



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH SPARTANBURG

# MINISTRY INVESTMENT REPORT

2025-2026



2026 STEWARDSHIP GOAL  
**\$3,830,000**

Dear Friends,

One of the great joys of being part of First Presbyterian is witnessing how God continues to breathe new life into our congregation. Week by week, we see it in the energy of worship, the questions of our children, the commitments of new members, and the steady faith of those who have called this church home for many years. We are a community rooted in God's Word, boldly living out Christ's love, and eager to follow where the Spirit is leading.

Indeed, our history tells a remarkable story. For more than 180 years, generations before us have planted seeds of faith and sacrifice so that the church might flourish in their time and in ours. They gave not only to sustain what was, but also to invest in what could be. Today, we stand on their shoulders – grateful for their vision, and mindful of the responsibility now entrusted to us.

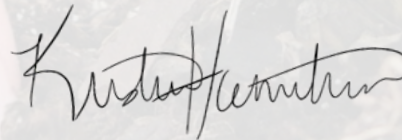
**This is a season of growth and possibility for First Presbyterian.** Our congregation is expanding in both number and spirit. We are deepening our commitments to worship, discipleship, and mission. We are asking bold questions about how God is calling us to care for our community, to nurture the next generation, and to serve with compassion and creativity in a changing Spartanburg and world. Together, we are engaged in a visioning process that will help us discern how best to live out our calling in the years to come.

But vision and growth require more than good intentions. They require faithful investment. Every pledge made by our members and friends becomes part of the foundation upon which ministry is built. Your generosity equips us to welcome newcomers, strengthen families, reach out in mission, and create space where all can encounter the love of Christ.

We offer this *Ministry Investment Report* as both testimony and invitation. It is testimony to the good work already being done in Christ's name – work made possible by your gifts. And it is an invitation to join in that work with renewed commitment. Whatever the size of your pledge, your participation matters. Each gift is multiplied when joined with the gifts of others, creating a witness far greater than any one of us could offer alone.

Both of our families are pledging to make First Presbyterian our top giving priority again this year, because we believe in the future God is unfolding through this family of faith. We invite you to prayerfully consider how you might join us in supporting this shared mission.

Gratefully,



Kristin Hamilton  
Chair, Stewardship Committee



Rev. Alan Dyer  
Senior Pastor



# WHAT DO MY GIFTS SUPPORT?

## WORSHIP & MUSIC

*Leading us into the presence of God*

Preaching, Liturgy, Musicians, Guest Preachers/Speakers, Worship Bulletins, Instrument Maintenance, Worship & Music Supplies, Stewardship & Ushering Supplies, Technology, Session & Officer Training, Weddings

## DISCIPLESHIP

*Growing us as followers of Jesus*

Adult Learning Classes, Adult Learning Curriculum, Adult Learning Supplies, Nursery Ministry, Children's Programming & Snacks, Children's Camps/Events/Trips, Vacation Bible School, Youth Groups/ Events/Trips, Youth Fellowship, Youth Devotionals, Church Library

## MISSION & OUTREACH

*Serving those in need with the love of Christ*

Presbytery Unified Giving, Community Missions Benevolence Giving, International Missions Support, Angel Tree Christmas Ministry, Churchwide Day of Service

## CONGREGATIONAL LIFE & MINISTRY

*Connecting together as a church family*

Congregational Care, Bereavement Meal Ministry, Fellowship Events, Wednesdays at First, Recreation Ministry, Hospitality Ministry

## ADMINISTRATION & MINISTRY SUPPORT

*Making the ministry & mission we do possible*

Office & Technology Equipment/Supplies, Technology Fees & Training, Church Membership Software (ShelbyNext), Printing Costs, Postage & Delivery, Financial Management, Bank Service Charges

