First Presbyterian Church Spartanburg

GENEROSITY REPORT

2026-2027



Dear Friends,

Throughout its history, First Presbyterian Church has sought to listen faithfully for God's call and to respond with courage, generosity, and hope. That same spirit guided the vision work our congregation recently completed. Together, we affirmed who God is calling us to be: **Rooted in Christ, Bold in Love**.

This calling shapes how we worship, serve our neighbors, care for one another, and invest in the future of our church. It also reminds us that generosity is an essential expression of faith. Through our giving, we respond with gratitude to God's abundant grace and help make Christ's love visible within our congregation, throughout Spartanburg, and beyond.

As you will find in the pages that follow, one of the most joyful expressions of that generosity is our ministry with children and youth. Through Sunday programming, Vacation Bible School, youth fellowship, retreats, camps, and mission experiences, young people are invited to worship, learn, form friendships, and discover that they are known and loved by God. At the same time, faith formation is a lifelong journey. Through learning, fellowship, pastoral care, worship, service, and mission, people of every age are invited to grow in Christ and strengthen the bonds that make us the family of God.

Every pledge to First Presbyterian helps provide the people, programs, spaces, and resources through which ministry happens. Your generosity welcomes families, nurtures disciples of every generation, supports meaningful worship, extends Christ's compassion to our neighbors, and equips our mission partners to serve those in need. It allows us not simply to sustain the ministries we value, but to prepare them to flourish in the years ahead.

This year's Generosity Report is both a celebration of what your gifts are accomplishing and an invitation to participate in what comes next. No matter the size, every pledge matters. When our gifts are joined together, God uses them in ways far greater than any one of us could accomplish alone.

Both of our families are making First Presbyterian Spartanburg the leading priority in our giving for the year to come because we believe deeply in this congregation's mission and future. We invite you to prayerfully consider your commitment and join us as we seek to live generously.

