



Dear Church Family,

Over the past couple of years, our leadership has been asking, “What does it look like for our church to flourish? What is required of us as we take the next step of faithfulness?”

Flourishing as a church community means growing more and more in our love for God and others. It means receiving the generous love of God and sharing that love with our families, neighbors, friends, and fellow believers in ways that are uncommonly generous. This uncommon generosity from you, our church family, is what helps make our ministries flourish and thrive.

This phrase, “Your tithes, offerings and legacy gifts help us to be the intergenerational, transformational and missional church God has called us to be,” is repeated week after week as we prepare to dedicate our financial gifts to God in worship. It’s a phrase that reinforces three convictions I have as your pastor.

**First, it’s your “gifts.”** As disciples we give generously as a spiritual practice. This not only contributes to something in our church and the world, but it also to something in you: a surrendered heart toward God. We are what we practice.

**Second, your gifts include “tithes, offerings and legacy gifts.”** Scripture describes the tithe as your regular, planned, percentage giving to the work of God through your church. Ten percent is a good goal—for all your giving to the church or a combination of gifts to the work of God in the world—to work toward. If you are new to giving, start small. Make your goal this year to contribute 1% of your income to SBPC. If you are experienced in giving, increase your percentage by 1-2% as a way of growing your trust in God.

Offerings are occasional or extra gifts motivated by additional income or because of a financial need of a particular ministry God has put on your heart. For example, year-end giving, including IRA distributions and gifts of stock, make a substantial difference in our church budgeted income that doubles in November and December.

Legacy gifts are planned estate gifts that demonstrate in perpetuity your commitment to supporting your church. In 2024, prayerfully consider making a goal to create or renew your estate documents to include a percentage of your estate or a dollar amount to benefit SBPC and the Kingdom Builder Foundation.

**Third, we strive to be “the church God has called us to be.”** This is not a random descriptor of Solana Beach Presbyterian Church. It’s actually very specific. We can see the ways we have grown intergenerationally from our youngest to our oldest. Gathering in worship or on the patio for lunch, we are a family. We are a transformational church that is growing more and more in our love for God and each other. We believe the Holy Spirit is at work conforming us to the image of Christ for the sake of others—which makes us a missional church. We are the body of Christ working together with each other and God to build up the church and bless the world.

As Amy and I complete our 20 years of service here at SBPC, we have seen the difference your generous gifts have made. From staff to facilities to ministries here and around the world, your gifts are overflowing hope. So, my prayer for us is the prayer of Paul to the churches in Rome:

*May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.* Romans 15:13 (NIV)

Together in Christ,

Mike McClenahan, Senior Pastor

## WHAT DOES FLOURISHING LOOK LIKE?

- Growing worship and creating space for hospitality at the same hour, online and in person
- Growing small group participation across all generations
- Connecting neighbors exploring Christ to faith in Christ and our life together
- Prioritizing mental wellness and care for the whole church family
- Growing intimacy with God over activity for God through personal spiritual practices of prayer, solitude, scripture reflection, journaling, and tithing
- Growing a robust culture of volunteering with children and childcare

# Making Your Pledge

We are asking everyone who is committed to SBPC, to take time to **prayerfully** discern what your financial commitment will be.

When you are ready to make your pledge, you may set up a regular recurring gift (which we will count as your pledge) **OR** you may use the included pledge card.

## Online Recurring Gift

- go to [solanabeach.church/give](http://solanabeach.church/give)
- click on "Regular Giving"
- select the Annual Ministry Fund
- change frequency to Regularly
- complete the information to schedule or update your giving

## Pledge Card

- fill out the enclosed pledge card
- return the pledge card by either bringing it with you to worship  
OR  
mailing it to the church office

# Your Regular Giving

There are many ways that you can give to the ministries of SBPC; online, in services and by mail. If you are able, we ask that you give your tithes and offerings using a recurring online gift. Your consistent online giving streamlines our accounting and helps create a reliable, dependable income stream.

