



Rooted
in Prayer

Reaching
with Generosity



2025

CELEBRATION OF GENEROSITY



Wesley Freedom
United Methodist Church





Rooted in Prayer Reaching in Generosity

Deep roots are required for a tree to stretch above adversity in order to give shade to the life below. The roots are tested by storm and drought; when they stand firm they shelter many and lend strength to the forest.

Wesley Freedom is a mighty oak standing at the corner of Rt 26 and Johnsville Road. Our roots run deep; for generations we have prayed and searched the scriptures inviting God's grace to give vitality and wisdom. Our reach is broad; we seek to cover all with God's unconditional love.

In this season of gratitude we pause to say **THANK YOU**
for the ways you keep us rooted and reaching.

THANK YOU for your prayers, and **THANK YOU** for your Generosity.

Your giving is more essential in this season than ever. The storms of rising costs and widespread job insecurity are threatening our ability to fund the ministries we love and in which our neighbors depend: groceries, youth empowerment, children's ministry, recovery support, grief therapy, worship and small groups.

This November we invite you to help us

Fill the Gap!

You, and your generosity, are essential in this season.

May God bless you as you are a blessing, Pastor Jenny & the Generosity Team



Reaching

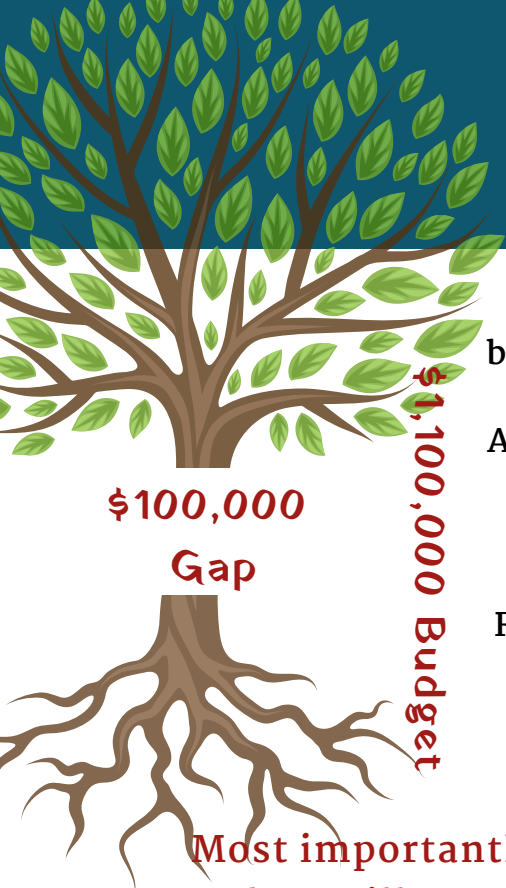
- With food prices high and government services dwindling South Carroll Food Pantry is on the front line helping hundreds of families access nutritious groceries.
- **Community Table serves up food and community three times a week.**
- Our ministries with children and youth provide space for faith & leadership development for our own kids and hundreds of Eldersburg young people seeking a space to belong, explore, and serve.
- **Hope Rising therapeutic and peer support groups, counseling services and workshops are helping our neighbors heal; many are beginning to establish roots at Wesley!**
- We sponsored a mission team, repaired a roof on Greendale UMC Zimbabwe, and packaged 500 hygiene kits & 10,000 meals.
- **In everything we do we invite the Lord's grace to help us be peacemakers, who advocate for justice and infuse compassion into every aspect of our community.**



Rooted

- Our ability to be a positive presence in our community lies in our commitment to faith development rooted in prayer and scripture.
- **At VBS 400 children and youth discovered God's constant love for navigating a "wild world."**
- Over 40 persons explored faith and chose to attach themselves to Christ's family through New Members classes, middle school and now high school confirmation!
- **Sunday night ministry has sprung up with classes for men, moms, and parents, 2 new children's choirs, and children's ministry.**
- Our Prayer Guide and Devotionals are helping our congregation grow in faith and are being shared to reach 100s around the nation.
- **Prayer alarms are sounding at 7:14 all around the "burg".**





Pray, Trust, Give

Our one shared goal in this season is to close the gap between the funds available and the cost of doing ministry.

As we each pray for provision and stretch to give generously our vision for ministry and ability to fund God's work will connect.

