September 9, 2024

Dear JCPC members and friends,

As we prepare to launch our 2025 Stewardship campaign, let us all look at 2024 and celebrate how we lived our mission of spreading our Lord’s message as a “Welcoming, Transforming, Loving” congregation. The GOOD NEWS is that our church continues to make a difference in the lives of many. During this year, we have welcomed new families and new members, we have seen our children and youth ministries grow, we have expanded our outreach through our community missions, established an endowment fund and are still continuing to ask, “Who is God calling us to be as we reach out in service to this community?”

As we look forward to 2025, what do you imagine for JCPC? What do you imagine for JCPC in 5 years? Some of us may imagine continuing to grow our membership as word spreads about the love and acceptance of our congregation and our vibrant worship, education and fellowship. Others may imagine more opportunities for community engagement and continuing to open our facility to outside organizations and hosting events for the community – while expanding our mission activities. Still others may dream of more opportunities for our worshipping community to be more deeply involved in christian education and fellowship. We want to build on the foundation that we have and expand our music ministry by increasing our choir membership and instrumental musicians. Lastly, we work and pray for an even more vibrant and energized Sunday School full of children, youth and adults eager to learn about God.

Imagining our future together at JCPC in 2025 and beyond – envisioning new opportunities or strengthening the backbone of our current programs – is vital to a vibrant and transformative Christian community life. Praying together, helping one another and sharing our joy are ways we will build a better, brighter future together. Our imagined future is made possible by your pledges to JCPC, that support and maintain our building, our staff, and our worship services, along with funding the activities and missions we all treasure.

Based on information through August 31st, this year – 2024 – is on course to close out as one of the most transformative stewardship years of JCPC since 2015. Our goal in 2024 was to lay a foundation of financial sustainability and by the grace of God, that’s precisely what we are doing. We have come together as a community. We have dreamed a very big dream, and we’ve been able to witness that dream gradually come to life. It is an exciting time in the life of our congregation.

We ask all members of the JCPC community to once again prayerfully consider increasing your current giving for 2025 so we can follow Jesus’ example and spread the message of God’s love for generations to come. If you have not pledged previously, we ask that you prayerfully consider pledging for 2025.

Throughout the months of September and October, you will be given the opportunity to consider your pledge to the JCPC community. Our stewardship campaign concludes with our Pledge Dedication Sunday on November 3rd. During September and October, the various ministries of JCPC will be presenting Minutes for Mission during worship and you’ll be hearing about what the people in our community love about JCPC. You will see how others give of the time, talent and treasure and you will be invited to discern how God is leading you to contribute to this work. You will also learn more about how God has blessed us with an Endowment Fund. As you hear these stories—trust that God’s love is always enough, and that God always provides. Know how grateful we are for your generosity, your care, your faith, and most importantly, your love. Each of us has unique gifts to contribute to God’s plan of action. No one is called to do everything, but each of us is called to do something.

So, in addition to your financial pledge, we ask that you complete a time and talent survey so that we know how you would like to participate in the ministry of this church. You may want to serve on a committee, participate in mission projects, provide hospitality as a greeter, cook for grieving families, or teach our children or adults – all your gifts are needed, and all are welcomed.

Stewardship season at JCPC is special—a time we set aside for reflection, reassessment, and thoughtful planning. It is a time when, both individually and collectively, we thank God for the blessings of abundant resources and spiritual gifts with which to serve our community and others. It is a time when we begin to prepare the church budget, which in turn defines how best we can respond to God’s plan for us—from prayers to action. The challenges and opportunities are many, but we have proven time and again that we have what it takes to respond effectively to God’s call.

In 2024, we have planned, learned, served, dreamed, listened, worked, and rejoiced in many new and exciting ways. At this time and in this place, we are ready – and called – to be stewards. We all look forward to 2025 and beyond imagining what this community can be and do through our faith in God – the One who is always faithful to us.

Thank you as always for your generosity and support of JCPC!

Yours In Christ,

The JCPC Finance and Stewardship Committee

Susan Tedder, Elder, Tom Shearin, Treasurer, Tom Hoffmeyer and Will Ginn, Assistant Treasurers, Alice Baker, Skip Bishop, Thomas Hawkins, Ron Rogers and Pastor Jen Kottler (ex-officio).