## BUILDINGS & MAINTENANCE

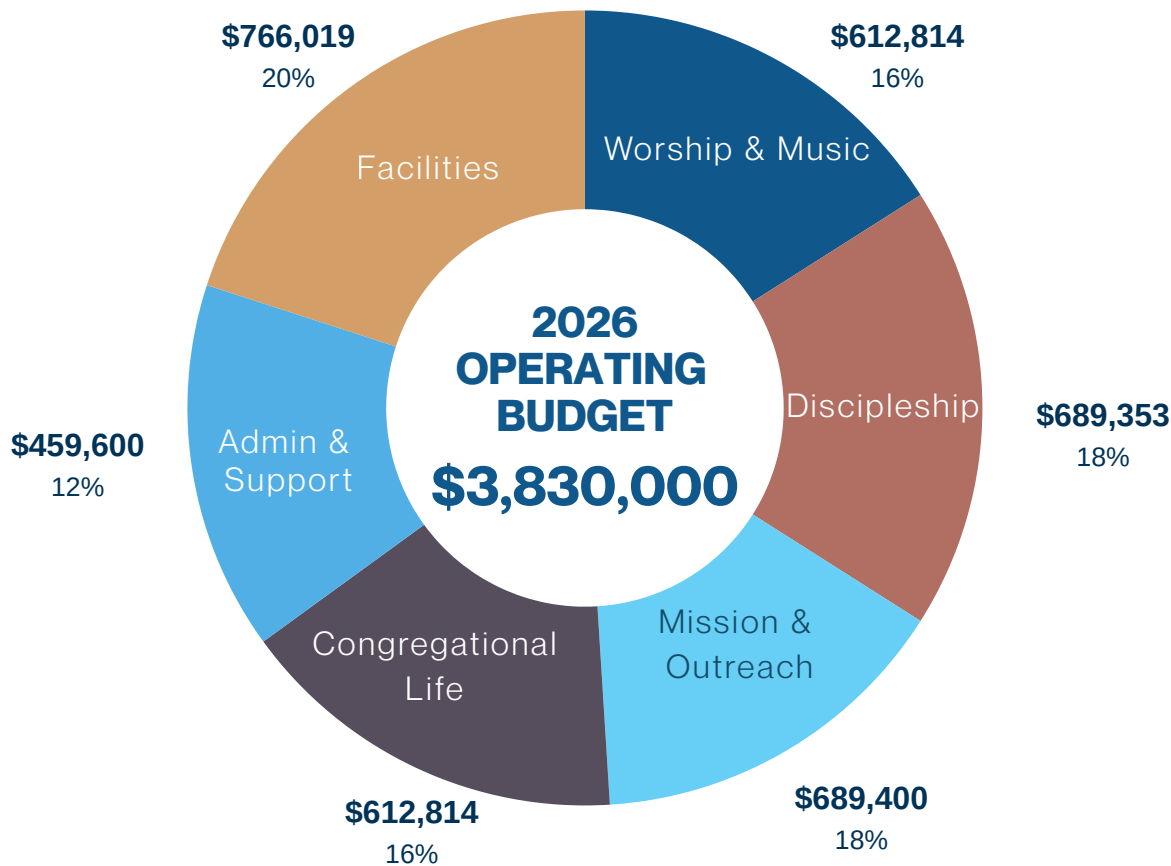
*Providing a place to worship & gather*

Insurance, Electricity, Natural Gas, Water/Sewer/Trash Disposal, Cleaning & Janitorial Services, Lawn Services & Supplies, Church Van Maintenance, Equipment Repair & Maintenance, Building Repair & Maintenance, Signage & Lighting Systems



# MINISTRY INVESTMENT

As First Presbyterian grows in membership and ministry, our operating budget makes it possible to extend generosity both within our congregation and throughout the community. Looking ahead to 2026, we remain committed to investing in these and every ministry area of the church. The information below illustrates how our resources are being faithfully stewarded to support this vision.



## 2026 BUDGET HIGHLIGHTS

**Continued investment in youth and children’s ministry.** A vibrant youth and children’s ministry is a sign of health and vitality for any church. The 2026 budget continues FPC’s commitment to providing enriching programming, staffing, and discipleship opportunities for our students and their families.

