

# ORMEWOOD CHURCH NARRATIVE BUDGET

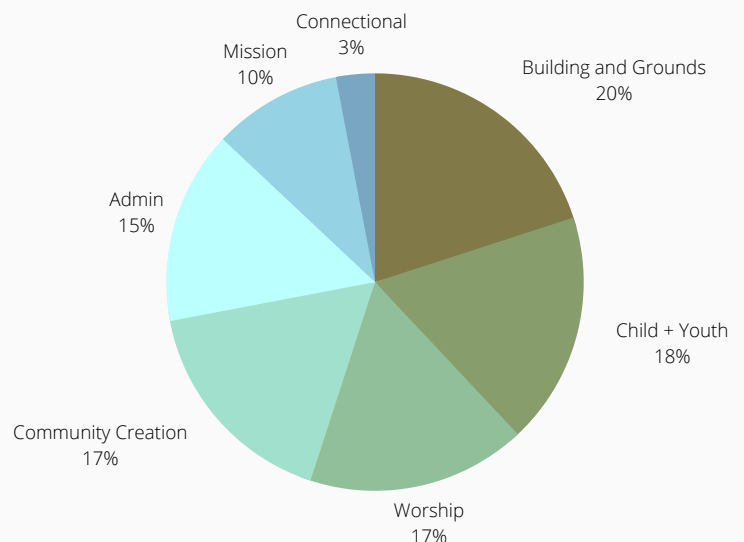
Welcoming everyone to explore the living God in our neighborhoods.



## Ministry at Ormewood Church

### SPENDING OUR TIME, TALENTS, AND TREASURE

Sometimes looking at a line by line budget doesn't clearly communicate how our time, talents, and treasures translate into ministry. A narrative budget takes the line by line budget and allocates those numbers to real work in ministry. While you will receive the line by line budget at our annual meeting on May 23, here is how those lines transform into day to day love at Ormewood Church.





## Building and Grounds

### THE MINISTRY OF PRESENCE

While in Covid times we can't count how many people entered the buildings or the number of birthday-retirement-wedding-baby shower parties were hosted under the zig-zag roof of the Fellowship Hall, there is no better testimony to our ministry of presence than the parking lot at 1071 Delaware Avenue. Truly, the outdoor property during Covid made ministry happen in ways it otherwise could not.

#### To name a few "official" events:

- Bike Nights
- Neighborhood Ballet Performances
- Christmas Lego Giveaway + Taco Truck
- Family Advent Festival
- Halloween Hot Dog Feast
- Youth Group
- Friday Fill Up Coffee Gatherings
- Girl Scout Cookie Sales
- Naan Stop Parkside Events
- Porch Groups
- Start of School Popsicle Kick Off

But we all know that it is not just the official events that make these buildings and grounds a special place. It's the squeals of children learning to go on two wheels for the first time. It's the neighbors discussing a ridiculous book someone put in the Little Free Library. It's the delight at finding a chicken has escaped the pen.

While we love and are grateful for the offices, sanctuary, fellowship hall, and preschool hallways, in a year like this year we are eternally grateful for the Dog Yard, playground, parking lot, Magnolia tree, and sanctuary front porch. We are also grateful for the many people who care for these spaces.

Boho Lawns | Building and Grounds Team | Ormewood School

*When the priests left the holy place, the cloud filled the Lord's temple,  
and the priests were unable to carry out their duties due to the cloud  
because the Lord's glory filled the Lord's temple.*

*1 Kings 8:10-11*





## Children + Youth

### OUR LITTLER FRIENDS

Being able to purchase curriculums gives so much stability and structure to our kid's experiences of Sunday mornings. This structure gives space for them to wonder....and that's what they do. When Allie asked our Zoom Sunday School class what their favorite part of learning about the Beatitudes was last month, responses ranged from "learning that God thinks it's okay when we're sad" to "reaching so high up into the sky that I touched God's toes." Our OC kids are making meaning of the stories they hear from the Bible and they are shaping their understanding of who God is.

On Sunday evenings, I can count on Mary Lane Hill zipping around the parking lot on her shiny red bike while her little brother, Asa tries his best to keep up. Mary Lane consistently invites other children to play (even those who do not attend Ormewood Church), modeling fellowship in a way that grown-ups can look up to.

