

Dear Faith Family,

Our monthly financial report is always a time to celebrate God's faithful provision for His church and His people. We love to celebrate! When our hearts are full of gratitude, it's easy to see only "blue skies." One of my mentors used to say that, publicly, he always needed to "be up." I think some of that rubbed off on me! Still, while faith in Jesus allows us to stay hopeful, we must also speak the truth.

This Financial Update appears as a link in the *Faith Family Flyer*. If you've clicked through, it's because you care about how our church is doing financially, and we're grateful you do.

The truth is, since Pastor Ryan announced his departure, our regular income has dropped significantly. During the first five months of our fiscal year (April–August), our **average monthly income** was **\$56,600**.

With a **\$747,000 annual budget**, our need is **\$62,250 per month** to meet expenses. That means we've averaged a **monthly deficit of roughly \$6,000** during that time.

Then came September, our lowest month on record in at least 20 years, with income totaling **\$36,307**. And as of October 29, regular income for this month is about **\$45,000**. That's an improvement, but still below what's needed to sustain operations.

Naturally, this raises the question: **why?**

It's not unexpected that giving would dip following Pastor Ryan's announcement. But our staff and leadership team remain committed to reminding everyone that **the mission of the church continues**.

Just this morning, we discussed how to assist families affected by the government shutdown and those impacted by potential SNAP benefit interruptions. The easy response might be, "We can't take on new needs right now... we're running a deficit." But that's not who we are.

We don't operate from a scarcity mindset. **God is faithful**. He has always provided for our needs. Still, as we prepare the budget for the next fiscal year (beginning in March), we must plan based on previous income levels. As you may know from our Connect Track, one of our financial principles is to budget only **90% of the prior year's income**.

At our current giving rate, we're projected to end the year around **\$650,000**—about **\$100,000 below last year's total**.

We rarely make direct financial appeals, but if you've paused or fallen behind in tithing, would you prayerfully consider starting or catching up? The mission of the church continues, even in this season of transition.

We understand that finances can be challenging, especially in uncertain times. But we also know that if our church family responds to the Holy Spirit's prompting, every need will be met, and more!

Please know your church staff loves and cares deeply for you. We've also felt your love, as shown through your generous **Staff Appreciation Offering** last Sunday. Early next month, we'll joyfully distribute those gifts to our team.

Thank you for taking the time to read this update. More than anything, we ask for your continued prayers for wisdom as we faithfully steward the resources God has entrusted to us.

With deep respect and gratitude,
Ron