



The Big Dream

TOWN HALL

SUNDAY MARCH 15, 2026



BRECKSVILLE
UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
SINCE 1814

MISSION

Creating safe spaces to grow with God and one another.

WHAT GOD HAS CALLED US TO DO.

VALUES

Honest Worship

We invite everyone to participate in worship authentically and holistically; heart, mind, soul and body.

Joyful Gathering

We gather in an atmosphere of joy and laughter as we share in the life God offers us.

Lifelong Learning

We are unabashedly authentic in our lifelong quest to grow with God and learn with one another.

Courageous Inclusion

We whole-heartedly welcome all people to come as their perfectly imperfect selves.

Determined Service

We show God's love for others by meeting the needs of the whole person.

MEASURES

I will create safe space to grow with God and one another by... THESE QUESTIONS HELP US KNOW HOW WELL WE'RE DOING. ARE WE LIVING OUR VALUES?

... sowing love and compassion.

- Am I seeing myself and others through God's eyes?
- Am I seeking and giving forgiveness?
- Am I recognizing the presence of God's kingdom around me?

... cultivating sanctuary.

- Am I listening for the voice of the marginalized?
- Am I nurturing someone else's healing?
- Am I accepting of those different than me?

... tending to life-long learning.

- Am I engaged in exploring my faith with others?
- Am I actively seeking to grow my personal relationship with God?
- Am I reflecting my spiritual growth in my daily life?

... bearing God's fruit in service.

- Am I giving back to God?
- Am I sharing God's blessings with others?
- Am I demonstrating God's love beyond the church doors?

OUR MOST DEEPLY HELD IDEALS



REACH OUT TO PASTOR HEIDI OR THE VISION TEAM TO LEARN MORE!

HOW MINISTRY FITS TOGETHER TO FULFILL THE MISSION. THE BASICS OF HOW WE ACCOMPLISH THE MISSION

STRATEGY

Rooted in worship.
Nourished in groups.
Branching out in service.



CREATING

SAFE SPACES TO

GROW WITH GOD

AND ONE ANOTHER

- Honest Worship
- Joyful Gathering
- Lifelong Learning
- Courageous Inclusion
- Determined Service

A long-exposure photograph of a beach. The foreground is a wide, sandy beach with a path leading towards the water. The middle ground shows waves crashing against several large, dark rocks. The background features a hazy coastline with hills under a cloudy, overcast sky. The overall mood is serene and contemplative.

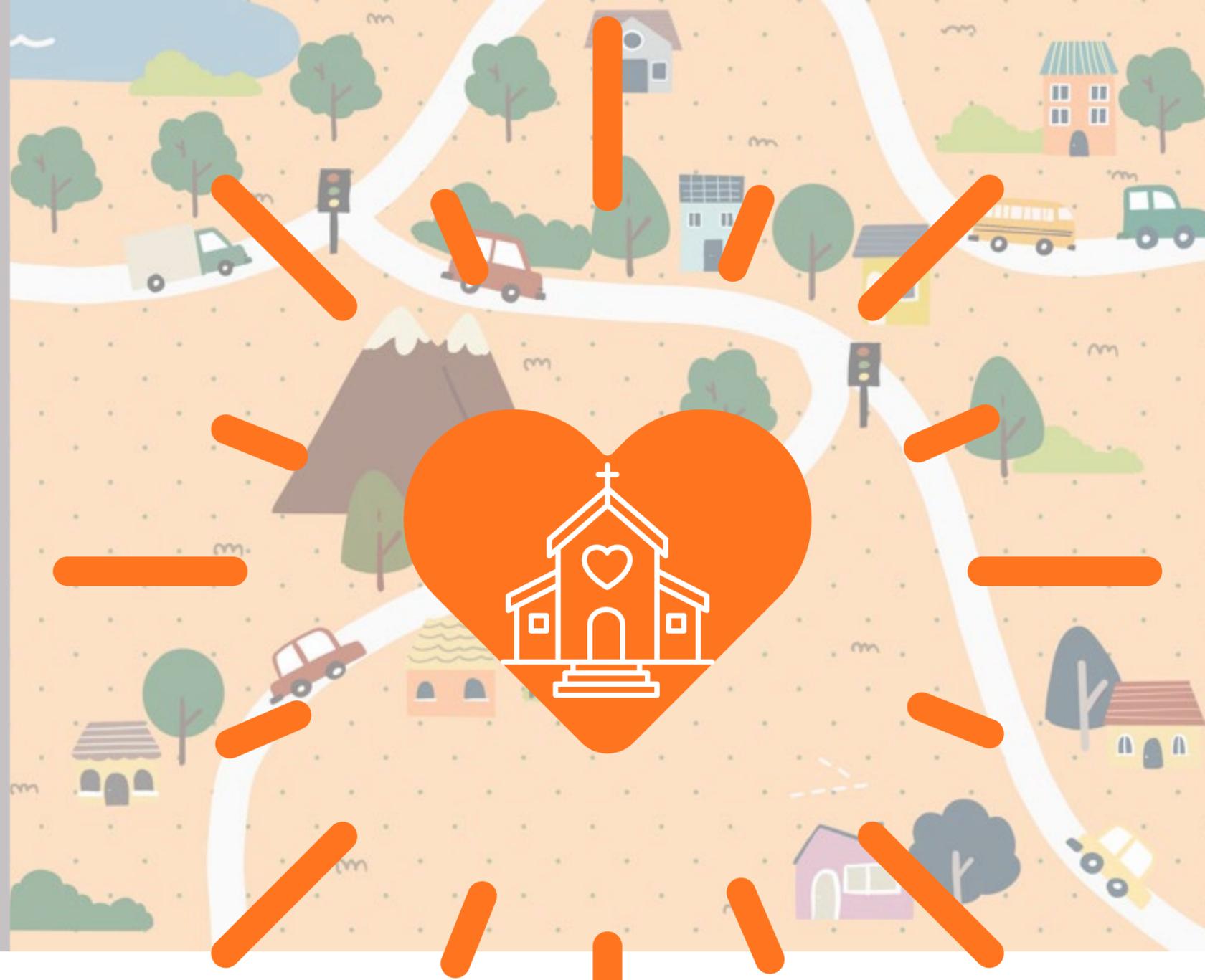
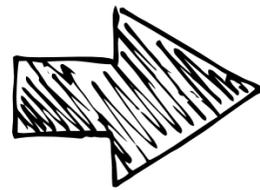
The Cultural Landscape is Changing.

