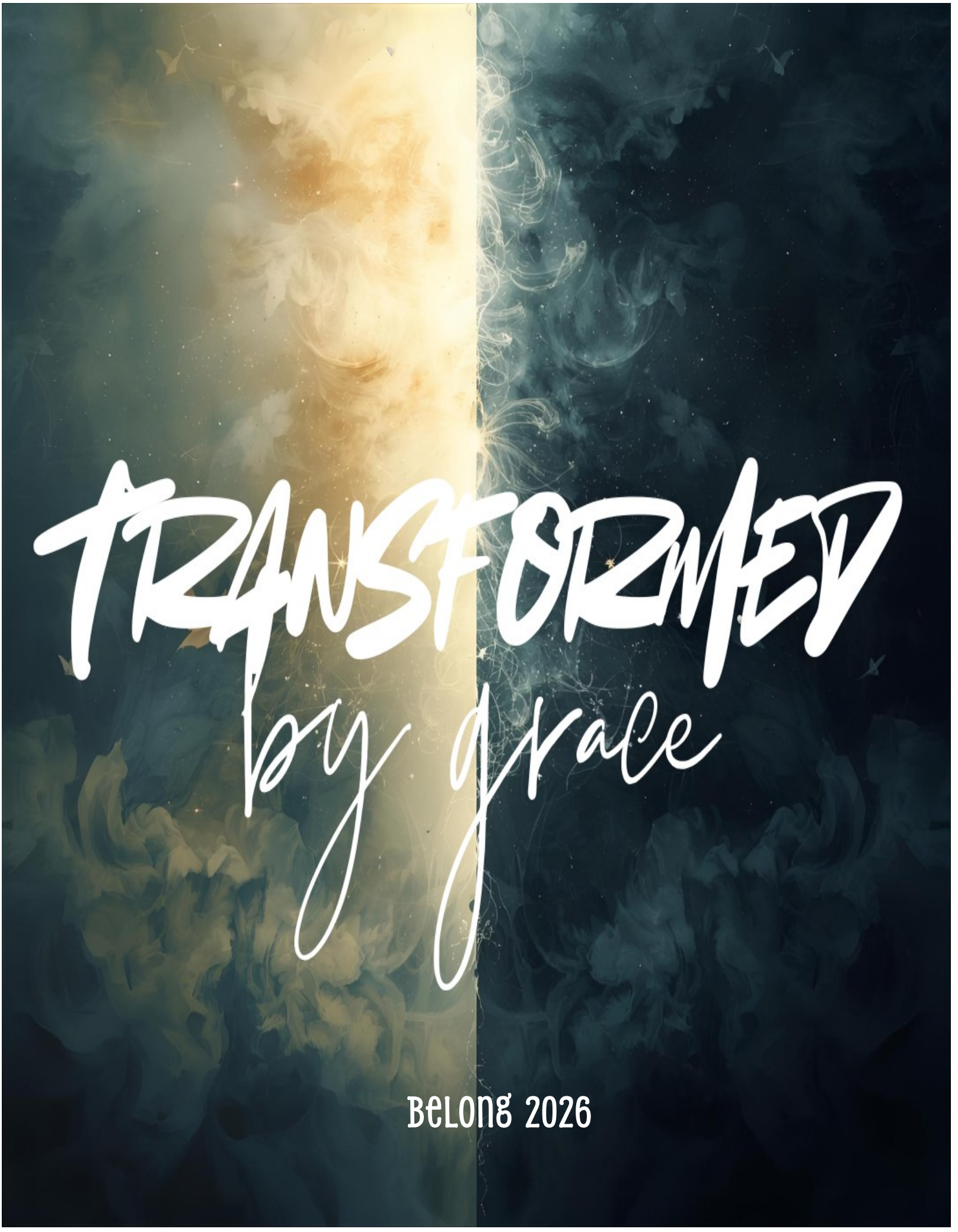

TRANSFORMED
by grace
Belong 2026

To Our Congregation,

I'm not sure why I feel compelled to write this open letter to our congregation, but I am. I am not in any position of authority in our church. I'm just part of the laity like most of you. I serve where I am asked to serve because I love God, and I love our church. I truly believe that it is keeping me alive.

What we have experienced at SMC since Advent last year absolutely blows my mind.

It is unimaginable in so many ways. We began with a nudge from God that said, "Go ahead. Do it! Start my church. I will have your back. There is no obstacle that I won't help you overcome." And boy has He kept His promise!

