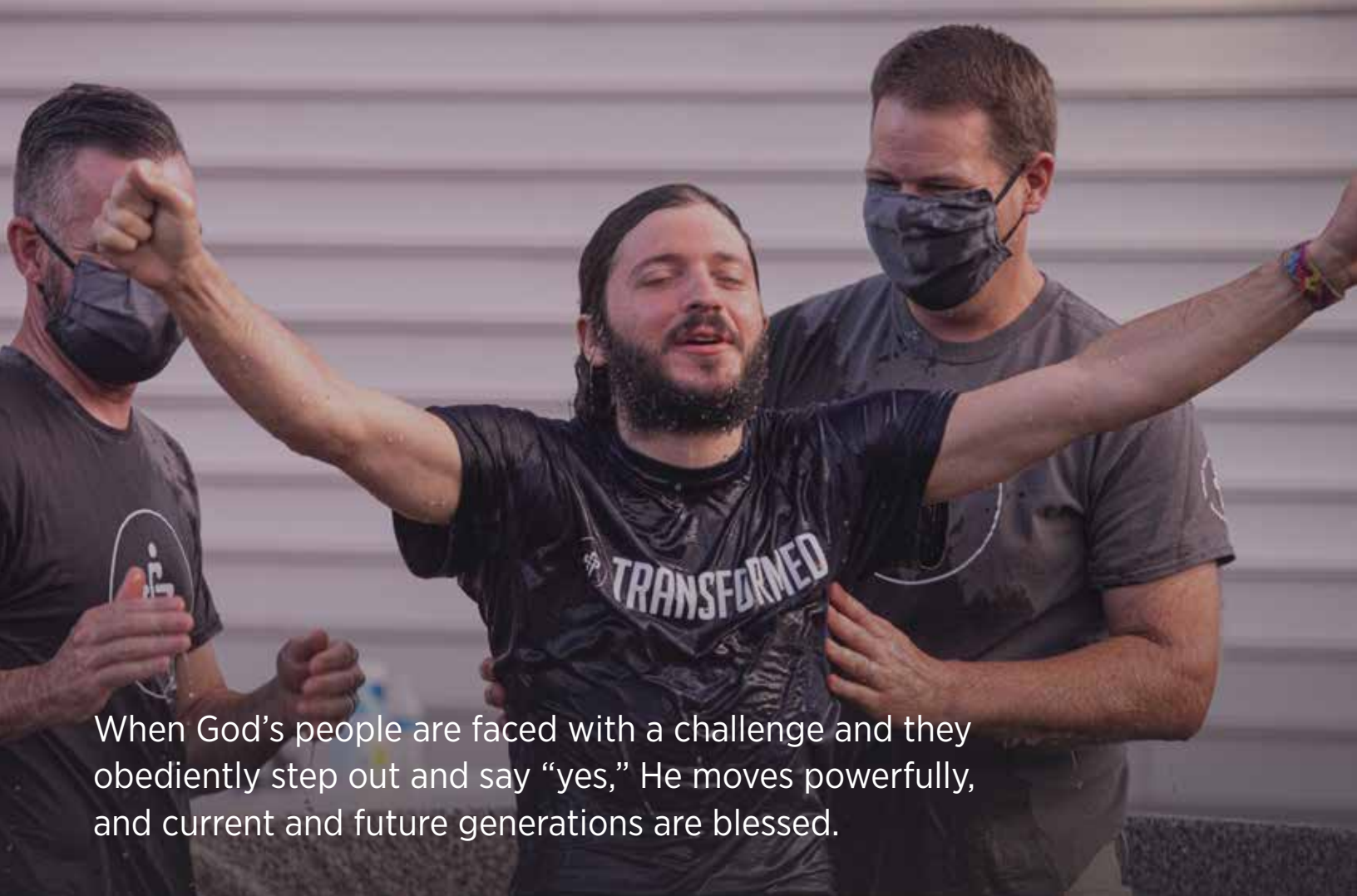


Ignite Legacy Update

WINTER 2021





When God's people are faced with a challenge and they obediently step out and say "yes," He moves powerfully, and current and future generations are blessed.

In 2019, we sensed God saying to us that He had great work for us to do locally, regionally and internationally — that He wanted to increase Walnut Hill's influence and give us new methods to impact His world in ways we never imagined.