**People are wary of
the institution
of religion.**

**People are yearning
for The Divine.**

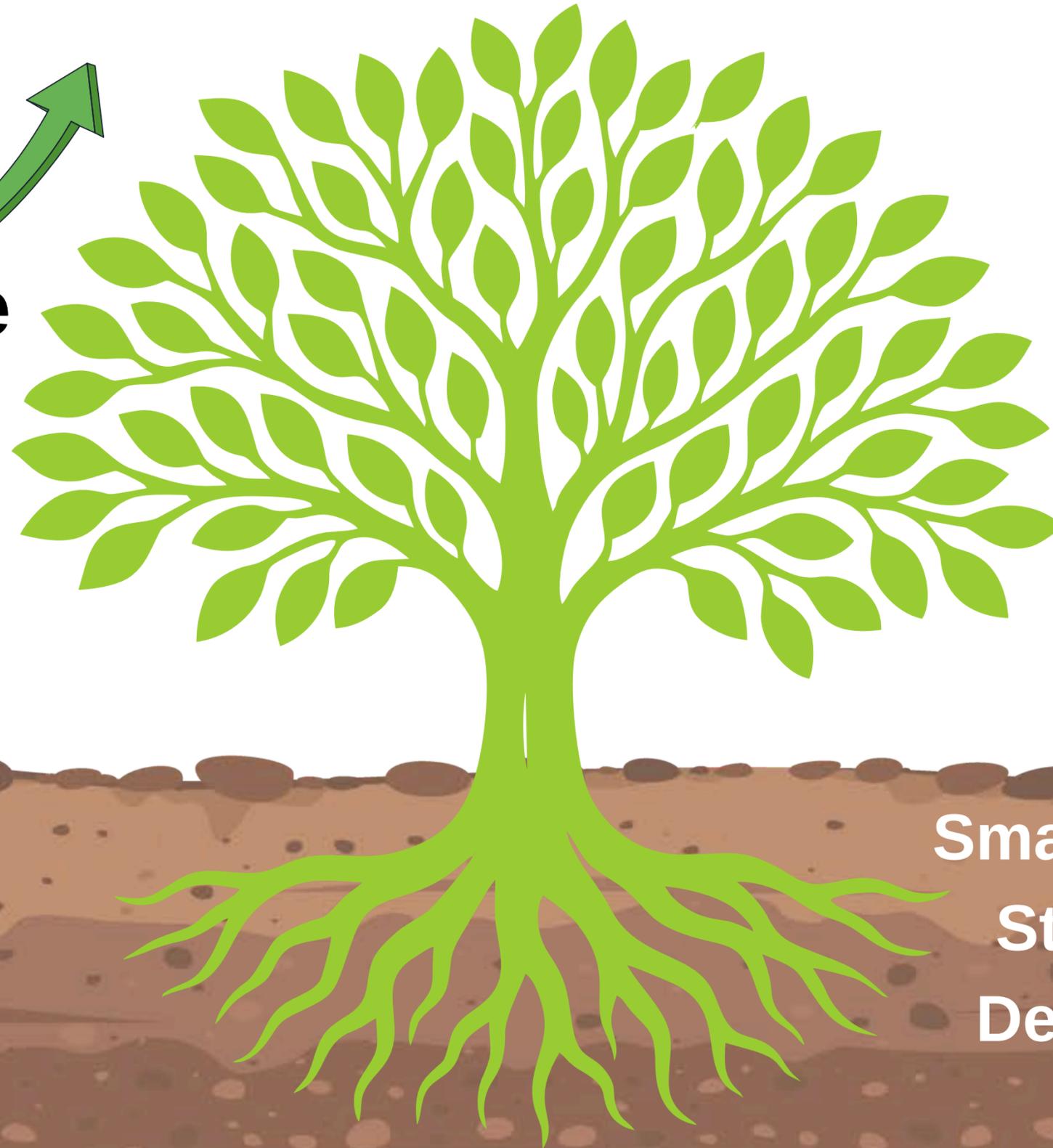


**Getting them
in the building.**



**Being God's presence
in the world.**

Attendance
Giving
New People



Small group participation
Stories of life change
Depth of service in the
community

Growing In Discipleship

- Attended a worship service for the first time.
- Requested prayer.
- Attended a class for the first time.
- Requested a name tag.
- Started attending worship services regularly.
- Signed up for our newsletters.
- Served in a new way.
- Joined a team.
- Baptized.
- Explored membership.

Growing In Commitment

Number of people who attended worship services four or more times in a year:

