleeping to nights of churchwide bowling, **community care** encompasses all of the ways in which our congregation gathers to support one another and build each other up.



Notes:

- The majority of the cost of **community care** is accounted for in the time Pr. Justin spends in counseling sessions, visiting homebound members or members in the hospital, meeting with families to prepare for and hold funerals, and planning and attending events for our congregation. In total, this accounts for almost a quarter (24%) of Pr. Justin’s time.
- While these events do not require a large portion of Terri’s time (only about 5%), they do require the energy resources of our property and often require that Terry spends additional time during a week to clean up from events and have our spaces ready for worship and a new week of programming.



COMMUNITY CARE HIGHLIGHTS



One of the things most frequently heard from visitors at United In Christ, and from new members, is how quick this community is to make new neighbors feel welcomed and included here. The ways in which this congregation expresses **community care** to one another is without a doubt one of the strongest gifts in this place. It's clear from park picnics and bowling nights and corn mazes that this community truly enjoys one another's company and sees each other as family. Members of UIC make a habit out of going above and beyond for one another to make sure everyone is taken care of, even when individuals may be struggling. In short, **community care** is a great joy here at UIC!



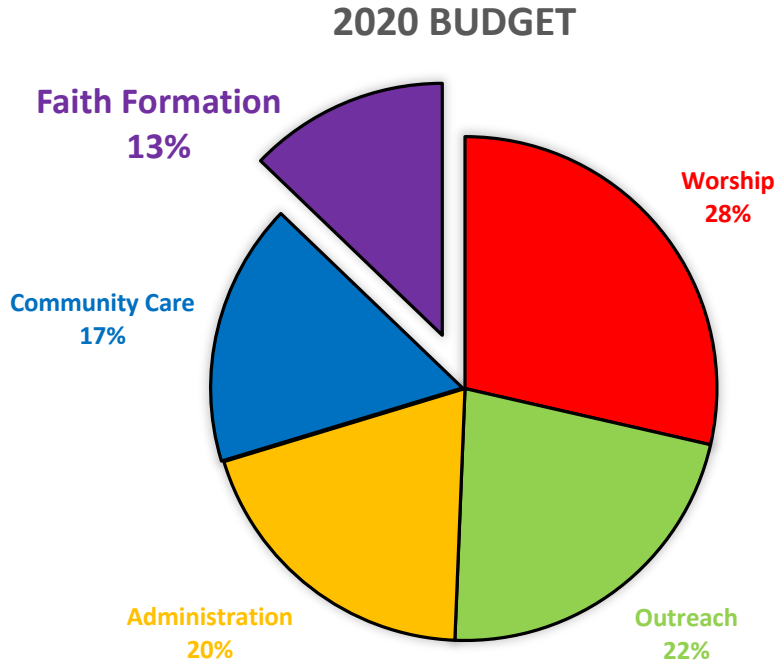
Reflection Time:

- How has this community been a blessing in your own life?
- What has been the most fun you've had at UIC?



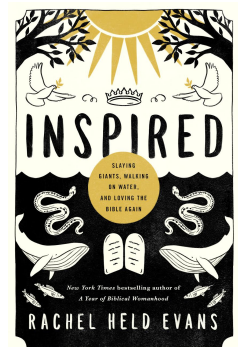
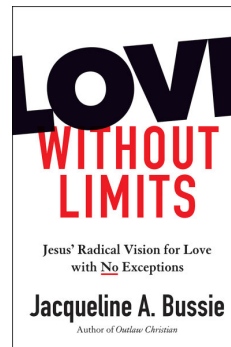
Faith Formation:

While we gather in community each and every week to hear and receive the gifts God has in store for us, we recognize that each of us, no matter our age, is a continued work in progress in this life of faith. From experiential summer learning opportunities to adult book studies, from youth group discussions to brainstorming over Sunday texts, **faith formation** encompasses all of the moments we gather to be formed as disciples as we grow and mature in our lives of faith.



Notes:

- The vast majority of **faith formation** costs are accounted for in the time Pr. Justin puts into collecting, previewing, preparing, and implementing programs for education. In total, this constitutes about 18% of his time.
- While this year's budget accounts for a mild increase to actual materials for faith formation (mostly to help account for costs associated with Faith and Fun Worship supplies), in total the physical resources of **faith formation** account for less than 1% of the overall budget. In large part, this is enabled by the generosity of members who help contribute to these ministries and by members often purchasing materials for themselves (i.e. members buying their own copies of the books used for each adult book study).



FAITH FORMATION HIGHLIGHTS

“Our faith and the gift of grace is never more obvious than when children are touched by the same Holy Spirit that we adults experience. We get to witness each week the mystery of faith accepted without question by the children. And they do retain what they hear and experience. The wisdom of Christ is ‘let the little children come unto me – not the scholarly or academic learning, but childlike faith. Aren’t we fortunate to watch this blessing each week? Aren’t we blessed by this gift through the eyes of our children?”

Sharon Larson-Byerly



“Participating in things like Faith and Fun Days/Worship helps our kids to grow in their faith and create new friendships.”

Carol Troxel



At United In Christ, we provide **faith formation** for members of all ages. Recently, this has led us to embrace new methods of **faith formation** in our community. The umbrella category of “Faith and Fun” represents our faithful experimentation in providing more experiential learning opportunities for our youngest members. Reworking our confirmation curriculum, in conjunction with Youth Group, has helped us form young disciples grounded in their own sense of community in this place. The success of our recent adult book studies have also given us the grounding to have conversations about the way our lives of faith call us to be disciples for the sake of the world around us.