While our initial fundraising goal was \$2.75 million, you responded boldly and pledged to give \$3.3 million over two years*! This additional amount has enabled us to expand our vision in each ministry acceleration area and support the ongoing development of our Online Campus. The Ignite Legacy Fund supports the launch and development of ministry initiatives between 2020-2025.

The following pages are filled with praise reports of what God has done through His Church this past year and what you can expect to see take place in 2021.

Thank you for your increasing passion for Jesus and for your faithful and generous giving!

Ignite Legacy Fund

\$600,000

REMAINING TO BE RECEIVED

\$2,700,000

OF

\$3,300,000

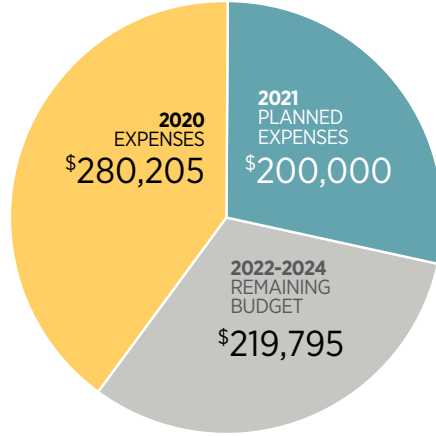
PLEDGED OR GIVEN

*To view an updated report on your pledge or giving, please log on to Realm at www.onrealm.com or contact the finance office at lgoudy@walnuthillcc.org.

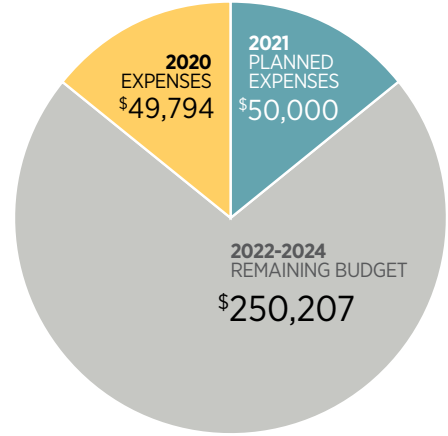
IGNITE LEGACY FUND SPENDING AND ALLOCATIONS



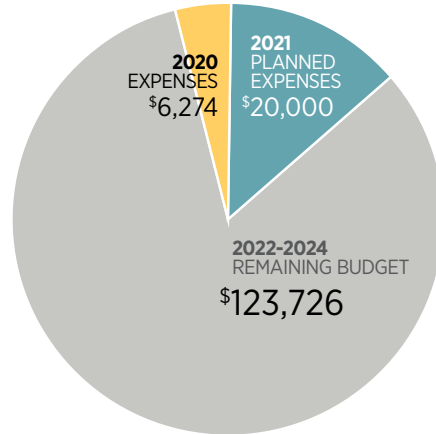
A GENERATION NEEDS TO MEET JESUS.



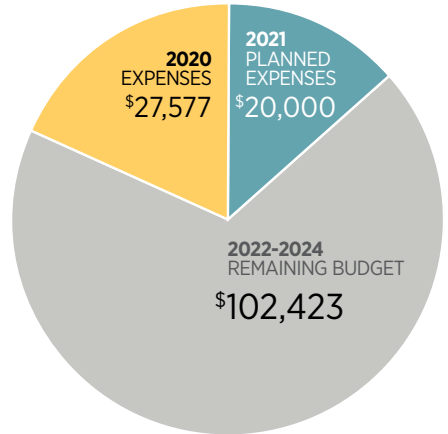
LEADERS NEED TO BE EQUIPPED.



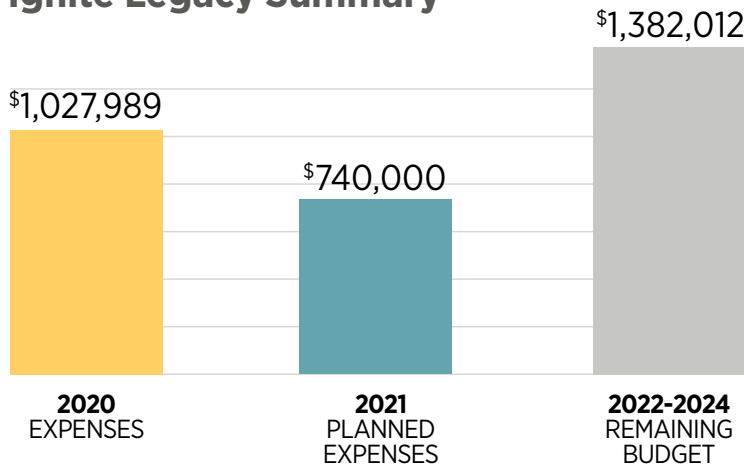
THE NEW ENGLAND CHURCH NEEDS TO THRIVE.