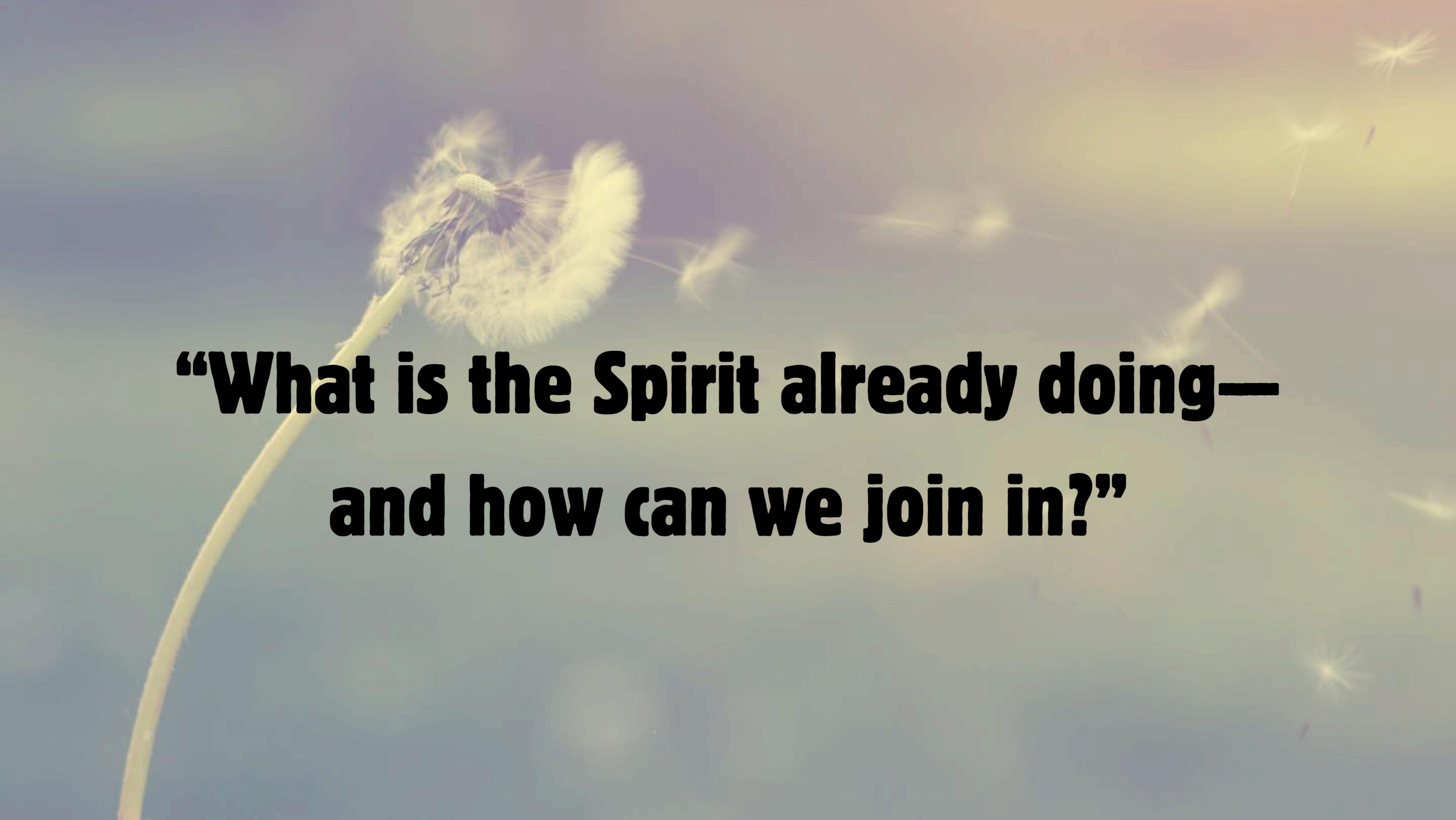
2024

320



2025

471

A close-up photograph of a dandelion seed head in the foreground, with several seeds blowing away in the air. The background is a soft, hazy sky with a warm, golden light, suggesting a sunset or sunrise. The overall mood is peaceful and contemplative.

**“What is the Spirit already doing—
and how can we join in?”**



Listening

Visioning

Home Gatherings

Community Convos

Lots of prayer!

What would you do if you were mayor?

- Safe space for seniors who can't be alone
- Community composting system
- Open up mental health centers
- Neighborhood block parties
- Encourage civility and open-mindedness, even when we disagree
- Develop neighborhood groups to reduce isolation and division
- Help line available 24/7 to talk about any issues and offer support
- Community together, kindness to all, no weapons, guns, etc.
- I would issue a proclamation that all are welcome and free of discrimination
- Monthly community meal is provided for any and all in need (in a central location or at home).
- Feeding the hungry in body or spirit
- Organize all the volunteer groups to go around in groups to do projects at peoples' homes.
- Create a culture of safety and acceptance



Restoring the Village

- The After-School "Hang-Out"
- Intergenerational Ties
- A place where newcomers and long-time residents become neighbors.



A Hub for Wholeness & Connection

- Mental Health Advocacy
- Knowing Our Neighbors
- Civil Discourse
- Seeking the wholeness of the place where God has planted us.

Faith is the lens that brings God's work into focus.

- Moving from suspicion to grace.
- Shifting the "Christian Stereotype" through loving action.
- Noticing the "Good Things" already in motion.

God in the Next Generation



A Community Under Pressure

For Our Families:

- Kids need to "just be kids" (away from the pressure to perform).
- Parents are overburdened and desperate for a break.

For Our Civic Life:

- Moving from "Us vs. Them" back to "We."
- A venue for civil discourse and mutual support.

Beyond the Surface: Our Neighborhood Reality

- **18% of Students receive free/reduced lunch**
- **Cuyahoga County's highest percentage of residents over age 55.**
- **The Mental Health Crisis**

***The needs are often ephemeral—emotional and spiritual—
but they are deeply felt.***



Learning

Mission Insite

Consultant

Vision

Finances

Preparing for the Vision:
A Master Class in "Funding the Future"





We learned the importance of

The Vision

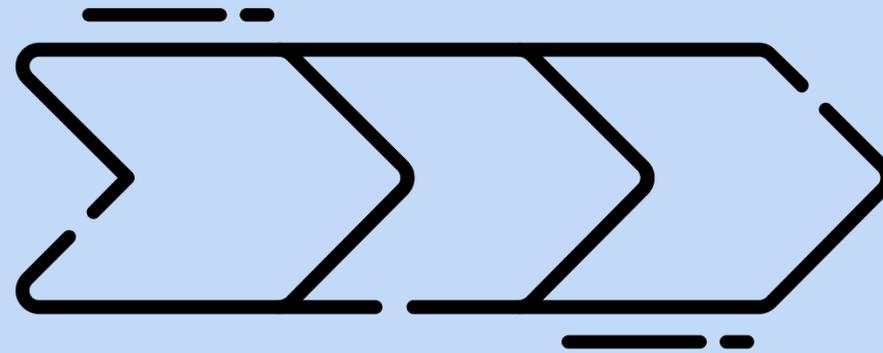
The Structure

Facilitating Generosity



Honoring God with a Big Vision

Rooted in
Our Values



Reaching Our
Community

- Vision must be big enough to honor God.
- An extension of who we have always been.
- The Goal: Exciting the congregation to join what God is doing.



