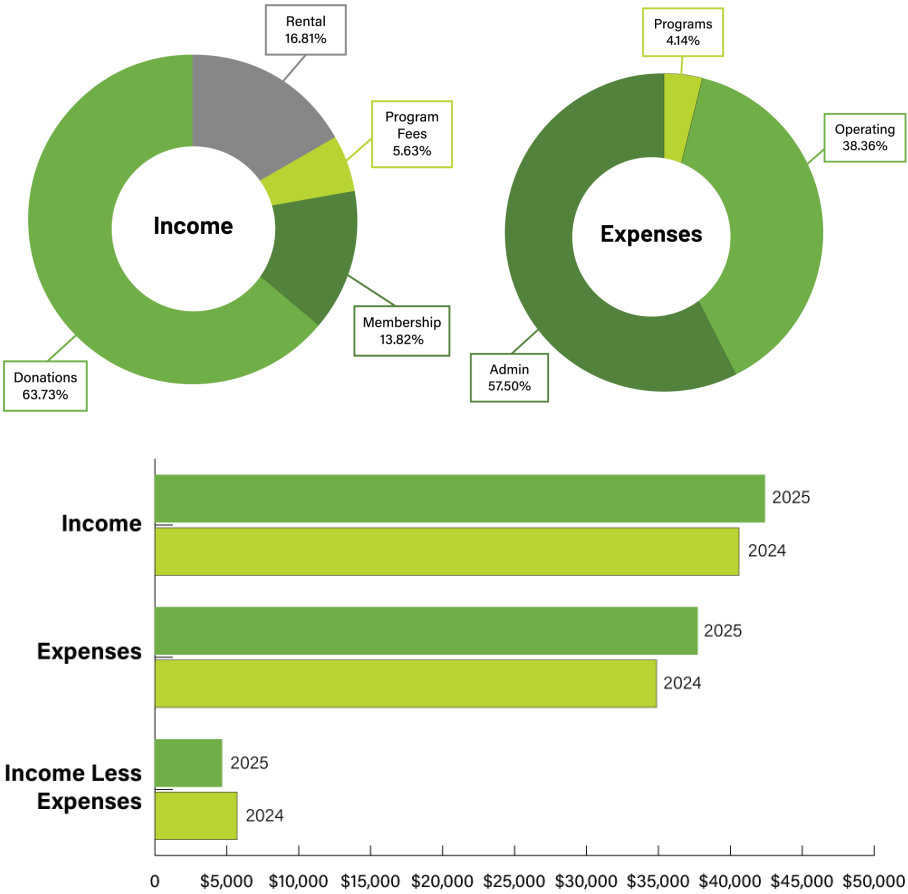


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2025 IN NUMBERS



2024-2025 OUTREACH VOLUNTEERS

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Firstfruits

Address: 890 Elm Grove Road, Building 2, Suite 6, Elm Grove, WI 53122
Phone: 262-271-7859 • Website: firstfruits.info



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“Firstfruits offers women opportunities to share in our faith, grow, and give honor and glory to God. I am truly thankful for this safe haven”
Cathy P.

“Firstfruits has offered me an incredibly supportive environment where I have found all kinds of inspiration. It is a great place to make new friends who are also seeking a deeper relationship with God.”
Trish M.



From Wondering to Realizing

Fifteen years ago, God put on my heart an undeniable desire to gather women to support and encourage each other. He guided me through the process of creating a space for women to come together to share in each other’s happy times and not so happy times, a place where women can just be how God wired them to be.

Sometimes we are quiet, sometimes we blab. Sometimes we have it together and sometimes we can’t even finish a thought. Sometimes we are incredibly brave and sometimes we shake with fear. Sometimes we give hugs and sometimes we need hugs.

Firstfruits became a touchstone of God’s deep and abiding love for women. A haven for our female souls. A place where women take care of each other. Or as the Ram Das quote on the wall at Firstfruits says, “We’re just walking each other home.”

Firstfruits would never have gone from a vision to a reality if not for God’s faithfulness in providing the right people at the right time with the right gifts to birth, nurture, and sustain this precious work.

It’s at this time of year our thoughts go to all those who have helped along the way and the deep gratitude we feel. As we bring to a finish, our fourteenth year, it’s a good time to pause and really take in what we, you and us, have collectively accomplished.

I received a card recently that sums it all up.

There’s no journey more satisfying than the one from wondering if you can to realizing you just did.

We did it.

Joan



RENTALS

Our beautiful space in Elm Grove has become home to a weekly yoga class along with Divine Mercy Therapy Services and numerous Spiritual Directors who use the space to meet with their directees. Contemplative Outreach of Southeastern Wisconsin regularly uses the space to hold their seminars, workshops, and meetings. In addition, we hosted a retreat for the women of St. Joseph Parish in Grafton.



OUR BOARD MEMBERS

- President - Joan Carey
- Vice President – Karen Dalton
- Secretary – Mary Jo Nott
- Treasurer – Debbie Gallo
- Victoria Saunders- McAfee
- Trish Marrari
- Jacque Kelnhofer
- Mary Ellen Felde

Firstfruits is a movement in the spiritual community for women, powered by the Holy Spirit. Here is a sampling of the Spirit-filled opportunities that made up our fourteenth season of Firstfruits.

OPPORTUNITIES

Well Time

Two Wednesdays a month we gathered with our Zoom community for a peer-led discussion on spiritual topics and shared personal insights all in a spirit of friendship and laughter.

Well Time and More

The first Wednesday of the month we gathered in person at the Firstfruits space for an inspirational speaker, a delicious lunch, and an opportunity to connect.

Well Time on the Road

We took our most popular offering on the road and started Well Time groups at St. John Vianney Parish in Brookfield and St. Joseph Parish in Wauwatosa. These groups are still going strong.

Weekly Word

On Mondays we studied the readings for the upcoming weekend’s mass.

Abiding Prayer

Once a month we gathered for group prayer. This hour of deep prayer introduced participants to the many facets of intercessory prayer. It provided an opportunity to pray for ourselves, each other, our community and our world.

Forest Therapy

With a certified Forest Therapy Guide, participants learned how the practice of spending time outdoors engaging in our senses, slowing down and relaxing in nature can have beneficial effects on our mind, body and our soul.

Mindful, Compassionate Communication Series

Through experiential activities along with large and small group sharing, participants learned the art of mindful, compassionate, and empathetic communication.

Story Weaving

The practice of Story Weaving provided opportunities for participants to actively listen to each other with intense curiosity, to listen without judgment and analysis, to share stories individually and create stories together, and to explore how we are all interconnected through our stories.

“Connections among women help to bring meaning to life. Firstfruits helps to create those connections.”
Chris

OUTREACH

Rooted and Rising

We continue communications with Rooted and Rising, formerly United Methodist Children’s Services of WI, Inc. to begin collaborations as they fulfill their mission to the Washington Park neighborhood to build a nurturing, thriving community where all people feel welcome, supported and a sense of belonging.

Trinity Woods

We are building relationships with the student moms living in Trinity Woods and attending Mount Mary

University and developing more ways to support these women and their children.

MacCanon Brown Homeless Sanctuary

Because of the overarching generosity of time, talent and treasure of Firstfruits members, we continue to support the ministry of the MacCanon Brown Homeless Sanctuary, which serves the poor among us. Thank you to the volunteers who make bag lunches monthly; prepare and serve a hot meal quarterly; buy

toys for the spring and Christmas giveaways; continuously donate food staples, clothing, bicycles, kitchen ware, heating and cooling units for distribution along with many other acts of kindness and inclusion.

