

2026

# LEVERAGE

*stewardship*



THOMPSON  
MEMORIAL

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

# A NOTE FROM PASTOR STEPHANIE

You've probably heard the story a hundred times. Jesus is teaching a crowd - thousands of people, and they're hungry. The disciples are panicked—there's just no way they can feed all of them. And then, in the middle of the chaos, there's a **little boy**. He's not a disciple, not a leader, not even the first person you'd ask for help. But **he offers what is in his hands**: his lunch. A few loaves, a couple of fish.

It's small and ordinary, but it's everything he has. He doesn't even hold back a little corner of the bread for himself. And here's the beautiful part, Jesus takes it. He blesses it. And suddenly, it's enough. More than enough. Everyone eats. Everyone is satisfied. And there are leftovers.

That little boy didn't know how God would use his lunch. He just trusted that what he had could make a difference.

I love this about God: even the smallest thing you give, God can multiply it. This year, we've seen it happen all over our church: ministries growing, and missions expanding, all because people trusted God with what they had. And as we step into this season of stewardship, we get to ask ourselves: **What is in my hands?** What am I willing to give, trusting that God can take it and do something amazing and something bigger than I could ever imagine?

This is what is at the heart of leverage. Leverage is about taking what you have, your time, your money, your abilities, and using them to make real change and actually impact the world.

This is what makes leverage so beautiful. It's really about the power we have, with God, to do the impossible.

This book outlines how we plan to leverage what you offer to make a big impact in our church and in the world. It's not the time to hold back. It's the time for people of faith to be bold and loud about believing that we, because of our trust in God, can accomplish together.

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*"Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others, as faithful stewards of God's grace in its various forms."*

*— 1 Peter 4:10*

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# WHAT IS STEWARDSHIP?

You might be wondering - what is stewardship, anyway?  
At its core, stewardship is about **how we use what God has given us, our time, talents, and financial resources, to do God's work in the world.**  
Everything we have belongs to God, and we are simply caretakers, using these gifts faithfully and joyfully.

## Why We Have a Stewardship Campaign

Each fall, our church holds a stewardship campaign. This is not just to plan our budget, but to reorient our lives around God's priorities.

Yes, pledges help us fund our ministries, pay our staff fairly, and plan responsibly for the coming year.

But more importantly, this season is about gratitude and trust as we acknowledge that all we have comes from God and ask how we can use it to bless others. The truth is, we weren't meant to keep what we have been given for ourselves.

## Our Invitation to You

This year, we invite you to:

- **Pray** about how God is calling you to give and serve.
- **Pledge** your financial commitment for the coming year.
- **Offer** your time to help our ministries flourish. Even one or two hours a month can make a huge difference.
- **Trust** that God will multiply what you give, just like the boy with the loaves and fishes, so that more people can be "fed."

## Our Campaign Goals for This Year

- **110 pledges total** (including 15 new pledges)
- **5% increase** in giving from returning pledgers
- Fully fund a **\$1.06 million budget**, which represents ministry sustained, lives touched, and God's work made possible through your generosity

## Our Ministry Goals for This Year

- **Deepen discipleship** through new and strengthened small groups
- **Grow our volunteer network** to make serving easier and more joyful
- **Expand mission and outreach** opportunities in our local community

## Why It Matters

- When we each offer what's in our hands—our time, our gifts, our generosity—God multiplies it into something far greater. Stewardship isn't about keeping a church running; it's about joining in God's transforming work in the world.

# DESIRED CAMPAIGN GOALS

**110**  
PLEDGES

This year, our goal is to reach **110 total adult pledges**, which is a meaningful increase of just over 10% from last year's total of 95. Each new pledge represents another person or household saying yes to partnering with God in the ongoing work of our church.

**15**  
NEW PLEDGES

We are praying for at least **15 new pledges**, which represents fresh commitments from those who may be giving for the first time or who feel called to take a new step of faith. Each new pledge is a sign of growing trust, shared vision, and belief in what God can do through us together.

**1.06**  
MILLION  
TOTAL BUDGET  
FUNDED

We have set a goal for pledges to **fund a total budget for the church of \$1.06 million**. Reaching this milestone will enable us to continue investing deeply in worship, mission, outreach, and the many ministries that make our church a beacon of hope in the community.