We Have a Strong Foundation



- Debt-Free: Operating with zero debt.
- Accountability: Annual internal audits and monthly Finance Team reviews.
- Transparency: Regular updates via The Good Word and open LB meetings.

There are detailed financials available for you to take with you today and if you have any questions, please reach out to Shannon.

Growing Together In Generosity



Pledges are the sole engine for our programming.



Occasional, based on what's in our pockets.



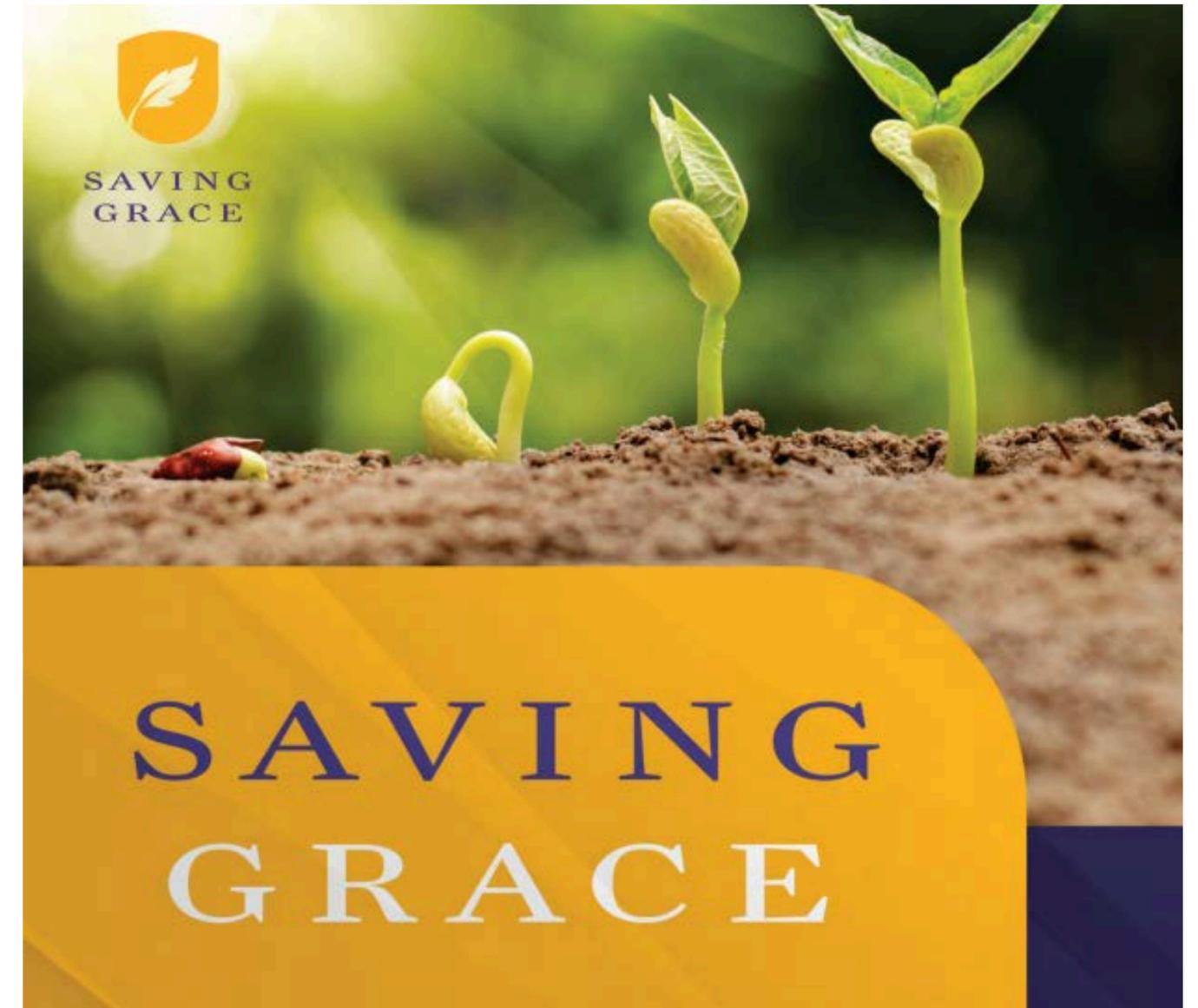
Planned, consistent, and prioritized.

The Financial Squeeze



58% of Americans live paycheck to paycheck.

A Path Toward Peace



**Six Week Journey
Begins April 21**



Our Money Story

Vision

Debt Free

Accountability

Transparency

The Whole Story of Our Abundance



Beyond the "Deficit"

- Generosity: Our congregation gives far more than it costs to "run the church."
- Beyond the Plate: We are a mission-minded people, pouring resources into the Building Fund, Missions, and special initiatives.
- The Bibler Legacy: Strategic estate gifts ensure our operations are always fully funded

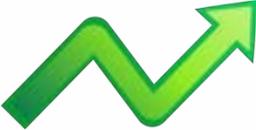
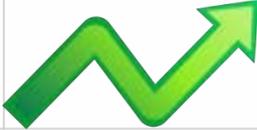
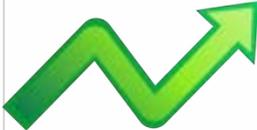
2025 Financial Strength & Stewardship

Revenue Boost	Gap Reduction	The Stewardship
\$17,847	-75%	Fiscal Stability
We brought in more than we initially projected.	We turned a \$25k projected deficit into \$6k.	We absorbed rising utility costs through careful management.

Full 2025 Financial Statement available at the info table.

