November 2026

Dear Grace Family,

For too long, the beautiful window behind our pulpit was clouded. Replacing it was expensive, so we learned to live with the view we had. Now that the window is finally clear, we realize how much we were missing. The world beyond the glass hadn't disappeared. We had simply grown accustomed to seeing it dimly.

It is worth wondering how often that happens in other parts of our lives. What have we stopped noticing? What gifts do we take for granted, whose needs do we overlook, and what possibilities remain unseen?

Stewardship begins with an unclouded view.

An unclouded view helps us recognize how generously God provides, how deeply we depend upon others, and how much we have to offer. Familiarity and busyness can obscure those gifts. Worry about having enough can keep us from seeing what we already have to share.

Our view of one another can become clouded, too. We may know someone's name without knowing the burden they carry. A familiar need can become part of the scenery. Taking time to ask—and listen—can help us see what we have been missing.

We can also overlook what sustains our church's life. Music fills the sanctuary. Children learn that they are loved. People find comfort in grief, companionship in loneliness, and opportunities to serve. These gifts depend on people offering their time, sharing their abilities, and giving money to support our common ministry. Seeing these gifts clearly helps us recognize our part in making them available to others.

Intention follows attention. What we notice can change our choices: making time for someone who needs us, putting an unused ability to work, or adjusting our spending to make generosity a regular commitment. Stewardship embraces the whole of life as a response to God's love.

Replacing the window required us to move from recognizing a need to committing resources. Our ministry asks for that same movement. The care we hope to offer and the work God calls us to do depend on commitments that turn intention into action. As you consider your pledge for the coming year, take time to look again. What has God given you? What does this congregation make possible in your life and the lives of others? What needs your care? Let those questions guide your financial pledge and the time and abilities you offer.

Together, our commitments sustain the ministry we share and the people it serves. The window behind our pulpit is clear again. May it remind us to look with fresh eyes—and to let what we see shape how we live and give.

Pastor Ben Trawick
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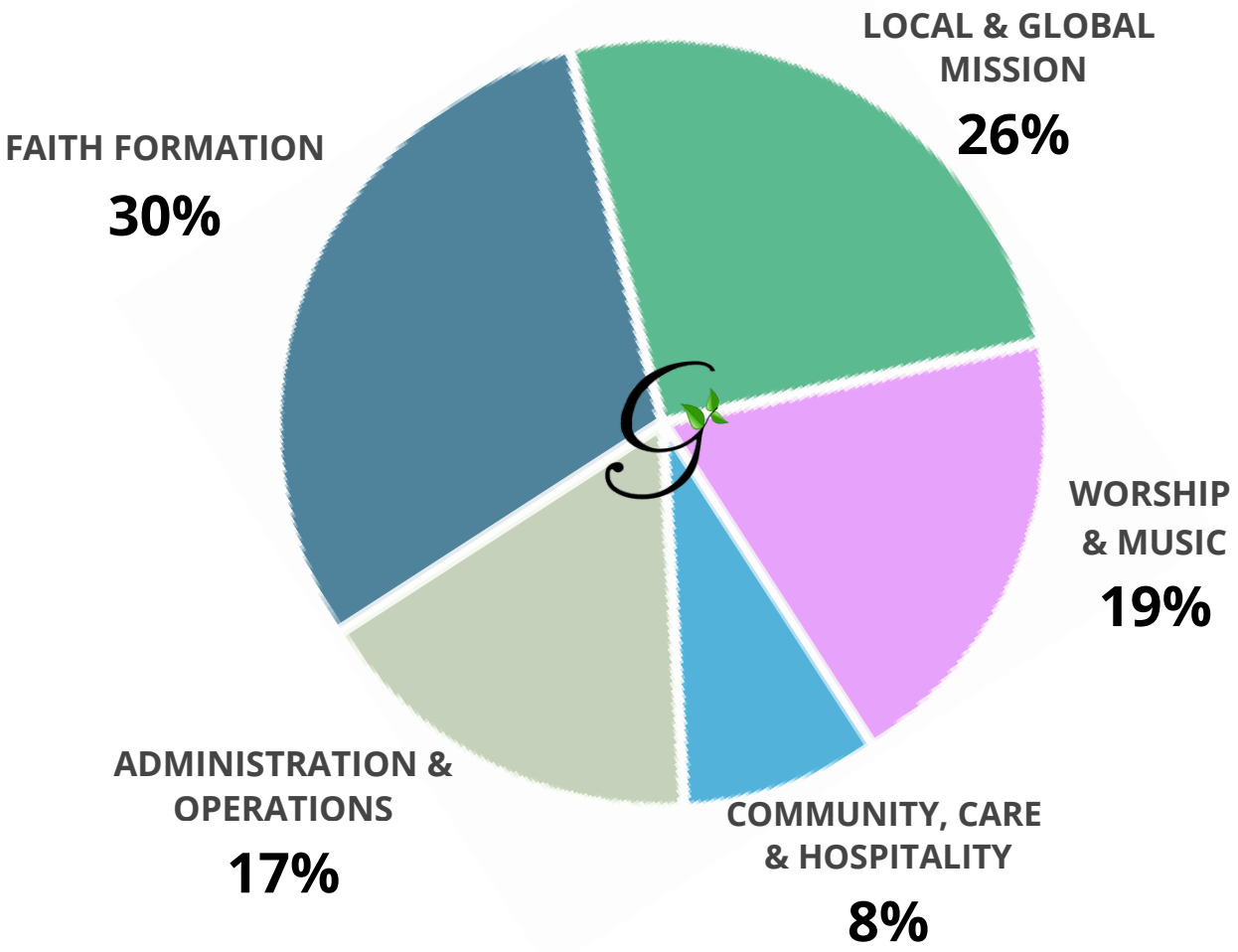
A WINDOW INTO GRACE'S MINISTRY