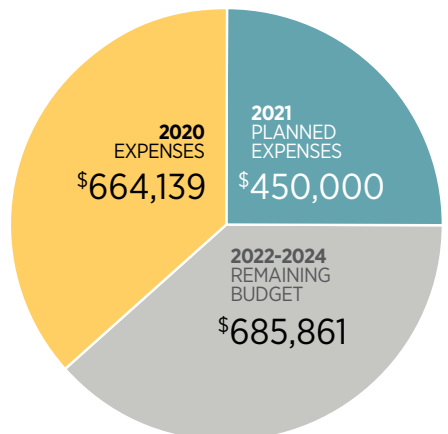
THE GLOBAL CHURCH IS ASKING FOR HELP.



Ignite Legacy Summary



WE NEED TO PREPARE FOR FUTURE GUESTS.





CHALLENGE 1: A GENERATION NEEDS TO MEET JESUS.

The local church in America continues to decline in attendance while a generation finds communities and connections online. Walnut Hill has a vision to adapt and innovate to reach the next generation.

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, Walnut Hill's Online Campus was launched on March 15, 2020 — six months sooner than we had planned. Since that time, a great number of volunteers have been trained to serve as online hosts, prayer servants, camera operators, lighting specialists, media and sound technicians, and worship team members.

Did You Know?

- 559 new people connected to Walnut Hill in 2020.
- 43 people surrendered their lives to Jesus in 2020 and an additional 130 people “raised their hands” online indicating first steps to follow Jesus.
- Our weekend service attendance has averaged more than 2,000 people each week throughout 2020 and has already seen an increase in 2021. Currently, 80% of our attendance is online and 20% is in person at one of our physical locations.
- On average, 230 kids and youth are engaged with our programs on a weekly basis, with approximately 50% connecting online.
- Hundreds of adults are connecting via online groups (such as Community Groups, Care Groups, Men's and Women's Groups, and Bible Studies).

What to Expect in 2021

- We have learned a lot over the past year and are steadily working to foster even greater creativity and excellence. This year, we will see additional lighting added to the Bethel Campus stage to bring greater clarity and creativity. We will also see additional camera angles and motion introduced.
- In the coming months, we will finish renovating a room in the Bethel Campus that will become our Production Studio. Out of this room, we will stream all our weekend services and create all our video projects.
- Our Online Campus Director, Crystal Ellington, is continuing to develop mechanisms to foster online community with those new to Walnut Hill.
- Online groups and ministries will continue to be offered and developed throughout the year.



TARA RAMEY

2020 New Believer and Member

In April 2020, I felt very empty and became increasingly depressed and lost. While searching for guidance, I found out about the online Alpha class that Walnut Hill was running and signed up. This is where I met Pastor Victoria. I surrendered my life to Jesus in May, and I was baptized in August. I agreed to do the Safar discipleship journey with Pastor Victoria, and things in my life started shifting. I started attending Walnut Hill, and my life dramatically changed for the better. Everything began to change – my attitude and relationships with others became stronger and opportunities started opening up for me. Life no longer feels like a struggle, and every morning I wake up feeling complete happiness and gratitude. Jesus' love and forgiveness truly saved me.



SALLY PETRONE

Video Production Volunteer

A few years ago, I taped raw footage for a documentary and learned an editing program. Soon after that, I went to Israel with a team from Walnut Hill. I felt the Lord calling me to videotape the experience and gather the footage for others to be blessed. When we started our Online Campus, I again felt God calling me to learn video production. The experience has been exciting and rewarding spiritually. I have worked all my life but never knew how much putting Jesus first in every way would fulfill me. I'm so blessed to have Christopher Ellington and the team teaching me because their first love is serving Jesus. That makes the fear I feel when I am helping to record services turn into excitement and pure joy. Lives are being changed because of Jesus. Thank you Walnut Hill for showing me that God's not finished with me yet.



CHALLENGE 2: LEADERS NEED TO BE EQUIPPED.