-Allie



### OUR BIGGER FRIENDS

What being a youth at OC looks like expanded and changed over the past year. In a time where connection was challenging, we discovered opportunities to safely increase monthly meetings, from once a month to 2-3 times each month. The desire is to provide a place where each person's own life story is heard and celebrated, in hopes of providing a place of belonging to each other and God.

Since our Youth Director Branden joined in late October 2020, we've played 22 games of Capture the Flag. On Halloween the youth, decked out in witch attire, handed out candy in the church parking lot to provide some cheer in the neighborhood. We have spent 10 or more hours reflecting and talking about how God says "Yes" to each one of us. We went through Free to Be, a curriculum that looks at the social pressures about body image in media and culture that can keep us from seeing the worth that each one of us has.



## Community Creation

**BUILD HOUSES AND SETTLE DOWN; CULTIVATE GARDENS AND EAT WHAT THEY PRODUCE. GET MARRIED AND HAVE CHILDREN; THEN HELP YOUR SONS FIND WIVES AND YOUR DAUGHTERS FIND HUSBANDS IN ORDER THAT THEY TOO MAY HAVE CHILDREN. INCREASE IN NUMBER THERE SO THAT YOU DON'T DWINDLE AWAY. PROMOTE THE WELFARE OF THE CITY WHERE I HAVE SENT YOU INTO EXILE. PRAY TO THE LORD FOR IT, BECAUSE YOUR FUTURE DEPENDS ON ITS WELFARE.**

**JEREMIAH 29:5-7**

From day one of Ormewood Church, this fledgling community wanted to stay committed to the people of its place: the southeast Atlanta Neighborhoods. Part of this commitment shows up in our Outreach and Mission areas of ministry, but a large part of our commitment shows up in creating community and belonging, both inside our church and outside these walls through opportunities for connection.

This commitment is embedded in our Strategic Plan, Goal #3: Residents of our neighborhoods are more connected because we are here.

So why is connection so important to us? We could revisit the work we did in our Loneliness to Isolation Series or in our Braving the Wilderness Series, where we learned a lot about connection. But basically, when people lack social connection it's like smoking 14 cigarettes a day. When we create community and connection we are literally saving the lives of God's children.

Also, contrary to most assumptions, Vanderbilt theologian Diana Butler Bass has shown us that people don't come to a life of faith through belief. They come through belonging. Basically, whether people ever show up on Sunday at 11AM, creating community in our neighborhood in other ways helps people experience and know God.





## Worship

**SPEAK, O LORD, AS WE COME TO YOU TO RECEIVE THE FOOD OF YOUR HOLY WORD. TAKE YOUR TRUTH, PLANT IT DEEP IN US; SHAPE AND FASHION US IN YOUR LIKENESS, THAT THE LIGHT OF CHRIST MIGHT BE SEEN TODAY IN OUR ACTS OF LOVE AND OUR DEEDS OF FAITH. SPEAK, O LORD, AND FULFILL IN US ALL YOUR PURPOSES FOR YOUR GLORY.**

The Book of Order of the Presbyterian Church (USA) claims that "In worship the faithful offer themselves to God and are equipped for God's service in the world" (W-1.1001). Much of our community building, discipleship, learning, and praise happens in that special hour on Sunday mornings. We offer ourselves, our attention, our time, and our vulnerability to God and each other. And God is faithful. In the act of worship, the Divine meets us and shapes us into Christ.

### April to April

Zoom Worship: 43

Outdoor Services: 11

Livestreamed Services: 15

Songs Sung: 182

Communion Shared: 8

Worship Bags delivered: 300





## Administrative

### THE MINISTRY OF DETAILS

There is a lot that happens behind the scenes in order to make Ormewood Church a cohesive, ethical, and organized ministry of God. To name just a few of our subscriptions and platforms:

**Zoom | Mailchimp | Wix | Breeze | Quickbooks | Canva | GSuite | Vimeo**

We also have staff members who focus on maintaining the little links that create a longer chain of operations--like our Operations Manager Karen Fischer and our Bookkeeper Kathe Harrington.

