



Dear People of Grace,

What is the best gift you have ever received? Some of us have primal memories of long-desired toys from childhood, or unexpected treasures given by a loved one, or surprise presents when least expecting them.

What is your favorite gift given to someone you love? Many of us have memories of giving the perfect gift to someone dear to us, and the joy and pleasure we felt in finding it and bestowing it on a loved one.

There is much joy in receiving the perfect gift, and equal delight in giving the perfect gift. Because when you love someone, and are loved by someone, the gifts exchanged are expressions of how well we know the ones we love, and how glorious it is to be known by others.



“Every good and perfect gift comes from above.”
~ James 1:17

James, the brother of Jesus, writes, “Every good and perfect gift comes from above.” (James 1:17). It is God’s delight to be the giver of gifts. Having received gifts from God, we get to share in the joy of giving to others. The response to the gifts God so freely gives, is to echo God’s generosity and to become givers ourselves.

God’s loving generosity is found everywhere we go. For so many of us, Grace Church is where we receive gifts from God and can give gifts to God, by sharing our gifts with the people of God in this place.

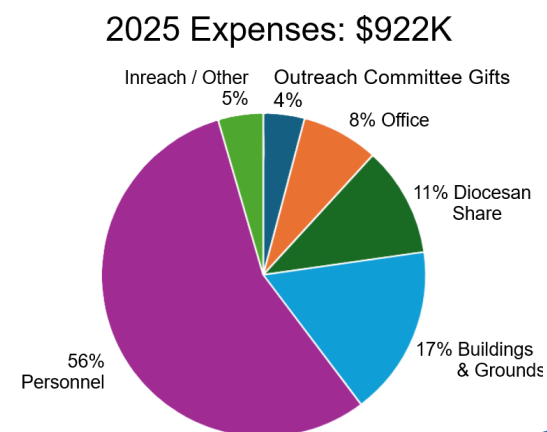
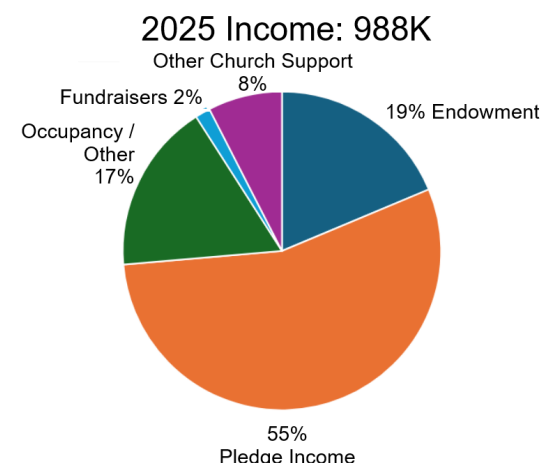
God has given us a beautiful space for gathering for worship, musicians and leaders who nourish our souls with beauty and wisdom, children whose creativity inspires us, and faithful people whose acts of service carry us through times of challenge. So deeply does God love us, that God’s bounteousness surrounds us on every side, freely given from above, and landing in our laps all the time. [next page](#)

FINANCIALS

Q What’s the outlook for our finances in 2026?

A 2026 is shaping up to be another strong year of financial performance for Grace Church. At this point in mid-October, we are reasonably confident, that if recent trends continue, we will end up close to the modest profit that was forecast when the vestry approved the budget earlier this year. As usual, reasons for this performance include the generosity of the parish, which is reflected in our annual stewardship program and throughout the year and the work of the clergy, wardens, vestry and staff in managing our expenses.

Looking ahead to 2027, the hope and expectation is that we can continue to do as well as we are doing this year. As usual, achieving break-even results or hopefully something better in almost any church is never assured. With Grace, the generosity of our members can be assumed, but the demographics, like those of most parishes, continue to change and requires increased effort by the rest of us as older parishioners move on and younger parishioners replace them in numbers, but not yet in pledges. And on expenses, while the rate of increase in inflation appears to have slowed, the effects of recent past increases in prices continue to flow through and increase what we pay for everything from medical insurance to removing the snow from the parking lot. In our case, funds which we draw on a scheduled basis from our endowment, rental income from our tenants and fundraisers all help. But as we look ahead to the new financial year, it is support from parishioners through the process of stewardship that determines how we are able to set and meet our financial objectives in support of achieving our mission.



Q Doesn’t the church get funding from outside sources, like the Diocese or charitable foundations? What about our endowment?

A The ministry of our parish is funded almost entirely by our members. Without the generosity of the people who support us, we could not have public worship, provide pastoral care, support outreach initiatives or care for our buildings. We give a portion of our money to the Diocese, to support the work of the Bishop and to assist mission parishes throughout the Diocese in much poorer areas whose ministries feed the hungry and proclaim the Good News of Jesus. Your pledge money supports both the Grace community and other communities which need help. We are indeed blessed with an endowment. Even with this endowment, we are very disciplined about living within our means and draw from the endowment based on 5% annual best practice formula to preserve these funds for future parish needs.



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Make a pledge online:
www.gracemadison.org/giving



What a blessing it is for us, then, to participate in this holy generosity, to share in the delight of giving good gifts to the Giver of every gift!

Our theme for our Stewardship Campaign this year is All Good Gifts. Every member of our community is invited to participate in the ultimate gift exchange. Consider joyfully God's many gifts to you, things God chose with you in mind. Unwrap them with prayers of gratitude. And then comes the fun part: getting to give gifts to God. Imagine the delight you feel in choosing the perfect gift for someone you love! That is how we're meant to fill out our pledge cards. It's not a business transaction like renewing a subscription or paying the utility bills. Rather, your pledge to Grace Church is like the gift tag attached to a present you are giving in love.

Truly every good and perfect gift comes from God. And you are, for us at Grace, a good and perfect gift. You were sent from God to us, given from above. You are a living gift to Grace.

We invite you share with us in the joy of giving. We receive grace. We give grace. It's hard to say which is more wonderful!

With deep gratitude for you and for all good gifts,

The Rector, Wardens, Vestry, and Stewardship Team

FAQs

Q I like to give money in the offering plate —instead of pledging. Isn't that the same thing?

A A pledge gives Grace the ability to plan for the year. Gifts in the plate are received with gratitude and used for our mission but cannot be included in budget planning as they are unknown. A pledge can be placed in the offering plate using uniquely numbered envelopes so it will be credited to you. Please request envelopes when you return your pledge card .



Make a pledge online:
www.gracemadison.org/giving

Q When do you need my pledge card returned?

A Pledges should be returned by the end of this calendar year if possible. They can be mailed, dropped into the office, put in the offering plate or made online at www.gracemadison.org/giving. Receipt of pledges before the end of November allows the budgeting process to begin sooner.

Q Must I pay when I pledge?

A No. Your pledge is the financial support you plan to provide in the coming year. The scheduling is entirely up to you. Over the course of the year our bookkeeper will update you on your donation status.

Q Can I pay electronically?

A Yes! Our website offers the ability to make pledges and payments on a Vanco secure payment platform. www.gracemadison.org/giving.

Q Do you really need help from all members?

A Absolutely! Though this is an affluent part of the country, not all share in that wealth. Our pledges allow us to be generous and share our blessings as we do God's work.

