



Everybody's  Church

First Presbyterian Church of Birmingham, MI

[www.everybodyschurch.org](http://www.everybodyschurch.org) 

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November 2, 2023

### Stewardship: Past, Present and **Future**

"Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever." – *Hebrews 13:8*

Stewardship is an invitation to participate in the work of God's Spirit at Everybody's Church.

Doris Day's signature song "Que Sera, Sera" answered future-oriented questions, "Whatever will be, will be...The future's not ours to see..." As faithful people we approach the future not with cheerful fatalism, rather with Christ-centered hope. While some sing of an unknowable future, we sing of One who holds the future and promises to be with us always. We believe in the One who is the same yesterday, today, and forever.

Since 1834, we have faithfully followed God's lead. Each step forward has been a faithful foray into the adventure of a yet-to-be-written story. Each step forward is a faithful pledge and commitment to follow where God is leading our ministry. While the location, building structure, and people have changed in that time, the mission has remained the same – to be Jesus' hands and feet at work in this community and world.

Where do we go from here? The over-arching act we do is commit to being a people of prayer who through the Holy Spirit's lead discern how God is calling us to care for one another and be Christ's body at work in the communities around us (local, national, international).

What will this look like? Here are a few ideas:

- We continue offering inspired, inclusive, vibrant, worship both on Sunday mornings and monthly on Sunday afternoons with Rejoicing Spirits as we celebrate God's amazing love in Christ.
- We commit to growing in faith by providing discipleship opportunities – i.e. Bible studies, Advent all church gatherings, Lenten small group studies, Sunday morning Christian Education for all ages and abilities to mention a few.
- We commit to growing together by providing fellowship opportunities which foster friendship and Christian love – i.e. all church suppers, congregational caregiving, youth ministries, intergenerational movie night discussions and more.
- We commit to going in faith as hope-bearers who share our time, talent and treasures with those beyond our doors – i.e. Alcott School Tutoring, Baskets of Love, 6th-12th grade local mission opportunities, etc.

(over)



From 1834 to 2024 (and beyond) this congregation's generous and faithful stewardship gifts have made it possible to follow God's lead by nurturing life-giving, joyful ministries both inside and outside our doors. I remain confident in the assurance of God's abiding and steadfast love and ask that you prayerfully consider how you will contribute to the missions and ministries where God is leading us. We will dedicate our 2024 pledges on November 12. If you have any questions or would like to discuss further making a financial pledge, please don't hesitate to get in touch.

Everybody has a role to play at FPC as we follow God's lead into our yet-to-be-written future. I am excited to see "what will be" as God's Holy Spirit nudges us forward in ministry with new ideas of ways to live, love and serve.

With Gratitude,  
Rev. Lou Nyiri