

April 2025

Dear Church Family,

Spring is here and with it the promise of rebirth, renewal, and sunny days ahead! Thank you for your generous giving over the first three months of 2025! You are helping the church to meet its expenses and making it possible for God's work to be accomplished in Eaton Rapids and beyond.

Specifically, through March, revenue toward the Unified Budget was \$129,000, which was up over 7% from the same period last year. Although this fell just short of our actual expenses of \$137,000, we are encouraged by your continued faithfulness during these uncertain economic times. We know that you understand that expenses for the church continue to rise just as they do for you at home and at work.

As we reviewed the church's financials, we recently celebrated the increasing "dividends" the church has been receiving on its investments the past few years. For example, we are seeing increasing attendance at both services, new people joining the church, an overflow of children and youth at worship, and young couples getting to know each other as they drop off their babies in the nursery (that not long ago sat empty Sunday after Sunday). These exciting dividends are being paid as a result of your recent investment in the hard work of our expanded staff, namely Samantha, Melissa, and Matt, our Discipleship Director, Youth Director, and Casual Worship Director, respectively. Plus, we have Julie, our wonderful Nursery Coordinator!

These excellent additions to staff have built upon the strong foundation already provided by Pastor Melany and Music Director Brenda Austin. Your financial support of all these dedicated people, coupled with your investment over the past several years in things like the digital sign, the parking lot, and the façade improvements have created a welcoming environment for newcomers and guests. Together, we are seeing the "dividends" of those investments come to fruition. Your total commitment is assuring that our church not just survives, but that it *thrives*!

Your faithful giving is what makes FUMER a church that is not floundering, but *flourishing*! Thank you for giving back to God a portion of what he has given you.

On behalf of the Finance Committee,  
Steven Peters, Chair