



## First United Methodist Church-Rusk

### Missions Report – 2021

*There will always be someone in need. As a person of faith, you have an obligation to God to help the people in your community who need a hand. (Deuteronomy 15:11-paraphrased)*

The year 2021 was another challenging year for our church. Covid continued to make visits to our community, despite the attempts to tamp it down through vaccinations, masks, and social distancing. But we persevered, knowing that we are stronger than our challenges.

*“And let us not grow weary in doing good, for in due season we will reap, if we do not give up”  
Galatians 6:9*

We did not grow weary! The church continued giving faithfully to the God Box, our major source of funding for local missions.

We started 2021 with a balance of \$862.68, received \$3,004.91 during the year, and ended the year with a balance of \$856.59.

What happened between those numbers??? Read on.....

- In February we observed Scout Sunday and God Box offerings were collected for our church's scout troops. \$523.00 was sent to BSA Troop 405 and Pack 227, divided equally.

In June:

- \$200 was sent to the Good Samaritan
- \$100 was sent to the Cajun Navy Foundation in response to the devastating floods in Louisiana. Based in Lake Charles, this organization is an action-oriented think tank consisting of a diverse group of technology, social media, disaster relief and rescue professionals. As a 501c3 charity, their objective is to empower communities across the country with the knowledge of how to take action in their own communities in the midst and aftermath of a disaster. They work together to understand how to fill the gaps during the chaos of disaster and respond more quickly than authorities are typically able to.

July was a busy month for Missions:

- We sent \$405.00 to Tree of Promise for their annual school supply drive for the 2021-2022 school year.
- The Cherokee County Child & Family Services Board (CCCFSB) came to our attention in July. The Jacksonville office was temporarily housing and feeding teens from that location due to a lack of foster homes. We donated \$250.00 to CCCFSB for a day outing to Times Square Grand Slam.

September:

- In response to a request from the Texas Annual Conference, \$200.00 was sent for Hurricane Ida relief.
- Stepping Stones animal rescue organization was the recipient of \$200.00. This is a local rescue organization run by FUMC member Ben Middlebrooks.

November and December are the months that our local charities ask for help for the Thanksgiving and Christmas seasons.

- \$200.00 to the Volunteer Council at Rusk State Hospital
- \$400.00 to Tree of Promise for the Dream Tree
- \$300.00 to Good Samaritan for their building fund.
- \$200.00 to Rusk Volunteer Fire Department
- \$33.00 transferred to the church's Christmas Eve offering for the Methodist Children's Home.

Additional outreach ministries were funded in 2021 (from our operating budget, food drives, other designated offerings, etc.).

- Souper Bowl Sunday – over 200 cans of soup were brought to the altar for delivery to Good Sam
- Good Samaritan food drives – 2,472 items donated in 2021
- Good Samaritan monthly offering - \$1,200
- Rusk Ministerial Alliance - \$600
- Tree of Promise - \$600

Your God Box offerings in 2022 will, for the most part, continue to benefit our local community. While our annual apportionments are dedicated to national and worldwide missions, the God Box is intended for those organizations that we hear about and see working every day.

- Community Outreach
- First Responders
- Rusk State Hospital
- Animal Rescue
- Good Samaritan

In addition to these areas, we will continue to designate certain Sundays for special God Box giving:

- Scout Sunday in February
- Tree of Promise School Supplies in August
- Tree of Promise Christmas Wish Lists (November)
- Other extraordinary/catastrophic events that would benefit from our donations

If you would like to be a part of the Missions team, or if you know of other organizations to add to our list, please let us know.

Thank you for your continued generosity and support to the God Box, and to our greater community.

***“For I know the plans I have for you, declares the Lord, plans for welfare and not for evil, to give you a future and a hope.” Jeremiah 29:11***

Missions Team: Pastor T.J., Bonnie Blankinship, Judy Faye Garner, Brenda Slaton.