Rooted in Christ, Bold in Love,



Steven C. Blanton, Jr.
Chair, Stewardship Committee



Rev. Alan Dyer
Senior Pastor







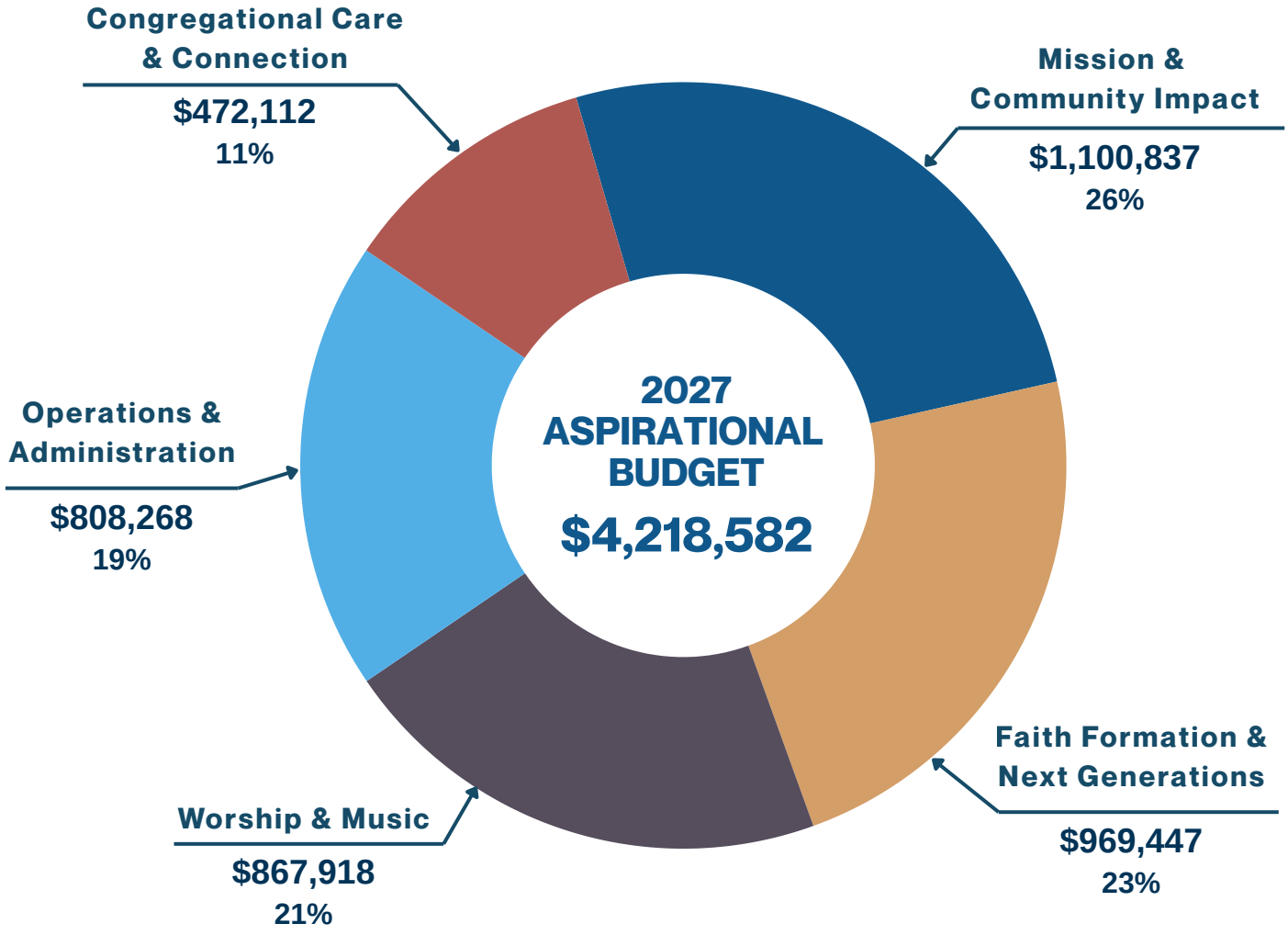







MINISTRY INVESTMENT

Our proposed 2027 budget of **$4,218,582** reflects the many ways our congregation worships, grows, serves, cares for, and supports the life of the church. Because staff, facilities, communications, and administrative resources serve multiple ministries, this narrative budget allocates those shared expenses across the ministries they enable.



This 2027 aspirational budget reflects FPC's commitment to growing our mission impact by:

- Investing in youth ministry, facilities personnel, and a new executive pastor role to strengthen and enhance our ministries.
- Increasing direct giving support for mission partners.
- Planning responsibly for rising health care, cost-of-living, and facilities expenses.
- Equipping us to serve the needs of a growing and changing Spartanburg community.
- Caring faithfully for our campus and the ministries it supports.

*A detailed church budget is available in the church office at any time upon request.

What Your Generosity Makes Possible



MISSION & COMMUNITY IMPACT

Approximately 26% of our budget supports our call to serve beyond ourselves. This includes direct mission funding and grants, as well as a share of staff, facilities, communications, and administrative resources that enable our outreach and community partnerships.



FAITH FORMATION & NEXT GENERATIONS

Approximately 23% supports opportunities for children, youth, college and early-career adults, and adults of all ages to grow in faith. This includes Christian education, retreats, special events, supplies, resources, staff leadership, and the shared spaces and support necessary for these ministries to thrive.



WORSHIP & MUSIC

Approximately 21% supports the congregation's worship life. In addition to direct worship and music expenses, this allocation recognizes the significant staff time, facilities, technology, communications, and administrative support required to offer meaningful worship throughout the year.



OPERATIONS & ADMINISTRATION

Approximately 19% provides the organizational foundation for all of our ministries. This includes financial and administrative functions, insurance, building operations and reserves, office expenses, technology, and the portion of personnel and facility costs that support the church as a whole.



CONGREGATIONAL CARE & CONNECTION

Approximately 11% supports the ways we care for one another and build a strong, connected church community. This includes the work of the Diaconate, fellowship and congregational life, pastoral and staff support, hospitality, and shared resources that allow us to respond to needs and nurture relationships.

Every dollar works in more than one way.