**5%**  
GIVING INCREASE  
PER UNIT

Finally, we have set a goal for pledgers to **increase their total pledges by 5%** from last year, which targets a modest yet meaningful rise in financial contributions from each pledger.

# MINISTRY GOALS

## Deepen *discipleship* through small groups

Small groups are not just a way that we spend time together at Thompson; it's how we provide fellowship, faith formation, and develop deep bonds and support with each other. Groups such as Alpha Omega, Art History, Bible Study for Normal People, and the Men's and Women's Ministry groups are not just active, but growing. What God does in small groups is incredible. It is our goal to expand our small group network and include more people in this ministry. Would you leverage your time to lead a new group? Training can be provided!



Some proposed small groups include:

- Sunday afternoon or Monday evening **Sermon Debrief Group**
- **Young Families** small group
- **Young Adults** small group
- **Middle Aged Men's** small group
- **Men's and Women's Retreat Planning Teams**

Please note this list is not exhaustive of all new small group ideas, and we at Thompson are eager to hear the ways the Spirit might move you to create a group that facilitates Christian fellowship in our church.



Based on the suggestions outlined above, our goals for this stewardship area are:

- **start 2-3 new small groups**
- **have group leaders for these new groups**
- **usher in 20 new members into small groups**

# MINISTRY GOALS

## Grow our network of *volunteers*

We love our volunteers! Currently there are over 100 people serving in our congregation and we are so grateful! Volunteering doesn't just help us accomplish tasks, it changes the life of the volunteer who learns the gifts that come with service. Some areas we need volunteers are:

- Engaging **new visitors** that enter our church
- Teachers and assistants for **Sunday School**
- Leaders and volunteers for various **Youth Group** activities and events
- Serving on a Social Media or Livestream Team

## Expand *mission* and *outreach*



We know our ministry has to extend beyond our doors. We want to expand our service opportunities and reach more people in the community. Some areas you can leverage your time are:

- Volunteer for **TASK**
- Serve as **Habitat for Humanity** Team Lead
- Join the **Lambertville Community Lunch** Team
- Serve on the **Community Meal** Team (2<sup>nd</sup> Sundays)
- Drive the van for the **Community Meal**
- Volunteer for the **SERVE planning team**

# HOW TO DETERMINE WHAT TO GIVE?

Talking about stewardship can feel a little uncomfortable sometimes. It asks something of us—our time, our energy, our resources—and that can be hard to consider. But what if we saw it not as a burden, but as a calling? What if we viewed it through the bigger picture of what God is doing in and through us, building something lasting, something beautiful, something that looks a little more like the Kingdom of God?

When we give, serve, or step forward in faith, we're not just checking a box. We're participating in God's unfolding story right here in our church, our community, and the world beyond our walls.

So as you reflect on your part in this year's stewardship campaign, take a moment to prayerfully consider these next steps by answering the following questions:



What *gifts* has *God* given me?

*How much* do I spend on *things I love*?  
(coffee, dining, vacation, etc)

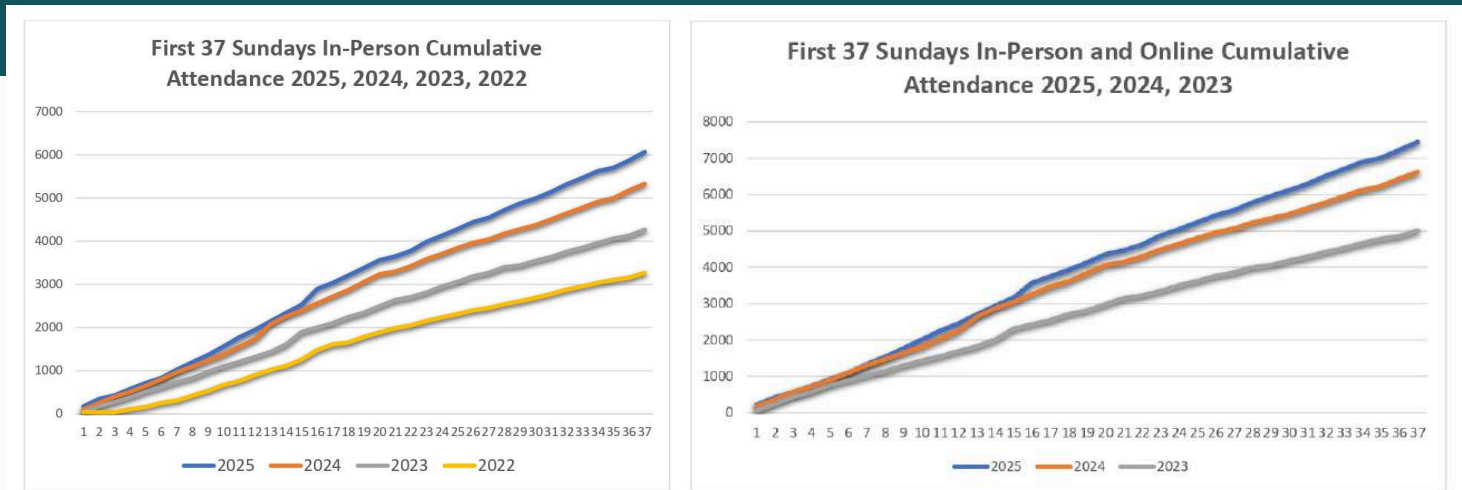
What percentage of my *income*  
is currently *invested in God*?