**Deepening commitment to local and global mission.** The 2026 aspirational budget sustains last year’s 17% increase in budgeted giving and outreach. It also includes funding for a part-time social worker position to coordinate financial assistance for neighbors in need and continued support for mission partners in Spartanburg and beyond.

**Preparing for another 100 years of ministry at 393 East Main Street.** Our main campus turns one hundred years old in 2026. For the first time in many years, the budget includes significant contributions to a capital reserves fund to help ensure our campus is equipped and ready to serve the needs of our congregation and community for another century.

**Additional investments.** This year’s budget also includes ongoing investment in our outstanding music and worship ministry, new discipleship opportunities for all ages, and a cost-of-living increase for our administrative and facilities staff.

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

# CHURCH FINANCE & GIVING PROFILE

## WHAT IS THE MEDIAN PLEDGE?

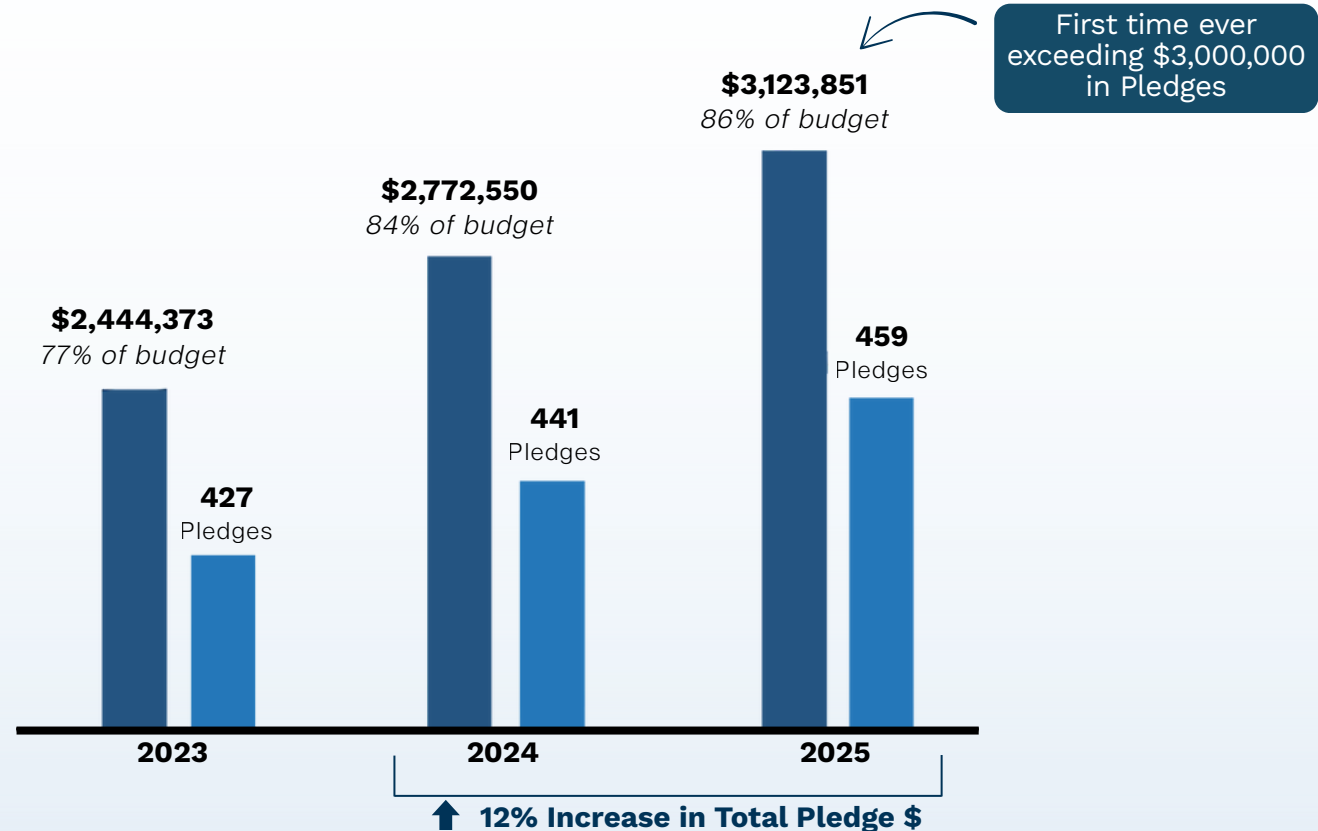
In 2025, the median pledge was \$4,000, and in 2024, the median pledge was \$3,960.

