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| |  | | --- | | **A New Beginning**  ﻿  November 9, 2023  Dear Members and Friends,  Greetings from the Stewardship Team! It is the time of year when we are called upon to pledge our financial support to our wonderful church for 2024. We are beginning an exciting new chapter in our history.  In January Pastor Sal Sapienza will be installed as our new minister. He will be only the third person to lead our congregation since 1951. Let us show him a wonderful welcome with open hearts and a balanced budget!  This New Beginning is an opportunity for our Family of Faith to continue building the foundation created by Pastor Don Emig and strengthened by Pastor John. We need to reinvigorate, strengthen and expand our base. As John said in his message this past Sunday, when we support the church, we are supporting each other and more importantly we are supporting the future ministry of our church and beyond. The more we give, the more we receive and sharing God’s love has a positive impact on us and the greater community.  The 2024 pledge goal is $334,000. Pledges, shown in the graph below, have dropped over 20% in the past few years. This reduced goal reflects that reality, but it is also the reality that the cost ofoperating the church has not decreased. Please remember that our church is completely self-sustaining and relies solely on the congregation for its operation. The budget is bare bones. Our dedicated staff needs a raise, the Board of Christian Outreach should be fully funded, insurance costs have increased, the church exterior needs to be stained, a new water heater is needed and so on and so on. The endowment has been relied upon to balance the operating budget pledge shortfall. The endowment was taken down in 2022 to cover cash shortfalls in pledges and may be taken down by as much as $157,000 in 2022 and 2023 combined.  If approved the endowment will be taken down by an additional $93,000 in 2024 for a total of $250,000 in 3 years. This is not sustainable. The church has been faithful to us. We must be faithful and dig deep with stronger pledges in return. Annual gifts range from $200 to $25,000; each gratefully received and essential.  We hope you will consider a 10% increase in your 2024 gift.  Please submit your pledge by December 15, 2023 (just the commitment, not the actual payment) so we can start our journey with Pastor Sal on a positive note. |  |  | | --- | | A graph of blue columns  Description automatically generated with medium confidence |  |  | | --- | | Pledges can be made 3 ways:   * **Pledge by Mail:** Return the Stewardship form mailed to your home * **Pledge Online** by clicking the button below * **Pledge in Person:**Pick up a pledge form at church and put it in the plate   In person: put your pledge form in the offering plate    We thank you in advance for your commitment and support of our Family of Faith.    With gratitude,    Tammy Langalis and the Stewardship Committee | |