As you pray and reflect in this season, listen for the invitation. Maybe it's a call to give a little more, to serve in a new way, or to share your time and gifts where they're needed most. Whatever it is, trust that God can take your offering and multiply it beyond what you can see.

What steps of generosity might  
God be inviting me to take?

# GOALS FOR THE KINGDOM: WORSHIP

## Growth & Impact: *Attendance*



Here at Thompson, we have seen a **48% increase in worship** in the past two years. These numbers are combined between our traditional and contemporary service, as well as take into account our online worship attendance. We are so grateful to be a place where people can feel the love of God and the presence of the Holy Spirit, however they worship.

## Cost Snapshot: *Music, Technology, and staffing*

As our numbers increase, our costs increase as well. Over the years, we have increased the presence of technology during worship, whether it's livestreaming the service, hiring staff to support the livestream or other technological needs, projectors and microphones, musical materials and supplies. We also are blessed to have many talented musicians and staff to run our choirs and provide music during worship. These costs are a necessary and worthwhile investment into our worship services.

# GOALS FOR THE KINGDOM: WORSHIP

Vision for the Kingdom: *Vibrant worship that draws people closer to God*



Worship ties us together as a close knit community. Not only do we hear the message of the gospel, but we learn from how the kids interact with the message, we feel God's presence in our singing and prayers and we can remember that we are not alone on this journey.

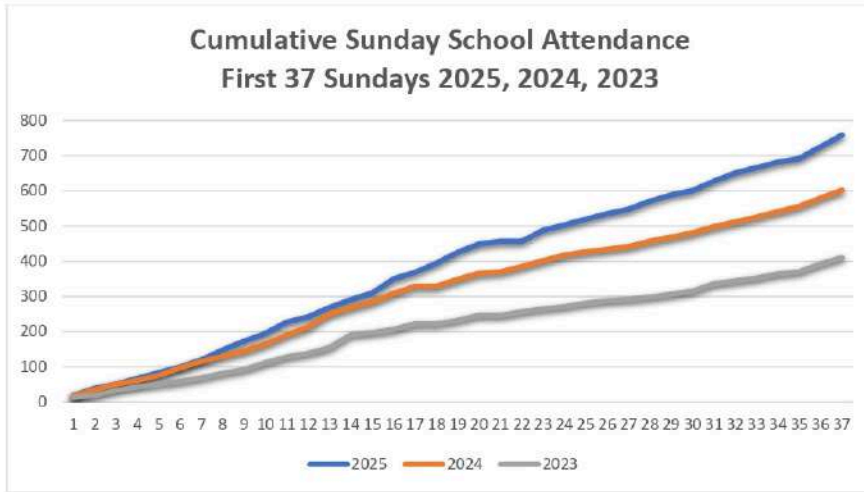
In worship, our children and adults often sing together which provides unity and hope in this divided world. God's message comes to us across generations and teaches us that we belong to God and to each other.



