

May 29, 2022

Dear Chapel Hill Friends:

As we continue our season of stewardship and growth, we wanted to follow up with a few personal reflections from leaders in the Chapel Hill Community responding to why they give financially to support the ministries of our faith community. Read their thoughtful words:



*We first started attending Chapel Hill in 2006. We were church shopping, and we had only been here twice, when Dan's dad had a heart attack. In response to our call for a prayer request, Pastor Barry stopped by the hospital and spent an hour talking to Dan's mom, praying with her, and comforting her. We never looked anywhere else.*

*In the 16 years since then, Chapel Hill has become our faith home, and the people at this church our family. Sometimes slightly dysfunctional, but family nonetheless. And just like we support our relatives with our time, our talents, and our financial gifts when needed, so do we support Chapel Hill. We have given of our time by sitting on committees and boards, by chaperoning confirmation field trips, and by staffing the coffee bar. We have given of our talents by cooking meals, by helping to remodel the youth house, and by helping to build that coffee bar. And finally, we donate money weekly to help support the financial needs of the church. We understand that, just like we have a budget at home, the church also has a budget; a regular income is needed to make sure that the physical plant of the church is maintained, that the people who work in and for the church make a living wage, and that the vision of the church, "to be a faith community where everyone is loved and responds to God's call" can be pursued. We understand that even though Chapel Hill is a church, fiscal responsibility requires more than just prayer, it requires people who are willing to help meet budgetary responsibilities so that all of those important things can happen.*

*That is kind of the long answer to the question "Why is it meaningful for you to give to the church?" The short answer is this: Matthew 6:19-21 says "Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moths and vermin destroy, and where thieves break in and steal. But store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where moths and vermin do not destroy, and where thieves do not break in and steal. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also." Portage Chapel Hill is where our hearts are, so this is where our treasure goes. It's really as simple as that.*

*Nan & Dan Janecke*

*Our family has been a part of Portage Chapel Hill for over 30 years. We've always believed in supporting this church both with our offerings and with our service.*

*I have been involved in many ways over the years. Currently my roles are as a member of Staff-Parish Relations Committee (SPRC) as well as coordinating the various pieces of worship technology. Through those roles, I have the privilege of being in frequent contact with our pastors and staff. I can tell you that, without exception, they are an extremely dedicated group who go above and beyond in fulfilling the mission of Chapel Hill. I'm especially excited to finally get back to two full-time pastors. It's a step forward in faith that I hope all of us will support in this financial campaign.*

*From a technology standpoint, we have come a long way in upgrading our 25-year-old systems. The sound system has been upgraded to a state of the art digital system. The lighting throughout the Sanctuary and lobby has been totally replaced or upgraded with energy efficient LED lighting. Most recently we've added video equipment as well as computer hardware and software to enable the live streaming of our worship services. My hope is that in the coming year we will be able to complete the technology upgrades by updating our projection system to offer a much higher quality.*

*My efforts, and our financial gifts, are given out of the firm belief that our Church's view of Christianity is critical in today's world. We have a responsibility to invite more people into a religious community where everyone is welcome, and no one is judged. To that end, I hope you'll join with us in offering your support in both gifts and service as we move forward together.*

*Eric & Susan Smith*

Our hope is that hearing some of the reasons our leaders support this church will resonate with you as well. We are a unique faith community that has a call to Portage, Kalamazoo County, and beyond through technology. Additionally, part of living out our discipleship is investing our time, gifts, and resources in what we value and what might make our world a bit more like God's kin-dom on earth as it is in heaven.

On Sunday, June 5, we'll collect the cards enclosed here as part of our offering. There will also be an online pledge card available for those of us who connect primarily online. The cards are both for our planning purposes, but also a mark of commitment to the life in the church. As such, you are welcome to mail in a card or bring it the next time you're here at Chapel Hill.

We are immensely grateful for you all, your faith, and your continued support of each other and the ministry God is doing at Chapel Hill.



Pastor Jess Davenport



Pastor Barry Petrucci