



Annual Report 2021



Together
on Purpose

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From Your Pastor



*Alan Cullen is the
Lead Pastor of
Community Church*

Community Church,

Love, grace and peace to every brother and sister in the family of God, right here, in Central Michigan and beyond.

The last 12 months have held substantial blessings and significant challenges for many people. COVID-19 has evolved into a marathon that has extracted much and demanded a high degree of endurance.

And while we are all aware of those who have suffered and lost loved ones, **the family of God has not forsaken each other or the great mission of the Gospel.** In addition to the pandemic, we have experienced heightened racial tensions along with perhaps the most divisive and negative election cycle in the history of this country! And yet, such tensions and division have not infected the Body of Christ. Instead, we have experienced continued growth in attendance, giving, new members, new baptisms and the ongoing work of ministry. Praise God. Only Jesus can do that.

The two year window of ADVANCE has moved into its second year. Thank you for your faithful and sacrificial financial generosity. Last year, we were able to launch the church in Alma, pay off almost \$2,000,000 of medical debt in over 50 counties in the State of Michigan, as well as facilitate the onboarding of some strategic staff roles. This year we have launched Community group scholarships/grants (funds made available to groups serving and impacting their community) and Celebrate Recovery (a ministry for anyone with hurts, habits and hang ups). Thank you for your loyalty to kingdom ministry and your kind giving in such uncertain times.





Another blessing that came along with COVID-19 was the massive success of two unexpected events. Trunk or Treat saw a few thousand people from the community come to the Mount Pleasant Campus. Despite collecting tons of candy, we ran out! We quickly dashed around town buying up everything we could get our hands on! The Drive Through Nativity was another massive highlight, with cars lined all the way down Broomfield to the 7-11. We were able to gift a Christmas box of goodies to approximately 750 households and invite them to our online Christmas Eve service. We were also granted access to multiple nursing homes where we gave out more of those boxes. I want to express a huge thanks to the staff for their hard work and all the rethinking and reimagining that brought about such a community impact.

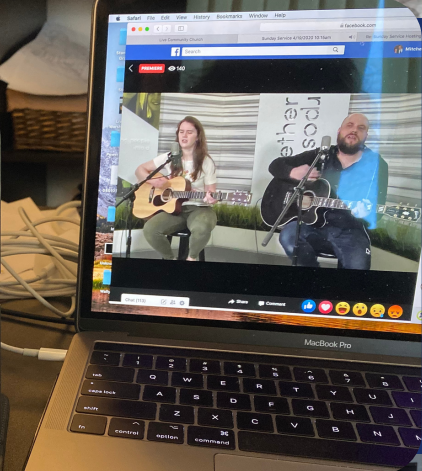
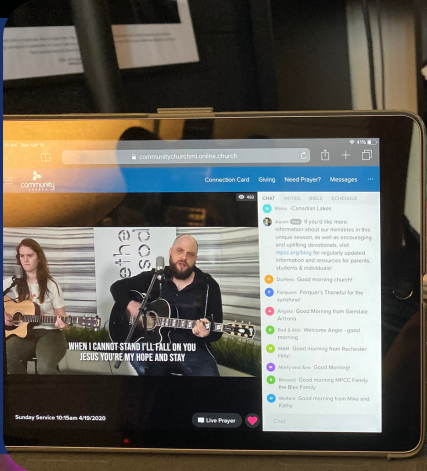
This upcoming year will wrap up ADVANCE and move into the continuation of more exciting ministry. The deacons will continue to meet essential needs for people in crisis, both within our church and outside our walls. Please be in prayer as we search for a permanent residence for our campus in Alma. We will lead with the love of God and the message of the Gospel. Our eyes will be fixed on Christ, the one who died on the cross and rose from the dead.

I am so proud of you Community Church. Together, under the Lord's leadership, **we have navigated a tough year and served the purposes of God throughout.** Please know that you are loved and cared for. You are being prayed for on a daily basis.

Matt 16: 18 "I will build my church and the gates of Hades will not prevail."

Loudest Love,

Alan Cullen | Lead Pastor







2020 was a year to remember for everyone in kidLife at Community Church. We are so thankful that God continued moving and growing kids and families in their faith in different ways.