From approximately 150 people on the first Sunday in Advent at the Summerville Country Club pavilion to almost 500 people on Easter Sunday at the Seventh Day Adventist Church, our growth has been stunning. Stunning! From wondering if we could make it financially to having a surplus in the bank and a great start on establishing a building fund in just 9 months, our finances appear to be solid shape. I hope CLT and the Treasury Team will give us an update on those numbers soon.

And now we've progressed from thinking about constructing our own building within 10 years to doing due diligence on land that is under contract. We are heading toward a closing date with the potential of starting construction in two. It's absolutely unbelievable!

And how has this been possible? I think it is because God is willing us to succeed. He has inspired every one of us to find a way to give of our time, our talent, our gifts, our presence, and our service. And we are doing that abundantly. We aren't being cajoled into serving. We simply see a need, and our people keep stepping up. I've never seen anything like it! We love our church and the sharing of our concerns for one another starting with The Gathering before worship service begins on Sundays. It reignites our faith. It has become our happy place and prepares us to receive the word from our fantastic young minister, Ross Chellis. What a blessing he is!

We have big goals ahead that I'm sure will be announced soon, but we aren't afraid of them. Because we know that God is going to keep knocking down every hurdle that stands in our way.

We hope to complete our land purchase and due diligence soon, and with the help of everyone in our church, we are going to build a place of our own in which to worship God, to continue to be inspired by Him, and to take the message of Jesus Christ into our community and shed light on every corner of darkness.

In preparation for the exciting announcements that I believe will be forthcoming, Laura and I have decided that instead of enclosing our back screen porch, for which we have been saving for the last five years, we are going to give our porch fund to our church's building fund and hope that God will just blow the pollen away. For us, it's a matter of priority.

What are your priorities? What are you willing to do? Please pray about it. The time is drawing near. It is a glorious time to be a part of Summerville Methodist Church. It is a glorious time to be alive!

Blessings,

Bill Helmly

How to use this booklet…

God calls and gifts each of us for His glory and our good. Therefore, each of us has a personal ministry to fulfill by sharing our gifts and witness with others. Our connectedness to the Lord should compel us to serve and propel us into active discipleship. Offering your time and talents for the mission and ministry of Jesus Christ is an act of worship through which God is glorified.

We hope you find "BELONG" a valuable tool in uncovering your personal ministry. It is our goal to have every member of Summerville Methodist Church connected and engaged in the energy, excitement, and responsive living of our faith community through serving in **at least one** area of Ministry. Be encouraged to sign-up for as many ministries as you feel passionate about *without* over committing yourself. Ministry teams should be active and will require a commitment of your time.

Each member of your family is asked to review this booklet and prayerfully consider where God is leading you to serve in 2026. Please then indicate your intention to serve on the included commitment card. You will find two adult, one student, and one child card included with this booklet. Additional commitment cards are available at the Information desk.

All members will return their commitment cards on Stewardship Sunday, November 23. At this time we will join together to make commitments as a united body of faith.

Once commitment cards are received, the data contained will be captured and distributed to each Ministry area leader. You'll be contacted by a Ministry leader by December 10. to discuss the training session that will prepare you to serve in 2026.

Blessings,

Rev. E. Rossiter Chellis

PS– God provisions what he envisions. We believe ministries that fall within God's vision for next year will receive the support of both a team leader and servant leaders. Conversely, we can feel equally confident in the belief that ministries that do not receive that level of participation from the church do not fit within God's vision at this time.

If you have any questions, please contact the Church office at 843-879-8817

NURTURE MINISTRIES

NURTURE MINISTRY TEAMS COORDINATE, PLAN, CARRY OUT, AND EVALUATE THE CONGREGATION'S MINISTRY IN THE AREAS OF MEMBER CARE, WORSHIP, AND EDUCATIONAL EXPERIENCES, INCLUDING SMALL GROUPS, REGULAR AND SPECIAL WORSHIP SERVICES, STEWARDSHIP FORMATION, AND MEMBER VISITATION.

HOSPITALITY TEAM

GREETER

Greeters are stationed at the entrance doors and warmly welcome all those attending services. Arrive 20 minutes before the service and remain in place for 20 minutes after the service begins.

Rotation is (1) month at a time, twice per year

USHER

Ushers hand out bulletins and collect our offerings to God. Arrive 20 minutes before the service and remain in place for the entirety of the service.

Rotation is (1) month at a time, twice per year

COFFEE HOST

Prepare and serve coffee, tea, and sweets on Sunday mornings beginning at 7:30 am

Rotation is (1) Sunday per month, or as needed

COMMUNICATIONS TEAM

CHURCH PHOTOGRAPHER

Takes photos of new members and special events.

