

# Abide

## *Fulton First UMC*

### Ministry Action Plan

#### Values

**Be Christ-like**

**Be Faithful**

**Be in Service**

**Be Agape Love**

**Be Growing Spiritually**

#### Mission

**To become Christ-like by loving all, growing faithfully, and serving others.**

#### Vision

**A community of spiritually growing Christians loving and serving others.**

2024 brings new challenges, new beginnings, and the continued work of mission and ministry at Fulton First UMC. We have been blessed with resources, leaders, opportunities, and challenges to actively work to accomplish through the power of the Holy Spirit. We have all we need to follow God faithfully in the journey ahead, including a strong Body of Christ.

We arrive at the totals you see for each team by reviewing budgeted items and assigning them to a team's "bucket". These totals do not mean each team have all of these dollars available, but they do mean that each team is benefitting from the budget by the support of staff and other resources by these dollar amounts.

As you read and review the work our teams have accomplished and the mission each team is working to implement, please pray for each person who is serving, each area they look to serve in, and for the inspiration of the Holy Spirit. If you are not serving on a team, let this be your opportunity to prayerfully consider where God is calling you to serve. We need every member of the Body, and every gift and talent to live faithfully into our call as God's church in this community.

We are sitting on the edge of a new day for this area and for our church. We have been given the opportunity to meet the needs of our growing community, to serve families in the area, and to be transformed ourselves as we watch God transform our area. We need and appreciate your partnership as we step into the promise that God will complete the work He has begun in us and in the community we serve.



## John 15:9-10

“As the Father has loved me, so have I loved you. Now remain in my love. If you keep my commands, you will remain in my love, just as I have kept my Father’s commands and remain in his love.

In 2023, we continued to live into a team based ministry structure. Our goal was to help all of our teams grow spiritual leadership to serve their particular area of ministry. All of our teams support the mission and vision of the church.

Our Administrative Teams are SPPRC, Finance and Trustees. Each of these areas work to support the mission and vision of Fulton First UMC. By supporting and supervising staff, overseeing the financial resources available, and maintaining the facilities and equipment our administrative teams are the foundation of our mission. Their work enables the work of every one of our ministry teams.

Our Ministry Teams are Congregational Care, Discipleship, Mission and Outreach, and Worship. Each of these teams has a specific role in our ministry, but all work together to ensure we are always reaching out to others and providing care for one another.

The narrative budget will help you see how our tithes and offerings are used by our teams to support our mission. Our goal for Fulton First UMC is to be good stewards of our dollars so that everything helps us live into the vision of a community of growing disciples.

## *Our Teams*

### **Our Goals for 2023.**

#### **Discovery:**

Continue the work begun in 2023 in responding to needs presented by the community.

We will invite our teams to creatively respond to opportunities to share the Gospel as they follow their call.

#### **Develop:**

Developing spiritual leaders who model teamwork that learns and leads together.

Creating environments that foster transformation.

Establishing processes that produce fruit.

#### **Deploy:**

We will work to communicate more effectively with the congregation.

We will intentionally live into an environment where we will love/learn/and lead together.

We will use our resources to meet the needs of the mission and ministry of Fulton First UMC and the community we serve.

# The Church Council

The Church Council is the legislative team that oversees all of the business of the Church. The Church Council meets to approve the overall budget of the church, and to support the recommendations from the administrative and ministry teams. It is the only body within the church that can vote in changes to items previously approved for Charge Conference. It meets several times a year as needed and always to approve materials for the Charge Conference in the fall. All are welcome to come.

## The Church Council Members

Ted Barclay, Chair, Susan Rushing, Secretary. Each team has two representatives, the team leader and another representative elected by the team. The staff and pastors are present for council meetings without vote. Robert Rushing serves as our lay leader and Annual Conference representative. All members of the church are welcome and had a voice at council meetings, only council members have a vote.



## Operations Team



The Operations Team is comprised of members of each of the other administrative and ministry teams. Their role is to work towards developing strategies that help implement our mission, vision and values into the life of the church. Team members meet every month to share information, to learn spiritual formation and leadership tools, and to work together to unify the church in moving in the same direction. The Operations Team works hard to be open to the leadership of the Holy Spirit and is committed to growing as disciples themselves, and helping others grow strong in faith.

