

Dear Faith Family,

As we step into a new year together, our hearts are filled with gratitude. We thank God for the season we shared with Pastor Ryan and his family, and we rejoice in how the Lord has expanded his ministry to shape future leaders at Olivet Nazarene University. You were his first congregation, and God used your faithfulness to help prepare him for what He had next. That is something to celebrate.

We are also deeply thankful that God, in His kindness, provided new leadership at just the right moment. Pastor Corbin's arrival is another reminder that the Lord is faithful to guide His church. Because of His faithfulness in the past, we trust Him with our future as City First Church.

Many of you are aware that the last few years have not been easy financially. Like many churches, we have walked through seasons of uncertainty since COVID, including ongoing negative income through much of this past year.

That is why December was such an encouragement. After ending November with a year-to-date loss, your generosity in December brought our year-to-date income into the positive for the first time since 2021. This was not just a financial milestone; it was a testimony of God working through His people.

To each of you who has given faithfully, prayed consistently, and trusted God through this season, thank you. Your obedience and generosity matter.

Tithing can feel very natural to some and very unfamiliar to others. Scripture teaches us that the tithe is simply returning to God what already belongs to Him. It is an act of trust and worship, rooted in gratitude for all He has done.

At City First Church, the tithe supports the ongoing ministry of the church, our staff, our families, and the work God has entrusted to us. Designated offerings are carefully stewarded and used only for their intended ministries.

As we look ahead to 2026, our prayer is that each of you would experience God's best. We believe that when we honor Him with our giving, He meets us with His provision and grace.

If tithing is new for you, please know there is no pressure, only an invitation to trust God step by step. Begin where you can, and allow the Lord to lead you forward.

If you are taking a step of faith in this area, we would love to walk with you. Please feel free to share with Pastor Corbin or a member of our staff so we can pray with you and encourage you.

Thank you for being a faithful, generous, and prayerful church family.

Ron Alexander