Historically, God has used this church to develop and send leaders into ministry, the marketplace and missions. We have equipped and sent out numerous leaders over the years. Walnut Hill has a vision to accelerate this process 10 times.

Residency and Internship Programs

Walnut Hill has developed a pastoral and ministry internship and residency program to equip and provide real-life experience for men and women looking to enter full-time ministry. The program provides 6-12 months of full immersion into ministry within a large, multi-campus church in order to further develop leadership and ministry gifts.

During their time at Walnut Hill, participants are given specific areas of ministry to lead based on their gifting and interests, and they are exposed to a wide variety of ministry. Through their experience at Walnut Hill, participants grow in their faith and prayer life, as well as in their ability to collaborate, innovate, plan, execute, recruit, empower and delegate.

Each person is paired with a pastor or director for mentoring and, in being welcomed to the Walnut Hill staff team, benefit from regular staff training and growth opportunities.

Did You Know?

- In the 2019-2020 year, Walnut Hill had four residents and one intern serving in ministry areas, including Children’s Ministry, Pastoral Care, Production, Young Adults and Communications.
- In this 2020-2021 year, we have five residents serving in ministry areas, including Men’s Ministry, Pastoral Care, Worship and Production.



HAILEY HILLS

Walnut Hill Intern and
Gordon College Student

Over the summer of 2020, I served as an intern at Walnut Hill, where I led a Prayer Walk that focused on being the light in local communities and around the world. I was also able to co-host an online kids camp, help form translation ministry teams, host the online church platform and more. All of these incredible experiences allowed me to grow in my faith by seeing the true faithfulness of God to His Word and people amid difficult COVID-19 regulations and adjustments. Learning how to adapt and listen to the promptings of the Holy Spirit was essential. Through this open posture from the church community, God moved and called people to Himself. Serving at Walnut Hill taught me how to love God and others in excellence through pursuing Him wholeheartedly in all areas of life and ministry. It has been a blessing to intern at Walnut Hill Community Church.



Follow Jesus Leadership Development Course

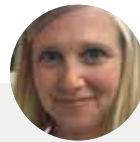
Walnut Hill's Follow Jesus course is designed as a journey with Jesus to discover, develop and deploy disciples for life, ministry and mission. Participants are recommended by pastors and asked to commit to meeting monthly for eight months to study the life of Jesus. At the conclusion of the program, participants are invited to sign up to travel to Israel and walk where Jesus walked. Many graduates begin serving in volunteer leadership roles at the church.

Did You Know?

- Since the course began, more than 50 people have completed the Follow Jesus journey!
- Currently, 16 people are enrolled in the 2020-2021 program.

What to Expect in 2021

- With Craig Mowrey having handed his Campus Pastor responsibilities to Bryan Cerrone, he has now excitedly stepped fully into his role as Lead Pastor, Development and will take the area of Leadership Development to the next level. In 2021, he is forming a volunteer leadership team to further develop and implement the church's multi-year leadership development strategy.
- As we begin to see past COVID-19, we are excited to begin plotting out plans for our gap year program and arts academy. We are also excited for the return of cross-cultural learning and travel.



BRITTANY MARCALUS

Follow Jesus Class Participant

Walnut Hill's Follow Jesus class enabled me to discover Jesus in a fresh way through studying the Gospels and learning from many different church leaders and speakers each month. Throughout the course, I felt the presence of God and heard Him speak to me in powerful ways I had not experienced before. The trip at the end of the class through New England opened my eyes to the rich history of faith in our region and connected me to great faith leaders of the past. It showed me the need for awakening and revival and the powerful ways God is moving.

CHALLENGE 3: THE NEW ENGLAND CHURCH NEEDS TO THRIVE.

The Church stands at a critical moment in time, as the spark of revival can be seen in Christian leaders uniting in prayer and working together in fresh ways, while at the same time many rural churches are struggling to stay alive. Walnut Hill has a vision to help New England Churches thrive.

Supporting Pastors

Amazingly, the impact of COVID-19 did not stop pastors from praying and encouraging each other. In fact, it accelerated it!

Did You Know?