A staff member may support worship, discipleship, mission, and pastoral care in the same week. Our buildings host Sunday worship and formation, fellowship, mission, and community activities throughout the week. This narrative budget reflects that interconnected ministry by showing not simply where expenses are recorded, but what those resources help us accomplish together.

Nurturing Faith Across Generations

Growing FPC's commitment to children, youth, and family discipleship

In 2026, First Presbyterian Spartanburg has seen significant growth in children, youth, and families participating in worship, fellowship, service, and discipleship. We are nurturing this momentum through a deepened investment in the people who guide these ministries including the hiring of a new Director of Youth and Family Ministry, a full-time Associate Director for Youth and Families, and the strong, continuing leadership of our children's ministry team. Together, we are creating meaningful opportunities for young people to explore their faith, build lasting relationships, and discover their place in the life of the church. **Your generosity helps ensure that faith is nurtured across generations and that every child and family finds a welcoming community at FPC.**

Generosity Impact

100%	**Growth of Youth Engagement**
1	**Additional FT Youth Position**
198	**Children Attended VBS**

















> First Presbyterian has strengthened our relationship with God and helped us be intentional about raising our children to know God's love and grace. Faith has been passed down in our own family—my mom encouraged us to try the contemporary service—and now we're grateful to be part of a church where our children can grow in faith alongside so many other families. We give because we believe in the work First Presbyterian is doing in our community and in creating a strong foundation of faith for generations to come. Seeing families worship, grow, serve, and care for one another gives us great hope for the future.

MEGHAN AND JOHN BARNET









Answering the Call to Transformational Love

Living into our vision to be bold in love

Generosity Impact

4% Increase in Mission Budget over 2026

53 Participants in Day of Service

70 Families hosted through A Way Home

75+ Meals served every Thursday through Neighborhood Meal Ministry

Guided by the FPC Vision Report's call to be bold in love, First Presbyterian Spartanburg is answering Christ's call through service in our community and beyond. Through ministries such as A Way Home, our annual Day of Service, local mission grants, Thursday Meal Ministry, and partnerships with numerous organizations, our congregation is helping individuals and families find hope, stability, nourishment, and belonging. These ministries turn faith into action and invite members of every age to participate in God's transforming work. In the year ahead, we aim to deepen our connections throughout the community and grow in mission alongside those we serve. **Your generosity enables FPC to respond with compassion, creativity, and courage as we strive to extend Christ's love across Spartanburg and throughout the world.**







Mission Partners Supported

In 2026, First Presbyterian awarded **$175,000** in Local Mission Grants supporting **13 local mission partners**, extending the church's reach across Spartanburg and helping provide vital care and opportunity to our neighbors.

Adult LEARNING Center

CAST

Children's Advocacy Center of SPARTANBURG, CHEROKEE, & UNION

TOTAL MINISTRIES

MOBILE MEALS God's love in action

PAL PLAY. ADVOCATE. LIVE WELL.

Ruth's GLEANINGS

THE FRANKLIN SCHOOL

Habitat for Humanity® of Spartanburg

UPSTATE Kidz LEARNING CENTER

ST. LUKE'S FREE MEDICAL CLINIC CHANGING LIVES SINCE 1992

Thornwell BUILDING TOMORROW'S FAMILIES

Girls on the run upstate sc



"After growing up at First Presbyterian, it has been wonderful for our family to reconnect with the people and place where my faith journey began. Watching Art and Grey run up and down the same halls that I did as a kid is so special; they already love it here, and we do too. The opportunities for worship, fellowship, shared meals, and serving our neighbors have already had a meaningful impact on our faith as a family. Wednesday night dinners have become a fun weekly tradition, giving us time to enjoy fellowship with our church family and for the boys to share a meal with their grandmother. We also love seeing how First Presbyterian serves our neighbors throughout Spartanburg and are excited to become even more involved. This church is a blessing to so many, and because the work it is doing in our lives and throughout our community does not continue without financial support, we want to do our part to help keep it that way."

