



October 31, 2022

Dear CHPC Members and Friends,

As 2022 finishes with a flourish, we rejoice for all the good that has highlighted our life as a congregation this year. Our pace of activity demonstrates that we are not just moving – with God's grace we are ***Growing Our Garden.***

This year we got to know our new pastor, Rachel Landers Vaagenes, and her family. We welcomed new members, new confirmands, and new worship options that respond to our needs. Our work with Good Neighbors Capitol Hill and migrant refugee programs proved vital, welcoming dozens of families to the US, and even providing independence in the form of a car for one of the families.

We blessed animals; cheered DC United and the Nats; and enjoyed Game Night and Burrito Sundays. We hired Zoë Pagle as the Director of the WSC. Pastor Rachel has held informative Town Halls, and our education programs at all levels are stronger than ever.

During all this growth, CHPC has been led to sell the manse and to craft a plan to use the resulting funds to continue to build God's Kingdom. The congregation agreed that this sale would go towards expanding our ability to welcome and to serve the world. That visioning process is currently in progress. *The Spirit will pour out blessings on all of us who 'see visions... and dream dreams'* (Acts 2:17). Going forward, the Vision Task Force will help the church to articulate that vision. Our annual operating budget is separate from this vision, and depends on your continued commitment.

Annual pledges are the bedrock of CHPC's financial support. Pledges continue to be vital to our financial health. This year, even amid economic uncertainty, we will continue to need resources for the facilities and staff that support our core ministries, including Worship, Education, Hospitality and Service. Our life together as a congregation is worthy of our caring and support.

As you consider your pledge for 2023, Growing Our Garden will mean doing more across our ministries. With inflation at a 40-year high, it will take more support for the church budget just to stay even. The session is looking at around a 10% increase in expenses, and so we are asking everyone to prayerfully consider making a similar commitment to CHPC as you are able. The beauty of the garden that is nurtured and loved will be a shining demonstration of God's grace!

Your pledged giving helps the Session to plan the 2023 budget, knowing that the church can rely upon your gift over the next year. Our Stewardship campaign launches this Sunday, November 6. Please consider making your 2023 pledge by November 15. We will close our Stewardship Campaign on Sunday, November 20.

As we close out 2022, there are several ways to donate and pledge.

We ask that you pledge online via [Realm](#), where you can securely enter a pledge amount and choose whether to make a one-time donation or a recurring donation. Detailed instructions to make an annual pledge are found on the CHPC [website](#).

If you prefer a paper pledge card, one is enclosed with this letter, along with a "Time and Talents" survey.

Thank you for your generosity as you join your CHPC community in Growing our Garden.

Yours in Christ,



Elder Mike Rutkowski, Stewardship Committee Chair



Rev. Rachel Landers Vaagenes, Pastor

Capitol Hill Presbyterian Church  
201 4<sup>th</sup> Street, SE .Washington, DC 20003 . 202-547-8676 . [www.Capitolhillpreschurch.org](http://www.Capitolhillpreschurch.org)