### Team Members

Sandra Joyner

Susan Rushing

Greg Barclay

Bill Milliken

Jeff Taylor

Judy Green

Nancy Warren

Barrett Adair

Robert Rushing

Pastor Sue

Pastor Kimberly



# Total Budget for 2024 - \$505,456

## Finance:

The Finance Team has begun an overhaul of the budgeting and financial structure of the church. In 2024 they will continue to develop a budget based upon projected income and missionally aligned needs/request submitted from each Ministry Team and, keep teams appraised of expenditures vs budget.

They will seek and implement new and creative means for improving revenue streams and for effectively informing our congregation of progress.

They will insure that all special monetary gifts (and restricted funds) are accepted and used directly in line with our mission.

They will work cooperatively with the Trustees to undertake a thorough review of our church's insurance coverage and costs and determine appropriateness or needs for change.

They will develop a proposal for conducting a multi-pronged capital campaign for funding large capital improvements and other unexpected expenditure needs.

### Finance Team

Bill Milliken  
Robert Rushing  
Bob Mahan  
Jill Lewis  
Jeff Taylor  
Dorothy Bush  
Barrett Adair  
Kelly Barnes  
Leslie Whitesell



## *Administrative Teams \$95,555*

### Staff Parish:

The SPPRC works hard to support and guide the staff to ensure they have all they need to help our administrative and ministry teams. They have completed an update of the employee handbook and will work to support new positions as the mission and ministry require.

### SPPRC Team

Jeff Taylor  
Brenda Mahan  
Debbie Stokes  
Richard Puckett  
Carmen Barclay  
Robert Rushing  
Pastor Sue

### Trustees:

The Trustees are working to develop a list of priority projects that are needed to keep the church campus ready to support ministry. Work has already begun to improve the Willingham Center, but there is more work that will need to be accomplished. The church is also in need of some structural improvements that will require a capital improvements campaign in 2024.

### Trustee Team

Barrett Adair  
Mike Gossum  
Nancy Warren  
Steve Fly  
Robert Rushing  
Rita Pirtle  
Danny Kimbell  
Jason Brann  
Pastor Sue

## Ministry Teams

We have four ministry teams that work together, along with our Administrative Teams, to ensure we live into our mission, vision, and values. Each team has its own area of responsibility and also works cooperatively to ensure we are making good use of our resources and faithfully serving God, and our community, and growing spiritually.

Our ministry teams are the Discipleship Team, the Worship Team, the Congregational Care Team and the Mission and Outreach Team. Each of these teams, along with the Administrative Teams serve on



the Operations Team, which meets most months, and their own teams that meet as necessary.

Each team is asked to use the Three L outline: time set apart at each meeting to Love, Learn, and Lead. Loving time is spent in fellowship, growing closer to God and each other as we share our stories. Learning time is where we share resources, studies, and other educational material that help us serve more effectively in our ministry area. Leading time is set aside to decide how we will apply the learning information to faithful service.

## Discipleship Team \$ 106,268

The Discipleship Team's key area of responsibility is to ensure that we have opportunities for each age level in our church to grow as disciples of Jesus. We do this through Sunday School classes, Children and Youth opportunities, small group Bible studies, and short term studies. The Discipleship Team looks at the existing learning opportunities and responds to the needs of our growing church.

Their work is important to the spiritual life of our congregation. They help us fill in the gaps for areas that need different resources and look for individuals who may be called to teach or facilitate small groups.



### Team Members

Greg Barclay  
Linda Barclay  
Paige Adair  
Janet Gossum  
Kay Williams  
Leslie Whitesell  
James Carrigan  
Kay Dixon  
Jennifer McConnell  
Scarlett Paitzel  
Danielle Simone  
Pastor Kimberly



# The Congregational Care Team \$76,388

We celebrated our Church family and worked together with other teams in a big way in 2023. With the help of the Mission and Outreach Team, Congregational Care hosted a community-wide Easter Egg Hunt and welcomed many of our church families, along with many from the community, to the campus. With the help of several of our ministry teams, they helped give away 600 hot dogs, countless cups of lemonade, and more than 1100 candy bags to trick-or-treaters on Third Street.

