



November 17, 2023

Dear New Life,

We've had a busy fall: youth retreats, children's service projects, ESL, Home Groups, Women's Bible Study, Trunks to decorate and Crates for Ukraine to fill. Our men just returned from their annual retreat. All of these we design with the hope that the gospel can be heard and disciples can be nourished. In the midst of the busyness, we're seeking to listen – to the Lord, to each other, to the community.

We're trying to intentionally provide various opportunities to listen. Here are some examples:

- For this year, we've set aside the second Monday of each month to gather at the building to listen and to pray to the Lord. Where is God calling us as a church as we follow Jesus?
- In Adult School of the Discipleship (Sunday School) this fall, we spent four weeks learning how to listen to the Word of God as we read. We invite you to take advantage of the videos that are available to us all.
- We're trying to listen to the 500+ adults who are with us regularly through a churchwide questionnaire. What are we doing well? And where are we falling short in helping individual believers and the church body flourish?
- We've also looked at our congregation and realized that an age shift has occurred in the last 36 years. We still have babies, and also an increasing number of "mature" adults. A steering group 65+ year olds is helping us listen to the unique challenges of aging

We want to be a community that listens to the Lord and to each other. And then, as the Lord provides we want to respond with our actions, with our gifts, with our finances. We want every believer, as brothers and sisters, to engage meaningfully with each other and the world.

We want to thank you for your financial generosity, and the Lord's provision, as we met our expenses for our fiscal year ending in August 2023. The small surplus we had was divided between our shrinking mortgage and our capital expenses fund as our building ages. Thanks again.

As is characteristic of most years, our giving is behind our financial goals at this point in the new fiscal year. As of November 12<sup>th</sup>, we are just under \$100,000 behind our financial goal at this point - even while our broad base of weekly givers has risen.

Please keep in mind that our annual Thank Offering takes place on Sunday, December 3. We ask you to listen to the Lord in what way He might lead you to partner in this special offering. You can get started now by clicking [here](#), or take time to reflect how God has been gracious to you throughout this last year and give in thanks as He leads.

In the meantime, pray for our listening as we seek to know Jesus and make him known.

The Governance Commission