

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

GROSSE POINTE MEMORIAL CHURCH



Before receiving communion, worshipers join in a prayer known as the Great Prayer of Thanksgiving. In this ancient and enduring prayer, we give thanks for all of God's loving and mighty acts: past, present and future.

During the Great Prayer of Thanksgiving, we not only remember God's actions. We also make an offering to God: of bread, juice and ourselves. Our prayer asks God to bless all that we bring to the table so that all of our gifts- which have come from God- can be put to fruitful use by God. It is an act of stewardship. The prayer, our lives, our gifts- it all starts with God and ends with God, as we seek to live the words of the song, "Praise God from whom all blessings flow."

Within the pages of this stewardship booklet, members, friends, and staff of GPMC give thanks for all of the wondrous blessings at Grosse Pointe Memorial Church. We give thanks as families, individuals and a congregation. From Worship and Music, to Education, to Mission, to Congregational Life, and the administrative support that helps sustain them, the heart of this community overflows with love and compassion, with thanksgiving at the center.

True thanksgiving ultimately leads us to respond in gratitude to God's generosity. As the grateful people of God, we reflect on what has been done for us, and we dedicate our time, talent, and treasures so that this church can continue to be a light by the lakeshore.

“Do not worry
about anything,
but in everything
by prayer and
supplication with
thanksgiving let
your requests be
made known to
God.”

-Philippians 4:6



CONGREGATIONAL LIFE



Bert Ross, Barbara Kerwin and Debby Owen

We are thankful for everyone in our church who helps care for those who are sick, lonely, and homebound, and for those who are struggling with various life changes. From Stephen Ministers to our deacons and Caring Committee, we strive to insure that everyone knows of God's love and our concern.

We also welcome guests to worship, offer classes for newcomers, and invite all to participate in the church's mission and ministries. As we seek to follow Jesus Christ, we get to know one another on a deeper level through small groups and all-church fellowship events.

We also seek to broaden our connections beyond ourselves, growing in relationship with people of other races, ethnicities, traditions and faiths. In so doing, we come closer to building the loving world for which Christ worked.



180
Visits to shut ins



356
Flower deliveries to sick or injured members



10,000
Cups of coffee or lemonade served on Sunday



20
Active Stephen Ministers



32
Deacons



45
New Members

Based on 2017 statistics

FAITH FORMATION



We are thankful for
youth mission trips!

Lizzy and Margaret

We believe the church is a place where all people experience God's grace through life-long learning.

While exploring the Bible, theology, Christian community, other faith traditions and other racial ethnic groups, people have the opportunity to grow in their relationship with God. We provide church school classes, Bible studies, book clubs, small group enrichment, and service learning opportunities for all ages.

In addition to the weekly diet of Sunday school for all ages, we offer weekly and monthly opportunities for members of all ages to grow in love and faith. Almost every day of the week presents some chance to draw closer to God and to one another, both in person and online.



14
Adult education
groups



90
Volunteer teachers
and advisors



75
Youth classes
and events



10
Sunday school
classes youth/children



212
Children/youth,
birth to 12th grade



4,000
Attendees at
adult ed. offerings

Based on 2017 statistics

WORSHIP AND MUSIC



*Top row: Tim Butler, Mike Huellmantel, Julie Huellmantel.
Bottom row: Evan, Emma Huellmantel and Rachel Bellovich*

As a church, we gather together offering our prayers, praise, and thanksgiving to God while being renewed and equipped to answer Christ's call for us. Rooted in the Reformed tradition, our worship values our heritage while embracing new and engaging forms of worship. From Bach cantatas to flash mob dances and children's musicals, our worship life is full and varied.

At GPMC, members offer their time as singers, hand bell ringers, and instrumentalists in worship and during concert events throughout the year. They also serve as lay readers, dramatists, liturgists and more. Worship at GPMC is truly a community effort, so that we might be part of the way God builds us up to love and serve.