Rotation is as needed

MEDIA TEAM

Members of the media team oversee the technical aspects of Worship services such as slides, video and sound. Arrive 1 hour prior to the service and remain in place for the entirety of the service.

Rotation is (1) Sunday per month

SOCIAL MEDIA TEAM

Under the direction of the Communications Team, members of the Social Media Team create content for our social media channels.

Rotation is as needed

CARE TEAM

CONGREGATIONAL CARE TEAM

Members of the Care Team extend support to members of the Church through prayer, cards, phone calls, or short visits. Also includes providing a meal for funerals and after surgeries/ illnesses, if needed.

Rotation is as needed

STEPHEN MINISTRY TEAM

Stephen Ministers are trained to support and encourage others during trying times. Requires 50 hours of training.

Rotation is as needed

PRAYER TEAM

Members of the Prayer team receive names by email from the Prayer List Coordinator and pray for those on the list during the week.

Rotation is weekly

FELLOWSHIP TEAM

Fellowship Team members coordinate church-wide special events.

Rotation is as needed

MUSIC TEAM

CHOIR MEMBER

Members of the Choir lead music during Worship services and special events, as requested. No prior experience is required. Choir members commit to attending weekly Worship and practices.

Rotation includes weekly practice and weekly service

WORSHIP TEAM

LITURGIST

Liturgists lead the first prayer and the first lesson during the service.

Rotation varies as needed

COMMUNION SERVER

Communion Servers assist the Pastor during Communion by distributing the elements of bread and juice.

Rotation is as needed

FLOWER TEAM

The Flower Team is responsible for arranging flowers on the altar each Sunday as well as creating small arrangements after the service for nursing homes and home bound members.

Rotation is weekly

ALTAR GUILD

Members of the Altar Guild prepare the Altar for Worship by maintaining the Altar elements, changing the paraments, decorating seasonally and for special services.

Rotation is as needed

MEDICAL TEAM

The Medical Team is comprised of members who are trained in the medical field to respond to medical issues while attending Church.

Rotation is as needed

SITUATIONAL AWARENESS TEAM

The Situational Awareness Team serves one Sunday a month to provide parking assistance and exterior observation against threats to the church. You can join the ongoing rotation or serve as an alternate to fill in a vacancy and work the 5th Sunday.

Rotation is (1) Sunday per month

SHUTTLE DRIVER

Shuttle Drivers provide transportation service between remote parking and the church with your vehicle

Rotation is (1) Sunday per month, or as needed

CHILDRENS TEAM

NURSERY

Those serving in the Nursery will arrive 15-20 minutes before the service to receive Nursery age children. Responsibilities include rocking, diapering, and general supervision.

Rotation is (1) Sunday per quarter, or as desired

CHILDREN'S CHURCH

Members of the Children's Church team work in pairs to facilitate large group lesson, small group discussion, activities, and general supervision while children participate in Children's Church.

Rotation is (1) Sunday per quarter, or as desired

CHILDREN'S MOMENT COORDINATOR

The Children's Moment Coordinator schedules leaders for the Children's Moment during worship each Sunday except communion Sundays.

Rotation is as needed

CHILDREN'S MOMENT LEADER

Children's Moment Leaders sign up through the Children's Moment Coordinator to lead Children's Moment during Sunday services.

Rotation is as desired

CHILDREN'S MINISTRY TEAM MEMBER

Children's Ministry Team Members serve on the team that over-sees ministry for our children ages 0 - 5th grade. Examples would include - curriculum for Children's Church, VBS, help with special events, and plays a part in volunteer recruitment for all areas of Children's Ministry

Rotation is (1) Meeting per month plus special events

YOUTH TEAM

YOUTH LEADER

Youth Leaders meet with students on Sunday evenings to build relationships with the youth and to facilitate discussion and supervise activities.

Rotation is each Sunday for 2.5 hours

YOUTH DINNER

Members of the Youth Dinner Team provide a selection of simple dinner for youth group on Sunday evenings. You may sign up as often as you desire.

Rotation is as desired

SUPPORT TEAM

FINANCIAL COUNTER

Counters meet in pairs to review the tithes and offerings and prepare for deposit.

Rotation is (1) day per month

ATTENDANCE SECRETARY

Enters weekly attendance data.

Rotation is as needed

OUTREACH MINISTRIES

THE OUTREACH TEAM COORDINATES, PLANS, CARRIES OUT, AND EVALUATES THE CONGREGATION'S OUTREACH MINISTRIES, INCLUDING MISSIONS, HELPING ALL TO KNOW AND RESPOND TO GOD IN CHRIST.

