

# North Hill Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)



## Narrative Budget 2018



**Being Church Together**

## Introduction

*Mission Statement: We at North Hill Christian Church are a people responding to God's call, building whole community, reflecting Christ through our actions, and living into the reign of God.*

As we look forward to a new year, we asked 4 members of the congregation to give us their perspective on the work that we have accomplished together during this current year. Each voice is different, yet each person sheds new light and celebrates our work together!

We hope that these new perspectives on the work here at North Hill will inspire all of us for the new year!

This narrative into our ministry areas:

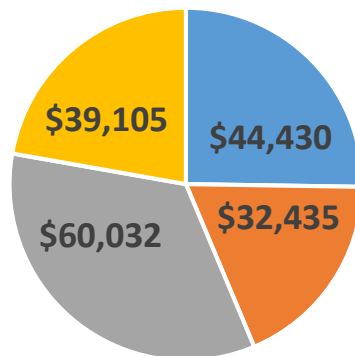
Open and Welcoming Community

Spiritual Growth

Worship

Witness and Service

### Expected Ministry Budget - 2018



■ Open/Welcoming

■ Spiritual Growth

■ Worship

■ Witness & Service

# Open and Welcoming Community - \$44,430

*Romans 15:7*

*Welcome one another, therefore, just as Christ has welcomed you, for the glory of God.*

**“Joyfully accept others into our community. Eliminate physical, cultural and spiritual barriers to participation. Support and care for each other physically and spiritually.”**



Imagine you are in the Narthex at North Hill on any Sunday morning. There is a knock at the double door. You answer the knock and open the door. Standing before you is a person who is in need of food and clothing, is a foreigner to our country, has a physical concern, has lost a family member, needs someone to listen to him/her, is of another ethnic background or has a crying baby. As members of an “open and welcoming community” we at North Hill have been charged to be disciples of God’s love and to accept all of God’s children as our family

members. Our doors are open to all who need God’s love and care. We take them into our community, introduce them to others and help each to be comfortable and welcome in the unfamiliar surroundings.

We are fortunate that our continuing members have times to share in friendship, food and fun that also include guests. We dig into nachos, slurp soup, really stuff our baked potatoes and potluck our fall bbq. Those interested in participating in a variety of projects are encouraged to share their time and/or talents. Pastor Chris, our elders, the care team, and our concerned family join together to let each child of God in need know that they are being thought of, prayed for, and wished comfort, whatever healing is needed, and peace.



We want our facility to be convenient for all of those who use our building. Care is taken to make the grounds look inviting to anyone who passes. As part of our welcoming ministry, AA and the Ukrainian Baptist Church regularly use our house. We share responsibility for maintaining the structure with them. The elevator allows us to welcome those with special needs into our structure.

In our NHCC Vision Statement we are reminded that “God calls us to be a whole community and to be a place where all people are welcome, all are accepted, and each of us has an opportunity to find and joyfully share our gifts, talents and passions.” Each of us has at one time knocked at North Hill’s front door and been welcomed to worship our God with this family. We are asked and we respond to the rule “do for others as has been done for us”.

*Staff included in this area:*

*Pastor Chris Snow - 21%*

*Mandy Serquina, Administrative Assistant – 20%*

Roslyn Cole and Ryann Serquina – 100%  
Susan Baker – 57%

Building Usage 48%  
Donated Hours (Mar-Sept) = 188.25

## Spiritual Growth - \$32,435

John 14:26

*“But the Advocate, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you everything, and remind you of all that I have said to you.”*

**“Foster an environment where all can grow closer to God. Provide guidance and assistance to help people form closer relationships with God.”**



As I think of ways we have intentionally chosen to grow in our spiritual walk this past year, I think of the more formal and obvious opportunities for growth like our Adult Sunday School and the Tuesday Morning Bible Study. These are times when we get together and with the leadership of Pastor Chris and of Bill Jennison, we study what the Bible tells us of how we are to grow in our Christian Journey.

Other times that are not so obvious, are when we care for others, both within and outside our immediate community. Funerals might seem an odd place to find spiritual growth, but we have had several of our members and friends pass away this year. We gather as extended family, to share, encourage, and remember. In this way we care for and share God’s compassion for the community and others, it’s another time of growth if we remember why we do what we do.

In the Bible we are instructed to care for each other, we are also told to feed the hungry. That is something we Disciples do pretty well, whether it is our community meals, or the Thanksgiving and Christmas baskets for folks who are struggling at those times. Throughout the year we also deliver Meals on Wheels to elderly and disabled folks. This year we also prepared a dinner for the families at Ronald McDonald House who are having medical issues in their families and need to stay near the hospital and their family member.



All of these things can be times of Spiritual Growth when we remember why we are serving, caring, being with folks in difficult times. When we do these things in Jesus’ name to bring God’s love into this hurting world, it can be a time of Spiritual Growth.