- Nearly every month, Adam DePasquale and Brian Prue continue to meet with five pastors from the North Canaan, CT, area. We are pleased to share that each pastor has found ways for their congregations to continue to meet online during the pandemic. Recently, one pastor shared that his congregation had grown!
- Brian Prue now serves as the head of the New Milford Clergy Association. This has provided amazing opportunities to unite pastors in regular prayer and sharing.
- In January, we held an in-person gathering for pastors from the Greater Danbury area and saw 13 pastors connect in meaningful ways. These gatherings will continue on a quarterly basis.
- In partnership with Gordon College, Brian Prue oversees a local pastors' cohort where he and another local pastor provide ministry coaching on a monthly basis to eight pastors.
- In connection with Vision New England, Adam DePasquale gathers online monthly with Executive and Lead Pastors across the region, and Victoria Kowarick gathers with evangelistic leaders and women in leadership. Additionally, other staff and pastors have been part of online meetings with their "counterparts" at other churches.
- Walnut Hill pastors regularly connect with regional ministry leaders for encouragement and partnership.

Opportunities for collaboration in New England continue to grow.

Did You Know?

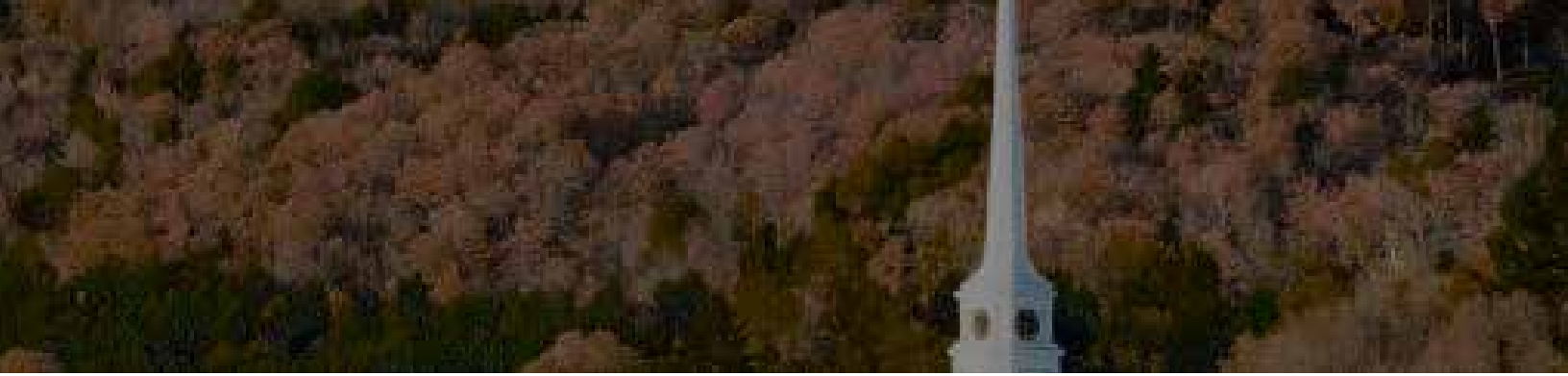
- Brian Mowrey's book, "On the Other Side of Yes," and small group study were shared with 50 pastors across New England. We have received notes thanking us and sharing the impact that it has had.
- We continue to receive regular calls and emails from churches across New England seeking ministry guidance.



JOHN HEECKT

Minister, First Congregational Church of Kent

I'm part of a pastor's group led by Adam DePasquale and Brian Prue that includes several pastors from the Northwest Corner of CT. It is such a blessing that Walnut Hill is willing to share its people and resources with other churches. Although I must admit that your generosity doesn't come as a surprise to me, because I first became acquainted with the generosity of Walnut Hill and its people when I was serving at my first church in Ridgefield. Over the years, folks from Walnut Hill have preached in my churches when I was away, helped out with ministry projects, and given me advice and support. But most of all, they have been my mentors and friends. You might say that, over the years, I've been a part of Walnut Hill's ministry – even though I've never formally been a part of the church!



- Walnut Hill staff participated on New England podcasts and spoke at New England churches, conferences, events and camps.
- Victoria Kowarick continues to serve on the board of Vision New England. Adam DePasquale continues to serve as an association director.
- Katharine El Hayek, Peter Scalzo and John DePasquale are supporting the launch of new Celebrate Recovery ministries at seven churches in Connecticut.
- We partnered with CT Prays to cover the state of Connecticut in 24/7 prayer by taking one day a month to pray. Special thanks to 31 Walnut Hillers who made this possible!
- Walnut Hill is in regular partnership with the following New England ministries: Vision New England, Joni and Friends, Celebrate Recovery, CT Prays, Overseed Ministries, Berea Ministries, Amirah and the Underground.