MISSIONS TEAM

Members of the Missions Team organize opportunities to be in service to others within our community and beyond. The SMC Mission Committee believes that we serve God by serving others. Through our words and deeds, our primary focus is to share the gospel and to make disciples. We strive to reflect God's love and our faith by educating the congregation of various missional needs, by encouraging mission work, by connecting with other churches and organizations to collaborate on mission projects, and by building relationships so that others come to know Christ.

Rotation includes monthly meetings and the 3rd Thursday and participating in mission projects.

PRAYER SHAWL TEAM

The Prayer Shawl Team meets monthly to knit prayer shawls that are given as a tangible embrace of comfort and healing and bring warmth to the lost and ailing.

Rotation is (1) day per month

CARING HANDS TEAM

Members of the Caring Hands Team help older or infirm SMC members with small fix-it tasks.

Rotation is as needed

Cut here

ADULT COMMITMENT CARD

After prayerful consideration, I commit to follow in Christ's steps by:

☐Praying for the Church

☐Attending Church for Worship, Study and Fellowship

☐Serving as indicated below

☐Tithing, or taking steps toward tithing

Name: _____

Email: _____

Phone: _____

Please indicate the ministries in which you plan to serve in 2026

HOSPITALITY TEAM

☐Greeter

☐Usher

☐Coffee Host

COMS TEAM

☐Church Photographer

☐Media Team

☐Social Media Team

CARE TEAM

☐Congregational Care Team

☐Stephen Ministry Team

☐Prayer Team

☐Fellowship Team

MUSIC TEAM

☐Choir

WORSHIP TEAM

☐Liturgist

☐Communion Server

☐Flower Team

☐Altar Guild

☐Medical Team

☐Situational Awareness Team

☐Shuttle Driver

CHILDREN'S MINISTRY

volunteers must be background checked

☐Nursery

☐Children's Church

☐Children's Moment Coordinator

☐Children's Moment Leader

☐Children's Ministry Team

YOUTH MINISTRY

volunteers must be background checked

☐Youth Leader

☐Youth Dinner

SUPPORT MINISTRY

☐Financial Counter

☐Attendance Secretary

OUTREACH MINISTRIES

☐Missions Team

☐Prayer Shawl Team

☐Caring Hands Team

see reverse for duplicate commitment card for other adult member of the household

Cut here

ADULT COMMITMENT CARD

After prayerful consideration, I commit to follow in Christ's steps by:

☐Praying for the Church

☐Attending Church for Worship, Study and Fellowship

☐Serving as indicated below

☐Tithing, or taking steps toward tithing

Name: _____

Email: _____

Phone: _____

Please indicate the ministries in which you plan to serve in 2026

HOSPITALITY TEAM

☐Greeter

☐Usher

☐Coffee Host

COMS TEAM

☐Church Photographer

☐Media Team

☐Social Media Team

CARE TEAM

☐Congregational Care Team

☐Stephen Ministry Team

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MUSIC TEAM

☐Choir

WORSHIP TEAM

☐Liturgist

☐Communion Server

☐Flower Team

☐Altar Guild

☐Medical Team

☐Situational Awareness Team

☐Shuttle Driver

CHILDREN'S MINISTRY

volunteers must be background checked

☐Nursery

☐Children's Church

☐Children's Moment Coordinator

☐Children's Moment Leader

☐Children's Ministry Team

YOUTH MINISTRY

volunteers must be background checked

☐Youth Leader

☐Youth Dinner

SUPPORT MINISTRY

☐Financial Counter

☐Attendance Secretary

OUTREACH MINISTRIES

☐Missions Team

☐Prayer Shawl Team

☐Caring Hands Team

SUMMERVILLE METHODIST CHURCH · EST 2024 ·

see reverse for duplicate commitment card for other adult member of the household



Why am I Being Asked to Pledge?

As we prepare for 2026, Summerville Methodist Church invites you to prayerfully consider making a financial pledge to the operating fund to support the work God is doing through our church. Your commitment is not just about funding programs—it's about faithfully responding to God's call to be stewards of His blessings.

God is moving in powerful ways in our congregation and community. Through your generosity, we can continue to share the love of Christ, serve those in need, and grow as disciples. Every pledge is an act of worship and trust in God's provision.

Our goal is to receive pledge cards from at least 75% of our active members. Together, we can build a future rooted in faith, hope, and love.

Are you ready to be part of the transformation?

How Do I Pledge?