The addition of our constant online lessons from kidLife helped many families find a way to grow in their faith at home with their kids. We heard from families saying that they watched their lessons from home each Sunday. When the children began to return to church, they watched lessons in kidLife that excited them because they were familiar with the content. **We continue to hear from families that cannot attend at times and are thankful to be able to watch lessons online.** We have even heard from a family that has moved away and still watch our kidLife lessons online each Sunday and feel connected to us.

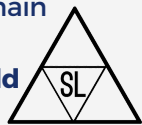
The cancellation of VBS in 2020 was very difficult for so many, but it allowed us to look for new and innovative ways to reach families with the Gospel in our community. When we planned Trunk or Treat at both campuses in October 2020, we welcomed over 2500 people to church – on our back lawn in Mt. Pleasant and the parking lot in Alma. We again will invite our communities to a Trunk or Treat in 2021 and plan to be even more hospitable by welcoming them into the building and inviting them all back for church on Sunday. This feels like a new and exciting way to reach out to our communities.

As kidLife started back up after the shutdown, some volunteers were not ready to come back yet, but other new volunteers were ready to jump into kidLife for the first time! We have at least 10 new and very consistent kidLife volunteers who love Jesus and are being used by Him to tell kids every week how much He loves them.

We updated our Large Group kidLife space for our pre-K through kindergarteners and have hired 2 new and wonderful **kidLife staff members: 1st – 4th grade – Kayla Schiller and Bridge 56 – Molly Slusher.** Both of these women are clearly the ones God meant to lead these areas. They both bring the passions and talents God knew we needed.

We're so thankful for this congregation, and your continued focus and support on the growth and development of spiritually strong and healthy families!

At studentLife our heart and mission remain the same: to **help our students become lifelong followers of Jesus Christ, to build real, safe, and authentic community,**



studentLife

and to help our students through the ups and downs of life. This last year of ministry was unique when compared to any other year of ministry we have experienced. However, despite these challenges, God has continued to move in powerful ways at studentLife.

At the beginning of the year studentLife focused its energy on building community in small groups. Starting as in-home groups and transitioning to virtual groups as needed, studentLife launched eleven small groups that continued to build relationships, biblical community, and point students towards Christ. Over the programming year studentLife groups discussed topics revolving around: life during the pandemic, the importance of understanding our worldviews, practical ways God speaks into our lives, and relationships.

Beyond these small groups, studentLife had the amazing opportunity to reach students through student led teachings and devotionals and virtual worship with the studentLife team. We distributed over 100 Christmas stockings for our virtual Christmas party.

Following Easter, with restrictions easing, studentLife was able to begin gathering in person at the Mount Pleasant Campus. It has been a blessing to be together celebrating God's work in our lives.

It's been a different year, but in spite all of that, we're so thankful for the way God has been faithful! For our students, leaders, and the ministry, we look forward to whatever God has in store for us over the next year!





What a year it has been!

We finished off last spring semester making attempts to stay connected via Zoom. And while this helped, it couldn't

replace the community feel of physically meeting together. The students and young adults struggled with this sense of loss. Coming into this past Fall there were so many questions of whether or not we would be able to meet in person, or if we would have to go virtual. Fortunately, because CMU opened up face-to-face, the decision was made to meet together in person. God showed up in an incredible way.

We saw students and young adults coming by the droves; over **100 new students participated** and we had a single night **record high of 96 people attend programming for UNiTE**. (Our lowest attendance was 73 which was last year's record high!) These students and young adults truly value this community and their relationships with each other and with God.

We had individuals accept Jesus Christ into their hearts. We've seen more and more young adults growing in their love for the Bible. Our goal this last semester was to motivate and encourage more students to read and know their Bibles, and not just take any one's word for truth. Since last semester, we've had students and young adults asking to share their devotion times in the Word, called 'walk of the week', on our social media page and it has inspired many others to also get in the Word more. **We're seeing the numbers growing numerically at UNiTE but we are also seeing the depth of the students' and young adults' relationships with God growing deeper as well!** This is so encouraging!

This past year we had two Sundays that we called 'UNiTE Takeover' where the students and young adults served in different volunteer positions, such as parking crew, greeting, tech, worship and hosting. It was a great success as the students wanted to continue to volunteer their time on Sunday mornings after this experience.

The 'live it out' aspect of our ministry continues to grow as students and young adults donated more than 3,500 items to ICRH, beating the previous record of 2,700 items last spring. We have also donated nearly 3,000 pounds of clothing to Clothing Inc!

