



2027 *COMMITMENT*

LIGHT + LIFE
FOR THE CITY

Dear First Pres,

We are almost all the way through Romans! What a journey and what a gift. We went all the way. As we pray about how to devote ourselves to God's work in 2027 in our church, I want to challenge you to go a little deeper, draw a little closer, and bring The Full Measure to the Lord.

What does the full measure mean to you? Jesus taught, "Give, and it will be given to you. A good measure, pressed down, shaken together and running over, will be poured into your lap. For with the measure you use, it will be measured to you." (Luke 6:38) I have always loved that image. When I used to make chocolate chip cookies with my mom as a boy, she said to take the cup measure and fill it with brown sugar. "Pack it down tight." You know I did! I think I could get a full pound of brown sugar in a cup measure.

God is so generous with us. What do you have from the Lord? Is it anything less than a

full measure? Paul was taking a financial gift he had gathered from Macedonia to Jerusalem to encourage the church. He was dealing with very practical matters of dollars and cents. The ministry needed funds. The church needed resources. He was overjoyed to see the generosity of new believers to support the mission of Christ. It made him reflect on the "full measure." He knew the Romans too would know fullness. "I know that when I come to you, I will come in the full measure of the blessing of Christ." (Romans 15:29)

Yes, God deals with us in full measures. God gives us full measures of life and joy. God provides full measures of grace and mercy. Jesus gave the full measure, the full sacrifice, that we might be saved for eternal life in him. Should we hold back the full measure when we make our offering to the Lord?

We have challenges in today's economy. Things are more expensive for all of us.

Things are more expensive at church too. We would like to expand the budget by 6% this coming year. That will keep us just a nose ahead of inflation, but can still open up new frontiers and sustain a growing and thriving Staff.

Please pray as we all respond to the full measure God has brought us. Let's determine to each bring our full measure to him! Enclosed is your Commitment Card for 2027. Please bring it to worship on October 25, put it in the mail or make your pledge online, and we will enjoy the full measure together!



Yours in Christ,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Tim McConnell'.

Tim McConnell
LEAD PASTOR

" 'Bring the whole tithe into the storehouse, that there may be food in my house. Test me in this,' says the Lord Almighty, 'and see if I will not throw open the floodgates of heaven and pour out so much blessing that there will not be room enough to store it.' "

- Malachi 3:10



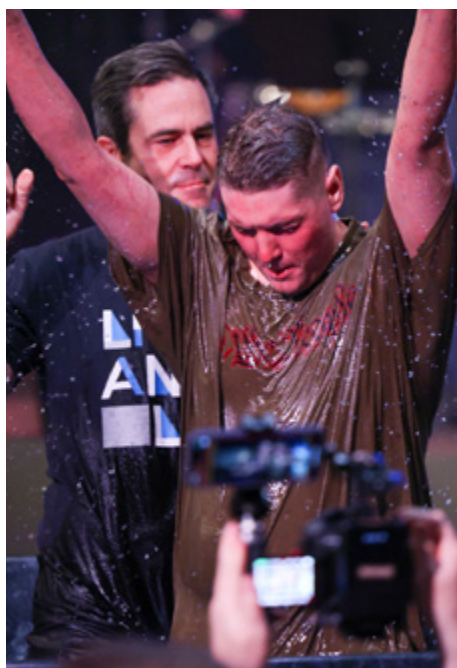
Here at First Pres, generosity is not just something we enjoy, it is something we deploy. It is a way of moving resources, people, creativity, and encouragement to the places that need it the most. When we look back over the year, we see The Full Measure of God's goodness sustaining a church devoted to Jesus, shining like Light and Life for the City.



A clear sign of this generosity has been the way First Pres invested in caring for its own. We all participated to strengthen staff culture, deepen trust, and continue the Best Christian Workplaces journey. Our second year as a certified Best Christian Workplace is more than an internal achievement, it is a stewardship and care for who

and what Jesus has entrusted to us. Healthy leadership, clearer systems, and a stronger sense of shared purpose make room for more effective ministry. The Staff and Session retreats, listening tours, recurring training, and improved operating systems reflect a church caring for its people well and releasing creative energy for ministry.







That healthy spirit showed up in many powerful ministry moments. From the All-Church Picnic and Vision Sunday to Alpha, Trunk or Treat, Christmas Joy, packed Christmas Eve services, Holy Week, Mother/Daughter Tea, Of Thee I Sing, and Vacation Bible School, First Pres created sacred and welcoming spaces where people could encounter Christ and one another. These are not random events. They are ways we say to the city, “There is room for you here.” Generosity becomes tangible when a church offers time, leadership, volunteers, and beautiful environments that help families, seekers, and longtime members take another step toward Jesus.

First Pres also deployed generosity beyond its own walls through mission partnership. In the past year, leaders visited mission partners in Egypt, and Mongolia. Our youth traveled to Mexico and the Dominican Republic strengthening relationships that remind us the church is part of something larger than one campus or one city. These connections represent long obedience in the same direction: prayers that have matured into friendships, support that has become partnership, and local faithfulness that reaches around the world.



