



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

November, 2024

With the end of 2024 drawing near, here is an update on how the church finances stood through the 3rd quarter, the end of September.

Unfortunately, regular contributions to the General Fund declined by over 12% in the 3rd quarter vs. the 3rd quarter last year. This is the lowest level of General Fund contributions that we have experienced for any quarter since the 1st quarter of 2022. For the year so far, this leaves us about 3.25% behind last year and about 10% below the anticipated budget for General Fund Contributions.

From an expense standpoint, our total normal operating and administrative costs are about 4% higher than last year, slightly below the anticipated operating budget levels. The staff, trustees, and other committee heads did a great job in managing expenses in the 3rd quarter, resulting in expense levels slightly under anticipated budget levels. We are hopeful that these controls on expenses will continue for the balance of 2024. Additionally, our regular monthly apportionment contribution to the Northern Illinois Conference is one month behind, just as we were at this point last year. Historically, General Fund contributions have been strong in the 4th quarter. We will need that same strong performance this year to keep current on all of our General Fund obligations, including our apportionment.

We continue to seek better ways to improve our connection to the community and draw new people in to worship with us on a regular basis. These efforts may require some slight increases in General Fund spending. As more people from the community that are seeking to build a relationship with the Lord are drawn to the church, contributions will grow as well. We are confident in the ability of the church to financially support these efforts.

If you need to receive an updated contribution statement to see your progress in supporting the church this year, just contact the office and they will get it to you. The contributions that you make to the General Fund 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 Chair