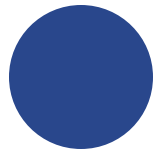
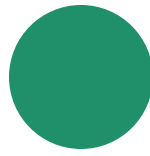
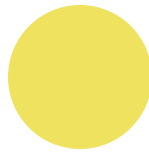




fpcro   
First Presbyterian Church  
of Royal Oak

# Community



Let's start with community. FPCRO is a beacon of community in our area—a gathering place, a house of welcome, and a wellspring for neighbors near and far.

Moreover, the heart of FPCRO's community is worship. Every time we gather—to pray, to listen to God's good news, to support, to sing, to celebrate—we build up the Beloved Community with joy and beauty. And God knows we need more joy and beauty!



*We share joy and friendship with our neighbors through Sunflowers Christian Preschool, and outreach like Trunk or Treat.*



*Our community grew and changed this year as we added over twenty new members to our congregation.*



*Our Playground space is bursting at the seams with young children who delight in play and friendship, as they also soak in God's love.*

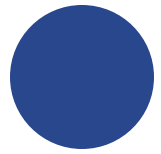
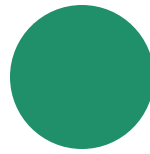
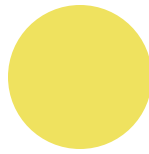


*We are building strong relationships among newer and long-time members through groups like the Men's Fellowship Group.*



*Worship leads us into a communal encounter with God in Christ.*

# Compassion



Compassion is part of what God's "abundant life" looks like. Compassion means seeing things from someone else's point of view and experiencing their struggles. The root word literally means "suffering with" and then taking action that benefits each other in the community as a whole. This is the kind of mutual care evoked by Jesus' call to *"Love your neighbor as yourself."*

When we gather, when we get to know each other, and when we take care of one other, that's compassion in action, too. It's the simple, beautiful work of empathy—reaching around the world or down the block.



*Volunteers sorted food at Forgotten Harvest this fall.*



*Christmas caroling brings the joy of Christ's birth to those who don't get out so easily.*



*Serving at the Welcome Inn draws us close to unhoused neighbors.*



*Our co-sponsorship of the Motakhasiv family has transformed our understanding of compassion and love for neighbors.*

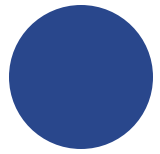
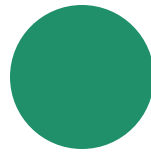


*Intergenerational mission projects help us foster compassion, while also building friendships.*



*The Snack Pax ministry feeds stomachs and hearts.*

# Justice and Love



Our minds turn to the justice and love at the heart of God's vision for abundance—because the world so urgently needs more justice and love.

Justice means fairness and equity. It means sharing the gifts of the community with the community as a whole—and accordingly it means speaking up for those who are left out or left behind.



*Through Cass Community Social Services, we are sponsoring a Tiny Home—providing home ownership for lower income Detroiters. Elders received a tour from Rev. Faith Fowler, CCSS Executive Director, when they delivered our gift.*

*"Justice is what love looks like in public"*

—Theologian Cornel West



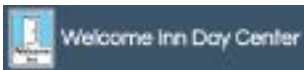
*We helped the Motakhasivs get a driver's license and a vehicle on their journey toward independence and self-sufficiency.*



*We partner with the Presbytery of Detroit to collect Cereal for Summer, giving kids access to easy meals at home when school is out of session.*



*Rise Against Hunger helps ensure that all God's children have enough to eat.*



*FPCRO supports partner organizations that work toward justice and love.*

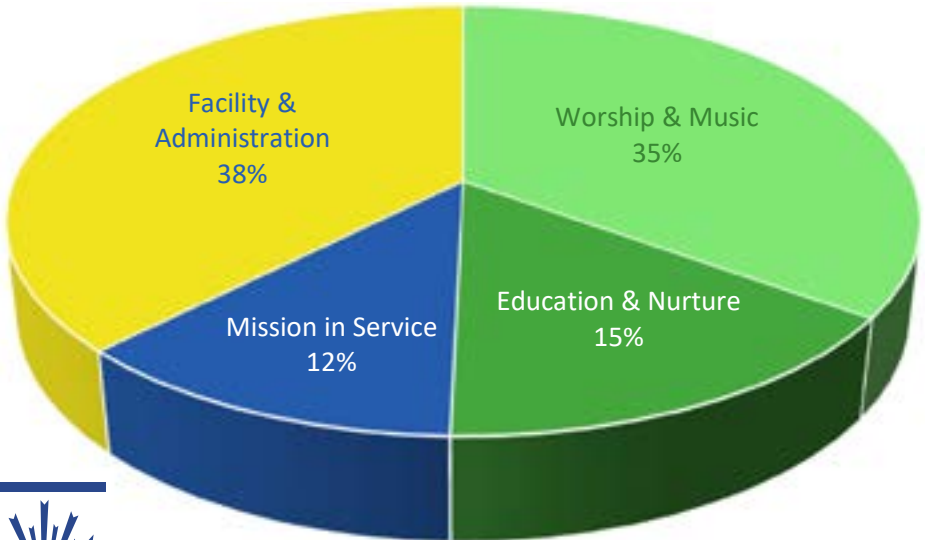
# Community • Compassion • Justice and Love

The world needs more community, more compassion, more justice—and love. Through the gifts and grants entrusted to FPCRO, we are able to embrace and share *abundant life* through our ministry. When each of us gives, we trust that the God of abundance will make more out of our gifts than we can even imagine.

## How Contributions are Received



## How Resources are Utilized



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*Jesus  
declared,*

*"I came that they may  
have life, and have it  
abundantly" (John 10:10).*

Our calling is to experience a life of discipleship that is meaningful and transformative. And to invite our neighbors into that abundant life with God, too.

Abundant life through Christ is not a matter of *having more*. It's about how we participate in God's overflowing generosity, which we know through the gifts of community, compassion, and justice and love. As we receive those gifts from God, First Presbyterian Church also sets out to nurture those gifts in our wider community.

We do this by sharing our lives, our love, and our resources with God and the church.

*Gracious God,  
thank you.*

Thank you for all the gifts we notice, and all the gifts we don't.

Thank you for the ever-flowing river of your grace, your compassion, your justice, and your love.

Let our gratitude overflow into generosity. Let your gifts to us overflow into gifts we give to others. As your children, made in your image, let us be creators of abundant life for all.

In the joyful, generous name of Jesus, we pray,

*Amen.*