

Dear GPC Community,

James 2:14-15 says, “What good is it if people say they have faith but do nothing to show it? . . . Faith is dead when it doesn’t result in faithful action.”

Over the past year we have done a lot of praying and waiting for the guidance of God, comparing the church to a sailboat that catches the wind of the Holy Spirit. 2024 has been a year of discernment and envisioning the future that God desires for us. Faithfully waiting for God’s guidance is essential for people of faith, and so is our response.

The church at its best is a dance between prayerfully waiting and faithfully responding.

This fall, like every fall, we are asking you to make a financial pledge to the operating funds for the coming year, and the Session will create a budget that will help us to live out our purpose in 2025. It is also a time for us all to consider how we might pledge not just money, but our time and our efforts.

As you reflect on where God is leading us, how might God be calling you to be a part of the future of GPC?

- Is worship at the center of your church experience? Then maybe you are being called to serve God through being an usher, a musician, a liturgist, a communion server, a greeter with our online worshippers, or assisting with AV.
- Are you passionate about faith formation? Perhaps you are interested in attending or leading an adult education class or being a children’s or youth Sunday School teacher.
- Does your prayer life nourish you? If so, then please join the Prayer Network, stop at the Caring Card table after worship, or consider a call to become a Deacon of the church.
- Do you find joy in serving others? Consider contributing to or hosting a fellowship event or volunteering with any of our mission opportunities.
- Are you one who pays close attention to the sustainability of an organization? The Stewardship, Finance, or Buildings and Grounds committees could be a great place for you to live out your faith using the spiritual gift of administration or technical expertise.

Your financial offerings are essential to keeping GPC healthy and thriving, and so are your offerings of time. We are waiting faithfully for God to guide us. And I believe that God is waiting patiently for us to respond to where God is leading us.

My prayer is that in 2025 GPC will learn to dance with the Holy, moving gracefully between prayerful waiting and faithful response.

In Stubborn Hope,
Pastor LeAnn Hodges