



October 3, 2023

Dear FPCA'ers,

As I write this, it's hard to think about pumpkin-spice lattes, sweaters, and seasonal holiday preparations when the weather is still yelling "summer" at us. Yet, our calendars remind us it's fall, and that means it's our season for the church's annual pledge drive and budgeting process.

We take a "Faith First" approach to budgeting, and our recent vision and mission introspection has already informed our direction. We need to build ties connecting us across cultures and generations, led by Christ. We will grow worship through music, prayer, service, and education. We will uplift each other through appreciating and sharing our unique gifts, and support each other during life's surprises and blessings.

Coming out of the pandemic, we have already made important progress along these paths. The facilities have been updated to reflect our personality, and it's likely no coincidence that community groups are using our campus as never before. The refreshed music program, like the Summer Broadway Series, is inspiring and connecting our multigenerational congregation. Speaking of multigenerational, I've been delighted at the number of children in the services, and my heart melts hearing the children reading the Great Commandment.

To continue to grow the vibrancy of the church, and the impact we have on our community, we need your financial giving. Your generosity funds 100% of our ministry. Your pledge will provide for the staff's salaries and benefits, and let's face it, the staff are FPCA's scaffolding. Let's be sure to support them and take care of them as they do for us. Let's build our financial buffer for what will surely be upcoming facility needs, as extreme temperatures will continue to bear down on our HVAC units (26!) which will then need service or replacement. And let's provide financial support to counter the reality of inflation. Pledging the same as last year, frankly, is not enough.

So for these blessings, and the ones yet to come, join us in giving, as together we proclaim *Thanks be to God!* for all to hear.

Stan Farnsworth  
RULING ELDER AND TREASURER