People are being paid for their services, trash is getting picked up on Mondays, rental checks are being cashed, and Covid Safety boxes are being created. Not to mention those bulletins we read each week.

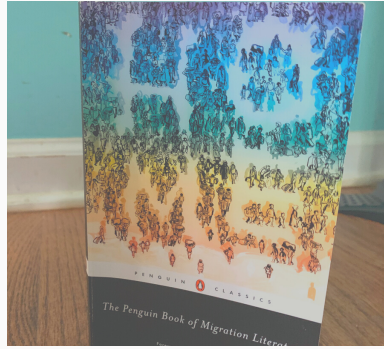
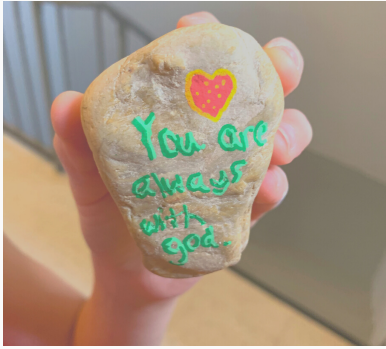
And how do you ever know about anything is happening? How do you know what time something starts or if you need to show up in the Fellowship Hall or the Sanctuary? Or who do you email about the Nicholas House supplies? Communications.

**Bulletin | Newsletter | Facebook | Instagram | Website | Email | Phonecalls**

Just like in the earliest church in Acts, chapter 6, there is a wide range of needs and a wide range of gifts that fill them. Administrative ministry is the real deal.

*About that time, while the number of disciples continued to increase, a complaint arose. Greek-speaking disciples accused the Aramaic-speaking disciples because their widows were being overlooked in the daily food service. The Twelve called a meeting of all the disciples and said, "It isn't right for us to set aside proclamation of God's word in order to serve tables. Brothers and sisters, carefully choose seven well-respected men from among you. They must be well-respected and endowed by the Spirit with exceptional wisdom. We will put them in charge of this concern. As for us, we will devote ourselves to prayer and the service of proclaiming the word." This proposal pleased the entire community. Acts 6:1-5*





## Mission/Outreach

**"TRUE MISSION PARTNERSHIP DOES NOT FOCUS ON GIVING AND GETTING, BUT ON BUILDING RELATIONSHIPS, LEARNING FROM ONE ANOTHER AND WALKING TOGETHER IN FAITH AND FRIENDSHIP SO THAT ALL MAY FLOURISH."**

### **-ORMEWOOD CHURCH VOLUNTEER TRAINING MANUAL**

The Greatest Commandment calls us to love God, self, and neighbor. All of those | God + Self + Neighbor | are equally important and mutually dependent on each other.

Ormeewood expresses this command and commitment in a few ways, one of which is our focus on Mission + Outreach. This ministry has taken form in a few ways:

- Supporting a local organization who is loving this neighborhood (Nicholas House).
- Continuing to educate ourselves on racial competencies and White Supremacy.
- Training our people to accompany and partner with others in a model of mutuality.
- Offering reduced rental costs for nonprofit organizations.

As our personal Covid response last year, we...

- Donated \$15,000 to GA Asylum and Immigrant Network's new Emergency Fund
- Donated \$5,000 to the NCDC Emergency Fund
- Donated \$6,000 in grocery giftcards to our local schools
- Donated \$1,000 in additional support to Nicholas House, above our promised gift.

### **Nicholas House**

From the beginning we knew that people were already loving this neighborhood before we ever showed up here. So, we decided to support them! In particular, we have chosen Nicholas House as our main partner in Mission and Outreach.

Their core programs:

- Shelter
- Rapid rehousing apartments
- Permanent support of housing
- Homeless prevention services

Today they house approximately 300 homeless children and parents. Last year they assisted approximately 1,000 families.

In Covid they have initiated new food support and delivery, increased rental subsidies to keep families housed, and created work opportunities for those who lost their jobs.

