

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
IN NORTH PALM BEACH

BLESSED TO GIVE

2021 Stewardship Campaign

**“REMEMBER THE WORDS THE LORD JESUS HIMSELF SAID:
‘IT IS MORE BLESSED TO GIVE THAN TO RECEIVE.’” (ACTS 20:35)**

A WORD FROM REVEREND JARED AYERS

I've heard it so often in just my first couple of months serving as pastor of First Pres:

"This church changed my life."

"This place has impacted my whole family."

"This church has done so much for me over the last several months."

I heard it and now my family and I have experienced it since we have started life with you here at First Pres. This community has helped us move, prayed for and with us, reached out to our kids, and welcomed us. Monica and I are excited about investing significantly and sacrificially in the ministry and mission of this Church. I want to invite you to do the same.

There may never be a more critical time to partner financially in the mission of First Pres. Over the last months, as the coronavirus has run rampant throughout our neighborhoods, city and county, First Pres has invested in technology to ensure that people can worship Jesus and hear the Gospel no matter whether or not they can come to our physical campus. We've extended pastoral care, counsel, and practical help to hundreds. We're innovating how we do ministry so that we can connect and gather people in a safe and healthy way. We're also supporting partners starting and leading new communities of Jesus all over the world.



I want to invite you to partner generously with us this coming year. I long for us to be positioned to respond boldly and creatively to our community's needs this year, and to connect new friends and neighbors to the grace and truth of Jesus. But that will take all of us partnering together.

In Acts 20, Paul quotes a teaching of Jesus in which he tells us that "it is more blessed to give than to receive" (Acts 20.35). That's a stunning promise: in God's economy, giving means receiving. Giving means experiencing blessing. When you give of your resources, you get to participate in the kids coming to know Jesus at First Pres, in the marriages that are healed, in the transformation of lives being changed by the Gospel, and in the worldwide impact of this Church. That's why Monica and I are blessed to give. I hope you will be, too.

In Christ,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Jared Ayers'.

THE 2021 STEWARDSHIP COMMITMENT CAMPAIGN

This campaign is designed to fulfill First Presbyterian Church's mission to equip people to pursue and share gospel driven lives. We are seeking pledges to our four primary funds: General Fund, Global Missions Fund, Local Church Planting/Growth Fund, and the Capital Improvement Fund. Each fund and its corresponding budget are described on the pages that follow. Note that the General Fund has the largest budget and this should be taken into account as you allocate your total pledge among the funds.

You may make a pledge in the following ways:



Complete the attached pledge card, either putting it in one of the donation boxes in the sanctuary, mailing it, or dropping it off at the church office



Pledge online on our website, www.firstpresnpb.org, clicking on the box on the front page that says BLESSED TO GIVE PLEDGE



On our Church phone app, click on EVENTS and then 2021 PLEDGE

Periodically throughout this two-month campaign, which ends on December 31st, we will provide graphic updates on our progress in reaching our General Fund pledge goals, both the dollar amount and number of individuals/families that pledge. Our theme, BLESSED TO GIVE, can be expressed as a present that one gives to another. When it is fully wrapped, the gift is complete, which will signify that our financial goal is met. Each person represents 100 pledgers. When they are colored in, we have reached that goal.