Ask yourself: *How can I use my own voice to provide for the experience of sacred music in worship that draws us closer to God? Or how can I support the church to continue providing these experiences?*

# GOALS FOR THE KINGDOM: KIDS & YOUTH

## Growth & Impact: *Sunday School, Youth, and VBS*



Just as worship attendance continues to rise, our children and youth program is following suit. **Sunday School attendance is up 80%** over the past two years. Since hiring our new Director of Christian Education, youth attendance has more than doubled.

## Cost Snapshot: *Curriculum, trips, staffing, and supplies*

**VBS brought more kids than we have seen in the past ten years.**

This increase caused us to go over budget for supplies for this incredible outreach. Investing in Vacation Bible School is one of the key ways we can leverage our ministry to reach the community and instill faith for new generations.



# GOALS FOR THE KINGDOM: KIDS & YOUTH

## Vision for the Kingdom: *Nurturing the next generation of disciples*

Studies show that the ages of 13-17 are the most impactful years for faith development. Investing in faith formation for teens has the highest impact of nurturing a life long faith. Our teens pray together, play together, serve together and learn what it means to live like Jesus at TMPC.



*Did you know?:*  
Through a partnership with New Hope Solebury High School, **students from our area served as counselors for Camp Thompson** this summer and built relationships with our kids!

*Did you know?:*  
**We will celebrate 9 baptisms in 2025!** Our prayer shawl knitters leveraged their time and resources to provide a shawl that will stay with each person for decades.



Ask yourself: How can I **leverage** what I have to support children in faith development or support youth as they grow? Consider cooking a meal for youth group or sponsoring a student to go on a mission trip.

# GOALS FOR THE KINGDOM: TECHNOLOGY

## Growth & Impact: The reach of the *Livestream*

YTD Average Attendance 2025, 2024, 2023					
As of 9/18/2025	2025	2024	2023	Change '25-'24	Change '25-'23
1st Online	30.5	27.4	12.5	11%	144%
2nd Online	9.8	10.0	9.0	-1%	10%
Total Online	40.3	37.4	21.5	8%	88%

The impact of our livestream is an area that is not overly visible, but is a significant way to leverage our ministry.

We know that the tech teams, the new equipment we have installed and the software we are using allow our message to reach people well beyond our walls. People are watching from many different towns, states and even countries!

*Did you know?:*  
**80% of people visit a church website or watch the service online** before attending a church.



*Did you know?:*  
You can watch the service from **any device** and **any smart TV** through our **TMPC app!**

Ask yourself: Can I **leverage** an hour of my life to help with the live stream? Would I be willing to be an online host, greeting people who watch virtually?

# GOALS FOR THE KINGDOM: *SENIOR MINISTRIES*

## Growth & Impact: *Act 2's Events and Participation*

Approximately 24% of Americans aged 65 and older are socially isolated, and an even higher percentage, around 43% of adults over 60, report feeling lonely. Recognizing this growing need for connection and belonging, our senior ministry group, Act 2, has become a vibrant and vital part of our ministry. Act 2 serves more than 50 seniors a year at events like BINGO, movie nights, Bible studies, trips, and more.. These events provide not only purpose and fellowship for our seniors but also serve as a meaningful ministry of care and inclusion, while also inviting more people into the family of God.



# GOALS FOR THE KINGDOM: OUTREACH

## Growth & Impact: *Fall Fest, MLK, Pride and more*

Our key outreach events, like MLK Day of Service, the Fall Fest, and New Hope Pride Parade, help build awareness of how we seek to love like Jesus. Each of these gatherings not only serves our wider community but also continues to draw new people into our congregation year after year.

*Did you know?:*

**MLK reaches 180 people from our community**, most of whom do not go to church here. This event was made possible by **47 volunteers** helping to facilitate **14 different service projects**, **impactful speaker sessions and discussions**, and **workshops** designed to bring power imbalances and racism to the forefront.



# GOALS FOR THE KINGDOM: MISSIONS

Growth & Impact: *Fisherman's Mark, Youth Promise Kenya, SERVE and more*



Serving is one of our core values. From Fisherman's Mark to Trenton Area Soup Kitchen to Urban Promise Trenton, Youth Promise Kenya and more, we seek to serve like Jesus in many ways.



*Did you know?:*

**TMPC gives over 12% of every dollar back to the community?** This means **over \$100,000** is given to **provide basic operational funding** for many of our mission partners.