59
*Choir anthems
and cantatas*



10
*Children's musical
offerings*



19
*Baptisms and
23 funerals*



26
*Services on
Trinity Terrace*



78
*Communion
celebrations*



10
*Sundays of music
Back 40 Band*

Based on 2017 statistics

OUTREACH - SERVING OTHERS



Lynda Weiser and Jim Hooper

We give thanks for the many ways our congregation embodies God's love in our local community and beyond. We actively engage with area ministries like Everyone Eats and Life Remodeled and we also financially support life-changing organizations. They are as close as Forgotten Harvest food bank and as far away as Mar Elias Educational Institution in Israel.

GPMC hands and hearts also serve others by accompanying neighbors at the Mercado, tutoring children at the Tutoring Tree, packing food at Gleaners, working at the Second Mile Center and building up churches in Costa Rica (youth) and Cuba (adults).

Our building is also part of our service. We welcome the Boy Scouts, Alcoholics Anonymous, and the Family Center. We also provide a week of shelter for homeless neighbors.



*40,960
Hours working
on youth
mission trip*



*210
Hours supporting
refugees*



*82,000
Meals packed for
Kids against hunger*



*200
Nights of shelter
600 meals for homeless*



*700
Hours making
meals for hungry
neighbors*



*21
People working
500 hours in Cuba*

Based on 2017 statistics

CONGREGATIONAL LEADERSHIP



Susan Richner, Cynthia Ford and Andrew Richner

One of the greatest assets in any community of faith is the leadership of the congregation. At GPMC, we are blessed to have over 150 elected congregational leaders. It is true in some churches that 10% of the people do 90% of the work. This is not true at GPMC.

Our leaders take the accumulated gifts of time, talent and treasure and guide our congregation in serving Jesus within the church and our wider community. As Presbyterians, we believe that shared leadership is the best model, which means that while pastors provide perspective, members discern the vision for ministry and implement it in partnership with the congregation.

Our goal is to call disciples of all ages to put their faith into action by worshipping God joyfully, welcoming others graciously, supporting one another lovingly and serving all faithfully.



20
Elders



32
Deacons



12
Trustees



90
Council members



75
Worship leaders



21
Staff members

Based on 2017 statistics

STAFF

The leadership and staff give thanks for all the people who make GPMC the wonderful and faithful place it is today. Here are a few words of gratitude from a handful of our ministry team members.



*Rev. Peter Henry
Pastor*



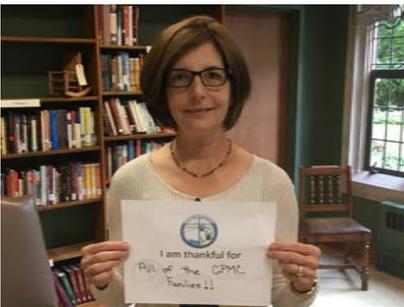
*Rev. Susan d'Olive Mozena
Coordinator of Adult Education*



