



"Reaching out to others with God's love."

OUR STORY – IN A NARRATIVE BUDGET

A "narrative budget" is vision-driven, providing glimpses of how we as a congregation are living out in practical ways the broad strokes of our mission as a church.

The story of who we are as a church unfolds in Scripture, in the life of Jesus, this faith community and in the wider world. This narrative budget tells precisely that story in a way that integrates dollars, people and mission into one clear portrait of Pinegrove.

This portrait shows the connection between the abstract numbers on the balance sheet - and the actual life and work of Pinegrove.

We demonstrate this mission through these key Christian Practices:

- **Worship**
- **Pastoral Caring**
- **Reaching Out**
- **Christian Nurture and Education**
- **Support for the Wider Church**

**Total expenditures for Pinegrove United Church
in 2014: \$76,560**

The purpose of this Narrative Budget is to illustrate how much (or little) of our budget goes to each key Practice, as we work to fulfill our mission and live out God's transforming love in different faith-filled ways.

The next five pages provide an easy-to-understand overview of how that money was used for Worship, Pastoral Care, Outreach, Christian Nurture & education, and Support for the Wider church.

WORSHIP

"Worship the LORD with gladness! (...) Enter these gates with thanksgiving; go into these courts with praise."

(Psalm 100)



\$38,280 = 50% of our total spending

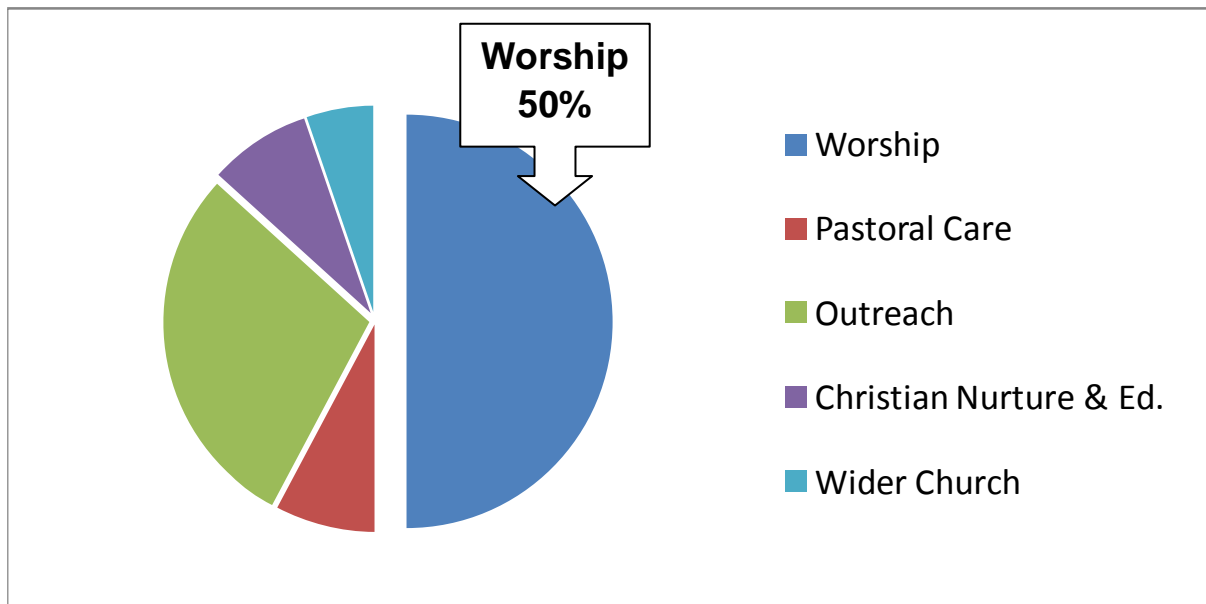
At Pinegrove, we meet each Sunday morning for worship, with special services at other times as needed (e.g. funerals, Blue Christmas, Christmas Eve, Good Friday, Easter Sunrise).

Our minister Hubert Den Draak has been leading us in meaningful service, supported by the musical talents of our pianist and choir director Jill Schutte, and a dedicated choir. A worship committee helps plan the services.

We also have a strong tradition of involving lay members in our worship to help ushering and make guests feel welcomed, to read scriptures, help with children's time, etc.

Pinegrove was the first congregation to partner with Trinity UC's experiment with multi-site technology ("Partners in e-Worship"). This frees up some time for our minister to develop additional initiatives; it also helps create a sense of wider community with our worship partners.

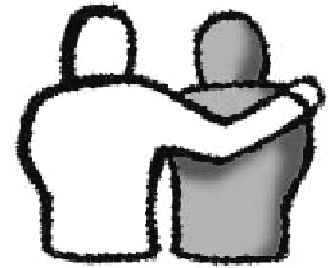
"Liturgy" literally means "work of the people". So, worship is part of the public work of God's people. How could we be more "public" and less "private"?