Our Budget is Healthy and Balanced

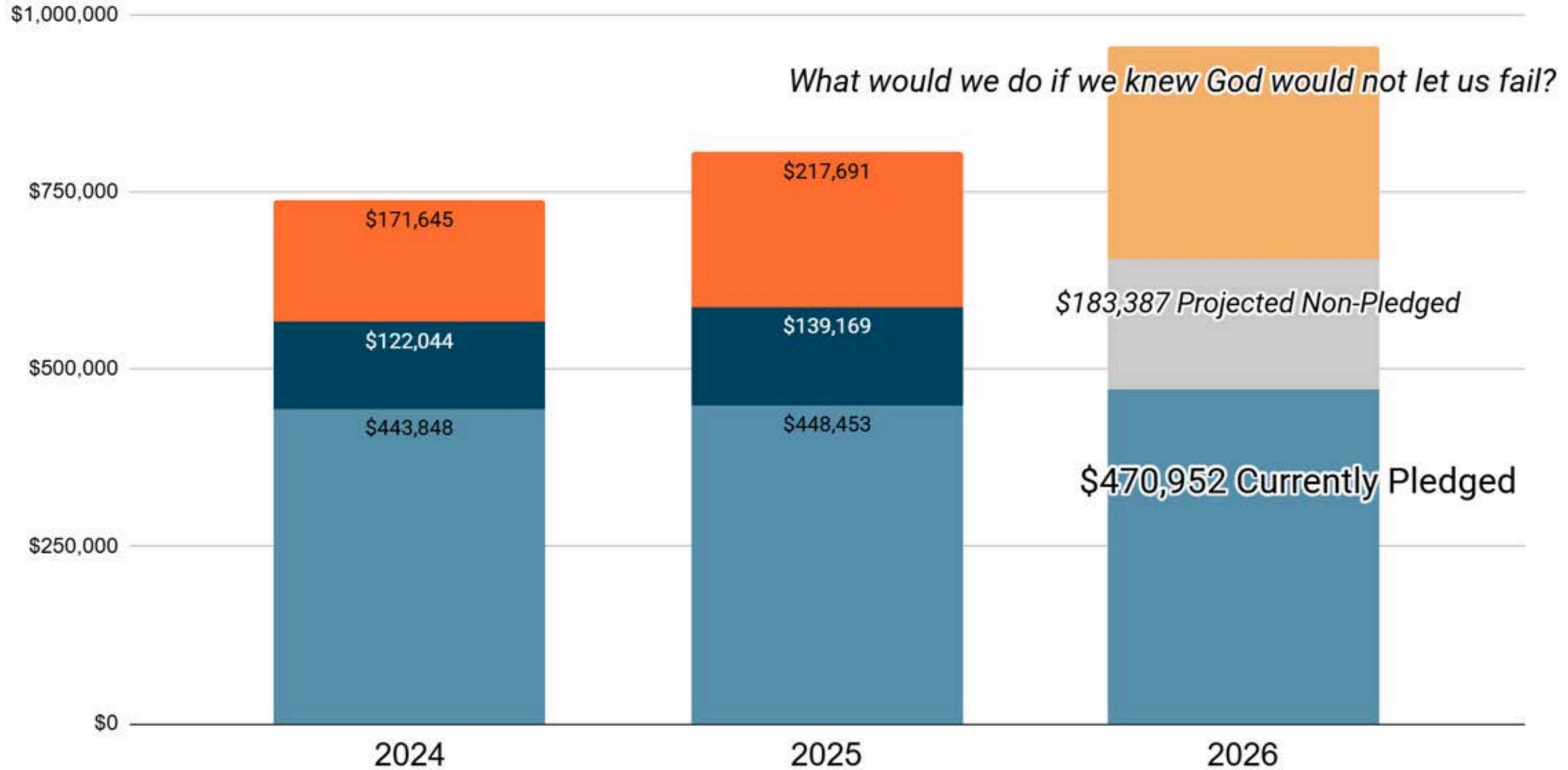
<i>The Myth</i>	The Reality
<i>We are running a "deficit."</i>	We are fully funded by visionary estate gifts (like the Bibler gift).
<i>We have a "giving" problem.</i>	We have abundance ; we just need to report on the whole picture.

	2024	2025	2026 (To Date)
Total Amount Pledged	\$443,848	\$448,453	 \$470,952
Non-Pledged / Digital	\$122,044	 \$139,169 (↑14%)	<i>Growing...</i>
Total Impact (All Funds)	\$750,262	 \$811,067 (↑8%)	The Big Dream Goal
Pledge Fulfillment	102.80%	101%	<i>TBD</i>

- **\$22,500 MORE** pledged for 2026 than last year - with fewer people!
- **\$811k Total Impact in 2025**—our most generous year yet.
- **Our church family reliably fulfills over 100% of pledged giving!**

