

OAK GROVE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

FINANCIAL NEWS YOU CAN USE

Spring 2017

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One of the unique and defining factors of the United Methodist Church is that we are Connectional. One way we show this connection is through our apportionments.

Apportionments are fuel for ministry.

Apportionments are fuel for ministry. They enable us to share the concerns of many people.

When we work together as God's children and combine our giving, we can see the word 'apportionment' not as a constricting budget item but as a means of bringing God's grace into our churches, our conference, and beyond.

When you give to your local United Methodist Church, your giving is divided into many pieces, and travels to many different places. It generally goes to support three significant areas: your church, the General and Jurisdictional Church Funds, and the ministries of the Detroit Annual Conference. Effective this annual conference (June 2017), we will be officially combined with West Michigan Conference as the new Michigan Conference. Stay tuned for more information as it becomes available.

Why pay apportionments?

Jesus is recorded in the Bible as saying in a variety of ways that the first shall be last and the last shall be first. The apportionment process encourages local churches to become involved in ministries to the least and the last, through ministries that extend beyond the local church.

Another term used for apportionments is "missional giving" This term may be closer to true the meaning of the concept, and reminds us of the powerful fact that much of the "missional giving"—retirement homes, children's homes, colleges, camping ministry, evangelism, and retiree support— come through our local churches. It's difficult to imagine any one church that could do all this for our conference by itself.

UPDATE: We are currently at 21% of our apportionment obligation.

Applause Furnace replacement funding update

We are getting closer to the finish line with a current balance of \$4350 through March 2017. That's only 21% remaining after only 2 years. God is indeed good. Just a reminder, if you made a pledge for the duration of the loan, we encourage you to continue meeting that pledge and if you have not made a pledge, we encourage you to consider helping us spend down the remaining payments.

Website Update



Our newly updated website (www.oakgrovehowell.com) will include an area on Stewardship. You will find some useful articles in this area providing education information on stewardship and the finances of our church here at Oak Grove.

Check it out for more information on what's happening!!

Financial Bookkeeper

Correne Martin recently made the decision to resign from her position as our Financial Bookkeeper. We are currently seeking a replacement for the position (10- 15 hours per month). If you are interested... or know of someone who may be interested...please let the office know.



Scrip Update

Don't forget to order your Scrip cards. The Scrip program offers a convenient way to purchase gift cards directly from your local church - you pay the face value of the cards, while the church can get them at a discounted rate. On average, OGUMC makes approximately 3% on all orders and it costs you, the consumer, nothing more. There is a list of available cards on the bulletin board in the fellowship hall and Andrea takes orders every other week. **Check out the program – it may be just what you're looking for!**

My Offering To The Church

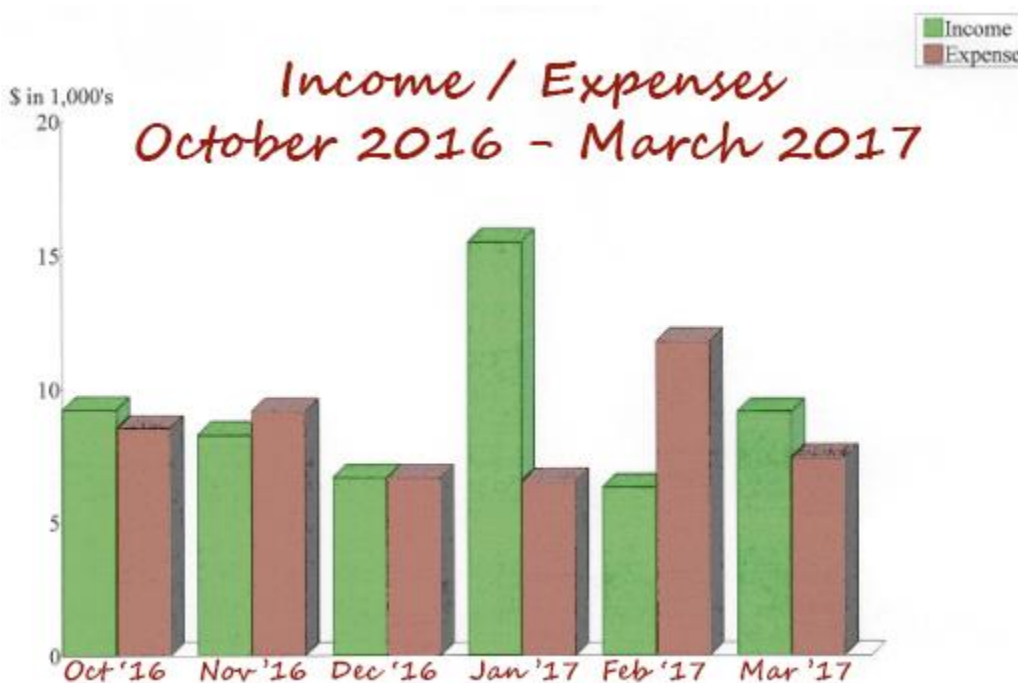
I forget my envelope.
 Just visiting at this church today.
 I am new here.
 Please provide me with envelopes.

Name _____ \$ _____
Address _____
City _____ State _____ Zip _____
Phone _____ 1 | Request a visit by the Pastor.

OFFERING ENVELOPES

Do you need offering envelopes? See Sally Howden.

A GRAPHICAL LOOK AT INCOME VS. EXPENSES – OCTOBER 2016 – MARCH 2017



More detail and supporting information is available on the bulletin board in the fellowship hall.

(Thank you to Andrea Just for providing this visual.)