HALEY AND CAL WICKER

Why We Give

"After living in Charleston for 35 years, we made the move to Spartanburg in 2022 to be closer to our children and grandchildren. Starting over in a new community meant finding a new spiritual home—and we knew exactly what we were looking for. We hoped to find a church with strong pastoral leadership, inspiring sermons, beautiful music, a vibrant multigenerational congregation, and a deep, hands-on commitment to local mission outreach.

From our very first visit to First Presbyterian, we were met with genuine friendliness and a warm welcome. We knew right away this was where we wanted to be, so we joined. We decided the best way to connect was to dive right in. We immersed ourselves in church life—attending Sunday School class, serving on committees, and volunteering with the many ministries First Pres offers to the Spartanburg community. That decision changed everything. The more we gave of our time and resources to support these ministries, the more we experienced God's blessings in our own lives. We began building deep, meaningful friendships with fellow members and growing closer in our walk with God. That is when First Pres truly started to feel like home.

Today, First Presbyterian is family to us. Seeing how God works through this congregation—both inside our sanctuary and out in our community—is why we joyfully support First Pres with our time, talents, and financial gifts."



MARY ANNE AND BRIAN LARKIN



The Purnell Fund: A Legacy of Love

FPC's Endowed funds help to multiply the impact of your generosity

WHAT IS THE PURNELL FUND?

Established in 1957 to honor the longtime ministry of church member Rhesa Purnell, the Purnell Fund is a lasting expression of First Presbyterian's commitment to caring for neighbors in times of need. The fund provides direct financial assistance to Spartanburg County residents facing temporary hardship, helping with needs when unexpected circumstances threaten a family's stability.

In 2025, the Purnell Fund provided $101,831 in assistance to 153 Spartanburg County families. In just one year, Purnell Fund assistance grew by more than 44%, while the number of Spartanburg County families served increased by 70%.

Through the generosity and foresight of those who established and continue to support this fund, First Presbyterian is able to offer practical help, dignity, and hope while ensuring this ministry of care continues for generations to come.

A Story of Impact

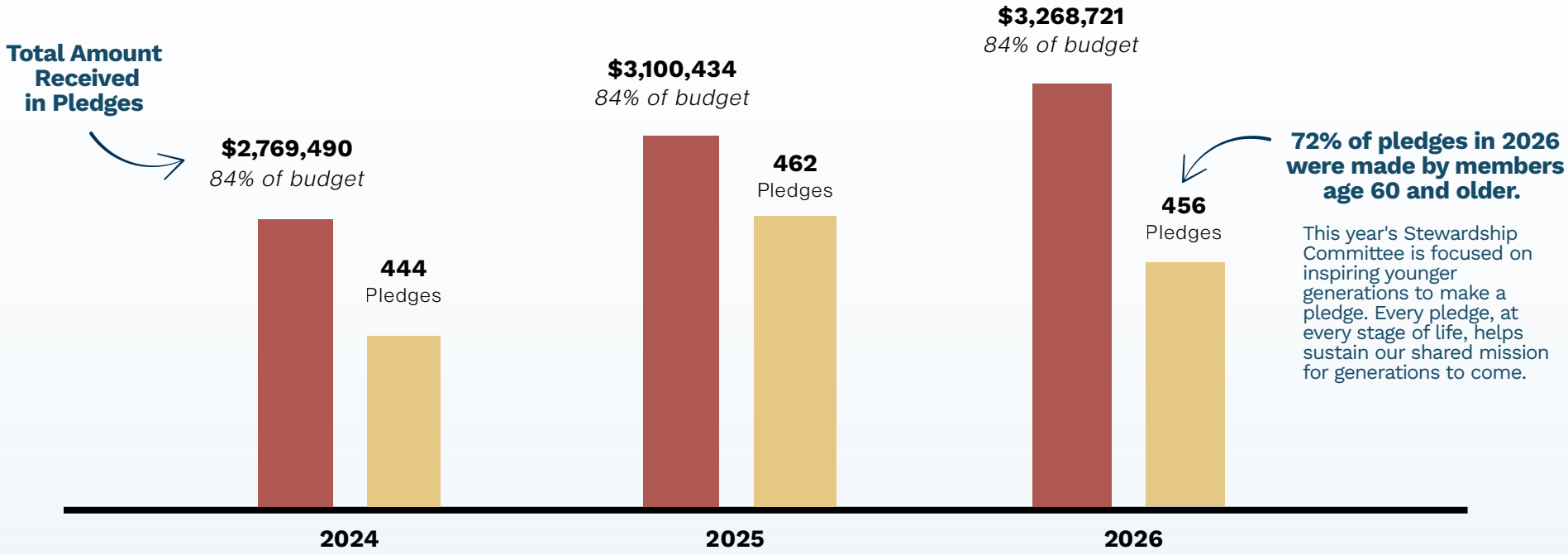
Mr. A lives with end-stage renal disease and receives ongoing dialysis. His medical challenges have been exacerbated by a lack of a social or familial support network and an inability to properly maintain his living quarters. Because of these factors, he was repeatedly denied by transplant centers for the life-saving kidney transplant he so desperately needs.