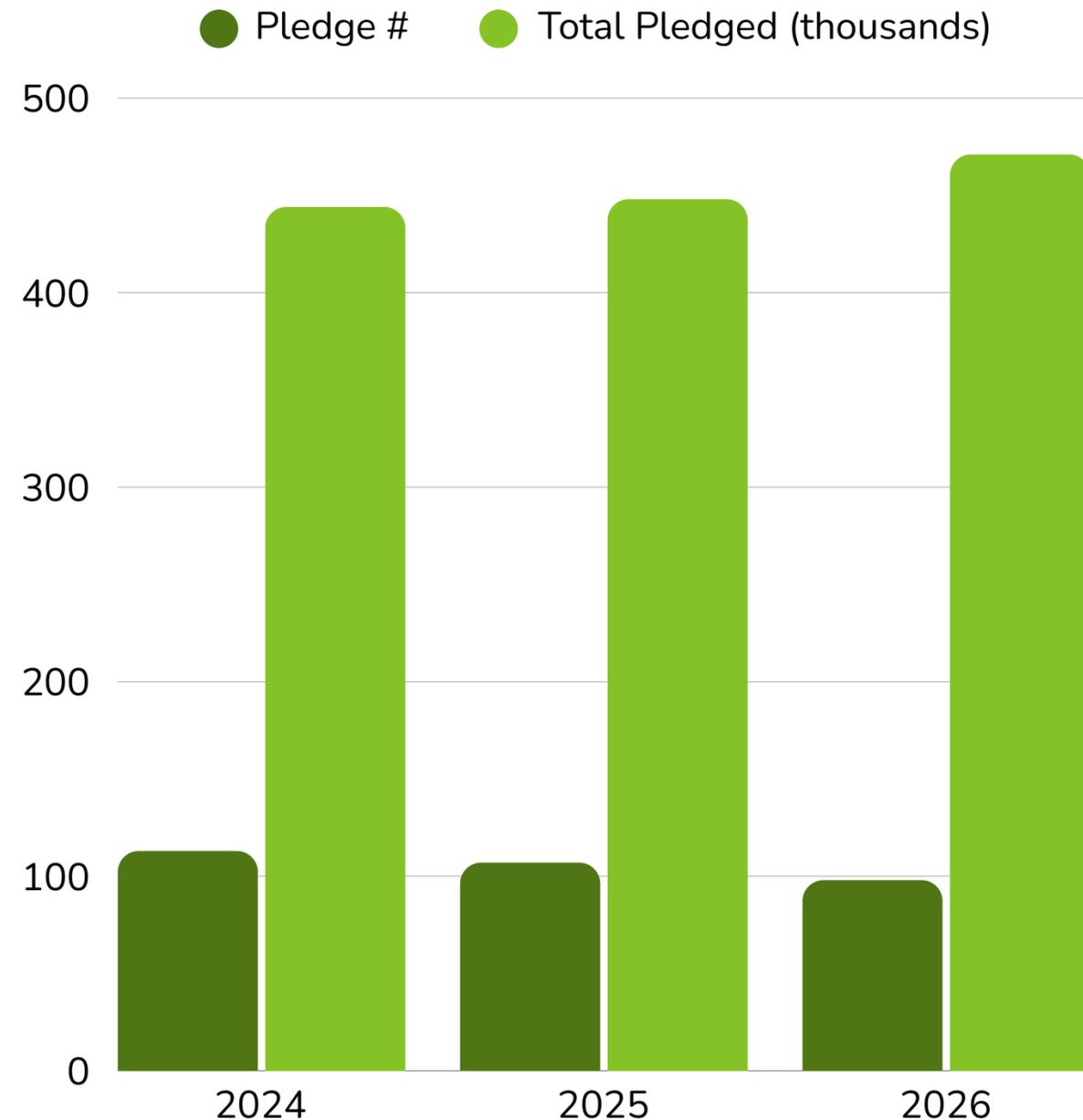
Giving Trends

Designated Giving Non-Pledged amount Given Amount Pledged



Evolving Ways to Give & Grow

Commitment is increasing, even as methods change.



- **Quality over Quantity:** Individual pledge amounts are increasing.
- **The Digital Shift:** Non-pledged and recurring online giving are at an all-time high.
- **The Future:** Whether it's a paper pledge or a digital recurring gift, the heart is the same.

2026 Financial Outlook: A Strong Trajectory

\$470,952

Pledged

From 98
faithful
families.

+\$22,500

Growth

Increase in
promised
generosity.

Balanced

budget!



2026 Budget

BUDGETED REVENUES

Current Year Offering
 Pledged
 Non Pledged

\$470,952.40
 \$183,386.98

\$654,339.38

Single Giver Gift
 Facility Use

\$6,000.00
 \$18,000.00
 \$1,500.00
 \$6,000.00
 \$25,000.00

Wedding Income
 Interest Income
 Community Engagement Events (Pumpkin Patch & Flea)

\$710,839.38

TOTAL BUDGETED REVENUE

BUDGETED EXPENSES

Conference Apportionments
 Administrative Expenses
 Costs of Staffing
 Church Building
 Parsonage
 Communications
 A/V
 Worship
 Missions & Community Engagement
 GCC
 Music
 Education
 Joyful Gathering
 Youth
 Community Engagement Events (Pumpkin and Flea)

\$63,932.00
 \$28,132.12
 \$460,914.66
 \$70,200.00
 \$23,400.00
 \$4,139.80
 \$3,000.00
 \$3,100.00
 \$9,000.00
 \$6,300.00
 \$11,021.60
 \$6,000.00
 \$1,200.00
 \$4,000.00
 \$15,000.00

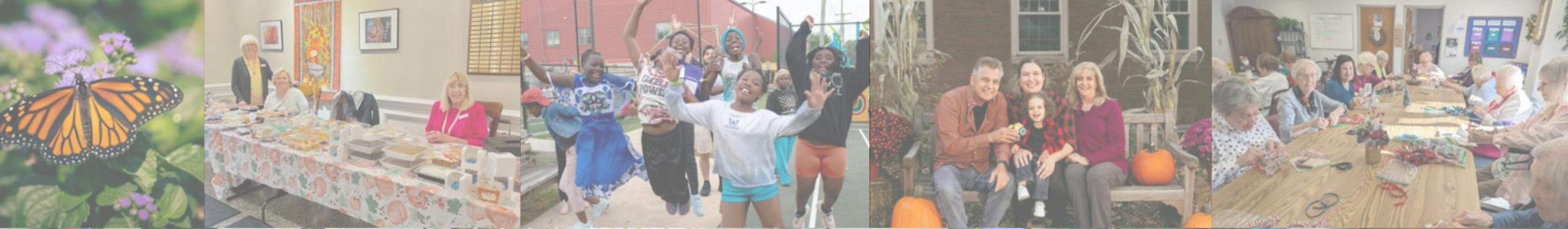
\$709,340.18

TOTAL BUDGETED EXPENSES

\$1,499.20

Planning for 2026....

Currently, this budget includes a part time Youth Director beginning in the second quarter.



Our finances are the ink that writes our mission.