## WHAT IS THE DISTRIBUTION OF PLEDGES AMONG MEMBERS?

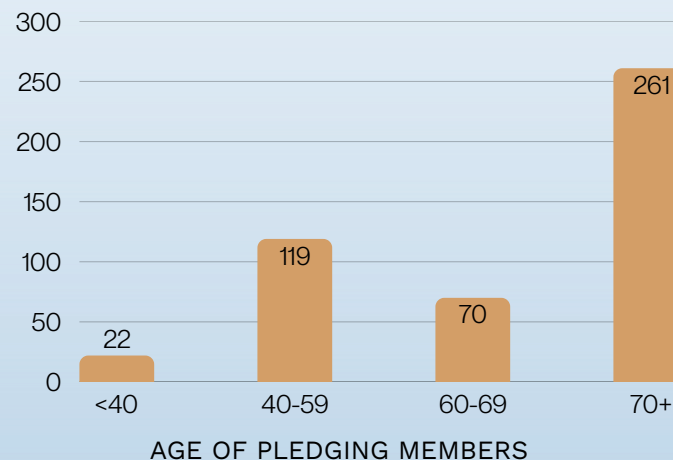
In 2025, the top 10 pledges made up 9% of the budget. The top 25 pledges made up 19% of the budget. While not unusual in comparison to many peer congregations, these numbers reflect an opportunity to improve the distribution of support among more of the membership.

## WHAT DOES THIS MEAN FOR FPC'S FINANCIAL FUTURE?

Because of your generosity and the faithful planning of the Finance and Stewardship Committees, First Presbyterian Church is financially sound. Historically, approximately 80% of our annual operating budget is funded by members who pledge their financial commitment. The remaining 20% is funded through unpledged giving. Continuing to grow the percentage of our annual budget that is funded through pledged giving will allow us to plan more responsibly for the future mission and ministry of the church.



## NUMBER OF PLEDGING HOUSEHOLDS IN 2025



In 2026, the Stewardship Committee hopes to encourage generosity as a spiritual discipline across all age groups in the church, but especially among the younger generations.



“ —

We give because generosity was something our parents modeled for us, and we want our kids to see that same example. When we give to First Presbyterian, it's not just about supporting programs—it's about creating a church where our children can worship, learn, and truly experience God's grace. We love knowing they are growing up surrounded by people who pray for them, teach them, and care for them like family. For us, giving means investing in their spiritual foundation and making sure this community is strong for every child and family who walks through these doors—just like it has been for ours.

— ”

MARY KATHRYN & JUSTIN WARD



“ We see our gifts to the church in the smiles of Weekday School students, in our neighbors at Thursday meals, and in the new community playground on Chestnut Street. Our family has been deeply impacted here, and our experiences have filled us with joy and hope. Giving to First Presbyterian allows us to participate in God’s work, fostering gratitude and ownership as we witness the blessings of our church family’s generosity. ”

CAROLINE & STEVE RICHARDS



“ First Presbyterian has always been there for me—in the good times and the hard ones. I give to the general fund because I trust our church leaders to make wise decisions and use those gifts to serve others. This church has been a big part of my life, and I’ve seen the difference it makes in our community and in people’s lives all over Spartanburg. ”

SANDY SANDERS



# Why We Pledge

JARED, FRAZIER, AND CHARLES WILSON



We give to First Presbyterian Church because we see firsthand how our gifts help meet real needs—both in our congregation and throughout the community. One ministry that especially stands out to our family is Winter Warmth. Seeing the difference a warm coat makes in a child’s life is powerful and reminds us that even small acts of generosity can have a lasting impact.

