

September 29, 2023

Dear First Presbyterian Church Family,

The story of the church is the story of God's people. In this coming year, our FPC Family will listen to God through story, exploring how stories, both scriptural and our own, intertwine as one of the most powerful ways to see God showing up in our lives and the world.

As we enter our season of stewardship, we remember that we are all Stewards of God's story. While we share a responsibility for this story that has been entrusted in our care, each of us cares for it in our own way and for our own reasons. We ask you to take a moment and consider why you steward God's story through giving to the church. A few of our members share what compels them to give in their stories below.

*We know that God has a plan. It just takes patience, faith, prayer, and our financial support, to let God work his plan – **Al and Janet Holtzcher***

*Practically speaking, the church incurs expenses on my behalf: the annual per capita fee, heating, air conditioning, lighting the building, printing the programs, purchasing the music, plowing the driveway, shoveling the walkway, providing the coffee, and most significantly, funds a master of divinity from whom I learn. I must contribute my share of these and many other expenses. But, more importantly, I give as a matter of faith, which for me, began at First Presbyterian Church and continues to this day. I have learned, prayed, laughed, cried, sang, led and followed here. I believe that God has a plan for our church and I want to be part of it. – **Julie Anderson***

*I give because I have been given so freely to. Also, realistically, I know it takes money to do God's work, and I want to be a part of it. – **Dave Mast***

*I have read stories of people who've fled dire living situations so that their children can live lives of safety and opportunity, and, inevitably, the children adopt the new culture and, in many ways, become strangers to their own parents. I imagine it is heartbreaking for all involved when parents love their children enough to uproot their entire lives and start over completely in a foreign land, only for those children to grow up and think of them as backwards and out of touch. My husband and I, who were both raised in church-going families, had drifted away from the church for a variety of reasons, but when our children grew in age and awareness, I knew we had to root them in our culture, or risk losing them to the world and its false promises. We give to and participate in the opportunities at Findlay First Presbyterian Church because it is a place for our children to learn about our ancient ancestors, to ask questions without being vilified, and to understand that they are members of a people who strive to live out our invitation to love others and to act without fear. – **Heidi Croy***

*We give because we enjoy seeing firsthand how our dollars can help fulfill needs of our church and community, both local and global. We trust that our committees review their  
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*respective financials monthly and know they keep the church's mission in the forefront of their discussions. There are a lot of exciting things Findlay FPC is doing and wants to be involved with, and we want to be part of that. God has a lot of good planned for this church; we can feel all the positive vibes just based on the smiles and fellowship we experience whenever we are there! - **Brandi, Jordan, and Tristan Clark***

Our stories may vary from individual to individual, and from family to family, but together, we are writing the next chapter in the story of the church here and now. We have talented and dedicated members that compose the story of our missional outreach. We have created a new staff position, the Director of Connectional Ministries, to help pen the tale of FPC's connection with God, one another, and the world. We need your help and support in bringing these stories to life.

We are blessed that the story of FPC is based in an amazing facility, built through the dedication of our congregation. Over the past year the narrative of our facility has included many repairs, from the top of the bell tower to the doors of the furnace room, and everywhere in between. The next chapter of this story includes the replacement of the entire building's air conditioner, at the price of over \$300,000. We need your help maintaining the facilities in which we create the story of our worship and mission.

We need your help to impact the story of the Findlay community, our mission, our ministry and to maintain the facility in which it is written. We have enclosed a copy of our financial story for 2024, the 2024 Asking Budget, which calls for a 3% increase in pledge contributions. Please take some time to think about how FPC has impacted your story, and what being a steward of the church means to you.

We ask that you prayerfully consider how you will contribute to the story of the God's Church and FPC in 2024. We also ask that you consider paying your annual per capita amount of \$39.10 which is due to the Presbytery for every FPC member. Please return the enclosed Pledge Card to the Church office, or submit it online via our website, by **October 31<sup>st</sup>** so we can create the story of our ministry and mission for 2024.

We invite you to help us write the story of FPC in 2024. Join us on Sundays for worship in person at FPC or through our online streaming services. Come help us serve our congregation and the Findlay community through ministry and missional outreach. Come be an author of the story of our faith community.

Yours in Christ,  
Stewardship and Finance Committee

Julie Anderson

Matt Croy

Beverly Dowling

Howard Elliott

Phil Havens

Al Holtzscher

Bob Huber

PJ Milligan

Pastor Jessica Commeret