Rather than dedicating a Thanksgiving offering to a special project this November, we challenge every family to offer your very best gift to close the gap and ensure ministry is fully funded through Christmas.

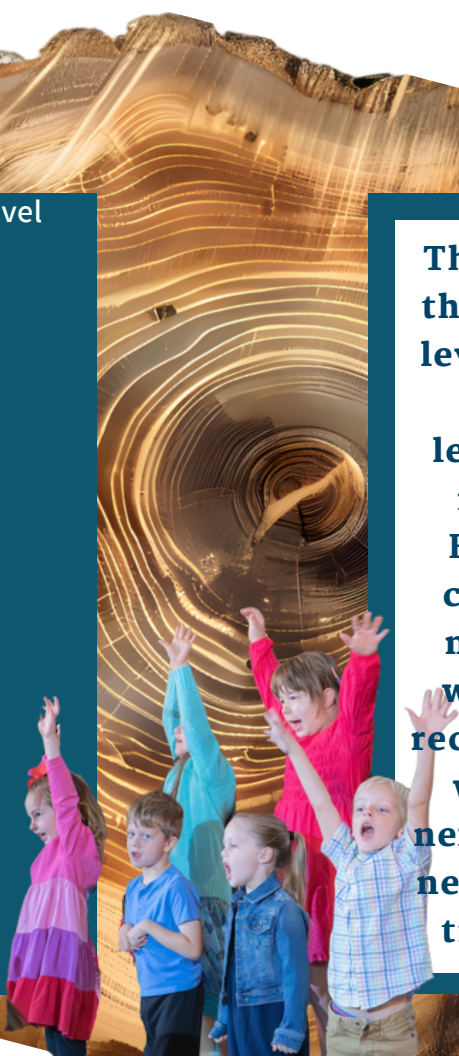
Most importantly we pray that every person connected to Wesley Freedom will prayerfully determine the amount you are called to give monthly in 2026. As we each reach the next level of giving maturity we will close the gap and sustain ministry for years to come!

Reach!

Current Givers at Each Giving Level Our Goal to Fill the Gap!

- Canopy - \$20,000+
3 givers +2 reaching
- Branches- \$15,000+
4 givers +4 reaching
- Limbs- \$10,000+
10 givers +4 reaching
- Trunk- \$7,000+
11 givers +6 reaching
- Core- \$4,800 (100 week)
28 givers +12 reaching
- Roots- \$2,400 (50 week)
36 givers +14 reaching
- Shoots- \$1,200 (25 week)
77 givers +23 reaching
- Seeds-Entry Level- up to \$1,119
154 givers- lets rise and make room for 100 new givers!

The chart to the left reflects the number of givers at each level of our Generosity Tree. Find your current giving level; how does your giving reflect God's provision? Each year our place in the church family matures; so must our giving. As those who have been our canopy receive their crown in heaven we must rise towards the next level and make room for newcomers to join the giving tree at the "seed" level.



The Gap Challenge



Electricity
Water
Benefits
Insurance
Mortgage rate

2025 Jan-Sept Finances At-A-Glance

General Fund Offerings	\$746,314
EYLC Contributions	\$99,349
Building Use & Interest income	\$16,290
Total General Fund Income	\$861,953
Total General Fund Expenses	\$916,689
Net Income (Loss)	\$(54,738)



Your Thanksgiving offerings in 2024 provided for the purchase of our new organ just as the old one failed and restored South Carroll Food Pantry to financial health!
Thank you!



“God is able to bless you abundantly, so that in all things at all times, having all that you need, you will abound in every good work”. 2 Cor 9:8

Sustaining our life-giving ministry requires broad generosity and careful budgeting. Every dollar matters as we support staff, space, and resources which impact lives every day. While our leaders work diligently to negotiate contracts to manage costs, develop building rental income, and stretch dollars, rising costs are squeezing out funds for ministry.

In 2024 our community generously gave \$992,000.

Still rising costs contributed to a \$16,000 deficit which was cushioned by \$45,000 savings from the lack of an associate pastor for half the year.

As of September 30, 2025 giving is \$54,738 behind expenses. While holding costs to the greatest extent possible we forecast the gap between the current giving level, and budgeted expenses to surpass \$100,000 in 2026.