What to Expect in 2021

- Having received positive feedback from sharing Brian’s book, we are excited to continue to develop and share ministry resources with other churches. We are discussing how to best share our First 20 prayer model, Crew discipleship model and Share Jesus evangelism approach. We are also discussing the creation of short teaching videos.
- Having seen the effectiveness of House Churches this past year, we are asking God for an open door to begin a House Church outside our local community.
- Katharine El Hayek is planning a meeting with all Connecticut Celebrate Recovery leaders for encouragement and equipping. Additionally, she is now connecting with Celebrate Recovery leaders around the world.
- As we begin to see COVID-19 behind us, we are looking forward to reconnecting with regional leaders in person.



CHARLES GALDA

President, Vision New England

I know firsthand of Walnut Hill’s prayers and call to serve New England and how God has been answering those prayers through your collaboration with Vision New England (VNE). At VNE, our mission is to connect leaders and churches through targeted events and technology, where they learn from each other, collaborate and build deep relationships that God uses in ways we never anticipated. Victoria Kowarick serves on our Board and leads our

group for Women in Christian Leadership. Adam DePasquale is a Director and leads our group for Executive Pastors. John Dischinger leads our group for Missions Pastors. And God called me, along with Gene and Barbara Sun, from Walnut Hill to lead VNE. Clearly God is using Walnut Hill to influence the Church in every state in New England and accelerate evangelism. May God bless you for all your prayers, leadership and financial support.



CHALLENGE 4: THE GLOBAL CHURCH IS ASKING FOR HELP.

Spiritual Refreshment

We have the privilege of partnering with ministries and leaders around the world who are asking for help with bringing spiritual refreshment to their leadership. Walnut Hill has a vision to provide this needed support.

While the impact of COVID-19 meant that we were unable to travel internationally, a number of encouraging developments took place over the past year.

Did You Know?

- For several months in the beginning of 2020, we were thrilled to be able to host former World Relief Country Director Emmanuel Ngoga and his wife Mary for spiritual refreshment.
- Due to COVID-19, our trip to Rwanda and the DRC to offer marriage equipping and spiritual refreshment was put on hold for a year.



MARY AND EMMANUEL NGOGA

Marriage Mentors in Rwanda

Praise God for a long and productive relationship with Walnut Hill. Our visit this past year for spiritual refreshment was for sure God ordained. God’s purpose was fulfilled in spite of COVID-19 and the lockdown. During that time, we were trained for our third calling to care for married couples in Rwanda. Mary and I are very grateful to Walnut Hill for the equipping we received so we can now actively walk alongside couples as they face increased pressure. God bless Walnut Hill!



Special Initiatives/ Leadership Development

Did You Know?

- We are excited to be partnering with Jan and Sara Nel in Thailand as they develop an international training center for indigenous leaders. They held their first leadership training in 2020 and continue to minister to many leaders online.
- In addition to our Ignite Legacy initiatives, our Church in Action ministry continues to be active in 32 ministries.

What to Expect in 2021

- A trip is being planned with World Relief this summer to support marriage equipping and spiritual refreshment.
- We are taking next steps in our partnership to provide the Bible to children around the world using multimedia methods.



JAN NEL

Pastor, Speaker and Motivator in Thailand

Over 30 years ago, the Lord gave me a vision of a training facility to equip and train Kingdom leaders for the future. Little did I realize how big the project would be. We would need generous and supportive churches to come alongside us. In 2016, the door opened for us to purchase a piece of land in the North of Thailand to build the center. With absolutely no money, no income and a trust in the Lord and His Word, we stepped out. Three years later, the center was complete. Walnut Hill's leadership heard of our project and stepped in as partners. Not only that, but Craig Mowrey and John Dischinger flew out to visit our facility. The generosity shown to us and the prayer and support we have received from Walnut Hill have been key in us completing the project. We are overwhelmed by your love and care. We cannot express our gratitude enough for what this amazing church and its Christlike leadership has done for us.

CHALLENGE 5: WE NEED TO PREPARE FOR FUTURE GUESTS.

Our campuses continue to draw neighbors in search of Jesus and in need of community. What would it take for all families, particularly those impacted by special needs, to feel welcome and comfortable here? Walnut Hill has a bold vision to welcome future guests.

Creating a Welcoming Environment at Every Campus

Did You Know?

- We are nearly finished renovating the old bathrooms at the Waterbury Campus.

