

August 19, 2022

Dear PPUMC community,

Thanks be to God! We have many exciting new things happening at PPUMC and we look forward to Rally Sunday September 11. Rally Sunday calls us to reconnect through worship, share stories of summer adventures and share our hopes and dreams for our church community and all of God's creation.

Our finance team has been busy over the summer reviewing our budget, thinking about inflation and rising costs and making plans to support our new pastor. We also have been planning how to meet our financial obligations to our retiring pastor. Our work has led us to understand that we need to make a bigger financial request of our membership this year than in years past. We believe that our church can rise to the challenge and be successful in meeting our financial obligations.

In short, **we need to raise an additional \$30,000 above 2022 pledges. The great news is that we already have received \$13,000** towards that goal! With your help, we are confident we can meet or surpass that goal, finish this year in strong financial health and set a strong foundation for 2023 and beyond.

What will your gift do? Why is it so important this year?

There are several reasons we are asking for more in 2022 and beyond. Mainly, we are a community that shares a value of compensating our pastors according to the spirit of fairness and according to guidance from our Minnesota Conference. This includes not only a salary, but also a housing allowance. In our original 2022 budget we did not allocate the full housing allowance as recommended for our pastor now that we no longer have a parsonage, and this represents one portion of our shortfall for 2022.

Secondly, it's not every year a church community welcomes a new pastor! We are thrilled to welcome Pastor Isiah and want to make sure he has a strong financial foundation on which to build his ministry with us. Although we just sold the parsonage and have money in our investment account that has been approved to cover his salary and expenses for 2022, the market has not performed well in the past five months. Our finance team has done a good job of managing our monthly cash flow and we want to ensure that we have enough income to avoid prematurely cashing out some of our investments. Also, while we are fortunate to have these additional funds from the sale of the parsonage, they cannot be used for other expenses in our general annual budget since they are restricted by the UMC Discipline for special capital improvements and strategic investments.

We have also made the leap of expanding our worship and meeting capabilities by purchasing equipment that allows us to connect with each other in new ways. This change was born out of necessity during COVID, and we have experienced the transformation that occurs when people can remain connected to our community. We now know this technology is a critical part of our long-term plan. With additional funds we will be able to maintain and enhance these services that increase our capacity to be a more inclusive community.



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Finally, we are all aware that rising costs for goods and services are part of our new normal. Although the church doesn't need to fill its tank at the gas station, other costs such as utilities have increased significantly beyond what was previously budgeted.

Over the past year, the PPUMC finance team has carefully monitored this growing gap between our original budget expectations and our actual financial numbers. We also feel strongly that we need to rectify the shortfall in our obligated housing allowance for our pastors. That is why we are writing to you today to **invite you to prayerfully consider increasing your giving to PPUMC.**

How can you help?

If you have already made an annual pledge to PPUMC, we invite you to consider increasing that pledge for 2022 and continuing that in 2023 and beyond. If you have not made a 2022 pledge, we invite you to make a new pledge or offer a one-time gift.

Specifically, we are looking for gifts or pledges of increased giving in the following amounts:

3 of \$5000 (we already have 2)	4 of \$1000
3 of \$3000 (we already have 1)	4 of \$500

We understand that not everyone is in a position to make this kind of stretch and that is just fine. If you are able to increase your giving please know that it will be put to good use to further the ministries of our church community. You can submit a pledge through this [online pledge form](#) or send it directly to our financial secretary Judy Bratt at judybratt@comcast.net. **Please respond by August 30, 2022 so that we can celebrate the results of this effort by Rally Sunday.**

Our finance team can also help provide education in terms of making different types of donations such as Qualified Required Minimum Distributions from retirement accounts, or making pledges/commitments and payments in 2022 for 2023 to help tax efficiency.

If you have any questions about this letter, please feel free to contact Cathy Velasquez Eberhart at cathy@vfamilycoffee.com or 651-587-5356 or Kristi Adams at kristi.k.adams@gmail.com or 651-483-1411.

We know that while some folks are thriving, many are struggling. We ask for prayers for and from all of you, no matter your situation. We appreciate each and every one of you and the myriad ways in which you contribute to PPUMC. We look forward to gathering this fall and appreciate your consideration of financial support to the PPUMC community.

Sincerely,
PPUMC Finance Team

Kristi Adams
Judy Bratt
Ann DeGroot
Steve Ozanne
Tom Smith
Cathy Velasquez Eberhart