

COVENANT FRIENDS

October 2017

Dear Covenant friends,

I am excited about the spirit at Covenant right now. We are blessed with many good things happening:

- We have had **ten baptisms** this year so far, and the nursery and children's Sunday School rooms are busy.
- We have **visitors** every Sunday, and welcomed 17 new members last spring. Plus, we have another good-sized Inquirers Class this month.
- With a balance of tradition and innovation, our **worship** services offer encouragement in Christian living, such as our recent World Communion Sunday celebration.
- **Children and youth** are being engaged with Christian faith, while having fun together.
- We continue to support local **mission**, such as The River Food Pantry and Domestic Abuse Intervention Services, along with global mission partners in Guatemala, South Sudan, Kenya, and Haiti. We hope to support more, such as a new young adult ministry in downtown Madison.
- Our **building** continues to be a valuable community resource for 12-step groups, neighborhood gatherings, scouts, Kiwanis, and more, and we are doing more updates and maintenance every year.
- Staff and members working together to **care** for people, sharing God's love in times of sadness and need.
- Our Associate Pastor Jeff is doing a great job connecting with young adults and young families, along with supporting mission and education. We are blessed with a **great staff**.
- We have grown technologically, and we hope to grow more.

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We have indeed been blessed in 2017. As we move toward the end of the year, we want to keep these blessings going and multiply them, to make a difference in Madison and around the world.

To help multiply the blessings, **I invite you to make a generous pledge to the operating budget for 2018.**

The vast majority of our budgeted funds comes from pledges like yours. Pledging, at any amount, is really helpful to church leaders, for planning our budget. For those who pledged or gave in 2017, if you can I hope you'll consider raising your pledge for 2018.



Over the past several years, we have strengthened our finances, through careful spending and generous giving. We have a strong system of checks and balances in place to ensure proper use of our funds.

I have been here at Covenant as your pastor for almost five years now. I feel blessed to be here, and my wife Chris and I are raising our pledge for next year, because we see God's blessings in the congregation. I'm excited about where we have been, and I'm really excited about where we are going.

On the journey together,

Charlie

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