*Did you know?:*

**TMPC** has provided a **TASK "hoodie" giveaway** for **more than five years**. This Christmastime event provides a warm, high-quality hooded sweatshirt to **every client** at TASK.

Ask yourself: Can I **leverage** two hours of my life to serve on the Fisherman's Mark Meal prep team or to serve at TASK? Two hours can make over 100 meals for those in need. What other ways can I leverage my time to serve?

# THE BRIDGE LAMBERTVILLE

## First community meal, coffee house, Fisherman's Mark, and heat fund

The Bridge Lambertville is a TMPC initiative to provide Christian ministry and fellowship across the bridge in Lambertville, New Jersey. This team has been meeting for one year to build relationships and begin forming a community in our sister town. So far, the team has been present at Shad Fest, provided one community meal, one Coffee House fellowship, and provided more than \$5,000 in assistance to Fisherman's Mark Utility Fund.



Fisherman's Mark recently completed a needs-based survey revealing that nearly 70% of people in the Lambertville area are living on \$30,000 a year or less. Combined with the reality that Lambertville currently lacks an active Protestant worship community, this presents both a challenge and a calling. In response, TMPC is seeking meaningful ways to serve our neighbors across the river—addressing both material and spiritual needs. We feel called to extend our ministry presence to our sister town, offering support, compassion, and the hope of Christ to those who may be struggling or searching for community.



*The Bridge needs help with promotion and communication of their events. Ask yourself: Can I **leverage** a few hours of my time each month to share the good news of what God is doing?*

# DECIDE WHAT TO GIVE

Use the following chart to locate your household annual income and then find the percentage you feel led to give. Fill out your pledge card or fill out a virtual pledge card at [www.tmpc.org/give](http://www.tmpc.org/give).

Household Income	1% Giving	5% Giving	10% Giving (Tithe)
\$25,000	\$250	\$1,250	\$2,500
\$35,000	\$350	\$1,750	\$3,500
\$50,000	\$500	\$2,500	\$5,000
\$65,000	\$650	\$3,250	\$6,500
\$100,000	\$1,000	\$5,000	\$10,000
\$125,000	\$1,250	\$6,250	\$12,500
\$150,000	\$1,500	\$7,500	\$15,000
\$175,000	\$1,750	\$8,750	\$17,500
\$200,000	\$2,000	\$10,000	\$20,000
\$300,000	\$3,000	\$15,000	\$30,000

# 2025 TO 2026

Here's how our 2025 expenses came to life: through people, place, programs, and mission. You'll find a few notes below about what's shifting as we plan for our 2026 budget.

2025 Budget	
General Fund Donations and Income	\$1,005,000
People	\$629,399
Place	\$179,268
General Fund Benevolence	\$129,800
Music & Worship	\$49,154
Education	\$29,700
Membership Programs	\$29,150
Apportionment (net)	\$8,529
Total Expenses	\$1,005,000

## Changes and Increases to the 2025 Budget include:

- 2026 will be our first full year with the **full time salary** of our **Director of Christian Education**.
- We have hired a **Sunday tech support person** at the rate of **\$100 per Sunday**.
- Our **mission giving** goes up as a percentage of our giving each year.
- **Christian Education costs** will increase due to **increased attendance**.
- **Act 2** will have its **full budget restored** in 2026
- Staff will receive the Presbytery directed **4% Cost of Living Increase**.

# CLOSING INVITATION

I keep thinking about that little boy who handed over his lunch to Jesus. Maybe he wondered if he should give his lunch or hold on to it for himself. But something in him must've said, *"I can trust Jesus with this."*

And that's all it took. God used what was in his hands and turned it into something incredible.

That's what I see in you. I've watched so many of you give, not just money, but time, energy, heart, because you trust that God can do something bigger with it. You've seen it happen before, and I believe we're about to see it happen again.

This is our moment to lean in, to bring what we have, and to trust God to multiply it. When we put our gifts and our hopes together, something holy happens. We become a movement; one voice, one body, one community showing the world what love can do.

So let's give boldly, generously, and faithfully.

Fill out the enclosed pledge card and return it to the church on or before **Dedication Sunday, November 23rd**. You can also pledge by using this QR code or going to [www.tmpc.org/give](http://www.tmpc.org/give).

We thank you in advance for your generosity.