This challenge invites a unified response of prayer, planning, and GENEROSITY!!

Please return your 2026 Pledge and Gap Offering this November.

Meet Annabelle



Last year Annabelle began sharing with friends at school that she felt a strange desire to get to know God. Those friends spoke of Jesus and encouraged prayer and scripture. Annabelle dug deep into the Bible and chose to begin a relationship with Jesus through prayer. Her friends connected her to Wesley Freedom. She brought her family to church, got baptized in the Patapsco, and is now growing in our new High School Confirmation Class!

PRAY REGULARLY GIVE GENEROUSLY

“Cornelius and his family were devout and God-fearing; he gave generously to those in need and prayed to God regularly.” Acts 10:1



Prayer inspires generosity and generosity requires prayer! We invite you to pray through these steps as you decide what God is challenging you to give in the year ahead.

Give Thanks for who God is and all the ways God cares for you and sustains you.



Pray for God to reveal the % of your income or assets God is calling you to give. Pray for an increase of trust and provision that you can rise to the giving level God reveals.

Reach towards the Biblical goal of returning 10% of the resources entrusted to you to God. Don't make excuses-allow the stretch to be hard and life changing.



Respond to God in prayer making a specific commitment to give regularly.

Share your commitment on the Generosity Card and place it in the offering plate this November. Your pledge gives leadership confidence as they commit to the community & staff.



Give faithfully! Enjoy watching God impact lives, and heal our land through the church you sustain.

Grow as you learn to depend on God, and as you make daily choices and sacrifices which allow you to keep your commitment.

Enjoy watching your assets transform lives and impact community. Multiply Your Impact with Non-cash Options

Stocks & Bonds

Are you weary of the rise and fall of the market? Gift your assets to Wesley Freedom and enjoy the steady growth and eternal returns gained by investing in the Lord's work. Your high impact gift can be made at a low net cost to you. You will receive a charitable deduction based on the fair market value on the date of the gift and you avoid all federal capital gains taxes!

Qualified Retirement Plans

Do you have a qualified retirement plan, such as a 401(k) or an IRA? Are you required to take a required minimum distribution (RMD)? By making a direct gift from a qualified plan to a charity, known as a qualified charitable donation (QCD), you do not pay any taxes on that money because it is not included in your adjusted gross income. Contribute up to \$105,000 each year.

"Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moths destroy, and thieves steal. But store up for yourselves treasures in heaven." Matthew 6:19



Your Legacy: How will you empower Wesley Freedom to continue reaching our community even after you enter the Kingdom of Heaven?

Designate Wesley Freedom as a beneficiary in your Will and ensure that ministry grows for years to come. As the church is the heart of service in our lives, it makes sense to continue this commitment as we consider our legacy.

Please know that end-of-life gifts are essential to sustaining vital ministry and facilities.

Prayerfully review your Will this fall and consider how the resources God provided you in this life can extend the reach of your church for generations.

Resources on-line and at the Generosity Table.





Thank you for giving!

Please return your Generosity Pledge and Gap Offering in the envelope provided during worship in November, through the mail, or visit www.wesleyfreedom.org/give.



Switch
to EFT
& lower
the fee!

To establish or increase your recurring electronic gift or to give online, visit www.wesleyfreedom.org/give

Save on fees
use a check
card!

ELECTRONIC FUNDS TRANSFER (EFT)

The website provides a form to schedule or modify recurring (weekly or monthly) electronic funds transfers straight from your bank account. You can return this form with your Generosity Pledge in the envelope provided. Forms are also available at the Generosity Table.

ONLINE GIVING THROUGH SUBSPASH

You can give anywhere, anytime through our website. Click on 'Make A Gift' and select if you want to make a one-time gift or set up a recurring offering. Follow the simple steps to set up your account and donate securely through your checking account or credit card. Note the church incurs a 3% charge on credit cards.



Our Finance Team is here (with donuts) to help

Stop by the Generosity Table any Sunday in November with your questions. On November 16th team members will be available in the CLC to discuss stock and other non-cash donations and to help set up your EFT or Subsplash gifts. To schedule a conversation to discuss how to maximize your gift, impact, or tax advantage, email David Schafer at dschafer@liftoffdc.com, Donald Kropfelder at dkrop1313@gmail.com or call the church office @ 410-795-2777.