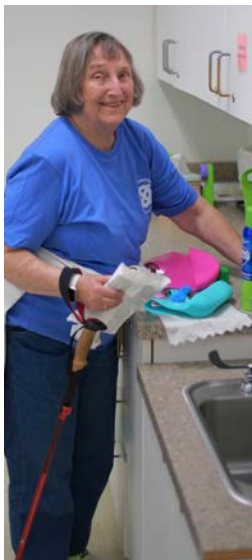
Being part of a church that lives out its calling to care for others has been deeply meaningful to us. We’ve seen love in action through mission trips, Vacation Bible School, Mobile Meals, and more. That witness has inspired us to give back in gratitude for all God is doing here.

We believe that giving is part of what it means to be fully engaged in the life of the church—not just physically and spiritually, but financially too. When we pledge, we are saying “yes” to God’s work through First Presbyterian. It’s humbling to know that what we give is multiplied in ways we could never imagine.



“ — Our family has experienced life’s biggest moments at First Presbyterian—weddings, baptisms, and even preschool. This church has been a constant through the generations. We give because we’ve seen how it reaches people, supports missions, and helps members feel truly part of a community. — ”

MELISSA & MCCALL MOREHEAD



# BENEVOLENT GIVING

Each year, our church's operating budget extends Christ's command to "love our neighbor" by financially supporting many local organizations. In 2025, your generosity answered that call, allowing us to increase our mission budget by **18%** over previous years. Because of your faithfulness, we are able to continue reaching and serving those in our community who need it most.



# ORGANIZATIONS SUPPORTED THROUGH BENEVOLENT FUNDS

- Adult Learning Center
- Children's Advocacy Center of Spartanburg
- Cleveland Opportunity Foundation
- First Steps at The Franklin School
- Habitat for Humanity Spartanburg
- Healthy Smiles
- Hope Center for Children
- JUMPSTART SC
- Kids Upstate
- Mobile Meals
- P.A.L.
- Ruth's Gleanings
- St. Luke's Free Medical Clinic
- TOTAL Ministries
- Thornwell



**\$168,000**

Total Amount Given in Benevolent Funds

**15**

Local Nonprofit Partners

**\$13,400**

Discretionary funds given to further support our community

These funds were utilized to support initiatives like MLK Unity Week, CAST, A Way Home, FPC Day of Service, and a group trip to the International African American Museum in Charleston, S.C.



# ENDOWMENT FUNDS IN ACTION

In 2024, the church provided **nearly \$70,500 in direct aid** to 90 local families through the Purnell Fund.

Sometimes life brings challenges so significant that they seem almost impossible to bear. Recently, a local woman reached out to First Presbyterian Church during such a time. She was grieving the loss of her husband, who had passed away from cancer, and was also facing serious health struggles of her own. Complications from COVID-19 had left her dependent on oxygen 24 hours a day, and the discovery of Lupus had made it impossible for her to work.

Despite these hardships, she had faithfully kept up with her mortgage — never late, never missing a payment. But now, without her husband's income and mounting medical concerns, she faced the risk of falling behind for the first time.

First Presbyterian was honored to step in and help, covering her mortgage payment and reassuring her that she would not lose her home during such a vulnerable season. This simple support became more than financial assistance — a message of love, dignity, and hope.

Her story is a reminder that in times of deep loss, our community can be a lifeline. Together, we can help carry one another until the weight feels lighter.

“

Words can barely express how grateful my husband and I are that your church has paid our water bill. The past six years have been very difficult in our family — beginning with the sudden death of our daughter due to a stroke, to kidney cancer, to triple bypass surgery, to my husband losing his hearing due to long COVID, to his diagnosis of macular degeneration, and his diagnosis of dementia.

Through all this, I have attempted to hold the home and our little family together. I have lymphedema, rheumatoid arthritis, and congestive heart failure. Prayer and the help of friends and neighbors have sustained us.

We lost our life's savings in 2004/2005 due to an unethical contractor.

Your generous and kind gesture has renewed our faith, and to say “thank you” does not cover the way that we feel. We will never forget this kindness.

