



# First United Methodist Church

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Dear Mitchell First Church Family,

2016 is slipping away rather quickly and what a year it has been. Before the year is over we do want to let you know about how things are, financially and otherwise, with our church family.

Our Gratitude Offering and Commitment Sunday were both really positive events for our church family. Currently we have received just over \$72,000 in the Gratitude Offering. Thank you all so much for your generosity toward this special project. It was also amazing how many of you heard "Mike's" story and included the "11" amount with your gift.

Our Commitment Sunday was also very positive for our church. We have received about 170 Estimate of Giving Cards to date with commitments of over \$323,000. These numbers are slightly ahead of where we were a year ago for our 2016 Stewardship Campaign. So again, Thank You!! These numbers for our current Stewardship focus continue to grow as others from our church family send in their Estimate of Giving card to indicate their commitment to support our church in our ministries and forward movement.

Another strong area for giving this fall was for the Mitchell Food Pantry. Our church was to collect 500 jars or cans of spaghetti sauce. At last count our church had received over 600 jars or cans of sauce, with the 7<sup>th</sup> Grade Confirmation Class donating over 100 jars/cans themselves.

In regards to the church general budget and the "end of the year needs", overall 2016 has been a positive year. The contribution or income level has consistently been strong through the entire year, even during August – October, when Rowley Street was torn up. Thank you for your consistency and faithful support. Our expenses have also been consistent. As of the end of November we are about \$45,000 behind what is needed to meet our budget. Our bills are being paid by utilizing reserve funds, but we want to get this amount back in reserves. This is not uncommon territory for our church to be in, financially speaking, at this time of the year, yet it is our desire and intent to finish the year strong and be faithful stewards of the ministry and funds that God has entrusted to us.

December has consistently been a very strong month for giving at Mitchell First United Methodist Church and we believe that we will finish the year very strong. With our combined effort and generosity, we can finish 2016 reflecting the same positive energy and direction that our church is experiencing. Please prayerfully consider an extra gift to our church during December to help end the year meeting our budget and making sure all bills are cared for.

Good things are happening at our Downtown Church and we look forward to seeing how God will work within us and through us in 2017. Thank you for your gifts to our work in God's Kingdom in Mitchell and the world.

Serving Together,  
Pastor Keith & the Finance Team