



## **2024 Annual GPC** **General Offerings Campaign**

Consecration Sunday: October 15, 2023

September 2023

Dear Gaithersburg Presbyterian Church Community,

This is the time of year when the leadership of the church begins the work of planning our budget for the coming year. That process involves reviewing the current year's finances, planning for our shared ministry in the year to come, and inviting you to participate through your pledges of time and effort.

As we look at the past year, one part of the story is that 2023 began with a significant, anticipated deficit. Another part of the story is that because of the dedication of this community, we anticipate ending the year with a balanced budget. For this I give thanks.

Our health as a congregation is due to many factors, such as the generosity of our community, through financial contributions as well as acts of service.

Pastor Mary Beth reflected on the ways in which our church community has leaned into leadership this year, not only relying on our reduced staff to do the work of the church, but also by claiming your gifts, stepping out in faith, and serving with joy and creativity in the following ways:

- Coordinating assistance by GPC's members for food distribution at Epworth UMC
- Scheduling worship leaders and recruiting some new folk
- Checking the Little Free Food Pantry three times/week and restocking as needed
- Delivering Sunday flowers to homebound members
- Organizing lunch-making opportunities for SOME
- Representing GPC at the Rockville Pride Festival
- Organizing GPC members and friends to participate in the MoCo Interfaith 5K
- Adding to the beauty of GPC's landscaping with blooming flowers
- Offering to be a greeter on Sunday mornings and saying yes to becoming an usher
- Baking hundreds of muffins to enjoy at Sunday Coffee Fellowship

The theme for this year's stewardship season is based on Philippians 3:13:

*Forgetting what lies behind and straining forward to what lies ahead.*

While it is important to recognize and give thanks for what has brought us to this point, our challenge from God is to keep straining forward to the future that God is preparing for us. As you consider your pledge for 2024, I pray that you will do so with gratitude for all that God has done in our lives. And I pray that together we will be good stewards of our resources in the coming year as we discern God's will for us in this season of shared ministry.

You can bring your pledge to church on October 15, mail it in ahead of time using the enclosed envelope, send an email in confidence to [accountingmanager@gpchurch.org](mailto:accountingmanager@gpchurch.org), or use the GPC website or the GPC app on your phone.

With gratitude for your commitment to God and God's work through this congregation,

Pastor LeAnn Hodges

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "LeAnn Hodges". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

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**GAITHERSBURG PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**

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