Despite the different restrictions and frustrations of not being able to do some of our normal events and retreats, this has been an amazing year of growth for UNiTE! There is such a joy and excitement every Tuesday night when we all gather together on purpose.

Hospitality

The Hospitality Ministry has been able to adapt through this last year. Some pieces were unchanged, while others are still paused. Our Parking Crew has been able to continue serving by welcoming guests as they enter the property. Greeters stationed at each door were able to do so safely without contact. By no longer collecting the offering by hand and providing drop boxes, along with the changes to distribution of communion, we only need a couple of Ushers at each service.



care

We strive to have 2 or 3 Ushers stationed at the Auditorium doors to maintain a welcoming environment, and to give direction where needed. Unfortunately, our Coffee Crew is still on pause. They have been offered other serving opportunities to keep them active during this time. Quite a number of our volunteers have not yet come back to serve. The praise is that the ones who have returned are very passionate about what they do. We have even signed on new volunteers during this last year! **One of the most exciting additions is that the women from the Sisters of Sobriety have been serving as Greeters almost every week since January.**

Deacons

The Deacon ministry has many praises to report. We added 6 new Deacons who are thriving on the team. We continue to have ample funds every month. **We were able to help gift a vehicle to a wonderful Christian man that was struggling with transportation.** Another big praise is that the Deacons were able to remain active during the entire Pandemic. We had to conduct most of our work over the phone and by contactless drop offs. Creativity and problem solving were key! For instance, there were some homeless individuals who had to quarantine in their hotel with no way to get food. Using SHIPT or doing our own ding-dong-drops, we were able to provide food, supplies and gas cards. We had to become creative with our meetings as well. We met at Island Park in August, utilized Zoom in the Fall, and have now resumed in person meetings.

230+

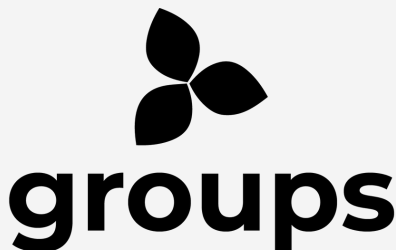
calls received for
support this year

\$70k

given out in
support this year

36

members serving
as Deacons



Here at Community Church, we **believe wholeheartedly that we're better together**, and this year has been a testament to just that!

Through COVID we watched groups go from meeting in person to meeting online and continuing to flourish in their relationships with Christ and each other.

We watched groups adapt to the change while still being able to love and care for each other. We now have groups meeting in person and online, creating opportunities for everyone to be a part of a Community Group, no matter where they live! How cool is that?!

This year, over **150 individuals have been connected into a group with 15 brand new groups started**, creating more options for people to join a group! Some groups met together in homes, around the church property and some met solely online. It's been amazing to watch individuals recognize the need to be known and grow inside of community with other believers!

Through the ADVANCE initiative, we have been able to make group scholarships available for our groups. This initiative makes it possible for us as the church to partner with our groups and their missional goals as well as making an impact in their specific local communities. We're already hearing great things from groups on how they've been able to come together and assist those who are in need. We know more stories are to come!

Another part of ADVANCE was launching a ministry called **Celebrate Recovery**. This is a 12 step, Christ centered program available for anyone who struggles with a hurt, habit, or hang up. Since the launch of this program in April we have seen over **50 individuals attending regularly. Praise God!**

As we look into the future, we believe God is just getting started and we are so blessed to have you along on this journey with us!

It has been a privilege to see God's remarkable and awe-inspiring faithfulness flow through our times of worship and our special gatherings over this recent, challenging year.



With the necessary shifts to transitioning services online, our volunteer teams stepped up to the plate as we dove head first into streaming services. While it was all still very new to so many of us, teams from both the Alma and Mount Pleasant Campuses gave of their time and talents to lead Community Church in worship with the same passion and heart they led in-person!