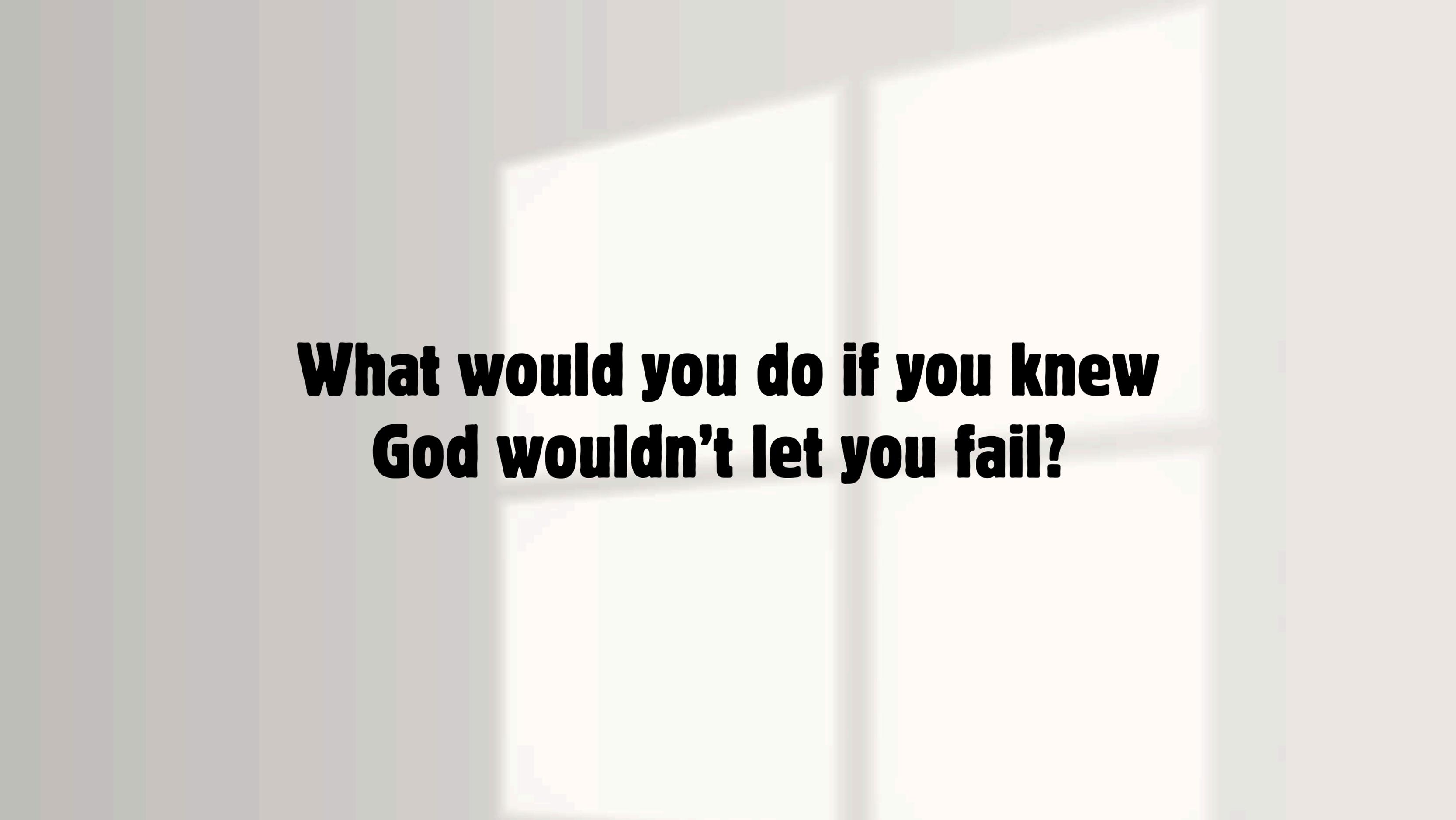
A landscape of rolling green hills under a dark, stormy sky with visible lightning bolts. A winding dirt path leads through the hills.

Maintenance Mode

A landscape of rolling green hills under a bright blue sky with a large, vibrant rainbow. A gravel path leads through the hills.