Staff included in this area:

Pastor Chris Snow - 25%

Mandy Serquina, Administrative Assistant – 10%

Building Usage 7%

Donated Hours (Mar-Sept) = 76.50

## Worship - \$60,032

Luke 4:8

Jesus answered him, "It is written, 'Worship the Lord your God, and serve only him.'"

**"Experience God in creative ways. Create a safe place where all people feel comfortable and supported as they explore their gifts. Encourage all to participate fully."**

The community of faith shared by all of us at North Hill Christian Church is expressed through our gathering together to look, listen and learn; but more than that, to see, to hear and to apply the knowledge gained during worship to make us better Disciples of Christ.



A novel approach to seeing and living the Word is by sharing our building space and holding joint services with our brothers and sisters in Christ, the First Ukrainian Baptist Church. Through this special fellowship, we are forged together with the same divine purpose – extending the Word of God to all peoples; bestowing love by embracing tolerance, inclusivity, and unity.

The 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday worship services are when we shake things up a bit and worship in a non-traditional way. This can be kind of scary to some: what is going to happen? What is expected of me? Well simply this...that your whole being be present in the presence of the Lord wherever you find yourself! It's in these informal yet no less sacred times where we learn to laugh together and share memories and lessons that we become intimate and more trusting of each other. We grow from mere acquaintances to steadfast extended family. This is truly an innovative way to experience the message of God.



But it is in doing that we are molded. It is in working with our hands, hearts and minds that we become the willing servants of God who transforms us. It is in the giving of our time, our talents, our very selves that we can attain the oneness in walking the talk of Jesus. We need to do as he said do, Church! All are encouraged to participate fully as there are lots of jobs in the service of the Lord.

And so, the question to be asked is, “What difference do you intend to make in the growth of the Church today?”

*Staff included in this area:*

*Pastor Chris Snow - 33%*

*Mandy Serquina, Administrative Assistant – 48%*

*Riley Gray, Music Director – 100%*

*Susan Baker – 43%*

*Building Usage 39%*

*Donated Hours (Mar-Sept) = 164.50*

## **Witness and Service - \$39,105**

*John 1:7*

*He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him.*

**“Enable our community to be faithful, wise and responsible stewards of all God’s gifts. Follow God’s call to serve human needs within our community and the world. Build our community to be an example of how God calls us to live as Christians. Express God’s love by being visible and active in the greater community.”**

When our speaker from Family Promise came to talk about Open Doors and poverty, he reminded us that God didn’t place Adam and Eve in the Garden of Eden to just enjoy the view. God gave them jobs to do. Genesis 2:15 – “The Lord God took the man and put him in the Garden of Eden to work it and take care of it.”



Our congregation serves the community in many ways: hosting Family Promise, delivering Meals on Wheels, food baskets for Thanksgiving and Christmas, school supplies for Willard. This year we served a meal at the Ronald McDonald House. Many of our members volunteer their time and talents to the community which includes some of the fun things we do, like working together to make hygiene kits and decorating cars for Trunk or Treat.

Wearing our blue t-shirts in the park for our Sunday worship service, sharing the meal with a homeless man and giving him socks and a pair of shoes may seem to be the kind of thing a church is expected to do. Sharing our building with another denomination is not unique, but it has allowed us the opportunity to learn more about the people in our community.





Pastor Chris preparing his sermons at the Wall Street Diner and the use of the parking lot for the distribution of food for Meals on Wheels are visible activities for witnessing to others.

We do more than that. We invest 9% of our General Fund income to Disciples Mission Fund, Northwest Christian University and the Northwest Regional Christian Church. Our special offerings support ministries beyond our community.

*Staff included in this area:*

*Pastor Chris Snow - 21%*

*Mandy Serquina, Administrative Assistant – 22%*

*Building Usage 6%*

*Donated Hours (Mar-Sept) = 345.75*

# Conclusion

As you can see, we have much to celebrate in our lives together here at North Hill. Let's take a moment to look at a few dreams that came out of the board retreat for the coming year.

## Open & Welcoming:

- Train group of people who will sit with visitors/newcomers
- Pro-reconciling/Anti-racism training
- Invite visitors/newcomers to coffee hour and sit with them

## Service:

- 4 Food Bank drives per year
- XPLOR
- Certify kitchen and serve dinner once a month for anyone who comes

## Spiritual Growth:

- More Bible Study opportunities
- Host monthly meeting where troubled parents can come to a safe environment
- Service by Laity more often

## Worship:

- Have 2 shared worship services with Ukrainian church
- Worship Leader training
- New Lenten banners

## Witness:

- Newspaper and other media postings
- Increased presence at rallies and marches

What is God calling you to do to support the ministries at North Hill? Please prayerfully consider what you are able to give (time, talent, financially) towards our ministry in this place and at this time? On November 5<sup>th</sup>, we will bring our pledge cards as an act of worship and celebration of our abundance.