

Dear First Christian Church Community,

We are a community called by God to live out the compassionate example of the Good Samaritan we find in the Gospel of Luke. Loving our neighbor defines us as individuals and as a congregation. We welcome many into our building for transformational change through our Worship on Sundays, the work of the Samoan and Eritrean congregations, Alive! AA, the Scouts and others. We also go into the community to deliver food, furniture and advocate for justice.

I ask you to reflect on how we might support God's work in 2025. I invite you to spend some time in prayer and reflection imagining how we can continue to be a blessing to our neighbors, and how your offering might reflect that for the coming year. On Sunday October 20, we will gather in a joyful time of joint worship with the Samoans. We ask that you turn in your estimate of giving cards on or before our service. Some of us will participate in the Alive! Walkathon soon after the end of services so we will hold a celebration lunch after worship on October 27.

Your estimate of giving allows the church to create a realistic budget and ministry plan that aligns with our beliefs, and your giving helps provide a ministry that engages people and changes lives. The estimate of giving is just that - an estimate. It can be changed during the year if needed, as your circumstances change. Your giving helped fund our ministry as shown in the Ministry Highlights for 2024. No doubt you have contributed with your time and efforts to make these programs successful.

Some of you reading this letter are already giving 10 percent or more of your income - the biblical tithe. To you I simply say, "Great Job!" This is a milestone and an expression of your faith. If you are not yet tithing, I'd like to invite you to take a step in that direction. You might look to see what it would take to move toward tithing. If you can't take that step all in one year, try increasing by 1 percent each year. Even starting at \$5 a week (260 annually) can fund a camp scholarship or new music for the choir.

Please bring the enclosed estimate of giving card and envelope on or before worship on Sunday, October 20. If you are not able to join us in worship that day, please fill out the card electronically, send the card to the office, bring it with you to worship the next week, or email me at fccafinance@gmail.com. Consider making your offering through monthly electronic funds transfer. Setting up your giving electronically ensures the church receives your contribution, even if you are not able to worship in person.

Again, thank you for all that you do to make possible the shared ministry of First Christian Church of Alexandria. You make a difference here, and you are an important part of our service and compassion to our neighbors. Like the Good Samaritan let us 'Go and Do the Same.

Yours In Christ,
Janet Coldsmith, Treasurer

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2024 Ministry Highlights

2024 has been a year of engagement and community. It has been a year of transition as we said goodbye to some of our long-time members who have moved away and welcomed new faces to our community. We continue to grow in our virtual ministry as well as gather often, including a weekend retreat. We continue to seek to share God's love with our neighbors in many ways and give thanks for the many blessings of God.





Worship was highlighted by special services during Holy Week, as well as dedicating three young children, and blessing those who moved for ministry in their new location. We continued to invest in cameras, microphones, and technology in order to improve our connection with our online worshipping community. We welcomed new staff member Jessica Davis who helps us maintain an active presence on Facebook and Instagram. Our worship of God flourished during the time for Young Disciples, gathering at the table each week, and praying for one another as joys, concerns, and God sightings were shared in-person and online. We give thanks to Josh Carter and the Balcony Bunch who keep us connected.



The Music Ministry led by Connie Rhodes and Bevin Creel, including special music offerings, and the FCC choir continues to bless us.











Bible Study, Book Studies, and Chronic Illness Group offered most often via Zoom have kept us learning and supporting one another. Fellowship activities like the Bethany Beach Retreat and coffee chats have built community.














Our service continues to be an essential part of who we are as we partner with ALIVE!, Safe Haven, West End Food Pantry, Refugee Resettlement groups, Meals on Wheels, and Casa Chirilagua. 10% of our offering goes to support ministry beyond our congregation. We also shared our voices and presence in justice ministries like the Poor People's Campaign and the CCCA Martin Luther King Jr. celebration.

The many groups who use the building including First Samoan and Alpha and Omega congregations as well as ALIVE!, Scouts, AA Groups, and other community groups allow for shared ministry and many transformed lives. Activities like caroling at Woodbine and Silverado, Touch-a Truck, Trunk or Treat, and Neighborhood Street and Stream Clean-Ups support the wider community. It takes work and money to maintain our building, and we completed our roof replacement and accessible bathroom projects, as well as continuing to plan for major HVAC replacement.

Thank you for continuing to offer your gifts,
your time, your finances, your
encouragement, your faith, and your love.

The generosity, leadership, and hope of
the First Christian Church of Alexandria
allows us to continue to engage in vibrant ministry and be a good
neighbor to all.