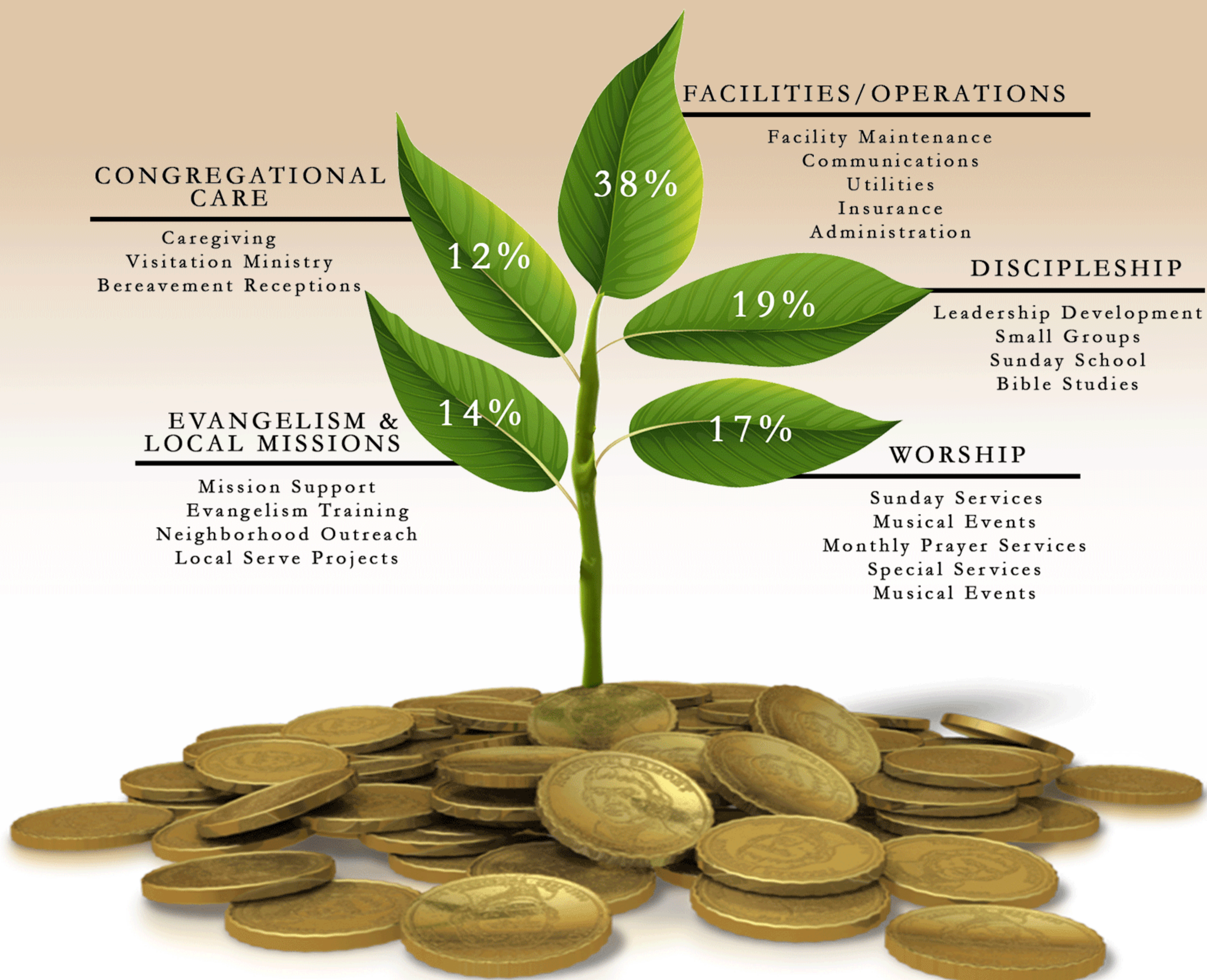
GENERAL FUND

2021 BUDGET - \$2,300,000

PLEDGE GOAL - \$1,600,000

Historically, 68% of our general fund income comes from contributors who have pledged to the Church. As in-person worship has been limited due to social distancing and COVID, offerings from non-members has declined. Therefore, we have set a pledge goal of 70% of the 2021 budget. For 2020, we received \$1,508,000 in pledges from 365 individuals/families. The 2021 goal is to have 400 pledges.

GENERAL FUND BUDGET BREAKDOWN





First Pres is following the command of Jesus found in Matthew 28:19 to “go and make disciples of all nations” by being in partnership with 17 global missionaries and agencies. Donations made to the Global Missions Fund, along with prayers offered to the Lord on behalf of our mission partners and the friendships forged between members of First Pres and the missionaries, is equipping them to reach people with the love of Christ spanning five continents.