Congregational Care continued to support the grief meal ministry. As members of our church family, and extended church family, graduated to the Church Triumphant food was provided as the family requested. They helped to coordinate the meals by requesting covered dishes from the congregation, decorating the fellowship hall, cleaning up after the meal, and fellowshiping with the grieving family. It truly has been a blessing to hurting families.

This summer the Congregational Care Team helped to support a Taco Night for the Fulton Railroaders. They have launched a Card Ministry Team that not only supports our church family but reaches out to those hurting in our community.

Our Congregational Care Team works to make sure we have opportunities to gather together and care for each of our church family as needs arise.

## Team Members

Susan Rushing  
Cathy Fry  
Peggy Lohaus  
Ann Fleming  
Tyler Patrick  
Brenda Mahan  
Jennifer Robertson  
Dan Voegeli  
Pat Dunker  
Lee Seng  
Leslie Whitesell  
Pastor Kimberly



"I am the vine; you are the  
branches. If you remain in me  
and I in you, you will bear  
much fruit; apart from me you  
can do nothing "  
John 15:5





## Worship Team \$101,417

The Worship Team has successfully completed a year with two services available on Sunday mornings. We now have three worship opportunities each week, including our Celebrate Recovery service on Friday evening. We continue to have a growing Chancel Choir with special programs throughout the year. First Light music is provided by outstanding contemporary musicians and outstanding choral voices.

This team has continued to grow worship opportunities to include special worship services for Christmas, Lent, and the Longest Night.

We continue to follow God's leadership in growing our Church family in our worship time together

## Worship Team Members

Sandra Joyner  
Bob Mahan  
Harry Bushart  
Shannon Raines  
Sandra Wright  
Kim Jobe  
Pastor Kimberly  
Pastor Sue

## Mission and Outreach \$125,828

Mission and Outreach had an amazing year in 2023! With much help from other teams and church members, we hosted 2 concerts and 9 mission teams made up of 133 volunteers. Our church handed out 600 bottles of free water at the Banana Festival, opened a cooling center during the hottest days of summer, coordinated the Angel Tree to provide Christmas for 30 children. Teaming up with the Congregational Care team, we fed tacos to 110 Railroaders and church members, and helped with the Easter Egg Hunt. With the Food Bank, we planned, assembled, and handed out 300 Thanksgiving Boxes. With multiple other teams, we helped to pull together our annual Halloween at the parsonage.

We will soon start planning activities for 2024. Priorities for 2024 will be to find even more outreach opportunities, provide volunteer and service opportunities for all church members and more and better communication.



## Mission and Outreach Team

Judy Green  
Harry Bushart  
Shelby Dallas  
Jody Dallas  
Donnie Green  
Pat Frazier  
Bob Hailey  
Sidney Hailey  
Steve Fly  
Ann Fleming  
Pastor Kimberly





# A LETTER FROM THE PASTORS

2023 was an action packed year with exciting new ministry opportunities and community outreach. From hosting Jason Crabbe and Bethel's Renaissance Choir, to serving water at the Banana Festival, Fulton First people were at work in our Community. There are exciting ministries to celebrate and many things to look forward to in 2024.

Celebrate Recovery has added praise nights every month to increase worship opportunities. Their parade float at Christmas allowed them to share more information with the community to help people with hurts, habits and hang ups. It has been a joy to watch the community grow and move towards health and vitality.

Our ministry teams have grown in working together as teams. Congregational Care, Mission and Outreach and Worship all worked together to help organize and staff concerts. It continues to be a blessing to watch the church step up to serve.

We look forward to serving with all of our leadership in 2024. Greater things are yet to come!



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## Stewardship

God asks us to return a tithe (10%) and an offer of our resources, perhaps to remind us that all that we are and all that we have are because of the generous blessings of God's provision for us.

We use those tithes and offerings to fund our mission and ministry inside the church and outside our doors in the community. Your faithful support helps keep our church financially sound and our ministries healthy and thriving. Thank you for continuing to support Fulton First UMC.

## WANT TO GET INVOLVED?

See a team where you would like to serve? If you are wondering if there is a place for you, there is! All are needed and welcomed.

Reach out to a pastor or team leader for more information.

