



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

April, 2022

With the first quarter of 2022 now completed, it's time for an update on the church finances.

Regular contributions so far this year are about 12.7% below the same time last year. While that is a disturbing start to the year, it is important to note that the monthly contributions have increased slightly each month. This is a good trend to have! The significant shortfall in contributions has forced us to utilize all the excess funds we had remaining at the end of 2021 to pay our regular bills and payroll expenses. Unfortunately, we have only been able to pay 2 months of our regular monthly apportionment contribution to the Northern Illinois Conference, leaving us one month behind on this obligation. We are hopeful that the trend of slight increases in monthly contributions will continue, and the "slight increases" will turn into much larger increases in the very near future. This is a necessity for us to continue to be timely with all our financial obligations in the coming months.

From an expense standpoint, our total normal operating and administrative costs continue at about the same levels as prior years. Our apportionment was set to rise significantly this year. This increase was appealed to the Conference. In early March, we were pleased to learn that our appeal to the Conference was approved. The requirement for 2022 will be the same as the 2021 contribution. The entire staff continues, without hesitation, to make needed adjustments in their normal work routines to accommodate the changes in worship and Sunday School schedules along with other changes to allow for the gradual return of many other church activities. We are blessed to have such great people that show their dedication to our church in so many ways every day!

We have successfully returned to two Sunday worship services with Sunday School in between them. It is good to once again see many familiar faces, along with some new ones, on Sunday mornings. The online service continues to be available as well for those that are unable to attend in person. As we move further into 2022, we will see more activities in the church resumed on a very cautious and well-planned basis. All this increased activity will provide ever increasing opportunities for involvement with the church in some manner. Hopefully, it will also draw more people from the community that are seeking to build a relationship with the Lord.

The contributions that you are making in person, through the mail, and through e-giving are needed and very much appreciated. Please prayerfully consider continuing, or even increasing them as your personal finances allow. With everyone's help, your Church will stay up to date with all 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