DIXIE J.

”

# THE 1843 FUND

A SNAPSHOT OF FIRST PRESBYTERIAN'S ENDOWMENT FUNDS



## What is The 1843 Fund?

- 30+ funds combined into The 1843 Fund
- Built from both planned and annual gifts
- Investment returns multiply impact
- Lasting support for ministries, missions, and church facilities

## Oversight and Responsibility

- Session oversees all endowed funds
- Endowment Administration Committee
  - Manages spending policies
  - Reviews restricted gifts
- Endowment Advancement Committee
  - Educates congregation on giving options
  - Communicates impact of the funds

## Management

- Funds managed by an outside investment counselor
- Oversight by the Investment Committee of the Session
- Guided by an Investment Policy Statement

## How Can I Contribute?

- Planned Gifts
  - Bequests, Endowed Gifts, Retirement Assets, Life Insurance, and Account Beneficiary Designation
- Annual Gifts

Learn more about First Presbyterian's Endowed Funds at [fpcspartanburg.org/1843fund](https://fpcspartanburg.org/1843fund) or scan the QR code.



# LEADERSHIP

## Stewardship Committee

Kristin Hamilton, Chair	David Beacham	Laura Henthorn
Steven Blanton, Vice Chair	Laura Boles	Coker Powell
Vic Bailey, IV	Wendell Cantrell	Laura Ringo

## Elders

Martha Bean, Clerk of Session  
De Calvert, Associate Clerk of Session  
Wally Barre, Treasurer

2026

Vic Bailey, IV	Bill Cummings
Palmer Ball	Lynn Edwards
Gail Ballard	Debbie Kocisko
David Beacham	Kay Maddox
Kathryn Bridges	Stephen Parrott
Charlie Burns	Mary Lorick
Randall Chambers	Thompson
Molly Colbath	Elizabeth Young

2027

Billy Bagwell	Melissa Morehead
Bert Barre	Beth Neidenbach
Steven Blanton	Bill Oldham
De Calvert	Norman Pulliam, Sr.
Wendell Cantrell	Juli Robertson
Kristin Hamilton	Tommy Stokes
Debbie Keiser	

2028

Budge Bean
Billy Blackford
Tim Camp
Janet Cann
Laura Henthorn
Cheryl Lang
Sanders Lee

## Deacons

Sally White, Chair  
Susan Gaubert, Vice Chair  
Andy Youngblood, Secretary

2026

Aundie Bishop	Linda Mullen
Harry Burgess	Tanner Oldham
Edd Ervin	Steve Parker
Chris Groke	Joe Pinilla
Ryan Langley	Anne Poliakoff
Deborah Lemke	Lee Shirley
Julia Manello	

2027

Christine Conzett	Joe Moore
Susan Gaubert	Alex Powell
Garrett Johnson	Betty Price
Matthew Kneisley	Shannon Rogers
Sherron Langley	Melissa Sullivan
Scottie Lummus	Sally White
Mary Mathes	Andy Youngblood

2028

Chase Biber	Alexa Pack
Brooks Cochran	Lindy Sanders
Rhonda Dickerson	Josh Summers
Margaret Hines	Mary Kathryn Ward

# GIVING FAQ'S

## 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, 2026

## DO I NEED TO MANUALLY CHANGE MY PLEDGE ONLINE?

If your 2026 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 Church Financial Officer, Lynise Clarke at 864-208-2130 or visit [fpcspartanburg.org/give](http://fpcspartanburg.org/give).

## CAN I PLEDGE ONLINE?

Yes! Visit [fpcspartanburg.org/stewardship](http://fpcspartanburg.org/stewardship) to make an online pledge and/or set up a recurring gift. You may also scan the QR code to the right and on the back of this report.



## 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](mailto: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](mailto:lclarke@fpcspartanburg.org).



FIRST  
PRESBYTERIAN  
CHURCH  
SPARTANBURG

Make your pledge today at [fpcspartanburg.org/stewardship](https://fpcspartanburg.org/stewardship).

Scan here to  
make your  
pledge today!