While being online for a large part of last year was a challenge, it presented new and unique opportunities for families to have a Gospel interaction. **We've seen families and individuals from across central Michigan and beyond engage with us online, some of whom submitted their lives to Christ for the very first time!**

We remain so thankful for our volunteer teams who, every Sunday, lead others into worship, from the platform and behind the scenes, with a heart for this church and a commitment to advancing the Gospel! Church, thank you for your generosity, your commitment to Him and for your hearts of adoration and praise for our Savior - **to God be all the glory!**



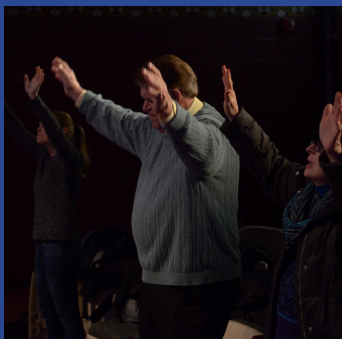


The past year has been filled with new opportunities for the Alma Campus. While we may not have ideally picked a pandemic to be the launching point of a new campus, God has used this expansion of Community Church in countless ways.

We continue to welcome new people every week who are plugging into church for the first time, each of whom are dealing with the stresses of the past year. We've heard from people who couldn't wait to call this their church home after visiting, expressing how good it felt to attend an in-person church worship service again!

We are a portable campus in Alma with a strong partnership with Central Michigan Youth for Christ. We couldn't exist without an amazing team of volunteers who set up and tear down all the equipment each and every week.





Our Alma Campus has been leaning into moments of passionate worship under the leadership of Jesse Horenburg, our Worship Arts Director, who is continuing the culture of our Mount Pleasant Campus.

We also are seeing a growing number of young families joining us each week. Our amazing kidLife volunteers love and point kids to Jesus every Sunday morning. Covid couldn't hold people back from taking next steps. This past summer we held a baptism service in a local member's swimming pool. We also welcomed new members virtually.

Through ADVANCE, Community Church was also able to support new missions organizations and partners in Gratiot County who were directly caring for people affected by the pandemic. These agencies included: Love INC, Hope House, local food pantries and more. **We are excited to watch God use the Alma Campus to increase the gospel impact of Community Church into this next year and beyond.**

1 Advancing the Gospel in Alma

Through your generosity and commitment to the God-sized vision of ADVANCE, together we've launched a campus, funded ministry, provided support, and most importantly, embraced opportunities to share the message of the hope we have in Jesus in familiar, as well as creative ways. As a recap, ADVANCE rolled out into three unique parts:



Launched the Alma campus on January 5, 2020, including outfitting the new campus and purchasing equipment



Continued to fund all programming, staffing and Pastoral needs for Sunday morning worship, including children's ministry, at the Alma Campus through 2021.



Set the groundwork for a permanent location in Alma.



Continue to lead more people in Gratiot County into a focused life with Jesus Christ.

ADVANCE

Advancing the Gospel in Mount Pleasant



Funded the continuation and growth of ministry to children, students, young adults, widows and groups, as well as our Sunday worship and preaching



Launched a Christ-centered 12 step ministry program for addiction recovery in our community



Update and refurbish sections of the facility for future ministry



Reached an increasing number of families in Isabella County and the surrounding area



3 Advancing the Gospel through the 4:18 Initiative



Identify and expand local church partnerships in Central Michigan in both Isabella and Gratiot County (with more to come in 2021)



Expanded benevolence and tangible care into the context of urgent and crisis situations for people in our communities.



Lifted the burden and stress of unpayable medical debt for individuals and families in and around Central Michigan - nearly \$2 million worth!



Established funding for Community Groups to reach out through external, tangible expressions of the Gospel in their communities and increase support for global partnerships.



We're not done yet

For Community Church, our commitment to advance the Gospel never took a break or a pause. Through your generosity and commitment to the God-sized vision of ADVANCE, together we launched a campus, funded ministry, provided support and most importantly, embraced opportunities to share the message of the hope we have in Jesus in familiar, as well as creative ways.

