

“Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy and where thieves break in and steal, ²⁰ but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys and where thieves do not break in and steal. ²¹ For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.” Matt 6:19-20

Dear Friends,

It is with JOY that I sit and write this note to you expressing a financial need we currently have here at OEPC. Now you may be thinking to yourself, “A note about finances? Can one be ‘joyful’ when it comes to this subject?” I’m glad you asked! I’m joyful for these reasons:

First, God is moving in our midst and we are growing. We currently have ministries across the board that are thriving. Our Senior Fellowship just gathered on Tuesday Dec 12 and despite our regular and faithful chief being under the weather, we had over sixty people in attendance!!! Time and again in conversations with folks I heard how thankful they are for this amazing ministry... As you know under the leadership of our Youth Pastor and Adult volunteers the Wednesday Night ‘Youth Connect’ continues to draw youth from area Middle and High Schools challenging them in their walk with the Lord. On the Third Thursday’s of each month this fall our Kid’s Connect program has made a huge connection and impact with many unchurched families in our neighborhood, including many of our pre-school families. We have consistently had 30-40 kids come, and several families have started attending Sunday morning worship as a result. We continue to hold outreach events; The ‘Live’ Nativity this year drew folks, many of whom stopped and got out of their cars to come and view the display up close which allowed for conversations, opportunities to share the Gospel, prayers, and invitations to be given to come and worship at OEPC. Over the next two Sundays we will have a Musical Concert and of course our Christmas Eve services which always emphasize the sharing of the Good news of the gospel message.

Second, I want to encourage you and let you know in regards to our budget, that we are faithfully staying within its bounds. We are right on target when it comes to spending what was budgeted and even in the many unforeseen expenses that we have incurred over this past year (Especially in the 1113 manse improvements) we are still holding to the 2023 budget. That being said, the financial need that is before us comes in the fact that the income side of our budget is down. That is our financial need. As you know our budget has always been by faith. When we send out pledge cards, no one here at OEPC opens them to know how much money we can expect in the coming year. That has always been left between you (the giver) and the LORD. So, in a sense this is a friendly reminder to check and see if you have met that faith promise given to the LORD, and if not, I would encourage you to fulfill that pledge by the end of this year. That also leaves opportunity to give above and beyond. Again I would encourage you to ask God how he might use you to ‘fill the gap.’ As always your individual ‘giving’ includes your time, talent, as well as your financial gifts.

So why the JOY? The Joy comes from a peace and trust that God is leading in our midst. He is LORD of this church which includes our finances. So the JOY comes in watching how God will fulfill this.

Friends, the need has been made public, may I encourage you to think how God may be calling you to help? Below are ways that you can give to OEPC making that contribution go further. May God Bless you throughout this Advent/ Christmas season, and in the coming New Year.

Pastor Dan and the Session of OEPC

TAX-WISE WAYS TO GIVE TO OEPC

1. Gifts of Appreciated Securities:

If you have appreciated stock or other securities that you have owned for at least one year, you can receive a double tax benefit by donating them to OEPC. Not only will you receive a tax deduction for the current fair market value of the asset when it is sold, but you will avoid paying the capital gains tax. This makes giving appreciated securities a much more cost effective option than selling the asset yourself and donating the cash equivalent.

2. Gifts from your IRA:

If you are at least 70 ½ years old, you can give up to \$100,000 from your IRA (or \$200,000 for couples) to OEPC and receive significant tax benefits in return.

Any gifts from your IRA:

- Allow you to give without affecting your cash flow
- Reduce your taxable income (whether you itemize or not)
- Will fulfill all or part of your IRS required minimum distribution

3. Gifts from your Donor-Advised Fund (DAF):

This type of account can be set up to receive cash, stock or other appreciated assets into a single account from which you can recommend grants to OEPC or other IRS approved charitable causes. It is useful if you have a large asset and would like to spread your donations over time or to multiple recipients.

The benefits to you are:

- Receive an immediate tax deduction for the full amount of your donation at the time of your gift.
- You control the timing of when securities are valued for donation and it eases the administrative burden for the charity of liquidating the asset.
- You can parse the donation into multiple grants any time in future to support OEPC.
- Grow funds with investment performance less administrative fees until the grants are made
- You will receive a single charitable receipt for all your donations