Stated Clerk's Notes
Laurie Palmer

Per Capita for 2025 and 2026

2025: $10.84
2026 $11.26

I wanted to get this word to you out now so you can begin planning for your 2025 budgets. In late August or early September we will send a letter to every church, and will email every pastor, clerk of session, and church treasurer (those names and contact information that I have) with the letter too.

If you haven't sent me the name and email of your church treasurer, I would appreciate having that information.

Mission Presbytery communications

We communicate with you in many different ways. One tool we use, and one I depend upon to get something out quickly and timely is Constant Contact. Alert:

If anyone has unsubscribed from Mission Presbytery communications through Constant Contact, Melody Gonzalez, our office manager, can help resubscribe you once. You would receive a one-time link to follow to resubscribe yourself. If you do not follow the link to resubscribe, Constant Contact will not let you resubscribe ever with that email address. (It's not Mission Presbytery, it's Constant Contact). You can send us a new email address to subscribe you.

I work to keep the lists I use up-to-date. If you have a new clerk of session or treasurer, I need to know that. If you have received an email from me:

- Sometimes it's because someone's unsubscribed,
- the email hasn't been opened (there's about a 50% open rate, give or take),
- I don't have the right information,
- an email address bounced back for whatever reason,
- or I put it in wrong/skipped over a line

I am not above making mistakes. Sometimes I'm good at it. I want us to work together to get good communication lists together and updated so you'll have information you need when you need it. Thank you!

Personal privilege

As it turns out, I was not able to go to the General Assembly in Salt Lake City with our crew. Instead, I went to Wisconsin to be with my twin brother, Brian, as he died under excellent in-hospice care. I won't romanticize our relationship–we were as different as different can be from the get-go. He of white blond hair and blue eyes, me of dark hair and eyes and my dad's dark circles under my eyes. (Don't ask me how many products I've used over the years to help with them-hah. I wish I had saved that money

instead. But I'll always spring for concealer). My mom's mom always thought I was ill because of them.

Brian and I had different interests, and way different personalities.

Brian, in the end, really became hermit-like. He'd been terminally ill for ten years. I was determined to be with him because we came in together and I wanted to be there when he left. No matter how different we were, twins are twins and it's a weird thing sometimes. At one point when he really wasn't doing well said, "I want my daughter and my sister!" He knew/didn't know I was there.

Spiritually, I'd like you to hear this:

Two days before he died, he told his daughter (a hospice RN herself though obviously not in charge of her father's care), "There are a lot of people in this room. So many people." Only Amanda was in the room when he said that. She told him that those who love him were there to help him, and that he should go with them if he wanted to.

The night before he died, I was tending to him. He wasn't talking much then, but he did say, "Mom!" I looked around and I literally said, "Hi, Mom. I'm so glad you're here."

The world can debate what all this means (brain chemicals helping someone transition, for instance), but people of faith know that we are "surrounded by a great cloud of witnesses." Always surrounded. We cannot know everything. We cannot see everything. Now we see dimly. Then we will know fully just as we have been fully known.

I trust Brian is at peace, a peace that eluded him his whole life.

Oh. One more thing. When I walked into his room the first time, there was a Kit Kat bar on the table by his bed.

"Kit Kat, huh?"

"Yeah, it's his favorite."

As it is mine, too.

Holy God,
Thank You for Brian–for all of our Brians.
Thank You for great mystery:
We couldn't stand it if we could see and know all things right now.
Thank You for the love of the saints.
Thank you for Kit Kat bars.
Thank You for the Christ who redeems us and makes all things new.
Amen.