



Inspiring Community

Frequently Asked Questions

1. WHY GIVE?

Everything we have - time, talent and treasure - is a gift from God. Giving to our church is one way we can express our thanks to God for this generosity. Together our gifts further God's ministry here in our community and around the world. "Freely you have received; freely you give." (Matthew 10:8)

Pragmatically, our church depends almost exclusively on its members' giving. A financial commitment from our members and friends covers everything from our staff salaries to our program expenses for children, youth and adults to keeping the heat and lights on and the parking lot plowed.

2. WHY DO WE PLEDGE?

A pledge represents your commitment to support FPCNV financially in the coming year. Our session uses these pledges to finalize our budget and plan what programs and ministries we can develop in the coming year, matching our expenditures to expected revenue. As in any business or organization, this is an important management tool. We are asking that pledge cards be returned by Thanksgiving.

Once made, these gifts may be given on a weekly, monthly or annual basis, whatever is most practical and convenient for you. If your financial circumstances change, you may of course revise your commitment.

3. HOW MUCH SHOULD I PLEDGE?

We have significantly increased the number of programs and activities FPCNV offers this year, and are excited about the many ways people are connecting with our church community. We hope to continue this trend in 2023, but need significant financial resources to do so.

The amount you pledge is a highly personal decision based on prayerful consideration of the church's needs and your own circumstances. We know that our members also generously support the church with their time and talents. That said, members have sometimes asked how much they should contribute to the church. As one indicator, The Presbyterian Foundation estimates that average giving in Presbyterian churches amounts to 2% of annual household income.

4. HOW DO I GIVE?

Included in this mailing is a pledge card to be returned to the church by Thanksgiving. In addition, background information has been emailed to you and is available on the church's website. To make payments, you may:

- Return your full gift to the church office with your pledge card
- Mail contributions to the church office any time during the coming year
- Place your gifts in the offering plate during worship
- Give online at pcnv.org/give
- Venmo the church (FPC New Vernon @fpcnv)
- Donate stock (instructions are on the church website)

How does your contribution support our ministry?

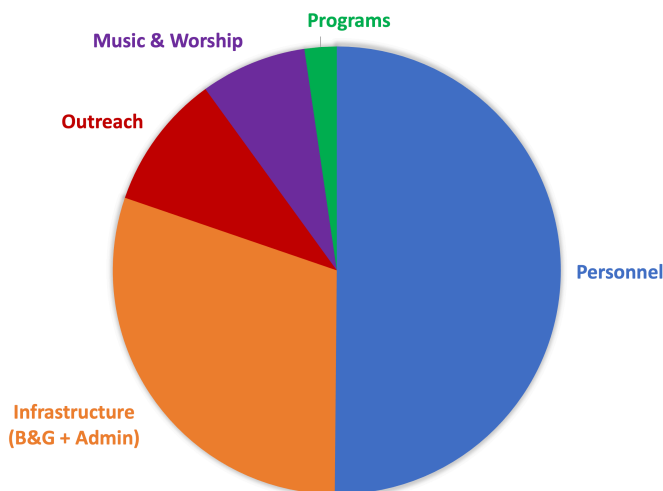
Our church's biggest asset is our staff and the wonderful gifts of ministry that they bring to our community. This is reflected in our budget, as personnel is our largest expense.

Our second largest expense is maintaining our historic property, which serves as a gathering and meeting place not only for members, but also for many community organizations.

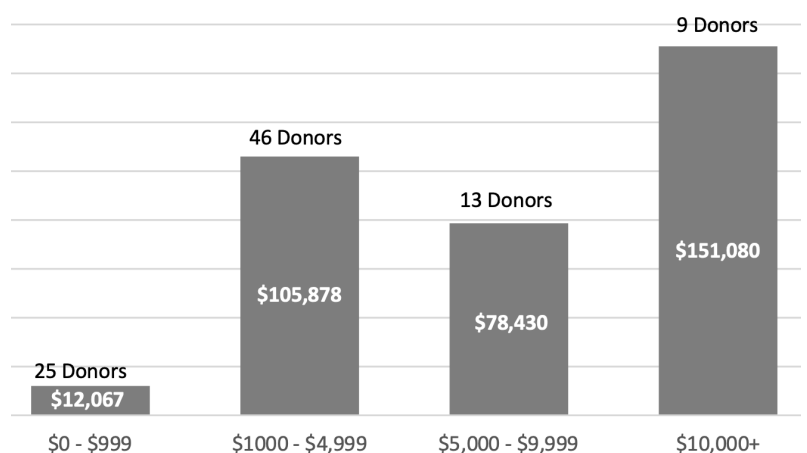
Outreach is third on our list, and FPCNV is in the highest tier in this category for mainline Protestant churches, committing 15% of our qualifying revenues (pledge and plate offering) to our partner non-profit organizations. Service and community engagement are core to our ministry and mission.

Worship & Music, along with our other programs like Bible Study, the new Faith and Society initiatives, and our seminars and lectures (in person and online) round out the 2022 budget.

FPCNV 2022 BUDGET



2022 Annual Giving



FPCNV does not have a traditional endowment to offset our operating expenses, as many other churches do. Almost all of our income comes from annual donations. Above is a breakdown of annual pledge amounts from the previous year.