



TOGETHER

WE GROW

Clinton Presbyterian Church

Narrative Budget 2026



Rooted in faith, nourished by love, and strengthened by one another,
we've walked, laughed, served, and celebrated side by side.

Take a look at how God has been at work in and through us this past year.



TOGETHER WE GROW

Deeper in Faith and Discipleship

Every week, the Sanctuary comes alive with song, prayer, and praise. Our Chancel Choir offers anthems that lift us into the presence of God and our Praise Team leads with energy and joy. People of all ages lend their gifts in meaningful ways as we grow together in faith. Special seasons—from Advent and Christmas to Holy Week, Easter, and Pentecost—invite the whole church to step deeper in faith, while even ordinary Sundays are marked by care and intentionality.



Our children brought joy and laughter this year through “The Very Mixed-Up Christmas Pageant” and reminded us on Children’s Sunday that “small hands can do God’s big work.” In Sunday School, classrooms buzzed with stories and activities—crafting Advent wreaths, acting out Daniel in the lion’s den, and assembling care kits for neighbors. Every lesson became a chance to see God’s story come alive.

With strong leadership, our youth ministry gained traction this past year. From messy games at the Manse to creating blankets for Project Linus, our middle and high schoolers grew in friendship, faith, and service. These students also embraced retreats and programming at Camp Johnsonburg, deepening connections with one another and with God.



Adults found rich opportunities to learn and reflect. During Lent, many joined small groups studying “Meeting Jesus at the Table”, exploring how Jesus’ meals shape the way we welcome and serve. Sunday School explored the Book of Acts, learning how the early church faced challenges and nurtured community. The Women’s Study Group and Great Discussion Group met regularly, wrestling with questions of life, faith, and justice, while our deacons offered prayer and care throughout the year.



These moments - ordinary Sundays, intentional learning, and opportunities for prayer—are more than calendar entries. They are ways the Spirit shapes us, helping us grow deeper in faith, strengthening our bonds as God’s beloved people, and stepping into the world with courage, joy, and grace.

IN 2026, WE WILL WALK ALONGSIDE A NEW CONFIRMATION CLASS, GUIDING THEM AS THEY TAKE THEIR PLACE IN THE LIFE OF THE CHURCH. FULLY FUNDED MINISTRY ENSURES WE CAN SUPPORT THESE STUDENTS, WHILE ALSO EXPANDING OPPORTUNITIES FOR CHILDREN, YOUTH, AND ADULTS TO LEARN, WORSHIP, AND SERVE WITH JOY.





TOGETHER WE GROW

Wider In Love & Welcome

At Clinton Presbyterian, welcome isn't just something we talk about — it's something we live. From the sanctuary to the parking lot, from classrooms to Fellowship Hall, we keep finding new ways to widen God's circle of love.

This year, we gathered around the baptismal font with 6 families as their little ones were welcomed in this sacrament of grace. Our church family also grew as we joyfully received 29 new members through the fall and spring.



Hospitality also came alive this year around tables. Fellowship Hall overflowed for our Advent breakfast, while Lenten lunches, the Progressive Dinner, and All-Church Game Night offered laughter, friendly competition, and new friendships. No Sunday was complete without our weekly Fellowship Time — good snacks, good conversation, and the simple joy of being together.

We welcomed the wider community to join us in a number of joyful ways. The 2nd Annual Blessing of the Animals drew more than 45 people for music, prayer, and a lot of tail wagging while Trunk or Treat turned our parking lot into a hub of activity, and Vacation Bible School filled the Sanctuary with children from across the area for a week of learning, play, and wonder.



This year, our new handicap-accessible ramp ensured everyone can participate fully in worship and fellowship. At the same time, the Just Love Task Force guided us in extending deeper welcome to our LGBTQ+ siblings. That same spirit of welcome flows beyond Sunday as we invite musicians, recovery groups, community organizations, and neighbors to use our space for meetings, events, and celebrations. Every handshake, every open door, every smile reminds us that together, we reflect God's love.



LOOKING AHEAD, 2026 WILL BRING MORE BAPTISMS, NEW MEMBERS, AND GATHERINGS THAT KNIT US CLOSER TOGETHER. WHEN OUR MINISTRY IS FULLY FUNDED, WE CAN EXTEND THAT WELCOME WITH EVEN GREATER CREATIVITY AND CARE—DEEPENING CONNECTIONS WITHIN OUR CONGREGATION AND THROUGHOUT THE COMMUNITY, MAKING CPC A PLACE WHERE EVERYONE TRULY FEELS AT HOME.