Our mission partners can be categorized in four areas:

- Support of missionaries working in the 10/40 Window and Justice ministries
- Support of National Leaders – currently in Mexico, Cuba, Croatia and Peru
- Missions involved in Evangelism, Discipleship and Care for the Poor - currently in Guatemala, Greece, Chad, Hungary and the Caribbean islands
- Supporting church planters who are establishing new churches in key global cities:



Trinidad, Cuba



Athens, Greece



East Berlin, Germany



Sao Paulo, Brazil



West Berlin, Germany



Lima, Peru



Cienfuegos, Cuba

2021 BUDGET - \$230,000

GLOBAL MISSIONS FUND





LOCAL CHURCH PLANTING/ GROWTH FUND

2021 BUDGET \$100,000

Being missionally focused is a core value of our Church. We want to see people understanding for the first time how their stories fit into God's Story. A great place to see this happen is in new groups and communities where people can build trust with Christians and explore the faith for themselves.

While our Church leadership has adopted a "hub and spoke" strategy with a focus on community groups, the Local Church Planting Committee is dedicated to seeing the same approach to concentrate groups strategically in neighborhoods as seed churches. As micro-expressions of church multiply within a geographic area, they can be woven together to form a formal church plant.

Our Local Church Planting Committee has been involved with plants in West Palm Beach, Palm City and now Riviera Beach. Training lay persons for vital roles in this process is critically important.

(Pictured: Rev. Hancock from Palm City baptizing new members)



CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT FUND



These are the projects for 2021:

2021 BUDGET - \$120,000

Our church campus is a beautiful place where we, as the body of Christ, meet to worship, pray, serve, be discipled, study and fellowship together, and experience Jesus' peace and grace. With seven buildings spread over seven acres of land, money is needed to replace aging equipment, make major repairs and keep up with ever changing technology. This past year we purchased additional cameras and related AV equipment in order to livestream our services each week, replaced some air conditioners and computers, re-shingled the walkways, designed and purchased the new monument sign and other signage around the campus.

Paint the chapel and CY buildings and replace chapel windows

Tear out, cut roots and re-asphalt the south entrance by the chapel and black top and restripe the rest of the parking lots and driveways

Purchase equipment for a "Zoom room" on campus whereby meetings and classes can be held in person and via zoom with great sound and visual quality

Purchase stage and back lighting in sanctuary to enhance livestreaming, productions and contemporary worship

Replace carpet in Admin building

Replace air conditioner units in the Way building



Consider your TIME

Make it a priority to pray, to study the Bible, to get involved in one of our small groups, and to participate in our worship services.



Consider your TALENTS

What skills and abilities has God given you that can be used to serve Him and others? Some opportunities to serve at Church are to teach or volunteer to work with children or students; get involved in the music ministry; beautify our grounds; assist with bereavement receptions; volunteer in the office and participate in gleaning and other local mission projects.



Consider your TREASURES

(financial and material resources) Do you give generously or your leftovers or perhaps not at all? Do you tithe? Do you have a plan for increasing your giving each year in order to become a tither or give extravagantly? Have you remembered the Church in your will? Do you donate items you no longer use to help others in need? Do you complete a pledge card which helps the Church immensely in budgeting for the future?

THE COMMITMENT CHALLENGE

“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)

God has created each one of us as unique individuals with talents and abilities that He specifically chose for us so that we could do our part to advance His Kingdom here on earth and to glorify Him every day of our lives. In doing so, we will reap eternal rewards.

During this season when our Church emphasizes stewardship, we challenge you to commit all your ways to the Lord because He is worthy and trustworthy. What does that look like?

Ask the Lord to show you how to better use your time, talents and treasures for His glory, and make a plan on how you will do it. In your prayers, ask Him what He wants you to give to further His Kingdom through the ministries here at First Pres and complete the pledge card. This is a tangible way to show your commitment to Him and your trust in Him who holds your future.