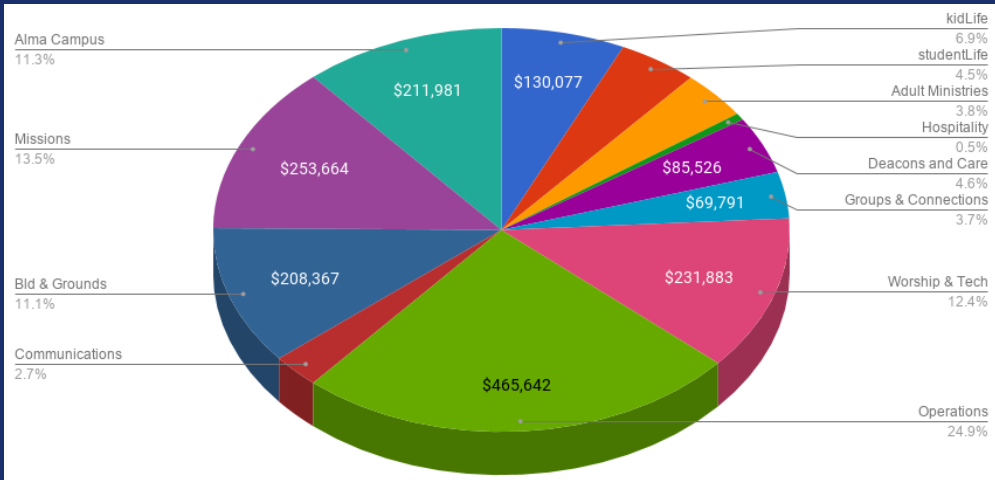
As we step into the closing quarter of ADVANCE, it might be tempting to rest - to simply look at everything we've done and pause our personal commitment. Simply put; we can't. Our world and our communities need the message of Christ now more than ever.

We want to be the Church. We are not spiritual spectators; we are spiritual contributors. We are convinced that every follower of Christ is called to serve the Savior who was crucified. God is calling us to live lives together on purpose. To be a part of Community Church means to love people unconditionally, impact this community, make disciples, influence families and be empowered by His Spirit. Let's continue to press on to keep taking ground for the Kingdom and ADVANCE!



To learn more about ADVANCE and to learn how you can still join in partnering with us, visit [**mpcc.org/advance**](https://mpcc.org/advance)

2020-2021 In Review

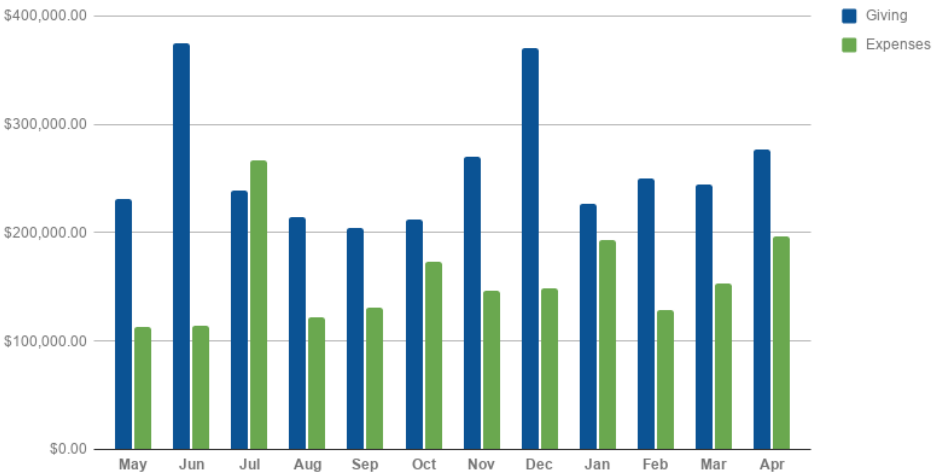


Actual Expenses By Department

kidLife	\$130,077
studentLife	\$83,633
Adult Ministries	\$71,837
Hospitality	\$10,285
Deacons and Care	\$85,526
Groups & Connections	\$69,791
Worship & Tech	\$231,883
Operations	\$465,642
Communications	\$50,466
Bld & Grounds	\$208,367
Missions	\$253,664
Alma Campus	\$211,981

2020-2021 In Review

General Fund Giving/Expenses (May 2020-April 2021)



	Giving	Expenses
May	\$230,561.81	\$113,419.67
Jun	\$375,307.66	\$114,276.19
Jul	\$239,235.67	\$266,375.15
Aug	\$214,006.17	\$121,785.28
Sep	\$204,049.11	\$130,906.20
Oct	\$211,676.52	\$173,174.65
Nov	\$269,785.69	\$146,155.10
Dec	\$370,609.34	\$148,610.93
Jan	\$226,722.19	\$193,578.34
Feb	\$249,881.97	\$128,566.77
Mar	\$244,516.78	\$153,296.25
Apr	\$276,268.57	\$196,079.31
	\$3,112,621	\$1,886,224

2020-2021 In Review

Revenue and Expense Summary (May 2020 to April 2021)