*"Teacher, what must I do to gain eternal life?" Jesus replied, "What is written in the Law? How do you interpret it?" He responded, "You must love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your being, with all your strength, and with all your mind, and love your neighbor as yourself." Jesus said to him, "You have answered correctly. Do this and you will live."*

*Luke 10:25-28*

## Connectional

THE MISSION OF GOD IN CHRIST GIVES SHAPE AND SUBSTANCE TO THE LIFE AND WORK OF THE CHURCH. IN CHRIST, THE CHURCH PARTICIPATES IN GOD'S MISSION FOR THE TRANSFORMATION OF CREATION AND HUMANITY BY PROCLAIMING TO ALL PEOPLE THE GOOD NEWS OF GOD'S LOVE, OFFERING TO ALL PEOPLE THE GRACE OF GOD AT FONT AND TABLE, AND CALLING ALL PEOPLE TO DISCIPLESHIP IN CHRIST. HUMAN BEINGS HAVE NO HIGHER GOAL IN LIFE THAN TO GLORIFY AND ENJOY GOD NOW AND FOREVER, LIVING IN COVENANT FELLOWSHIP WITH GOD AND PARTICIPATING IN GOD'S MISSION.

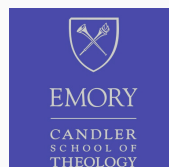
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**Ormewood Church is a ministry of the PC(USA) in the Presbytery of Greater Atlanta through the New Church Development Commission. That's a mouthful! What does it mean? We're connected. To a lot of cool people.**

### **Here are some of the cool people we are connected to:**

- PC(USA): the large, national body of churches who belong to this denomination.
- Presbytery of Greater Atlanta: a smaller, regional representation of Presbyterian churches and ministries in our area.
- New Church Development Commission (NCDC): the group of people in our Presbytery who said "Ormewood Church is a great idea." NCDC is a ministry of this Presbytery that discerns where the Spirit is starting something new and exciting in our midst. They have financially, administratively, and relationally supported our new church development. We try to return the favor.
- Candler School of Theology, Columbia Theological Seminary, McAfee School of Theology! These seminaries have generously shared their students with us in mutual ministry of contextual education and internships. Think Shelby, Kate, JT, Hannah, Marissa, CJ, Joel, Brittney, Jean, Nia, and Branden.







## Participate

### BE A SUSTAINING GIVER AT ORMEWOOD CHURCH

We have had many people tell us throughout the years why they contribute financially to Ormewood Church. One of the most memorable was CJ Clark in the early spring of 2018. CJ was reflecting on the different ways she spends her money and what she wants to help sustain around her with it. She used the words being a "sustaining member," just like she hears each year as she listens to her favorite public radio shows.

In order to sustain something we love, we must give it what it needs to thrive. At a church that means prayer, time, volunteering your skills, and of course, finances. Our yearly budget to sustain these ministries is about \$240,000. As a new church development of this Presbytery, about 1/3 of our budget is covered through rental income, 1/3 through support from NCDC of this Presbytery, and 1/3 from people, like CJ Clark, who love what we do and love who God is creating us to be.

If this community or any of these ministries has made an impact on your life, has helped you belong, has given you a glimpse of God's goodness in the world, **give**. Sustain the goodness God grants us in the big and small ways.

Our goal for our finances, as with all new church plants, is to be financially sustainable without assistance from the Presbytery (by 2024). We want to move that income layout of 1/3 rental, 1/3 Presbytery, 1/3 Ormewood folks to 1/3 rental and 2/3 Ormewood folks. But this is only possible if we all contribute to the sustainability of this community.

So what should you give? That depends on you. The Bible discusses tithing 10% of what you make on the the ministries of God's love in the world. But we know that there are many places in our lives where God is at work: radio stations, schools, nonprofits, etc. So what you give to Ormewood Church is up to you and God.

We do have some suggestions, however (obviously).

- Our median gift is \$200/month.
- Our average gift is \$265/month
- We range from \$40/month to \$1,000/month in reoccurring giving.
- Want to help us reach financial sustainability? Consider bumping up how much you give by \$30/month each year until our goal year of 2024--where we hope to be financially sustainable without outside support.

**Join us by becoming a sustaining member.**

*Give online: <https://ormewoodchurchinc.breezechms.com/give/online>*

*Cash and Checks at Sunday Worship or mailed to:  
1071 Delaware Avenue SE, Atlanta, GA 30316*