- **Prayerfully review your budget and giving priorities for next year in conjunction with your household.**
- **Complete the worksheet on the back of this sheet, if it is helpful to you.**
- **Fill in the 2026 Operating Fund Pledge Card on the back of this sheet.**
- **Return your 2026 Operating Fund Pledge Card on Stewardship Sunday, November 23.**
- **You may also return your Commitment to Generosity Card by mail or by contacting the office.**

What if I Need to Change My Pledge?

We understand things happen during the course of the year that may impact your finances. If your circumstances change and you find you need to alter your pledge, you may do so at any time through the church office.

Pledging Considerations

- **If you've never pledged before, consider making this the year you begin.**
- **If you have pledged before, consider increasing your gift as you are able.**
- **If you are able to switch to online giving, consider doing so by January. This streamlines our financial processing and recording. (Contact the office with questions.)**
- **Consider additional giving such as one-time gifts, stock transfer, or including the church in your estate planning, as these are wonderful ways you can also help the church.**

2026 Operating Fund Pledge Card

What shall I render unto the Lord for all his goodness toward me? Psalm 116:12

At Summerville Methodist Church, we are a congregation rich in faith, in service, in love, in talent, in care for one another and in financial responsibility. As a member of SMC, I promise to serve our Lord with my prayers, my presence, my service, my witness and my gifts. With my/our commitment at this time, SMC will be able to properly plan on a monthly/ yearly basis. In confirmation of this promise, I (we) make the following commitment to His church:

$ _____ Weekly $_____ Monthly $_____ Quarterly $_____ Yearly

_____ I would like to leave a legacy gift and have made provisions for the church in my will or estate planning.

(This commitment may be increased or decreased due to changing circumstances)
Contact the office at 843-849-8817

Signature _____ Print Name _____

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God tells us in the book of Malachi that his plan for our lives includes giving back a tenth of our gross income to His work through the church. The Bible refers to this as a "tithe." The worksheet below was designed to help you figure out if you are currently tithing, or giving 10% of your gross income, and lays out a plan to help you take steps toward tithing if you are not.

1. Write your annual gross household income:_____
2. Write the amount you currently give the church each week/month:_____
3. Multiple the number in line 2 by 52 if you give weekly or by 12 if you give monthly and write here:_____
4. Divide the number from step 3 by the number from step 1. This is the percentage you are currently tithing:_____
5. If you are not currently at 10%, prayerfully consider adding 1% to the number in step 4. This is your new goal for 2024. Write that number here:_____
6. Now calculate the dollar amount of that 1% increase. Divide the number from step 1 by 100 and write that here:_____
7. Now add the number from step 3 to the number from step 6 and write that number in this space:_____
8. Take the number from step 7 and divide it by 52 if you give weekly, or by 12 if you give monthly. This is how much you should give each week/month to help you make steps toward tithing. This can be repeated yearly until you are tithing. Write your new giving goal here:_____
9. Write this amount on the pledge card above, or use the link in the Stewardship email to make your pledge online and set up your recurring gift .

Cut here

CHILD COMMITMENT CARD

K3-5th Grade

After prayerful consideration, I commit to follow in Christ's steps by:

☐Praying for the Church

☐Attending Church for Worship, Study and Fellowship

☐Serving as indicated below

Child's Name_____

Parent(s) Name_____

Parent(s) Email_____and_____

Parent(s) Phone_____and_____

<u>Please indicate the ministries in which you plan to serve in 2026</u>

I want to live a life for Christ and get involved in God's work through Summerville Methodist Church. I will:

* All serving opportunities are 1 Sunday per month

☐Serve as an Acolyte (3rd-5th Grade)

☐Serve as an Usher with a parent

☐Serve as Crucifer (3rd-5th Grade)

☐Serve as a Greeter with a parent

Cut here

STUDENT COMMITMENT CARD

6th-12th Grade

After prayerful consideration, I commit to follow in Christ's steps by:

☐Praying for the Church

☐Attending Church for Worship, Study, and Fellowship

☐Serving as indicated below

Student's Name_____

Student's Email_____ Phone_____

Parent(s) Name_____

Parent(s) Email_____and_____

Parent(s) Phone_____and_____

<u>Please indicate the ministries in which you plan to serve in 2026</u>

I want to live a life for Christ and get involved in God's work through Summerville Methodist Church. I will:

*All serving opportunities are 1 Sunday per month

☐Serve as a Greeter

☐Serve as an Usher

☐Serve as Liturgist/Lay Reader during a service

☐Assist in Children's Ministry

☐Assist with Media Team

☐Serve Communion