TOGETHER WE GROW

Stronger in Compassion and Service

As a family of faith we strongly believe in putting our faith to work in meaningful ways. Over the past year, our church family has come together to serve our neighbors, support local organizations, and respond to the wider world with generosity and care.

One of the most visible expressions of our shared commitment was our annual Clinton Day of Service, when congregation members—many in their bright red CPC shirts—took to the streets of Clinton to serve our community. Teams cleaned the bridge in town, lent a hand at the Red Mill, picked up trash, restored streams, baked meals for local first responders, assembled visitor bags, delivered gifts to neighbors.

Our Joy Scouts inspired us with their energy and compassion, delivering food to pantries, caring for animals at Tabby's Place and Creature Comforts, and visiting residents at Hunterdon Care Center and more—our youngest disciples leading the way in serving as the hands and feet of Christ.



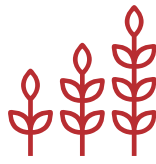
Our Mission Team distributed funds to organizations near and far, with 81% of our gifts supporting local ministries such as Anderson House, City Relief, Clinton Fire Department, and the Flemington Area Food Pantry, and 19% going toward national and international efforts including Presbyterian Disaster Assistance, Samaritan's Purse, and All Hands. These disbursements reflect our conviction that God calls us to meet needs both near and far.



Our congregation also responded with remarkable generosity to meet urgent and emergent needs throughout the year. In the wake of Hurricane Helene, our congregation raised over \$5000 to support relief efforts in Asheville. In the Spring we partnered with Pedals for Progress and Hunterdon Rotary to collect 47 bicycles, 8 sewing machines, and over \$750 in donations giving families worldwide tools for work, school, and self-sufficiency. As a host church for Family Promise we provided meals and groceries throughout the year for clients. And of course we continue to be proud of our Preschool which serves many families in our community, providing quality, affordable early childhood education. Together, our hands and our hearts have made a difference.

WITH FULLY FUNDED MINISTRY, WE'LL BE READY IN 2026 TO DEEPEN OUR PARTNERSHIPS WITH LOCAL ORGANIZATIONS, EXPAND OPPORTUNITIES FOR HANDS-ON SERVICE FOR ALL AGES, AND RESPOND QUICKLY WHEN URGENT NEEDS ARISE—NEAR OR FAR. TOGETHER, WE'LL KEEP PUTTING OUR FAITH INTO ACTION IN WAYS THAT MAKE A REAL DIFFERENCE.





TOGETHER WE GROW

Our Staff and Church Home



We've added some new faces to our capable and dedicated staff, whose work reaches into every part of church life. They ready classrooms for learning and lead programs that nurture faith for children, youth, and adults. They care for our preschool community and warmly welcome all who enter our doors each week. They keep our ministries organized and connected through thoughtful communication and prepare worship services that inspire and comfort us. They ensure that our building is safe, clean, and welcoming, and manage countless other details that keep our ministry thriving.



We also devote significant resources to caring for our beloved historic building. This year, thanks to the generosity of those who contributed to our Capital Campaign, we completed important improvements that have strengthened and preserved our church home. Alongside these upgrades, we continue to maintain the building and grounds, address technology needs, manage rising utility and insurance costs, and handle routine repairs. This steady, behind-the-scenes care provides the solid foundation that allows our worship, programs, and service to flourish.



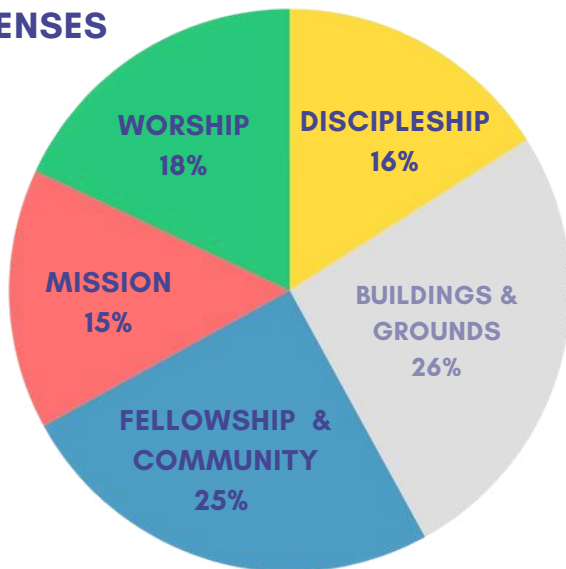


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Funding Our Ministry

As we look ahead to 2026 our total operating costs are **\$534,000**.