At the same time, First Pres also displayed generosity at home through campus improvements that serve ministry, welcome, and accessibility. Security system upgrades improved safety for preschoolers and guests. The Weber parking lot reconstruction removed sinkholes and made the campus more usable. The hearing loop repair strengthened worship accessibility. The former library became The Landing, a refreshed meeting space. Office reconfigurations brought teams closer together for collaboration. These are not only maintenance projects, but acts of stewardship that say the church's physical home should help, not hinder, the work of worship and discipleship.

The Vision Sunday message adds another layer to this story. First Pres is not just preserving a legacy; it is making room for the Spirit. We have rethought our language of discipleship so people on the outside can understand it: Be Known. Belong. Believe. Become. Bear Fruit.

That is generosity in communication. It is an offering of clarity to a world full of confusion. The church is also preparing to reopen Café 225 as an outpost of hope, with renewed partnership with Springs Rescue Mission, a new Christian Counseling Center and ministry to students at Palmer High School. Here generosity moves from the sanctuary to the street, from welcome to witness, from words to embodied compassion.

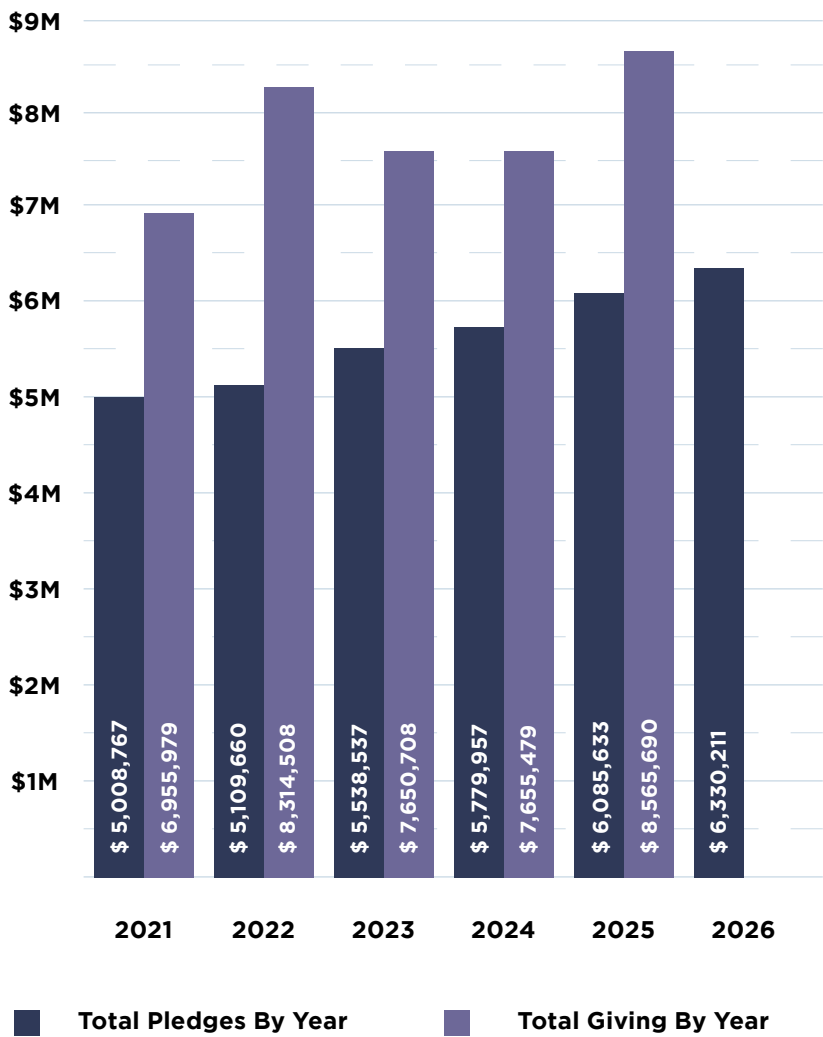




First Pres has been generous with its encouragement, generous with its excellence, generous with its facilities, generous with its mission partners, and generous with its imagination for the future. It has deployed generosity not as a one-time gift but as a way of life.

In a year marked by change, First Pres chose faithfulness. In a season full of demands, First Pres chose to invest. In a city hungry for hope, First Pres chose to give itself away for the sake of Jesus Christ. That is what generosity looks like when it is alive in a church: it becomes worship, hospitality, mission, and love in motion. How do you want to be a part of it? How will you bring The Full Measure of generosity in the coming year?

Financial Update



Total Pledges by Year

The historic trend for pledges at First Pres has been upward. That trend was challenged in 2021 as total pledges decreased due to the pandemic and economic uncertainty, but our congregation responded generously in the past 5 years, and began to grow pledges again.

Pledged giving represents about two-thirds of our budget each year, and we have had a great record of keeping our pledges. This is an act of devotion and discipleship, bringing the full measure to the Lord. Let's keep growing. Thank you, First Pres!



Total Giving by Year

Actual giving is always higher than the pledged amount. Total giving dipped in 2021 as the pandemic lingered and the economy threatened recession, but again, we leaned in and pulled the church along through a tough season. It is a part of the fabric of this church that our congregation has responded generously when a call for need is made.

This year we are a bit behind in giving. We are **\$350,000** behind our 2026 budget. We know the Lord will continue to provide for us all as we devote ourselves to his ministry.

Please pray both about your pledge for 2027 and your commitment to help bring 2026 across the finish line.



**FIRST
PRES**

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