



Church of the Good Shepherd United Methodist
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Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ

It is time for another update on your church's finances given we are now in the homestretch of 2022. Please take a moment to review this update.

Regular contributions so far this year are about 5.7% below the same time last year. This is an improvement from where things stood 3 months ago, but still not where it needs to be! This continues to be bothersome. Of note, however, is that average monthly contributions through September are about 2% higher than they were through June. This is a good trend but still in need of improvement. Fortunately, our expenses for payroll and other normal church operating costs remain slightly below last year as well. This has enabled us to keep up with paying our normal payroll and other operating expenses. Unfortunately, we have only been able to pay 7 months of our regular monthly apportionment contribution to the Northern Illinois Conference, leaving us two months (\$5,000) behind on this obligation. We must have significantly higher contributions for the balance of the year to ensure that adequate funds are available for payroll, the various other church operating expenses, and to fund our obligation to the conference for apportionment.

Finance is currently working with the other church committees to prepare the operating financial budget for 2023. The goal is to present it to the Church Council for final approval in late November. With regular contributions remaining behind the levels received last year, significant austerity in the budget will again be necessary. We are prayerful that this ongoing shortfall in regular contributions will reverse itself soon and return to the levels required to ensure that we are able to meet all 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 2022!

Information will soon be provided regarding preparation of your annual "Estimate of Giving" for 2023 contributions. Until then, and as your personal finances allow, please prayerfully consider continuing, or perhaps 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 in paying all 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