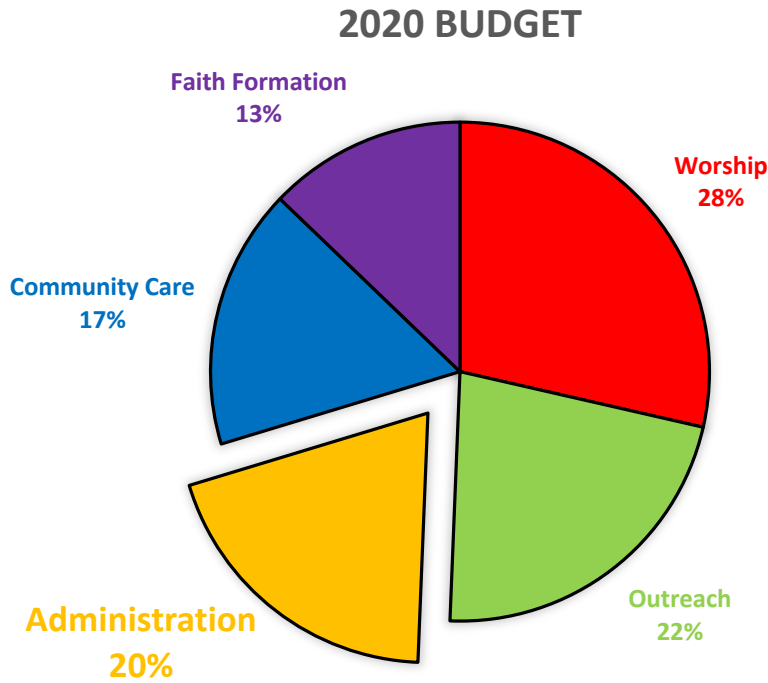
Reflection Time:

- How have you felt your faith grow as a result of being part of this community?
- What do you feel is the next step as you grow as a disciple of Christ?



Administration:

It, of course, takes a great deal of detail to ensure all of the former categories run smoothly! From filing reports to paying the bills, from providing clear communications to managing a plethora of schedules, **administration** encompasses all of the ways in which operations are kept running smoothly and efficiently at UIC.



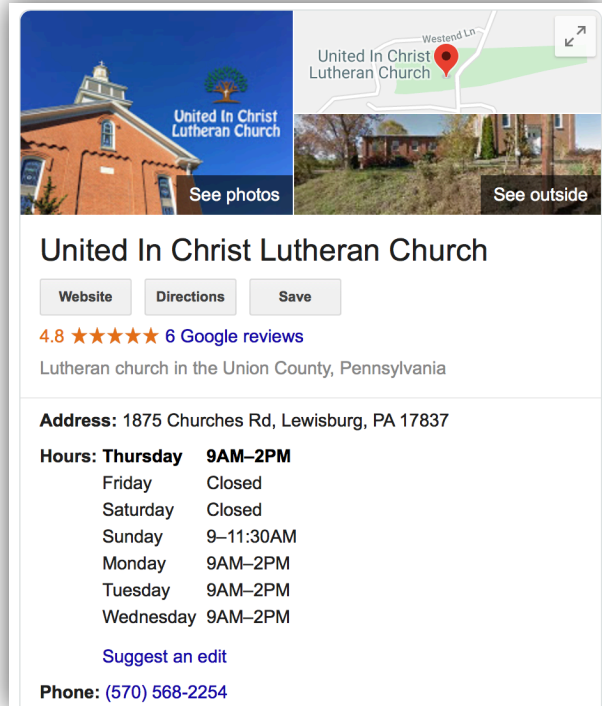
Notes:

- The bulk of the administrative costs at UIC are made up of Terri’s role in the office. **Administrative** functions from regular communication to keeping records and paying bills accounts for 55% of Terri’s time.
- Mercifully, **administration** represents the smallest apportionment of Pr. Justin’s time (11%).
- Part of what makes administration such a large portion of the budget is our ability to staff the office five days a week, which of course requires regular use of heating and electric, representing about 31% of our property costs.



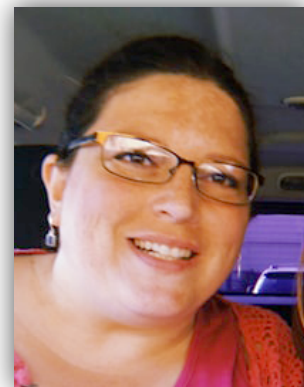
ADMINISTRATION HIGHLIGHTS

Oftentimes the tasks of **administration** overlap with any number of the previous categories of ministry here at UIC. It can be difficult to tell if website and social media management counts as outreach, community care, or simple **administration**. In any case, we benefit from having an office administrator who is creative, tech savvy, *and* able to be in the office five days a week! Having that presence in the building allows for so many other ministries to continue without interruption. More than just a presence here at UIC, though, Terri serves not only as our Chief Communications Officer, but also as our OAKS Director, our bookkeeper, our mailroom, *and* our Parish Administrator! Some of our accomplishments in **administration** this past year include claiming our web presence in Google to make it easier to find us online (*fun fact: multiple visitors found us simply by searching Google for Lutheran Churches nearby this summer*). This past year we also set the congregation up for online giving through tithe.ly (take a picture of the QR Code below to give it a whirl, or go to www.unitedinchristlutheran.net and click on the “Giving” tab).



“Terri not only keeps our church running efficiently, but is a good Christian. She goes the extra mile to help all of our members stay informed with all of the news of our church.”

Shirley McPherrin



Reflection Time:

- When was the last time you simply “stopped by” the office during the week?
- Is there something you love about United In Christ that you feel like everyone should know? Have you tried sharing it in a review either on Facebook or Google?
- How often do you look over each month’s newsletter to see what’s going on?