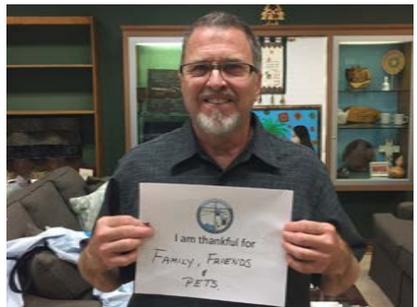
*Rev. Sarah Godbehare
Associate Pastor*



*Carol Beltz Marks
Director of Pastoral Care Ministries*

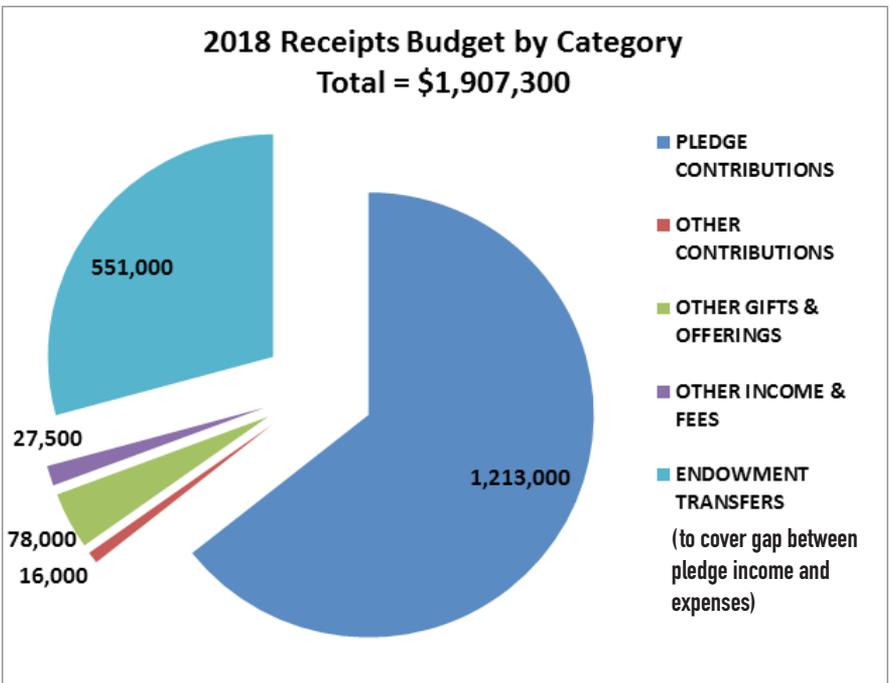
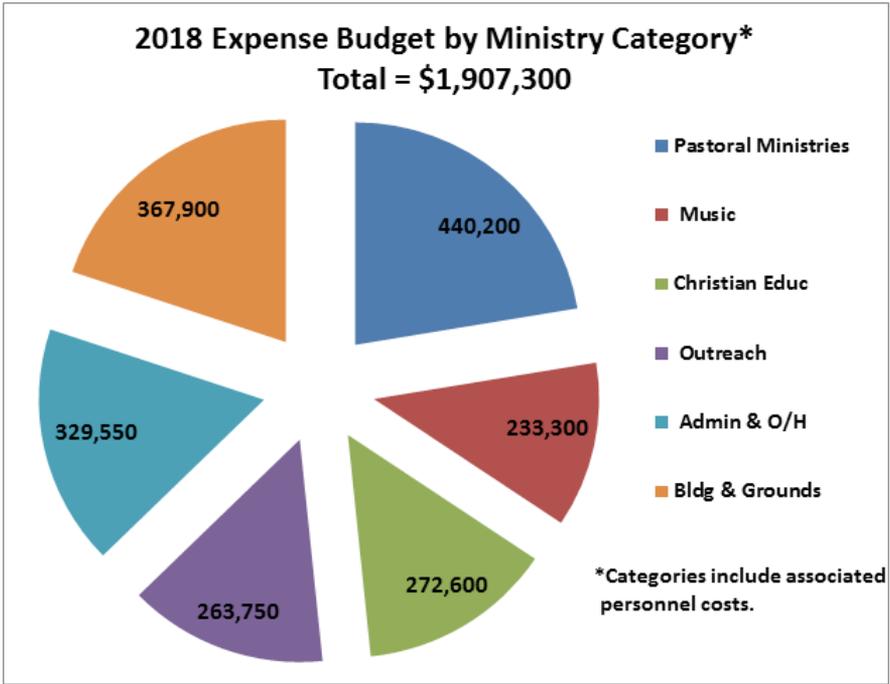


*Lisa Turner
Director of Children's Ministries*



*Dan Aggas
Head Sexton*

OUR FINANCIAL PICTURE



NEXT STEPS

1

Pray and reflect on what you give thanks for and how God is calling you to respond in gratitude. Are you available to give your time and talents? Are you in a place to give financially to the church?

