



Everybody's  Church

First Presbyterian Church of Birmingham, MI

www.everybodyschurch.org 

October 18, 2023

2024 Stewardship: Past, Present and Future
"Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever." *Hebrews 13:8*

Dear Friends of FPC,

Donna and I joined FPC seven years ago, and from the first day we have been blessed many times over. We walked into an active, inclusive, and caring congregation, housed in a beautiful building with a wonderful organ and a marvelous music program. Most importantly, there are a host of mission and ministry opportunities in which to serve, from Alcott Elementary School to Baskets of Love, Rejoicing Spirits, CrossWalks and Worship Wonder, All Abilities Inclusion Ministry, Choral and Handbell Choirs for all ages, Stephen Ministry, Deacons, Outreach Ministry, small groups such as book groups and Senior Adventures. FPC has built a vibrant online presence through our worship livestream.

Our church houses an early learning center, Hand-in-Hand, serving 100 young families from our community who bring their young children here for their first educational experience. We also serve the community by being home to many outside groups such as FAR (serving people with special needs), SAIL (helping families develop solutions for loved ones with intellectual and/or developmental disabilities), many support groups (AA/Al-Anon/Alzheimer's Support), to name a few.

Who provided these blessings that we have enjoyed? It is important to look back, back to 1834, when this congregation first formed and built its first church. Then, these past faithful generations of members built two more church buildings, including our current home, built in 1952. They did this through the Civil War, two World Wars, the Flu pandemic of 1918 and the Great Depression. These faithful members leaned into the promise that as they followed where God led, Jesus was with them "yesterday, today, and tomorrow." Past generations not only provided for their present but for OUR present and future.

By inheriting all these blessings of the past, we also inherit the baton of Stewardship. The question is: How do we individually and as a congregation respond? Stewardship is more than financial. As a new member I was informed of the four Ps: Presence, Participation, Prayer, and Pledging.

Let each of us prayerfully consider these four Ps and how we can contribute to each going forward, for the present and for the future.

Grace and Peace,

Brian Zabowski

Chair of the Finance and Stewardship Committee