What to expect in 2021

- We will be creating new bathrooms on the main level of the Waterbury Campus.
- We will be replacing the siding and windows at the New Milford Campus.
- We will be doing external brickwork and trim at the Derby Campus.
- We will be freshening the Bethel Campus Fellowship Mall and Upper Room.

Strengthening Our Financial Health for Greater Impact

Did You Know?

- We paid off the Bethel Campus mortgage in 2020!
- We purchased the land next to the Bethel Campus for future development.

What to Expect in 2021

- We are in discussions with the property owner next to the Waterbury Campus and hope to be able to purchase land that can be developed for parking.



JIM SADLER

Walnut Hill Waterbury Congregant

Nearly 80 years ago on a summer vacation in Maine, something happened that impacted my life ever since. My grandfather introduced me to fishing. As my relationship with the Lord matured, fishing became a spiritually therapeutic time where I take my concerns to the Lord. While fishing this past fall, my concern involved my loss of contentment with a church my wife and I were attending. As the wind picked up, it made casting difficult. Then the Lord reminded me that the boat launch at another nearby lake would be more shielded, so I made the move. An adult and a youngster approached in a kayak. As we talked, I mentioned how I was more interested in knowing the direction I should take regarding my attending church than in catching fish. The adult replied, "That's interesting because I am a pastor." Yes, the adult and youngster were Pastor Craig Mowrey and his son Drew. How my heart jumped. We had much to share, leading to the pastor giving me his contact information and inviting me to Walnut Hill in Waterbury. I visited Walnut Hill in person the very next Sunday and brought my wife with me the following Sunday. Everyone was so friendly, and we enjoyed the tone of the message. Lately, we have immensely enjoyed watching online. Every one of the pastors have been so dynamic. We look forward to attending the membership class this month. Jesus chose three fishermen as His first disciples, and we can all thank Him for pastors who take their sons and daughters on missionary trips called fishing.

Expanding Our Special Needs Ministry

Did You Know?

- Although COVID-19 drastically changed ministry, we are grateful that our special needs community has continued to meet online.
- Special needs members from our church and local community have regularly helped with our food distribution ministry.
- We continue to partner with Joni and Friends New England and work together to train and equip churches on how to have effective special needs ministries.
- A team was assembled to develop a strategic plan to expand our special needs ministry. The plan was recently submitted to leadership for review and will be shared with the congregation in the upcoming months.

What to Expect in 2021

- As we begin to see COVID-19 behind us, we are planning when we can safely resume in-person special needs programs.
- We are evaluating staffing needs to support the proposed special needs strategy.
- We will be evaluating our special needs classrooms and identifying necessary updates.
- Joni and Friends New England is looking to partner with us in starting a twice a monthly Bible study.



JIM JACKSON

Special Needs Ministry Volunteer

After being asked to help out with the special needs group on Sunday mornings, I was quickly hooked. I loved the honesty of the group as we dug into God's Word. I quickly formed friendships and began to attend the special needs Community Group on Tuesday nights. I met new folks in that group and saw some familiar faces as well. I was always running a few minutes late because I was coming from work. Yet, no matter what time I arrived, I was always overwhelmed by the warm and genuinely exuberant welcome I would receive. In the age of COVID, we have faced the challenges that come with social distancing. Zoom meetings are the new norm; however, regardless of the hurdles we face, the special needs community continues to thrive as we meet together for fellowships and to worship God.

THE IGNITE LEGACY FUND

The fund supports the launch and development of ministry initiatives between 2020-2025.



A GENERATION NEEDS
TO MEET JESUS.



LEADERS NEED
TO BE EQUIPPED.



THE NEW ENGLAND CHURCH
NEEDS TO THRIVE.



THE GLOBAL CHURCH IS
ASKING FOR HELP.



WE NEED TO PREPARE
FOR FUTURE GUESTS.

Ways to Give to the Ignite Legacy Fund

Give online:

visit bit.ly/ignitelegacyfund to give online.

Write a check:

Please make checks payable to “Walnut Hill Community Church” with “Ignite Legacy” in the memo and mail it to the address below.

Walnut Hill Community Church
attn: Finance Office
156 Walnut Hill Road
Bethel, CT 06801

**THANK YOU FOR YOUR
PARTNERSHIP IN MINISTRY!**

The Lord is igniting a passion for Jesus through His Church!





ignitelegacyfund.org