2

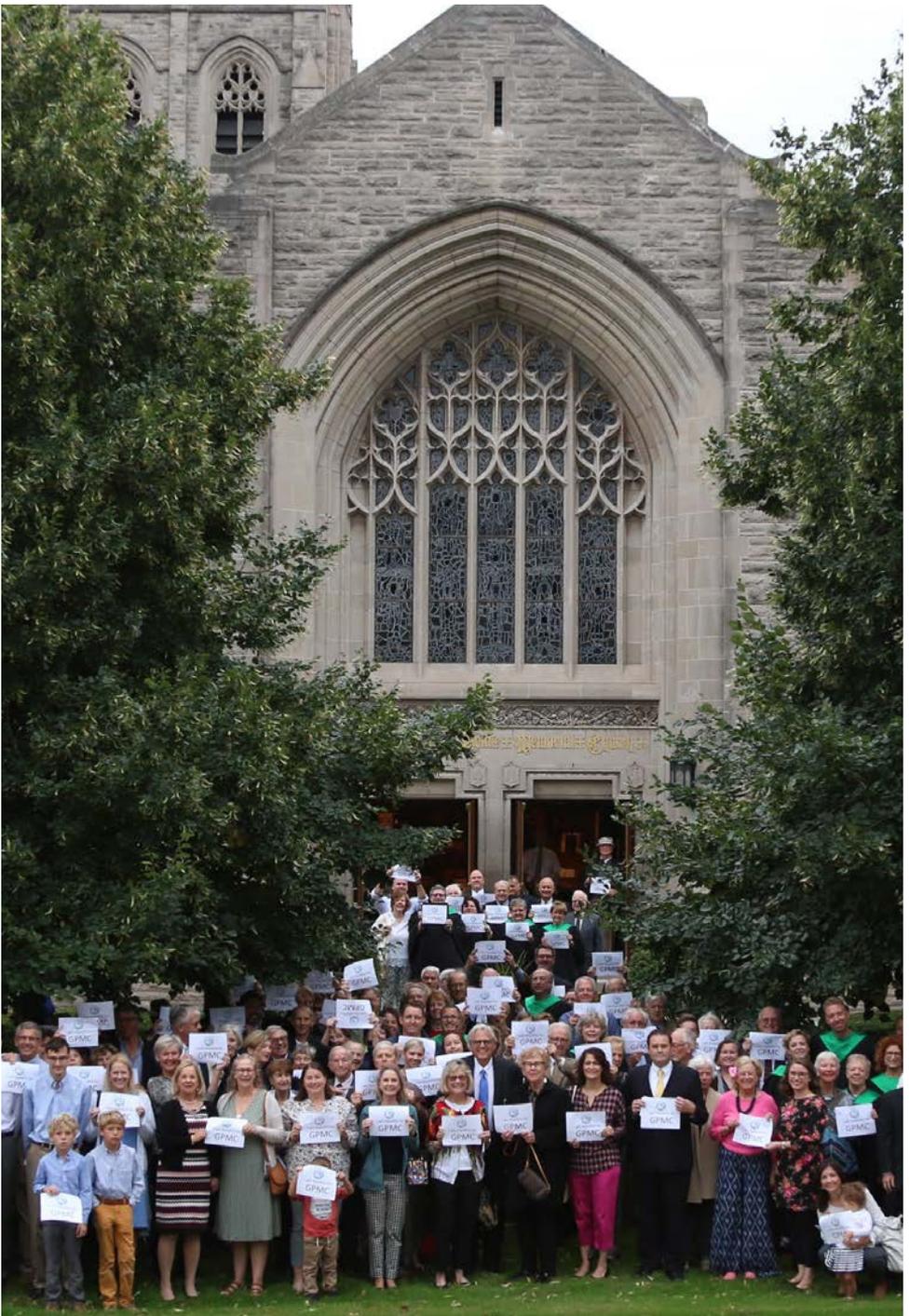
We also ask that you complete a financial pledge card to help the church plan for the ministries of 2019. A pledge envelope was included with this mailing. We are asking members to make a 5% increase to their pledge as a sign of our thanksgiving for God's work in our lives and in our church.

3

You can turn in your cards directly to the church via the mail, the offering plate or the church office at any time. You may want to visit us online: www.gpmchurch.org, where you can explore different options for giving and serving. Please try to respond by Sunday, November 18.

Give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.

-I Thessalonians 5:18



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