BY THE NUMBERS



OUR STORY IN NUMBERS

The graph above illustrates how our financial resources are currently allocated, according to categories that reflect our commitments as a community of faith. (Staff and building expenses are included not as separate categories, but rather divided into how that time and those resources are used toward these same commitments.)

It is worth noting that our operating budget does not represent all of what we are able to finance. Each year, thanks to the generosity of current and past members, we also draw from funds and endowments to finance significant additional initiatives, such as the Crestwood Food packs or the Palestine partnership that expand our **local & global mission** impact, and significant additional property expenses, such as the accessible parking project that will enhance our **worship** and **community, care, & hospitality** impact. Many smaller funds and expenditures also support **faith formation**, like purchasing Bibles for preschool through high school, sending youth to Presbyterian summer camp, and providing seminary and mission trip scholarships!

OUR CURRENT MINISTRY OUTLOOK

A SAMPLING

Grace is an active church, and much of the ministry that occurs in our congregation doesn't have a price tag because of your generosity of time and spirit. You mentor and teach, sing in the choir, tend the garden, prepare flowers or communion, share meals and care with those who are sick. This work can't be defined in dollars. But some of our ministry can! The Session each year also discerns the most faithful use of the dollars you have entrusted us with. Below, you'll find a few concrete examples of how our budget dollars are spent to impact our community and beyond. These represent only a small portion of the many ways Grace seeks to serve and give faithfully with the resources we've been blessed with!

LOCAL & GLOBAL MISSION

HELP THE HOMELESS

Food & hygiene kits for neighbors, prepared alongside local community members

$750/month

PALESTINIAN MINISTRY

Gifts to partner church, hospital, and peacemaking farm

$18,000/year

YOUTH ADOPT-A-FAMILY PROJECT

Holiday shopping for a local family, to engage our youth in generosity

$950/year

FAITH FORMATION & WORSHIP

AV EQUIPMENT

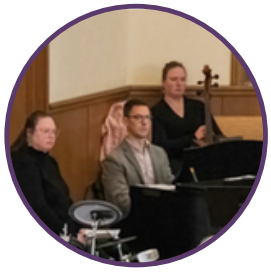
Equipment upgrades to make worship & study available online

$2500/year

NURSERY & CHILDCARE

Care for our children, access to worship and study for parents

$130/Sunday
$60/Friday Bible study



PIANO & ORGAN MAINTENANCE

Tuning and repairs to keep us on pitch and singing together!

$1300/year

HOSPITALITY, COMMUNITY

SUNDAY FELLOWSHIP HOUR

Coffee, snacks, occasional meals, and paper products

$183/month

EASTER EGGSTRAVAGANZA

Joy of Easter for kids in the whole community

$250/year

LAWN SERVICES

Maintaining our grounds as a welcoming space for all

$150/mow

WHAT'S ON THE HORIZON

A LOOK AHEAD TO 2027

Every week at Grace, your generosity becomes something tangible: worship that renews us, relationships that sustain us, opportunities to grow in faith, and help for neighbors facing hard times. Our 2027 budget will support this living, active ministry--and the people and programs that make it possible.

Your generosity is also opening our doors wider. New energy-efficient windows brighten Wester Hall. Work has begun on an ADA-compliant accessible parking area in front of our building, helping members and neighbors participate more easily in worship and church activities. Generous gifts, existing funds, and budget allocations have made these improvements possible.

These are promising first steps. There is more to do. As we look toward Grace's 75th Anniversary in 2029, we have an opportunity to prepare our building for the ministry ahead: to make it more welcoming, accessible, versatile, and sustainable, and to address needed repairs and renovations. Session and Board leaders are developing a vision for this work, and the congregation will help to shape it.

We want you to know now: the fall's annual budget campaign will be followed by a capital campaign in the spring of 2027. You will be invited to make a separate commitment toward these building improvements, in addition to your annual giving.

These two campaigns serve a shared purpose. Our annual giving sustains the ministry happening every day. Our capital gifts will strengthen the spaces that make much of that ministry possible. Both express our commitment to the people Grace serves today and to those who will find a home here in the years ahead.

The invitation now is to support Grace's 2027 annual budget. Our finance team recommends increasing your annual pledge by 3%, if you are able, to help meet rising ministry costs and provide staff cost of living adjustments. A pledge of $1,000 would become $1,030; a pledge of $10,000 would become $10,300. Every pledge matters, and we invite each household to consider what a faithful and generous commitment can be.

The clearer our view of what God is doing among us, the more we see to support, to share, and to build upon. Let's carry this ministry forward together--with gratitude for what we have received and confidence in what God can (with our help!) make possible.

Learn more & access various methods of pledging or giving to Grace before Nov. 22, our annual Dedication Sunday!

gracepresby.org/giving