FIRST UNITED
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
Called to be a Light on the Hill

October 13, 2026

Dear Church Family ,

Well, here we are again, another Stewardship Campaign season. It seems this time of year just happened yesterday, and yet this year feels different. Our community has been in a bit of limbo waiting for a new pastor to be called. We have put on a shiny new face with the Calvin Fresh Up project, the beautifully restored fountain and the lovingly relocated nursery. As a group we feel a little bit like the bridegroom waiting for the bride. We personally know the feeling very well, since just three years ago we met at the end of the aisle at FUPC and said our vows. We started a new golden-years chapter, combined two families and together began a new faith journey as husband and wife.

We didn't intend for this to happen, but God had other plans. David and wife, Anne, joined FUPC in 2018, having moved their lives from Oregon to be closer to family in Anne's final precious years. Gayl joined in 2022 after relocating from Florida with daughter's career move, leaving behind only precious memories of pre-cancer life with Tom. Opposite sides of the country; both faithful servants in Presbyterian communities.

Thanks to our new friendships in this amazing community of faith, and a little matchmaking, David tipped his hat to Gayl and bravely stepped out of the last chapter to start a new one. Gayl's mother was instrumental in supporting the new relationship, saying, "Gayl, you can turn the page. The past is behind you. You can't change it; you can start a new chapter." We believe this is what God is calling FUPC to do.

Our church has an incredible history as documented in *A Light On The Hill, The Journey to Presbyterian Hill, 1830-2016*. There are families in this church that represent six generations of its heritage. A decade ago the precious legacy was written and published. Today we are waiting for more, to turn the page, anticipating what God has to offer in the next chapter. God is ready for us to be open to new opportunities for growth and the impact that FUPC can have on our close faith groups and our community at large.

In planning to co-chair the 2027 Stewardship Campaign this year we reviewed the course that was set for 2030, the two-hundredth anniversary of our church in Northwest Arkansas. Within the five commissions "Cultivating Generous Stewardship" is fundamental to guide our church into the future. We are hoping you will consider how you encourage consistent stewardship in your family. Please pledge to generously foster the next chapter of FUPC by giving of your time, talents and resources, "each according to the grace given to us"*. God has greatly rewarded the two of us since we started our next life chapter. We trust that, with your support, God will graciously reward our communities of faith at First United Presbyterian Church, *Turning the Page to the Next Chapter.*

Are we ready to turn the page?

Yours in Christ,

David and Gayl

David and Gayl Clay

*Romans 12:6b NRSV