



# TRINITY

UNITED METHODIST CHURCH  
INVITING - ENGAGING - SUPPORTING

July 17, 2024

Dear Friend:

Thank you for the ways you have participated in life at Trinity UMC over the years. Whether you're an active participant or a faraway well-wisher, we're glad you're part of our church family!

**We are writing to you today at a critical time for Trinity.** The ongoing financial impact of the COVID-19 pandemic and UMC disaffiliation-related departures, coupled with nearly 18 months without renter income while we completed the recent sprinkler system replacement and a recent steep drop in giving, have left us at the end of our cash reserves. We are currently facing a projected deficit of over \$70,000 in 2024. Even though we have already discontinued payment of mission shares to the broader UMC, if spending continues at current levels, we will fully deplete our reserves by next spring. (A more detailed look at our finances is enclosed.)

Our staff and lay leadership have been diligent and faithful in seeking and maximizing potential income sources outside the congregation: exploring and obtaining grant funding, working with parties interested in short- and long-term rentals of our space, and working to replace the education wing sprinkler system to make our space safe and welcoming to all. We have also sought to minimize expenses, doing as much as possible with as little as possible, sharing generously of what we have, and trusting that God will provide enough for the future. While this faithful stewardship has gotten us this far, we must now consider the next faithful steps by seeking additional giving and considering shifting from a full-time pastoral appointment to part-time coverage and possibly reducing existing part-time and per diem staff coverage. Further cost-saving reductions will, however, lessen our ability to offer services and support to the congregation and community beyond Sunday morning worship.

As your leadership team, **we believe in what God is doing at Trinity** and are committed to ensuring that Trinity remains able to fulfill its mission of inviting, engaging and supporting the Germantown community on their faith journeys for years to come. We invite you to express your belief in God's purpose and our shared vision for Trinity by sharing financially in our future together, investing in the work to which God has called us, and allowing others to share in this community. We are deeply grateful for your faithful witness!

In faith and hope,

Rev. Kate Mackereth Fulton, Lisa Kurtz, Ricky Ballew & Laurie Clark  
Trinity UMC Executive Leadership Team

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