	Budget	Actual	Difference	% Diff.
Gen. Fund Giving	\$2,062,420	\$3,112,621	\$1,050,201	50.9%
Gen. Fund Expenses	\$2,062,420	\$1,886,224	-\$176,196	-8.5%

As of Apr 30, 2021 Cash On Hand

Total Cash on Hand	General Fund	Designated Funds
\$3,003,044	\$2,425,623	\$577,421
20% Cash Reserve		\$412,484
Surplus above Cash Reserve		\$2,013,139

2021-2022 Budget

2021-2022 Budget By Department

kidLife	\$158,245	6.3%
studentLife	\$92,442	3.7%
Adult Ministries	\$90,141	3.6%
Hospitality	\$37,010	1.5%
Deacons and Care	\$90,280	3.6%
Groups & Connections	\$115,915	4.6%
Worship & Tech	\$265,473	10.6%
Operations	\$571,635	22.8%
Communications	\$93,396	3.7%
Bld & Grounds	\$270,788	10.8%
Missions	\$291,181	11.6%
Alma Campus	\$430,744	17.2%
	\$2,507,250	100%

2021-2022 Budget

Missions Breakdown

Local Missions	2020-2021	2021-2022
Life Choices	\$10,000	\$10,000
Christian Counseling of Mid MI	\$10,000	\$10,000
CCN	\$10,000	\$10,000
Goodrow	\$1,500	\$0
Kids Hope	\$10,000	\$10,000
Salvation Army	\$1,500	\$1,500
Soup Kitchen	\$1,500	\$1,500
Youth for Christ	\$5,000	\$5,000
Young Life	\$5,000	\$0
Gideons	\$1,500	\$1,500
Isabella Non Profit Center	\$5,000	\$2,000
The Care Store	\$10,000	\$10,000
Care Ministries Local Missions	\$2,200	\$2,200
Gratiot County Missions	\$15,500	\$15,500
Hope House (Gratiot)	\$1,500	\$1,500
Love INC (Gratiot)	\$1,500	\$1,500
Pregnancy Services of Gratiot Co.	\$1,500	\$1,500
Tim Grant - YFC	\$2,500	\$2,500
Steve Lambert - Intervarsity	\$2,500	\$2,500
	\$98,200	\$88,700
Local Missions % of Missions Total Budget		40.2%

2021-2022 Budget

Missions Breakdown

Global Missions	2020-2021	2021-2022
Discovery Church	\$10,000	\$10,000
Orchard Africa	\$10,000	\$10,000
F. Phelp IV	\$10,000	\$10,000
Walker	\$10,000	\$10,000
Samaritan's Purse	\$2,500	\$2,500
Widow's Might	\$10,000	\$10,000
Honigs - Pioneer Translators	\$5,000	\$5,000
L'Arcada Spain	\$2,500	\$2,500
Dan/Alicia Davis - Cru	\$5,000	\$5,000
	\$65,000	\$65,000
Global Missions % of Missions Total Budget		29.46%
Missions Discretionary	2020-2021	2021-2022
Missions Discretionary Fund	\$24,293	\$66,959
Missions Discretionary % of Missions Total Budget		30.35%
	2020-2021	2021-2022
Missions Funds Total	\$199,993	\$220,659

Church, Thank You!

What a blessing it has been to see our Community Church family continue in their generosity over the last year!

Because of your faithfulness, we have been able to maintain our same cadence of support for all of our mission agencies and mission families. As we move into our new fiscal year, we are planning on supporting a few new people and agencies who are cooperating with us to implement our vision: Leading people into a focused life with Jesus Christ.

Just think, every time you give to Community Church, a tenth of your donation is used to support our local, national and world outreach with the Gospel.

So, a thank you comes from all the agencies in Isabella and Gratiot Counties, from the families serving all over the world, and especially from those who are serving in difficult and dangerous places in His name.



Partner With Us

Tithes and Offerings received by Community Church fund the vision and activities of our church. When you give, you effectively make a difference in the lives of people both locally and globally. You can donate in any of the following ways:

GIVE ONLINE

Visit mpcc.org/give for clear and simple instructions on how to give your gift securely online

1

ONSITE AT EITHER CAMPUS

You can give cash or checks during the worship service via the dropboxes around the room or mail them to
1400 W. Broomfield
Mount Pleasant, MI 48858

2

TEXT TO GIVE

Simply send a text message to the keyword 'mpccgive' or 'CCAImaGive' to **77977** for simple and secure prompts

3

