



# living generously

LOVE JESUS. LOVE LIKE JESUS.

To be good stewards of God's blessings, we have launched the "Living Generously" project. There are two goals:

- GOAL #1: For Bel Air Church to recognize that GENEROSITY IS IN OUR DNA! Radical generosity was a characteristic of the early church. We are generous with our time, talents, and treasures because this is our identity as followers of Jesus Christ. We believe Scripture says giving is a spiritual thing – we give because God is a Giver and He has given to us.
- GOAL #2: We also believe we, as leadership, should be responsible and share how monies are being used. We commit to providing regular updates to the church community on how we are doing with giving and finances throughout the year, and give information on how what is given in being used for God's Kingdom.
- To learn more about the "Living Generously" project, you can go to this link (<https://www.belairchurchmd.org/living-generously.html>), or scan the QR Code. There, you will find videos from Pastor Gregg and Pastor Shirley Goodman about Generosity and Tithing.



## 2024 1<sup>st</sup> Quarter Update

Let's celebrate the good news!

- In 2023, our Tithes & Offering Income increased by 6.4%, or \$29K over what we budgeted. In addition to this, we spent less on budgeted expenses than what we planned, by 25K.
- In 2024, our giving is up 1.6%. We budgeted to receive \$105,786.87 in the first quarter from Tithes and Offerings, and we have received \$114,178.08 through March.
- We have saved well in the past, and we do not have any debt. This means money is available that will be important as we look to address larger expenses needed for a 25-year old building in the next 5 or so years, like a new roof, new HVAC units, and new flooring.
- This year, we've been able to use some of the money we have available from savings to: purchase a needed HVAC unit for the lobby; install security cameras (Phase 1 is done, Phase 2 will be completed later this year); install new flooring in the hallways and the Good Shepherd Room (to be done soon); as well as projects for BC Meadows (pavilion area).
- Along with increases in giving, our attendance was up by about 10% for 2023, compared to 2022. So far, in 2024, we have seen another increase of 10% in attendance!

Here is the challenge! Right now, our expenses each year are higher than what we are bringing in through Tithes and Offerings. It's good that we have seen increases, but over the next 2-3 years we will need to see bigger increases to maintain the budget we have now for staffing, building upkeep, and in-house ministries. The bottom line is that we are hoping and praying that, as we see an increase in attendance, we will also see an increase in giving of around 21%, or \$5,500 per month.

Check out the back of this sheet for answers to common questions, including what different ways there are to give, and what those monies support.



Proper stewardship of all money given to the church is a high priority for leadership. Your contributions matter, and we are grateful for your generous giving practices. Our goal is to be transparent with how money is handled and how your contributions support our mission to “Love Jesus, Love Like Jesus”.

**What does it mean to GIVE to Bel Air Church?** There are basically 3 different ways you can give. We call them the 3 “T”s. Some can give more of one “T” than another.

- Treasures – This means giving money to the church, or something that equates to money, like stock. In the next question, we give more detail about the ways you can give money, and how that money is used.
- Talents – Each of us has specific talents and gifts God has given us. This means giving of those talents by serving in the church or to others in our community. We have many different ways you can serve at Bel Air Church.
- Time – In our society, time is a valuable resource. This means giving of our time for things like helping with a church project, or mentoring a child or teen, or praying for needs within our community.

**How can I give monetarily to Bel Air Church?** Generally, giving falls into 1 of 3 categories:

- Tithes – In the Old and New Testament, the practice of “tithing” is laid out as a spiritual practice to help support the church. Monies in this category goes towards staffing, the upkeep of the building and in-house ministries. (To see a video on tithing, go to this link: <https://www.belairchurchmd.org/living-generously.html>.)
- Faith Promise – This is a specific category that is exclusively for Ministry to Others. The Bel Air Church has many partnerships, locally and globally, where we seek to help others. Every year, in June, we communicate the details of our “partnership plan” for that year, and ask people to pledge a certain amount (beyond Tithes) over the next 12 months to support that plan.
- Special Offerings or Opportunities – These are opportunities, beyond Tithes and Faith Promise, to give towards something specific. Recently, we collected a love offering for one of the missionaries we support. The teens have a current fundraiser where they are raising money for a mission trip this Summer. We have a list of opportunities we publicize during the Advent/Christmas season.

**How can I help the church?**

- Pray with us for a spirit of generosity to exist in our lives and in the church.
- Give specifically to BC Church to express your belief in our mission to “Love Jesus, Love Like Jesus”. Every ministry we do here is used by God to build His kingdom in our church community, our families, the local community around us, and the global community impacted by our church partnerships and by the International Church of the Nazarene.

**How can I give to Bel Air Church?**

For financial contributions, you can give online by using the link on our website under “giving”. You can also use our church app or Venmo account. If you prefer, you can give by check made payable to ‘Bel Air Church’. Boxes are available on Sunday morning in the sanctuary and at the Welcome Center, or mail your check to Bel Air Church of the Nazarene, 2430 Conowingo Road, Bel Air, MD 21015.

To volunteer your time or talents, contact the church office to be directed to the person who can talk with you about what you have in mind and who can help determine the fit for the ministries presently taking place.