## WAYS TO GIVE TO SBPC

- **ONLINE:** [solanabeach.church/give](http://solanabeach.church/give)
- **IN-PERSON:** drop off your gift in the lobby boxes or at the info table on the patio
- **VIA MAIL:** send your gift to the church office



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Dear Church Family,

The primary focus of SBPC's Session (made up of Elders and Pastors) is our ends—the purpose for why we exist as a church. Session defines our global end: "Our members, friends, and neighbors live as fully-devoted followers of Jesus Christ in growing community." In addition to focusing on this global end, we also deal with practical things, including monitoring our financial performance as a church and approving an annual budget. As stated in the PC(USA) Book of Order (G-3.0205):

*The Session shall prepare and adopt a budget and determine the distribution of the congregation's benevolences. It shall authorize offerings for Christian purposes and shall account for the proceeds of such offerings and their disbursement.*

Session does not just pass a budget and then wait 12 months to see how it went. The budget is just one part of a consistent monitoring process. It includes a sub-committee of Session, the Financial Review Committee (FRC), which meets monthly with our Senior Pastor, Mike McClenahan, and our Chief Financial Officer, Andrew Ruff. The FRC then presents the key takeaways of that review to the entire Session at its monthly meeting. Beyond that, Session meets with Andrew quarterly to ask questions and explore the numbers together. We also commission an annual financial review, which a Certified Public Accountant performs.

Last year was good overall, but it had some caution signs. Our tithes and offerings (regular giving as a congregation) finished \$400,000 below budgeted expectations. Our normal giving patterns are seasonal, which makes budgeting more complicated, and they are typically lower in the summer, followed by a significant spike in November and December. Last year, that spike was lower than the previous year. The good news from last year is that \$200,000 in additional income from the preschool and a reduction in budgeted expenses offset the shortfall in tithes and offerings. The preschool is at our offered capacity, and we have seen growth in enrollment for after-school programs. Our expenses grew substantially from Ministry Year 2022 but were still \$200,000 below our budgeted spending. Together, those additions and the shortfall in giving offset each other, and while that is not optimal, we did finish the year on budget with an excellent cash balance and full reserves.

We face significant challenges as we move into Ministry Year 2024 (MY24). Chief among them is inflation. It shows up in areas where we have limited control, like utilities, insurance, and maintenance contracts. It also shows up in areas where we have decisions like staff salaries. If we are not giving increases in a world where gas can cost over \$6 per gallon, the effective salaries that the church is paying are less than what they used to be. We are budgeting for an increase in tithes and offerings to keep pace, and we need everyone's help!

Here is some exciting news: we had 65 new members join our church last year! We are also adding new givers. In August, we added four first-time givers, and three of those givers signed up for recurring donations. Praise the Lord!

We are also asking our existing givers to contribute more as you are able. You have seen the videos over the summer and heard our Session members' voices. The need is great, and we are called to meet it. We are budgeting for an income increase of about \$300,000 from MY23 to MY24. We have been in MY23 since July 1 and are about \$23,000 ahead of budget for tithes and offerings. It is a great start! We are praying to keep that momentum going into the Christmas season and never to stop growing into the church God has called us to be.

We at Session are eager to see where God continues to lead us through this season— how it grows us individually in the personal spiritual disciplines of giving, surrender, and sacrifice; how it grows us together as a church community, uniting together to meet this challenge; and ultimately, how it glorifies God!

Blessed to serve,

SBPC Session: Jay Bass, Sue Burgess, Steve Carter, Carol Childs, Heather Creighton, Judy Enns, Juan-Daniel Espitia, Mark Halling, Mike McClenahan, Jamie Nelson, Peggy Parrish, Stan Poey, Candice Richey Womack, Rachel Shaw, David Southcombe, Travis Vining, and Mike Watts

uncommon  
GENEROSITY

 SOLANA BEACH  
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# Welcome HOME

 SOLANA BEACH  
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH





# We are a Church that Worships

## WE WORSHIP WITH

**AUTHENTICITY:** being real, transparent, and vulnerable before God and each other

**DIVERSITY:** multiple expressions of worship coming from our spiritual maturity, experiences, styles, languages, genders, cultures, ages, and educations

**PASSION:** the fire of our worship, the fuel that expresses itself in true enthusiasm, devotion, and commitment

*We are a worshipping people,  
gathered to praise God,  
acknowledging our need for  
his grace, proclaiming his  
word, and being sent into  
the world for service.*



# We are a church that Grows in Small Groups

We believe God calls us into deeper relationships where we can know each other and live out our covenant community. Our conviction is that transformation takes place in the context of intentional relationships where God's word, prayer, study, and support are experienced and nurtured. Our small groups are places for service and impact as they are called to make a difference within the church family and in the world.

