



NARRATIVE BUDGET 2024
CLINTON PRESBYTERIAN

Looking back at 2023

13 NEW MEMBERS

A Growing Church

As of late, our worship attendance is up and it's wonderful to see so many back in the pews. We have had the privilege of welcoming 13 new members to our church family and confirming 5 teenagers in the Christian faith. We also shared in the joy of baptizing 5 little ones. Every time we volunteer to lead a bible study, teach Sunday School or host a fellowship hour, we make good on our promise to "strengthen their family ties with the household of God."



18 CHANCEL SINGERS

A Place of Worship

This year saw tremendous growth in our worship and music program. The Chancel Choir added 8 new singers, the Praise Team has welcomed new faces (and instruments!) and our Bell Choir is stronger than ever. Week after week, we join together to worship God with joy in our beautiful historic sanctuary. If the pews could talk, what a story they would tell - Great is Thy faithfulness indeed!



100 VBS KIDS

A Space for God's Children

Yes, you read that right - 100 kids filling this church with shouts of joy as we shared the news that "God is Good!" And that's just one week in the summer. Throughout the year, our chancel steps are full and our classrooms are busy as over 40 kids come and go from Sunday School. This year we launched Joy Scouts, a service group especially for our youngest disciples. And let's not forget all those tiny ones who are part of our CPC Preschool. Enrollment increased by 27% this year - Wow!



12 MISSION GIFTS

A Generous People

On our behalf the mission team has contributed nearly \$7,000 in direct mission support this year and we have worked hard to develop relationships with many local organizations offering not only our financial support but also our time. Our building is also used to serve others, with eight community groups here on a regular basis and many other "one-time" users. The remarkable generosity directed towards our Capital Campaign will enable us to provide an even broader welcome once renovations are complete.



93 SMILING FACES

A Joyful Gathering

With nearly 100 people at Game Night, the competition was fierce! Equally fierce has been the love and care which has been demonstrated in this church family over this last year. God's family on Center Street has supported one another through grief and loss, through surgeries and recoveries and more. We have wept together and laughed together and shared with each other the love of Jesus.



We have surely known abundance on every side - thanks be to God!

Looking Ahead...Ch..Ch..Changes!

As we move into God's future in 2024, our budgeted spend for mission and ministry reflects an increase over 2023, which will support the following shifts:

1

The addition of a new part-time position to better serve children, youth and families

As you may recall, we talked about this position in the past and to date we have not delivered on the implementation of this plan. We recommit ourselves to this effort, reflecting it as a priority in our budget and updating the position to be more exciting and appropriate to our growing needs. A generous gift received in 2022 enables us to partially fund this position over the next three years as we grow pledged giving to fully fund staffing. This position will be funded at 60% from the earlier gift and 40% from the operating budget in 2024.

2

Direct Financial Support for Refugee Resettlement

In addition to the \$7,000 for designated mission support, the 2024 budget also includes an additional \$4,000 to be directed towards the support of a Ukrainian Family who will be resettled in the area later this Fall. CPC has been directly involved with the efforts of an interfaith group who have formed a "Welcome Circle" to make this possible. We have made a financial commitment of \$10,000, \$6000 to be given from gifts received in 2023 and the additional support to be provided through our operating budget in 2024.

3

Increased Costs for Insurance and Utilities

This falls under the "necessary changes" category. Capital improvements around the building have been made with energy efficient cost savings in mind, however, just as you may have noticed shifts in utility costs in your own home, we too are experiencing those increases at church. At the same time, insurance costs have increased by between 5-15% over this past year.

4

Additional Building Support

Speaking of our building needs, the work in and around the building has surely not gone unnoticed by anyone. The management of these projects has been handled by volunteer leaders, often the same people who are being called on for support with day to day building needs and property emergencies. As well as including raises for existing staff, the 2024 budget provides for a very part time position to meet our ongoing building needs. Investing in this position will help to prevent volunteer burnout and save on costly calls to vendors for small building repairs.

5

Increased Budgets for Ministry Teams

Our budgeted programmatic expenses for children, youth, fellowship, worship and adult education have largely remained static over the last few years, yet costs have often exceeded this budget. The 2024 budget seeks to more accurately reflect these true costs while also providing for increases in all program areas. This will allow teams to explore new initiatives and activities as we grow in faith together and reach out to our community.

6

Staff Compensation

It's important to us that we compensate our staff fairly, keeping in mind both inflation and market salaries. Further, we have outstanding talent in our paid leadership and that needs to be recognized and when financially possible, rewarded. To that end, this budget includes salary increases for each of our staff with gratitude for the work, commitment, creativity, and passion that they bring to CPC.

Total budgeted expenses for ministry from CPC in 2024 - \$462,271

Generosity and Abundance

Our increased investment in mission and ministry will be made possible by a growing congregation who are willing to give generously, even abundantly, as an act of faith.

Our pledged giving goal for 2024 is \$303,160

This goal reflects a 5% increase over pledged giving in 2023. Consider using this giving chart to help prayerfully inform the commitment you will make in grateful response to God's grace.

To calculate your weekly gift, find your income on the left, and read across to the percentage of income you feel called to give on a weekly basis.

Annual Income	Weekly Income	2%	4%	6%	8%	10%	15%
\$16,000	\$308	\$6	\$12	\$18	\$25	\$31	\$46
20,000	385	8	15	23	31	39	58
25,000	481	10	19	29	38	48	72
30,000	577	12	23	35	46	58	87
35,000	673	13	27	40	54	67	101
40,000	769	15	31	46	62	77	115
45,000	865	17	35	52	69	87	130
50,000	962	19	38	58	77	96	144
60,000	1,154	23	46	69	92	115	173
75,000	1,442	29	58	87	115	144	216
100,000	1,923	38	77	115	154	192	288
125,000	2,404	48	96	144	192	240	361

As our pledges are joined together with other sources of income, including loose plate giving, investment income, designated gifts and more, we will discover that we have plenty to do the work to which God is calling us. Should we exceed our pledged giving goal, the deficit projected now will disappear entirely!

Next Steps

Enclosed you will find a Commitment Card. This is not a contract, it's a pledge, an intention of what we hope to do as a sign of gratitude. You can return this card in three ways:

1. Mail to the Church Office at 91 Center Street, Clinton, NJ 08809
2. Drop your card in the offering plate during worship
3. Complete a card online at www.clintonpresbyterian.net/stewardship

On Sunday, October 29, we will dedicate all of our commitments for the coming year as part of our worship service, giving thanks to God for all the good gifts we have been given.