



# SALEM FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

May 1, 2024

Dear SFPC Family,

I am so grateful to be a part of the community at Salem First Presbyterian Church!

My journey with the church began in 1994 when Thad Klocksieben, my Young Life Leader, invited me to attend church for the first time. Over the years, my involvement deepened through participation in the youth group and mission trips to Mexico. By 2003, as I finished my undergraduate studies, I joined the staff at SFPC in youth ministry and found myself intricately woven into the fabric of our church's story.

I took a break from SFPC to do mission work down in Mexico, but even after leaving and returning to Salem in 2012, amid opportunities to engage with numerous congregations through my work with Family Promise, SFPC remained my "home" church. The reasons are clear:

- **Relationships:** Every time I step through the church doors, I feel like part of a larger church family. Whether it's your first time at SFPC or you've been part of our family intermittently over three decades, you're always greeted with warmth that reflects Christ's love.
- **Service:** It's vital for me that the church "puts its money where its mouth is." Building community both inside and outside the church walls is something that is part of our congregation's DNA. I see this in our work with the Warming Center, Family Promise, Richmond Elementary, and beyond.
- **Depth of Sermons:** The clergy in the Presbyterian church hold a special place in my heart. I've found wisdom, strong biblical teachings, and depth in the sermons from Pastor Del, our interim Pastor Brian, and Pastor Greg. I yearn to be part of a church that challenges and enriches our community.

A full inclusion community of ordinary people experiencing and embodying God's extraordinary love

I am deeply thankful for the work God has done in my heart at SFPC. It's something unique that I wish to reflect in my giving. In the coming year, I will increase my pledge to the church by 25%.

The act of giving to the church and the life we share in our relationship with one another is something God blesses. For me, there is a profound joy and freedom in walking with a community that embodies and celebrates God's extraordinary love.

As we commence this year's stewardship campaign, I invite you to open your heart to give back to God and prayerfully consider increasing your pledge for 2024. Together, we can step into these promising new chapters of our church's life, embodying the teachings and spirit of Jesus.

Enclosed, please find a pledge card for 2024. If you wish to discuss your financial commitment, our stewardship team is here to assist.

Thank you for considering this vital step with us. Your support enables our spiritual home to flourish and meet the future with open arms and steadfast faith.

Faithfully,

T.J. Putman  
Former SFPC youth kid and current Elder