



# John Calvin Presbyterian Church

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JOHN CALVIN PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH  
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October 25, 2023

Dear JCPC members and friends,

While the world around us may feel as though it is descending into chaos, I am grateful to serve in ministry with you. Daily I see you walking with each other in pain, illness and loss. I see you reaching out in love to those who are grieving. I see you serving this community. I see you caring about what is happening in the world. I see you. And what I see brings me life and joy and peace.

I'm excited for the future of JCPC, even in the midst of it all. It can be challenging to see God when there is so much in the world that is painful. But as followers of Jesus that is what we are called to – to walk toward the pains and hurts in the world and do what we can.

And this is why I am excited about the future of this community of faith. Our church has again become a gathering place where we can pray, praise and plan in fellowship with friends in our larger Christian family. These are exciting times -- worship, fellowship meals, book clubs, Circle meetings, music rehearsals, Bible studies, Sunday School Classes, youth programs and others are meeting with increased frequency now. Outside groups are back using our facilities. JCPC is fully open again for the business of doing God's work!

As our ministry level at JCPC has now started growing back to a pre-COVID level, JCPC committees are now utilizing all budgeted funds as they are successfully implementing all planned activities for 2023. As we continue to discern God's will for our church, we will have to continue to temporarily to utilize funds accumulated from prior years' operating surpluses to balance our budget for both 2023 and 2024; however, our annual tithing appears to have stabilized. That is good news! As of August 31, 2023, it is projected that our 2023 envelope/non-designated income will be equal to 2022. In 2023, the Lord has blessed us by reversing the trend of reduced annual giving that we had been experiencing in prior years.

So that we might continue to ensure our ability to spread the message of God's love for generations to come, we must grow our programs, our membership, and our mission work. In order for JCPC to reach the goal of financial stability we ask all members of the JCPC community to prayerfully consider increasing your current giving by 6% so that we no longer are reliant on the use of prior years' operating surpluses to balance our budgets.

Over the next month during worship, and on our social media platforms, we will be sharing short videos about different aspects of our life and work together as a community. My hope is that through these moments for stewardship we can share with each other and the wider world what we are about. Why what we do matters. Why it matters that we are here.


Throughout the month of November, you will be given the opportunity to make your pledge to this community. As much as we know and acknowledge that life is uncertain and chaotic, your pledge will go a long way to helping our Session being able to plan a budget that will move us into the future that God

has for us. I hope that you will think of your pledge as a way to help us plan, by giving us a sense of what you expect to be able to give in the coming year – to this community, and to God.

But God also asks us to give of our time and our talents – not just our treasure. Not everyone is called to do everything, but each of us is called to do something. And we would like to know how you would like to serve God through this community. You are welcome to serve on a committee, participate in mission projects, provide hospitality as a greeter, cook for grieving families, teach our children or adults – whatever you feel God may be calling you to. So, in addition to your financial pledge, we ask that you complete a time and talent survey so that we know how you are feeling called to participate in the ministry of this church.

As I said, I am excited about what God has in store for us. Keep praying! Keep knowing that God is not finished with you, or with me, or with us, as long as we are here. Each of us doing what we can, however we can, for as long as we can, will help position this congregation for the next 60 years. I could not be prouder to be your pastor.

Blessings and love,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Pastor Jen" with a stylized flourish at the end.

Pastor Jen, on behalf of the Finance and Stewardship Committee

Finance and Stewardship Committee: Tom Shearin, chair; Skip Bishop, Ron Rogers, Tom Hoffmeyer, Alice Baker, Will Ginn, Thomas Hawkins, and Pastor Jen Kottler (ex-officio).