



Narrative Budget: The Story of Where Our Money Goes

“...and do not forget to do good and to share with others, for with such sacrifices God is pleased.” Hebrews 13:16

Jesus said: “Freely, you have received, freely give.”
Matthew 10:8

Thank you for being such a generous community that changes lives in so many ways!

A message from Rev. Charlotte Frantz, Bridge Minister

What does generosity mean to you? Here’s my story. When I lived on the plains of Montana, I had a huge garden—a half a city lot. I grew most of the vegetables my household ate and had plenty leftover to give away. I thought I was generous because I gave away what we didn’t need. My partner in that endeavor challenged me—“Giving away what you don’t need is hardly generous. Sharing what you have—that’s what generosity means.” I’ve thought a lot about that in the years since. Generosity isn’t about giving what I don’t need; it’s about sharing what I have.

Peace Church is an amazing place because people here don’t limit giving to what they don’t need for themselves; they share what they have. And because, together we share what we have, lives at Peace and lives in our wider community are changed.



What does your financial support of Peace Church do? During this past year, many lives have been impacted by *your* contribution to Peace Church, a few of which are:

- ◇ Vibrant worship services with outstanding and eclectic music
- ◇ Education programming for all ages, including Children’s Church, confirmation, Adult Education and Bible Study
- ◇ Community outreach through volunteerism and financial support, including Damiano Community Kitchen, CHUM (Churches Hillside United Ministry) meals, and Loaves & Fishes meals
- ◇ Refugee support of a Venezuelan family and resettlement of four Afghan women
- ◇ Hosting a Peace Village day camp for 40 children
- ◇ Supporting Peace Church youth going to Washington D.C.
- ◇ Growing over 200 pounds of vegetables in our Peace Garden for CHUM



- ◇ Supporting the work of local social justice organizations: AICHO, CHUM, Damiano Kitchen, Bob Tavani House, Gabriel Project, Loaves and Fishes, One Roof Housing, United Theological Seminary, St. Mark's partnership and various UCC offerings
- ◇ Supporting the Minnesota Conference of the UCC, which made the youth trip to DC possible
- ◇ Supporting the Minnesota Conference through which we received guidance and support throughout our pastoral search
- ◇ Providing pastoral care to members and friends during times of crisis



This support is made possible by having **amazing staff** and being able to offer them competitive market wages and benefits:

- ◇ Charlotte Frantz, Interim Bridge Pastor
- ◇ Jim Pospisil, Music Director
- ◇ Amanda Hunter, Children, Youth and Small Group Coordinator
- ◇ Rachel Obed, Business Manager
- ◇ Mali Lorenz, Bookkeeper
- ◇ Bri Dornbush, Office Coordinator
- ◇ Dan Shepard, Custodian
- ◇ Alex Nelson, Worship Technician
- ◇ Gudrun Witrak, Pastoral Care Chaplain

This support is also possible because of **our spiritual home, the Peace Church building**. It's not only used for our church worship and activities, but also by many wider community organizations for meetings and special events. Of course, there are expenses to maintain it, including larger expenses incurred this year of roof repair and parking lot resurfacing, but this is an investment in the long-term health of this place we all value.



To accomplish this important work, the 2023 budget was over \$650,000. Our budget was fulfilled through the financial commitments and special gifts of our members and friends. 95% of our income is provided by **us** the members and friends of Peace Church, through our annual financial commitments.

While there are many ways to support the congregation, our annual Stewardship Campaign provides a chance to think in a particular and prayerful way about the choices we make with our money in support of the church. Without your gifts, we would not be able to engage in the programs, projects, ministry, and worship experiences that define our community life. **How many more lives can be changed through your generosity?**