

**Maple Grove United Church
Narrative Budget 2024**

Our faith invites and encourages us to give thanks to God for the abundance of creation and to share our resources, goods, energy, time, heart, spirit, and love with others, especially with those who have little. It is how we honour our covenantal relationship with our God. We express our thanks to God through lives lived with gratitude and generosity. At Maple Grove United your offerings sustain five areas of ministry and mission. We are grateful for your support and hope that you will continue or augment it.

1. Ministry of Christian Worship and Spiritual Growth

We offer time to worship:

<p>Sunday 10:30 a.m. in person or Livestreamed</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Opportunity to reflect on God’s blessings through scripture, prayer and preaching • Seasonal communion • Praise through music presented by our three vocal choirs, hand bell choir, and instrumentalists • Preaching relevant to the world today • Reflect on our discipleship – what does it mean to follow Jesus and to reach out to others through prayer and our actions? 		<p>Spiritual Practice and Growth</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Contemplative Prayer (in person) • Centering Prayer (online) • Meditation Group
<p>Instant Christmas Pageant</p> <p>A family centred Christmas Eve Program providing a fun and meaningful way for all ages to engage with the Christmas Story</p>	<p>Prayer Team</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pray wherever you are for our community, leadership, and those in need • An updated prayer list is emailed weekly 	<p>As needed</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Baptisms, Weddings, Funerals, Prayer services, • Worship marking special days. (e.g., Ash Wednesday, The Longest Night “Blue Christmas” service, Good Friday, Easter, Trinity, Pentecost, Reign of Christ, Christmas Eve, Epiphany)

Your generous donations maintain this ministry including

Ministry and music personnel	Provision/maintenance of instruments, technical resources Live Streamed Services	Guest musicians (vocal and instrumental), Bell Choir
Pulpit supply	Provision and maintenance of worship and communion supplies, Bibles, hymn books, printed copies for worship for those unable to access recordings	Choirs (Chancel Choir, Ladies Hand Bell Choir)

2. Ministry of Christian Development and Faith Formation

Through Christian faith formation, we experience what it means to be an Easter people and followers of Jesus Christ in our world. Our minister provides pathways to youth confirmation through programming in partnership with other Oakville United Churches. Adult study and reflection happen through programs as Bible study groups, book studies, guest speaker events, Contemplative Prayer and Meditation. There are many opportunities to learn and grow in faith at MGUC.

Your stewardship dollars fund such items as:

Ministry personnel leadership	Adult Bible Study gatherings	Inquiring Minds Events
Climate Courage education and conversation	Music Events	All Ages Resources
Seasonal Study (Lent, Advent, etc)	Booked for Lunch Book discussion	Reflections from The Grove weekly email

3. Ministry of Pastoral Care and Spiritual Nurture

Pastoral Care is important as our call to reach out to all members and friends of Maple Grove United. The Caring Team is there for you in times of joys and sorrows. We reach out and keep in touch with members who are housebound, or who no longer can come to church. And provide a warm welcome in the office when people arrive for meetings and assistance.

Your generous gifts enable:

Hospital visits	Arrange help with drives to medical treatment in times of need	Baptism preparation and Wedding ceremony planning
Prayer Shawl group	Congregational/Community meals	Meal delivery
New members welcome	Prayer group	Men's breakfast group
Pastoral phone calls, visits	Communication – eNews, social media and website, print copies of sermons delivered to those unable to attend	Grief and life transition support
Weekly Reflections from the Grove email	Membership and Caring Team	Sunday greeters and coffee for fellowship

4. Ministry of Mission, Service and Outreach

Our mission includes a strong direction to reach out and serve others beyond our doors. We have a passionate Outreach committee that focuses energy at three levels of activity – local, national, and international.

Maple Grove United is committed to support the Mission and Service fund of the United Church of Canada and we are strong supporters in this Region. We also support the work of the United Church of Canada through our Regional Council assessments. This includes the work of Regional Staff supporting us and the other communities of faith from West Mississauga to Niagara area and Brant/Haldimand Counties.

Areas of this ministry works include:

Outreach fund, including: Refugee Sponsorship, Canadian Foodgrains Bank, Education and Advocacy, Sleeping Children Around the World, Care for our Environment		
Benevolent fund	Mission and Service Fund	Kerr Street Mission
Adopt-A-Shelf & PJ drive	Neighbourhood Care Network	Local Food Banks
Climate Hub – Oakville Ready	Climate Courage opportunities (learning events, pollinator garden, community garden)	Reconciliation education and listening and learning opportunities

5. Ministry of Place and Sacred Space

The physical building includes not only our sanctuary, gym and meeting rooms but we also own the Manse on the property. Maintaining these buildings is vital in allowing us to live out our mission.

Our congregation understands the importance of providing a safe, friendly, and accessible communal space for us and the community we serve. Dozens of groups use our facility over the weeks and months of the year. These include: Western Heights Montessori Academy and Daycare, Little Kickers, Fourth Trafalgar Scouts, senior's fitness, youth and adult volleyball and soccer training programs, and AA meetings.

This ministry includes support for:

Insurance	Building maintenance	Telephone and internet
Custodial duties	Snowplow/grass cutting/ landscaping	Spring and fall cleanup days
Building rentals	Memorial garden and Pollinator gardens	Memorial and special gifts
Manse upkeep – outside and inside	Utilities	Council and Committee Meetings

Some of our spiritual and biblical foundations can be found by checking out:

A Liberated People (Psalm 34)	A Generous People (II Corinthians 9:6-12)	A Grateful People (I Chronicles 29:14-18)
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