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PASTORAL CARING

"(A)ll the members care for each other. If one part suffers, all the parts suffer with it, and if one part is honored, all the parts are glad. All of you together are Christ's body, and each of you is a part of it."
(1 Corinthians 12, 25-27)



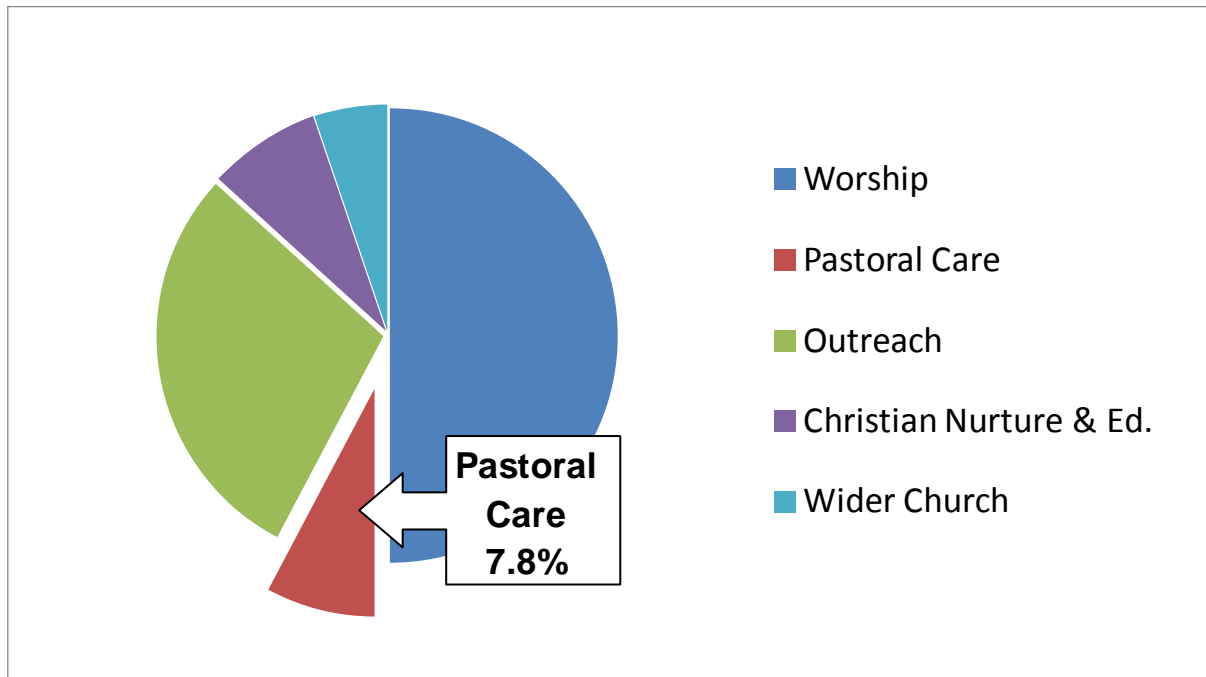
\$5,955 = 7.8% of our total spending

The spiritual health of a faith community is reflected in the way it practices (pastoral) caring. How do we rejoice together in good times, how do we support each other in hard times?

One way we like to do that at Pinegrove is through our social gatherings (usually with food involved...!). Of course prayer is essential, too, as are our Pastor's visits to hospitals, local nursing homes and personal visits to members of our congregation.

We strive to make our church a caring family of faith, filled with not only the love of God but also the love of one another.

How could we grow stronger as a faith family?



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REACHING OUT

"I tell you the truth, when you did it (reached out) to one of the least of these my brothers and sisters, you were doing it to me!"
(Matthew 25:40)

