



"Sing to God a new song, for God has done marvelous things.  
Let the floods clap their hands; let the hills sing together for joy."  
+ Psalm 98

Members and Friends of the Presbyterian Church of Okemos,

"Together." We used to think we knew just what that word meant, didn't we? We never used to wonder, most of us, how the definition might be stretched, how important togetherness might become or how clever we'd need to become in order to make it happen.

The past two years changed us and challenged us. We all stretched, hard. Flexed more than we thought we could. With the power of the Holy Spirit, and a lot of tireless work from dedicated staff and church members, we connected electronically in ways we never knew we could. We learned that we could expand our reach into the community, bringing worship, education and fellowship to an ever-growing population of people of all ages and walks of life.

The Holy Spirit has been empowering us as we transitioned back into in person activities, and as we strove to keep connected to those who could not be here in person. Our amazing staff and church members have diligently and creatively sought ways for us to safely be *Together for Joy*.

By now, you should have received your Stewardship packet. In it is a booklet sharing the impact that your gifts in 2022 made. We ask that you review it carefully and reflect on all we have done "Together for Joy" in 2022 despite challenges. See what your 2022 contributions accomplished. Also included is a pledge card for 2023, an Every Member in Ministry Time and Talent Sheet and some additional information on giving options. If you have not received a packet, all the materials, including pledge cards, will be available this Sunday for review before our morning worship service

The proposed 2023 budget is approximately 8% more than 2022 budget. The budget reflects that we are now staffed by two full-time pastors. It reflects our commitment to Mission, with an increase in mission spending of 12.5%. It reflects our commitment to quality and imaginative programming for our children, youth and their families. It reflects our commitment to continue Spirit-led worship and music. It reflects our commitment to study and fellowship together, and to spread the Good News of God's love and grace into the community.

This Sunday, November 13, is Commitment Sunday during which time we will offer and dedicate our pledges of time and money for 2023. We ask you to prayerfully consider committing your resources of time, talent and finances to this community of faith. Every gift makes a difference. Every gift matters. We ask you to prayerfully consider increasing your pledge for 2023 over and above your 2022 pledge to reflect the exciting days ahead, as we live into God's call for the next chapter of our life together at the Presbyterian Church of Okemos.

Together for Joy,

Pastor Lisa  
Doug Paterson, Chair of Stewardship