EXPENSES



This is an increase of 4.6% over 2025. These increases are driven by increased utility costs, property maintenance and merit increases of 3% for our dedicated staff, as recommended by Session.

(Percentages of personnel salaries are distributed across the ministry areas in which they serve, together with her percentage of the pastor's housing utilities and insurance.)

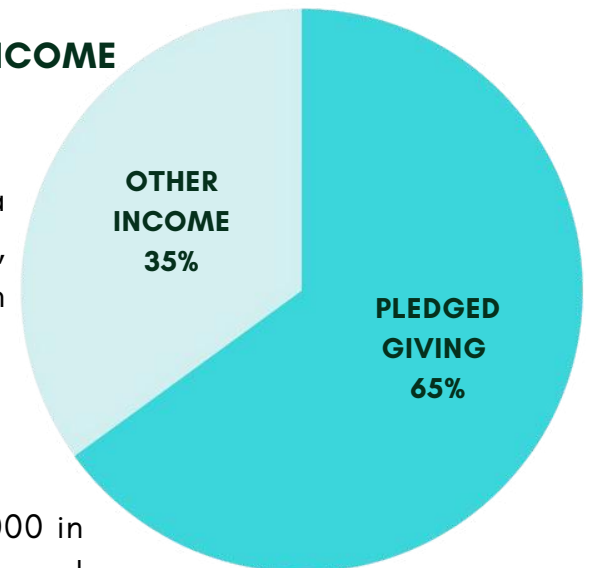
While CPC derives some income from sources such as a preschool tuition, non-pledged gifts and building use, pledges from our church family are the primary way in which our work is funded.

(A line item budget is available in the office for anyone who wishes to review it.)

Session has set a bold goal for 2026 – to raise \$346,000 in pledges so that our budget is balanced and our mission and ministry is fully funded. This means recognizing an increase of \$56,000 in pledges

In 2025, approximately 60% of our households made a pledge, while others have supported us through regular offerings throughout the year. We are deeply grateful for every generous gift.

INCOME



2025



2026

84 households pledged for 2025.
With your help, that number can grow in 2026.



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Our pledged giving is more than a number on a page—it's an invitation to imagine what can happen when our ministry is fully funded. Reaching this goal means:

-  **Our ministries remain strong and steady.** Worship, children's ministry, youth programs, and mission commitments can continue without strain or uncertainty.
-  **We can grow what is already thriving.** With resources in place, we can expand opportunities for faith formation, invest in more mission projects, and widen our welcome to new people.
-  **Our staff are supported and equipped.** Adequate funding allows our dedicated staff to focus on leading, teaching, caring, and creating, rather than worrying about what must be trimmed.
-  **We can plan boldly for the future.** Instead of just maintaining, we can dream about new ways to serve our community and share God's love.
-  **Our building and grounds are cared for.** Meeting our goal ensures we continue to steward our historic space, keeping it safe, accessible, and vibrant for generations to come.

To meet our 2026 goal of a balanced budget we are prayerfully asking those who have pledged before to grow their giving and inviting those who are not currently pledging, to take that step. Pledged commitments help us budget and plan effectively as we strengthen and grow the ministries we all care about.

Pledges of every size are significant. When each household contributes at a level that is meaningful to them, our collective generosity ensures that we have sufficient resources for the work to which God calls us.

Below is a visual summary of 2025 giving patterns, grouped by levels of annual contribution. It demonstrates that every gift makes a real difference in sustaining our ministry.



Every gift is important - Together we grow!



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Next Steps

When you are ready, you can:

Return your pledge card to the church office.

Drop your pledge card in the offering plate during worship

Make your pledge online here.

PLEDGE ONLINE

*We will dedicate our pledges during worship
on Sunday, October 26th.*



CPC welcomes contributions from donor-advised funds, gifts of stock or securities, and distributions from your Required Minimum Distributions (RMD) If you would like to consider donating in one of these ways please reach out to any member of our operations team for more information. As with all tax-related matters, we encourage you to consult with a qualified financial advisor to understand how these giving options may benefit your specific situation