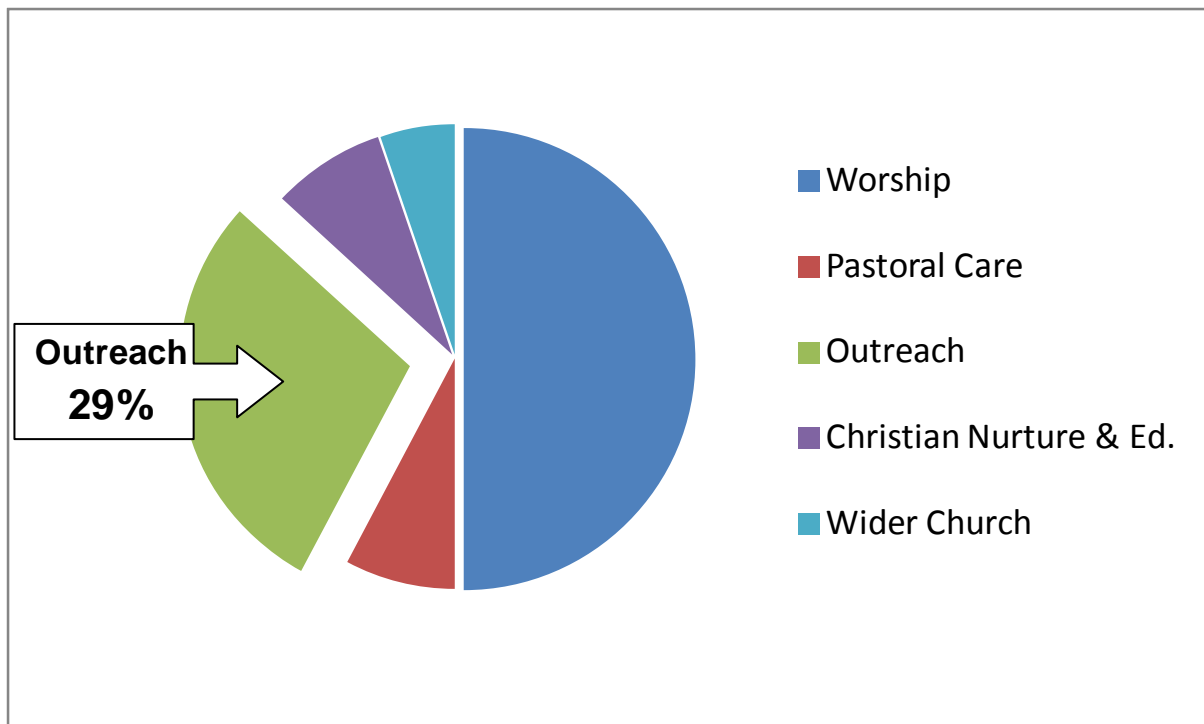


\$22,200 = 29% of our total spending

Outreach is *"doing faith"*. We provide time and money for God's work beyond our church walls. Pinegrove reaches out locally, nationally and worldwide; outreach makes a real difference to those in need, and makes God's realm of shalom a bit more of a reality.

A few examples of Pinegrove "doing" faith are our financial pledge to the Mission and service Fund, donating goods and volunteer time to Shelter House and regional Food Banks, offering community events, offering worship at nursing homes - and much more.

This is where Pinegrove shines. How can we shine even brighter in these times of growing need?



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CHRISTIAN NURTURE and EDUCATION



"(G)o back to your family, and tell them everything God has done for you." So he went all through the town proclaiming the great things Jesus had done for him.
(Luke 8:39)

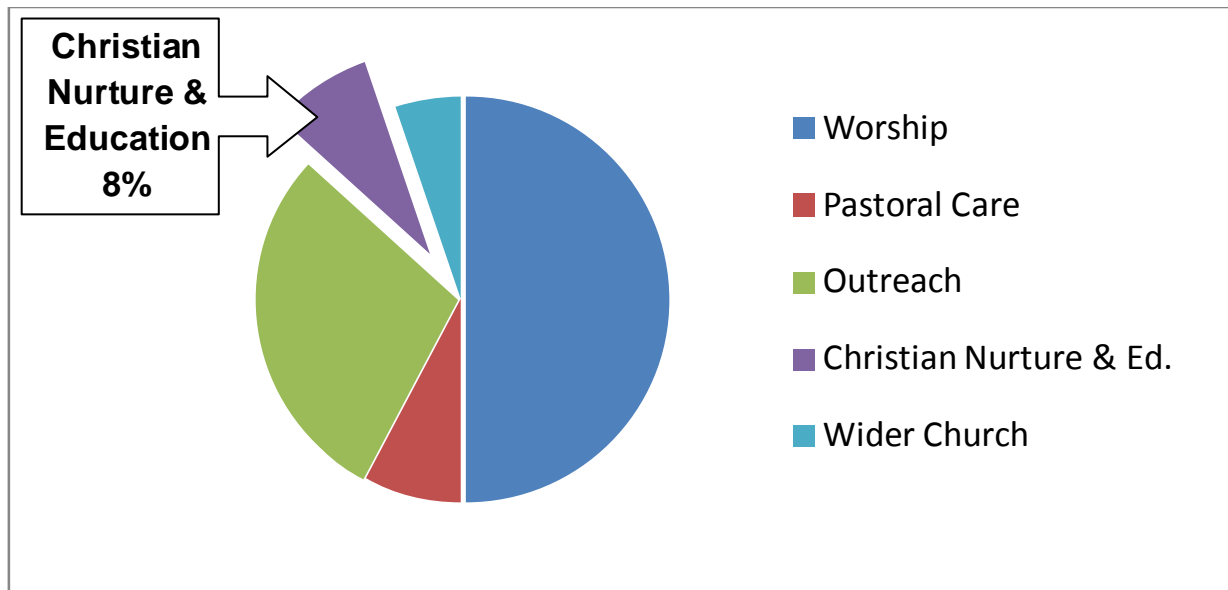
\$6,120 = 8% of our total spending

We grow closer to God by growing our knowledge together. We provide intergenerational education (including children and seekers) through our monthly God Spot services. For the smallest children there are snacks and crafts as well as a nursery.

