



Church of the Good Shepherd United Methodist
5 W. Washington Street/PO Box 695 Oswego, IL 60543
www.goodshepherdoswego.org
(630) 554-3269
office@goodshepherdoswego.org

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Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ

We are now in the homestretch of 2021 with September 30 marking the end of the 3rd quarter. Please take a moment to review this update on where your church currently stands financially.

As you know from previous reports, 2020 was quite erratic due to the start of the COVID pandemic, so we have generally been looking at 2019 for more realistic comparisons. This year, total monthly regular contributions have continued a fairly typical pattern of swinging up and down from one month to the next. Of particular concern, however, is the fact that our total contributions through September stand about 6.1% behind the levels achieved through September 2019. With our operating expenses continuing to track a bit lower than anticipated, we were able to close September with full payment of our payroll and benefit obligations, along with the regular bills for church operations, maintenance, and administration. However, we did not have sufficient current funds to pay our September obligation to the conference for Apportionment. October has not started out very well either. This raises concerns for our ability to stay current on all of our obligations during the final months of 2021.

Finance is currently working with the other church committees to prepare the operating financial budget for 2022. The goal is to present it to the Church Council for final approval in late November. With regular contributions continuing to fall further and further behind the levels received in 2019, significant austerity in the budget will likely be necessary. We are prayerful that this current decline in regular contributions will reverse itself soon and return to the levels that are needed to insure that we can meet all of our expense obligations, including payroll and apportionment, on a current basis for the balance of this year. A positive trend in contributions would be a great finish to 2021!

Information will soon be provided regarding preparing annual "Estimates of Giving" for 2022 contributions. Until then, and as your personal finances allow, please prayerfully consider continuing, or even increasing, the contributions that are being made on a regular basis this year, either in person, through the mail or by using e-giving. If you are unsure where you stand this year with your personal gifts, please contact the church office to receive an update. With everyone's help, your Church will stay up to date with all of its expenses, continue to retain our valuable staff, and continue to bring the Lord's message to everyone.

Yours in Service to the Lord,

Ed Bradley, Finance Committee Chairman