

Greetings,

This year, as we approach our Stewardship and Budget planning, I want to be clear and direct. For the last couple of years, we have run deficit budgets, putting hope and ministry aspiration first. Unfortunately, as our economy shifts and prices rise, we have not been able to keep up with our expenses. Our current giving is outpaced by the increasing costs of building upkeep and competitive wages for our staff. We cannot sustain this trend. Please join me in asking some challenging questions as we seek direction for the upcoming year.

In the past year, our expenses exceeded our revenue by about \$75,000 or 30%. We need to see a significant response from the congregation in this Stewardship campaign. *Will you help us sustain our ministry by increasing your pledge or pledging for the first time?*

Along with increasing our pledged revenue, we need to get serious about boosting building-use income. *Can you help us dream up ways to open our building to more folks so we can keep being a community hub on the South Hill?*

At this time, we have an opportunity to consider expanding our revenue streams, as well. This includes building use, but may also include one-time gift opportunities, disbursements from investments, and learning from other organizations about how they sustain themselves in this economic climate. It is a common theme that non-profits are increasingly relying on alternative sources of income beyond the traditional annual pledge/gift model. We will be exploring all of these options in the weeks to come as we set our budget. *Will you join me in prayer during this season, calling on God to make clear our path for stewarding and utilizing our resources most faithfully?*

I know we live in tense, concerning times. Our world is changing. And our community is feeling the impact. Long-time, generous donors have passed on or moved away. It becomes harder and harder each year to consider giving a biblical tithe, the first 1/10 of what God has blessed us with. *Will you be bold in this moment, trusting God, and will you step in to fill this gap?*

God is faithful. I pray you will join me and our church in praying for a sustainable future. In prayer, God's people have discerned their direction for generations. Now it is our time to use this practice to see the path at St. James.

Please fill out the included Pledge form and Time & Talents survey (complete both sides) and return it to the church by November 29, 2025.

Grace and peace,

Pastor Seth

Please complete both sides of this form and return by November 29, 2025 using the enclosed envelope. To submit an online version of this form, visit www.tinyurl.com/StJames2026

Name(s):

I/We pledge the following for 2026: (select one)

\$ _____ weekly (x 52 weeks)

\$ _____ monthly (x 12 months)

\$ _____ quarterly (x 4 quarters)

\$ _____ one-time gift (contribute now toward our 2026 budget)

\$ _____ TOTAL pledge for 2026

Pledges are the main source of funds for everything we do at St. James. They sustain our staff, operations, missions, and other programs. Pledges also allow us to effectively budget for the upcoming year.

☐ I/We will contribute to life at St. James in other ways
but am/are unable to make a monetary pledge at this time.

Contact Info

Mailing address:

Phone:

Email:

☐ My contact info has changed

One-time or recurring contributions can be set up from a bank account or credit card through the St. James website.
Select "Giving" at www.saintjamespres.org

All 2025 contributors will receive an annual contributions statement during January 2026 that can be used for tax purposes. Semi-annual or quarterly statements are available by request. Please indicate your preferences here:

Frequency:

Delivery method:

☐ Annual statement only

☐ Regular mail

☐ Semi-annual statements

☐ Email

☐ Quarterly statements

Thank you for contributing to the ministry of Christ here at St. James Presbyterian Church!

Our life together is filled with opportunities to connect and support one another. Whether it is helping out on a Sunday morning or guiding a group discussion, we all have gifts we can contribute to God's work here at St. James. Where will you join in?

Helping around the church

I would like to help with...

- ☐ Administrative - office support
- ☐ Bible Study or Small Group leadership
- ☐ Building maintenance, groundskeeping, and work parties
- ☐ Children's Ministries - Godly Play, Nursery, teaching and activities
- ☐ Deacon assistance - sending cards, making phone calls, visiting people, meals
- ☐ Events and Activities - Hospitality, social events, engaging with members
- ☐ Graphic design
- ☐ Memorial Services and Weddings support
- ☐ Music - hand bells, choir, soloist, instrumentalists, accompaniment
- ☐ Photography at events
- ☐ Serve as an Elder
- ☐ Serve as a Deacon
- ☐ Social media and website support
- ☐ Technology - Audio/Video/Sound/Zoom Assistance
- ☐ Transportation - Ride support for worship, errands, doctors appointments
- ☐ Worship - Communion Service
- ☐ Worship - Decorations (paraments, sacristy, seasonal)
- ☐ Worship - Lectoring (read Scripture, prayers)
- ☐ Worship - Ushering (building prep for service, bulletins, welcoming)
- ☐ Youth Ministries - Mentoring, chaperoning, leading small groups
- ☐ Other: _____



Committees

I would like to join these committees...

- ☐ Building & Grounds (projects, maintenance, tenant relations)
- ☐ Finance & Stewardship (budget, offering, and long-term planning)
- ☐ Christian Faith Formation (Children, Youth, and Adult discipleship)
- ☐ Loving Welcome (events, publicity, membership, outreach)
- ☐ Mission and Social Action (serving with our various missions partners)
- ☐ Nominating (recruiting and support new elders and deacons)
- ☐ Personnel (supporting St. James staff)
- ☐ Worship (Sunday morning, special services, music, art)
- ☐ Other: _____

