

Greetings from the CUMC Church Council and Finance Committee

During this season of Advent as we reflect on the past year and look forward to the coming year, we wanted to update our congregation on some important items:

Current Year Financial Status: The challenges of the past three years have taken a toll on our staffing, membership and giving. Our Staff Parish Committee has worked diligently to get us back to a fully staffed position and we are already seeing the fruits of their labor. Our Children's and Youth programs are being re-energized, we have an updated Missions Booklet highlighting the many positive contributions of our congregation and communication improvements are in the works.

Projected expenses are down ~ 12% due to the open positions we carried for most of the year. However, we are still anticipating a year end deficit of ~ \$132K due to a decline in giving and an unbudgeted expense for the elevator modernization (~ \$66K). Options to mitigate the budget shortfall include:

- a pending Cannon Grant Request (for elevator expense)
- use of the Federal Payroll Protection Plan (PPP) funds which thankfully were not needed in 2021
- use of Endowment funds to bridge the gap *if needed*

December has historically been a stellar giving month for our Church so we are hopeful and grateful for your continued consideration and blessing as we approach year end.

2023 – A New Year: Our 2023 Operating Budget is under development following the Stewardship Campaign. The number of pledges has continued to decline. To date, only 82 families have pledged compared to 97 in 2022 and 114 in 2021. Our Church is very blessed financially and we have healthy financial reserves thanks to a legacy of faithful giving by our members. While the Finance and Endowment Committees concurred with utilizing these reserves to provide a safety net in 2022, it is important that we return the church to previous levels of membership and giving to have a sustainable path forward. If you are so inclined, it is not too late to support CUMC by submitting your estimate of giving for 2023.

We are excited about continuing the journey to rebuild and re-energize our congregation and the Church in the New Year! Your input during our "visioning" event and your continued enthusiasm for our mission has us on a good path. In God's hands, we can multiply our gifts for the good of the Church, our community and for one another. If you have ideas or suggestions for rebuilding our congregation in 2023, please contact any member of the Church Council listed below. The Church Council will continue to work with the various church committees and organizations to identify and promote events and outreach opportunities in the coming year.

We look forward to continuing our journey in Christ together.

Church Council Members:

Phil Jones, Brittany Coleman, Harry McKay, Dan Barrier, Jenny Dabbs, Doris Redding, Jim Campbell, Margret and Wayne Dabbs, Savannah Glover, Susan Carpenter, LeRoy Deabler, Chuck Tumlin, Ruby Jane Carter, Tom Latimer, Fran Ussery, Fay and John Holmes, Melissa McGuire, Donna Keck, and Dan Brandt.

Finance Committee Members:

Donna Keck, Ken Yelton, Kit Borrás, Scott Elliot, Don Outen, Gordon Stallings, Amy Hurlocker, Art Tucker, Cassandra Brooks, Debbie Carter, Patti Waldeisen, Tom Latimer.

Please note the following for end-of year donations:

All donations must be postmarked or received by

December 31 in order to be counted for 2021.

The church office will close at 2:00 pm on December 30 and will be closed December 31.

Online gifts can be made through Realm.

Contact Patti Waldeisen, financial administrator, with any questions pwaldeisen@concordcentral.org