



## Perritte Memorial United Methodist Church

December 4, 2018

Church Family,

This letter communicates with you our ongoing concerns for Perritte Memorial UMC's financial health. It is a follow up on our "family talk" last Sunday. We appreciate your attention and response.

The Finance Committee and Board of Stewards are prayerfully working very hard to ensure we are a good steward of your tithes, offerings and gifts. We continue to strive to provide transparent and open information to the congregation. We welcome your questions. We can address this problem together. In a routine month we need an estimated \$16,000 to pay all of our bills. To finish the year and begin January in "the black" we need approximately \$30,000. Unfortunately, financial contributions are in deficit. This problem has progressed over a long period of time. It did not "just happen." A combination of factors caused this problem. We shared a letter with the congregation earlier this year with concerns. We have been trimming the budget for some time. All program areas must be budget-minded with spending. We now have a wonderful Local Pastor rather than an Elder, which is a savings. However, we have major concerns regarding our future obligations. We must live within our means. We must make significant cuts in the church budget. This may mean reduction of staff and services and the need for volunteers to help in areas where cuts are necessary. These are extremely difficult decisions.

We need everyone's help. Prayerfully consider all of this information as you look to the end of the year. We will also have a stewardship campaign to prepare the 2019 budget. We know our church family is committed to supporting Perritte's ministries.

Many faithful members and friends contribute monthly with their tithes and offerings. We truly appreciate the continued commitment of these individuals and families. This act of obedience and support is noteworthy. Thank you! For those who may be able to begin contributing or to add more support, we encourage you to do so. We will provide updates frequently to advise you of our progress. Perritte is fortunate to have had some savings and assets to postpone this serious situation. We have already drawn from our savings and will not continue to spend from it.

Perritte Memorial United Methodist Church continues to strive to make disciples for the transformation of the world. We provide or support important and meaningful ministries. Perritte UMC has had many challenges in the recent past and continues to thrive in many ways! Recent changes are very encouraging! God has given us stewardship of Perritte UMC. We must work together! We can do this!

"Family" in His Service,  
Karen Swenson, Lay Leader  
Leanna Davis, Finance Chair  
Chris Bouldin, 2019 Finance Chair

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