



A NOTE FROM

PASTOR RYAN

Dear friends,

In these final days of 2023, I am reflecting on all that we've accomplished together.

- We served over 2500 meals to the houseless, working poor, and economically marginalized.
- Our plans to transfer the leadership of Bethesda Cooperative Nursery School to two black, female entrepreneurs is in full swing and we are so excited for what 2024 looks like as they transition to a full day schedule and add an after school program.
- Desiree has done a fantastic job administrating all the specifics of CiB's work week and is making our office run smoother and more efficiently.
- We are still working with USCIS to bring the Sharifi and Modestine families to the United States. It's a slow, tedious process, but our diligence is unwavering.

Lastly, there are the countless stories far too personal to communicate here – stories about people seeing love, life, and God in new ways thanks to our individual efforts in the world. It is these stories, people bringing hope to lives, one to one, that I am always most encouraged by.

I wrote 48 sermons this year, recorded more than 200 meditations, married a few people, and regretfully, had to bury some others. Not least, our good friend Margaret Kunz, who will always be a pillar of our community, and who we will each be missing in the coming year.

(continued on reverse)

In 2024, we have some significant challenges, and we are ending 2023 in the red. This is common for most churches. It's also common for pastors to send a year-end note, asking you to help us make up the shortfall. Before the year ends, we would like to be able to raise \$20,000 so that we may continue doing good work in the world without any major changes to our staffing or programming.

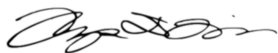
Do you love this place?

Yeah. Me too. So I invite you to give a gift that mirrors your love.

I also ask that you consider making 2024 special by setting up a recurring gift through our PayPal account.

Anything you can do really does go a long way. As I am fond of saying, "It's not about equal gifts, but about equal sacrifice."

Thanks for reading and considering!

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Ryan Phipps".

Rev. Ryan Phipps