Couples who wish to be married or have their children baptized can discuss their faith questions and be instructed in what the Church offers - and expects.

In these times when the vast majority of the population is no longer familiar with the church, it is now our responsibility to also educate and communicate with the wider community using the tools that are now in place (newsletter, website, monthly articles in Oliver-Paipoonge Newsletter, article in Chronicle Journal, posters, flyers, social media).

What could be added to teach and proclaim Christ's message?



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SUPPORT TO THE WIDER CHURCH



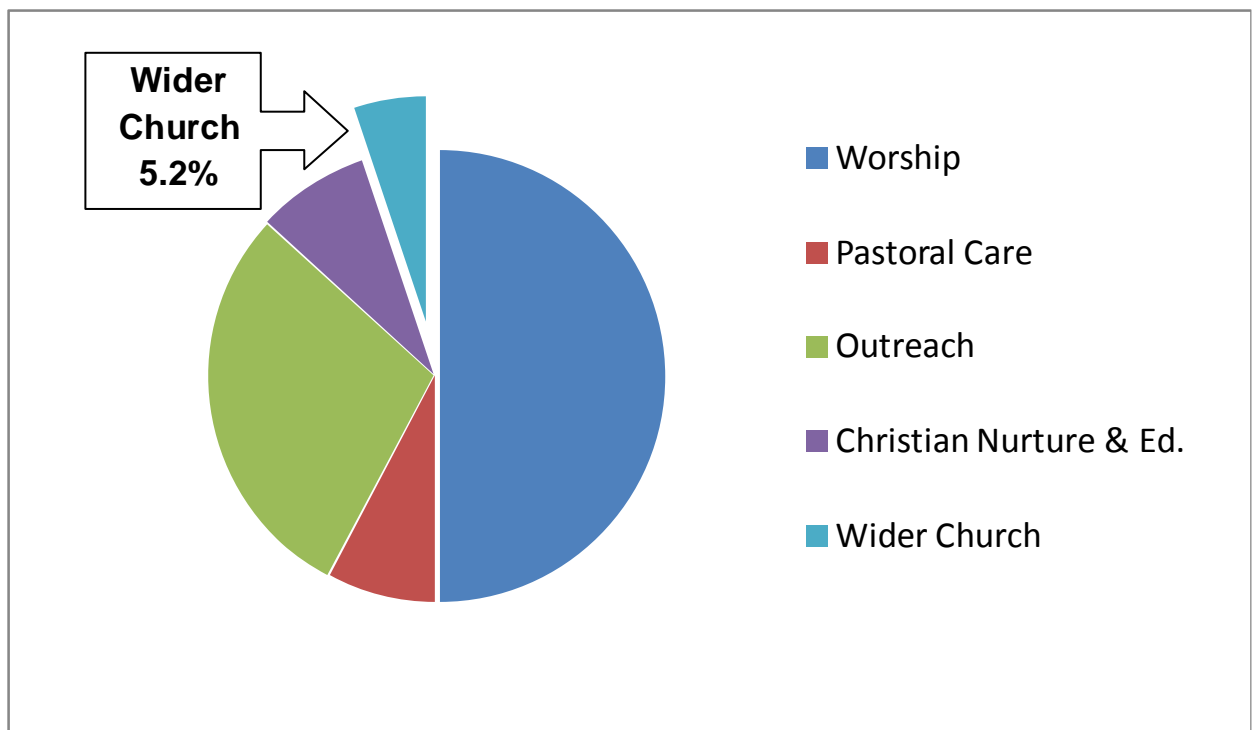
"Just as our bodies have many parts and each part has a special function, so it is with Christ's body. We are many parts of one body, and we all belong to each other." (Romans 12:4,5)

\$4,000 = 5.2% of our total spending

XX% of our operating budget is related to the practice of Support to the Wider Church. Pinegrove is not an island, but part of a much larger body: the United Church of Canada, which in turn is part of the worldwide community of churches, "the Body of Christ".

Also, we participate in (and hosted the 2014) World Day of Prayer with our neighbouring churches, have joint initiatives with our neighbours of Central Kakabeka UC and St. Mark's Anglican Church.

What more could we do to strengthen our bonds with the "body of Christ"?



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Giving

“What? Giving, again?!”

I asked in a daze,

**“And must I keep giving
and giving, always?”**

**“Oh, no,” said the angel
whose eyes pierced me through:**

**“Just stop when the saviour
stops giving to you...!”**

Anonymous



PINEGROVE
UNITED CHURCH

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