Small groups have played a vital role in the church, from the time of Christ to today. As a church-wide discipleship strategy since 2003, sermon-based small groups help us accommodate personal and congregational growth.

Each week hundreds of people gather in small groups where they can experience life transformation. It is our prayer that everyone is part of a sermon-based small group that aligns with the vision and mission of SBPC.





## *We are a church that belongs to each other*

We live in a lonely, fragmented, and disconnected world but our relationship with God through Jesus Christ draws us into relationship with one another that makes us brothers and sisters. Our relationships deepen as we intentionally welcome each other, know each other, and love each other.

We reach out to neighbors who are exploring Christ and encourage them as they grow in faith in Christ and invite them to become members as a next step of spiritual growth. Christ calls us into relationship with him and our brothers and sisters and calls us to practice hospitality across all generations.

### *Preschool*

Our preschool draws families from all over our community as a highly desired school in the area.

### *Preteens*

Our Wednesday evening and Sunday morning programs for 3rd-6th graders are a place where our kids are having tons of fun and growing in their faith.

### *Students*

Middle School and High School students are connecting through weekly opportunities and summer and winter camps to connect, grow, serve, and worship.

### *MOPS*

MOPS (Mothers of Preschoolers) is a valuable connection to our community and a safe space for moms to learn and grow together.

### *Senior Center*

Our Senior Center is one of the premier senior centers around and is open to all mature adults in the surrounding communities.



# *We are a church that serves*

We understand that every good and perfect gift comes from God, that he has blessed us generously, and that he calls us to serve with generosity. We give our time and spiritual gifts as we use our God-given abilities in ministries in the church and around the world. We give our financial resources with uncommon generosity by regularly tithing a portion of our income, enthusiastically responding to ministry needs, and leaving legacy gifts beyond our lifetime.

The focus of our lives individually and corporately is not for our own pleasure, but God's pleasure. We declare this when we recite the prayer Jesus taught us, "your kingdom come, your will be done on earth as it is in heaven."

We are committed to missional living and demonstrating our new life in Christ with our neighbors in our communities, across the border, and around the world by loving people and meeting their needs like Jesus did.

We invite others to join us by giving glory to God, sharing his story and inviting them into his family.

## *Serve Locally*

Called by God and deeply committed to metro San Diego, we link arms with a variety of local agencies and ministries. We share with them funds God entrusts to us to encourage our people to give themselves in generous service.

## *Serve Globally*

We serve around the world by seeking out global partners and investing in our relationships and assessing needs together. Our global partnerships are long-term so that we can build each other up while making a difference.

## *Deacons*

Deacons minister to those who are in need within our community of faith; they are servant leaders who lead by serving and empowering others to participate. Responding to the needs of people through caring and compassion gives expression to the gospel proclamation that God is at work here and now, through the Holy Spirit and Christ's people. Deacons fulfill Christ's commission to express our love of Christ in the care of God's people and thereby be a witness of the love of Christ to the world. Deacons serve in four areas:

- **Communion:** coordinating the practical aspects of the service as well as home communion
- **Prayer:** praying with and for others and creating opportunities for church-wide prayer
- **Memorial Receptions:** serving families with compassion as they are grieving
- **Care:** offering Christ's love in the form of personal outreach and care to those who are suffering and/or in need of special attention.

**WE ARE A CHURCH THAT....**

*Worships*

*Grows*

*Belongs*

*Serves*

*Impacts*

**OUR VISION**

We are a growing community of fully devoted followers of Jesus Christ.

*“Growing community”* means that we are increasing in number and depth, because what is healthy is growing. *“Fully devoted”* means we are following the Lord of the Church, Jesus Christ. More and more, our life together is shaped by our five banner words: worship, belong, grow, serve, and impact.





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