A nurse case manager came on board and began coordinating efforts to bring Mr. A's apartment into compliance so that he would be eligible for a kidney transplant.

Thanks to the generosity of FPC members past and present, The Purnell Fund provided funding for a deep cleaning of Mr. A's apartment, which will be maintained by a home health aide moving forward. In addition to the financial assistance provided through Purnell, Mr. A saw the love of Christ embodied through his neighbors' willingness to help him in the midst of what was likely one of the lowest points in his life.

Learn about FPC's endowed funds and how you can leave a Legacy gift!

CHURCH GENEROSITY & GIVING PROFILE



72% of pledges in 2026 were made by members age 60 and older.

This year's Stewardship Committee is focused on inspiring younger generations to make a pledge. Every pledge, at every stage of life, helps sustain our shared mission for generations to come.

Why Is My Pledge Important?

1

PLAN WITH CONFIDENCE

Pledging helps church leaders build a responsible budget for the year ahead.

2

SUSTAINS VITAL MINISTRY

Your commitment sustains worship, discipleship, congregational care, and mission.

3

MAKES GENEROSITY INTENTIONAL

Pledging turns gratitude into an intentional spiritual practice.

GIVING FAQ

WHY DOES THE CHURCH NEED MY COMMITMENT?

Our Finance Committee and Session use the dollars pledged to create our yearly budget for the church. Our ministry areas depend on these gifts to continue outreach efforts, education programs, worship, care, and new initiatives.

DOES THE CHURCH ONLY WANT LARGE MONTHLY PLEDGES?

Absolutely not! Our goal is 100% participation from our members. Every gift matters, no matter the size.

WHEN DOES THIS ESTIMATE OF GIVING AMOUNT GO INTO EFFECT?

January 1, 2027

DO I NEED TO MANUALLY CHANGE MY PLEDGE ONLINE?

If your 2027 pledge changes, the church office would be happy to update that for you, or you may update using the ShelbyNext app.

CAN I PAY WITH EFT OR CREDIT CARD?

Yes, you can have your pledge automatically deducted from your bank account each month through an Electronic Funds Transfer (EFT), or you can pay your pledge using MasterCard or Visa. For details, please contact, Lynise Clarke, Director of Finance, at 864-208-2130 or visit fpcspartanburg.org/give.

CAN I CHANGE MY COMMITMENT?

Yes. We know that unexpected life events and circumstances happen. Your estimate of giving can be changed or canceled at any time, for any reason, by notifying Lynise Clarke at 864-208-2130 or lclarke@fpcspartanburg.org.

WILL FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH SEND ME STATEMENTS?

Yes. If you pledge, you will receive a quarterly statement of your contributions for your tax records and to confirm the accuracy of our records.

WHAT IF I HAVE OTHER QUESTIONS?

Please contact Lynise Clarke, Director of Finance, at 864-208-2130 or lclarke@fpcspartanburg.org.

Make your pledge online today!


First
Presbyterian
Church
Spartanburg
Scan here to
make your
pledge today!
Make your pledge today at fpcspartanburg.org/stewardship.