Mission Mode

*Our budget is a reflection of our reach.
How far do we want to go?*

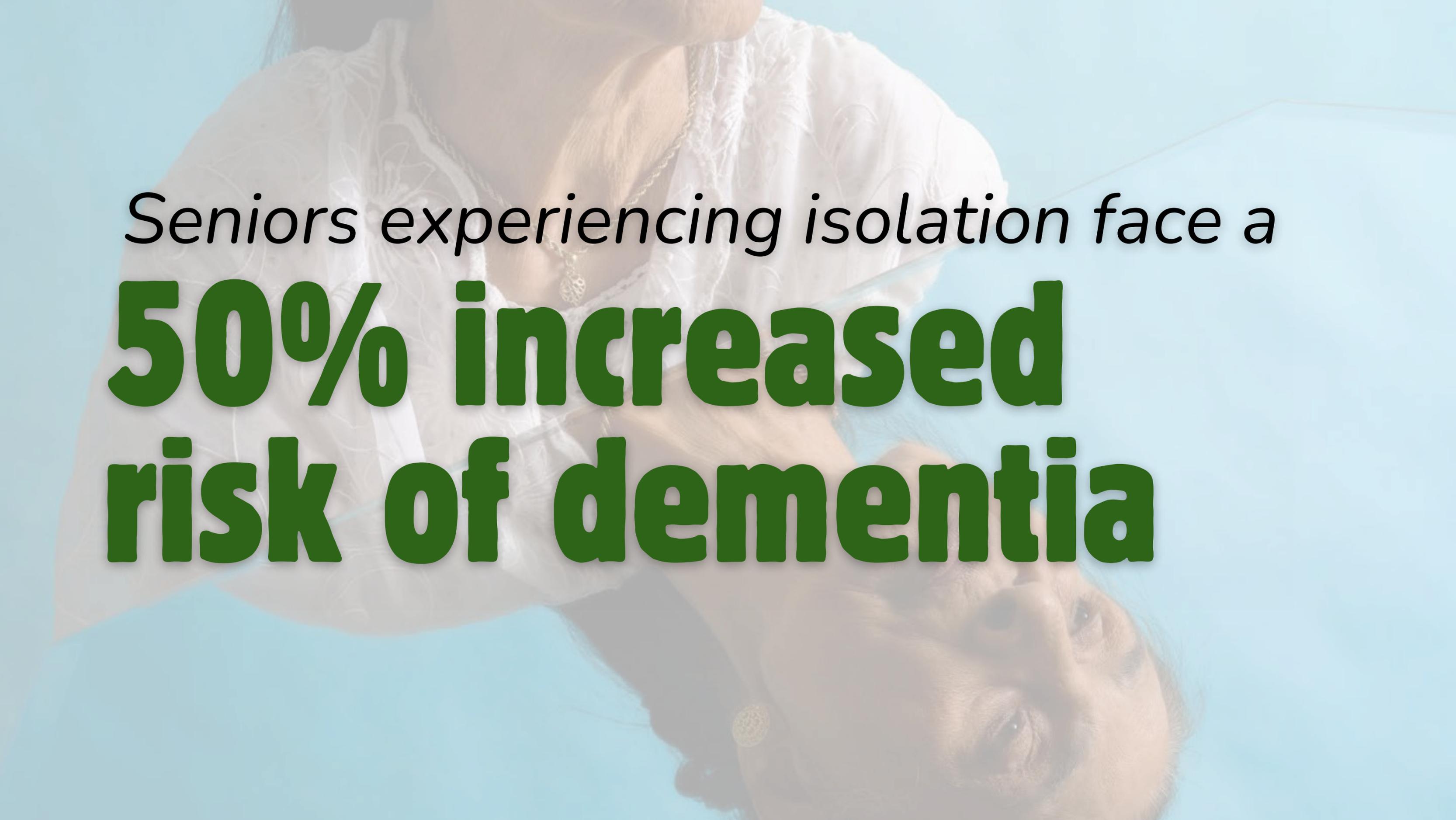


**What would you do if you knew
God wouldn't let you fail?**

*Lack of social connection is
as dangerous to health as*

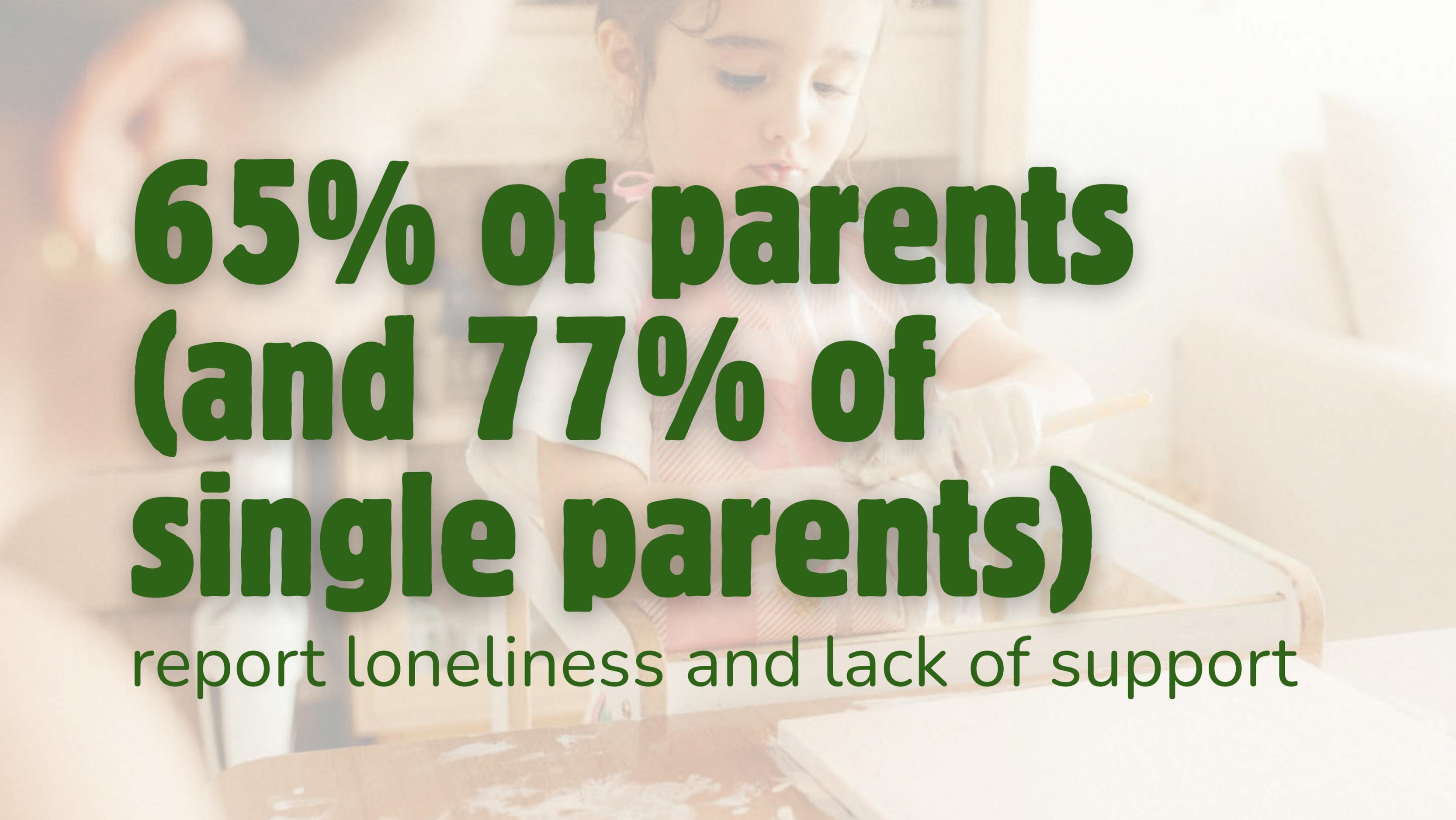
**smoking 15
cigarettes a day.**



A woman in a white lace top is holding a blue folder. In the bottom right corner, a man's face is visible, looking upwards. The background is a light blue gradient.

Seniors experiencing isolation face a

**50% increased
risk of dementia**

A young girl with dark hair is sitting at a wooden table, intently working on a craft project. She is wearing a white shirt and a pink and white striped apron. Her hands are positioned over a piece of white fabric or paper on the table. The background is softly blurred, showing a woman with blonde hair, likely a parent, looking on. The overall scene is warm and domestic, with natural light filtering through the room.

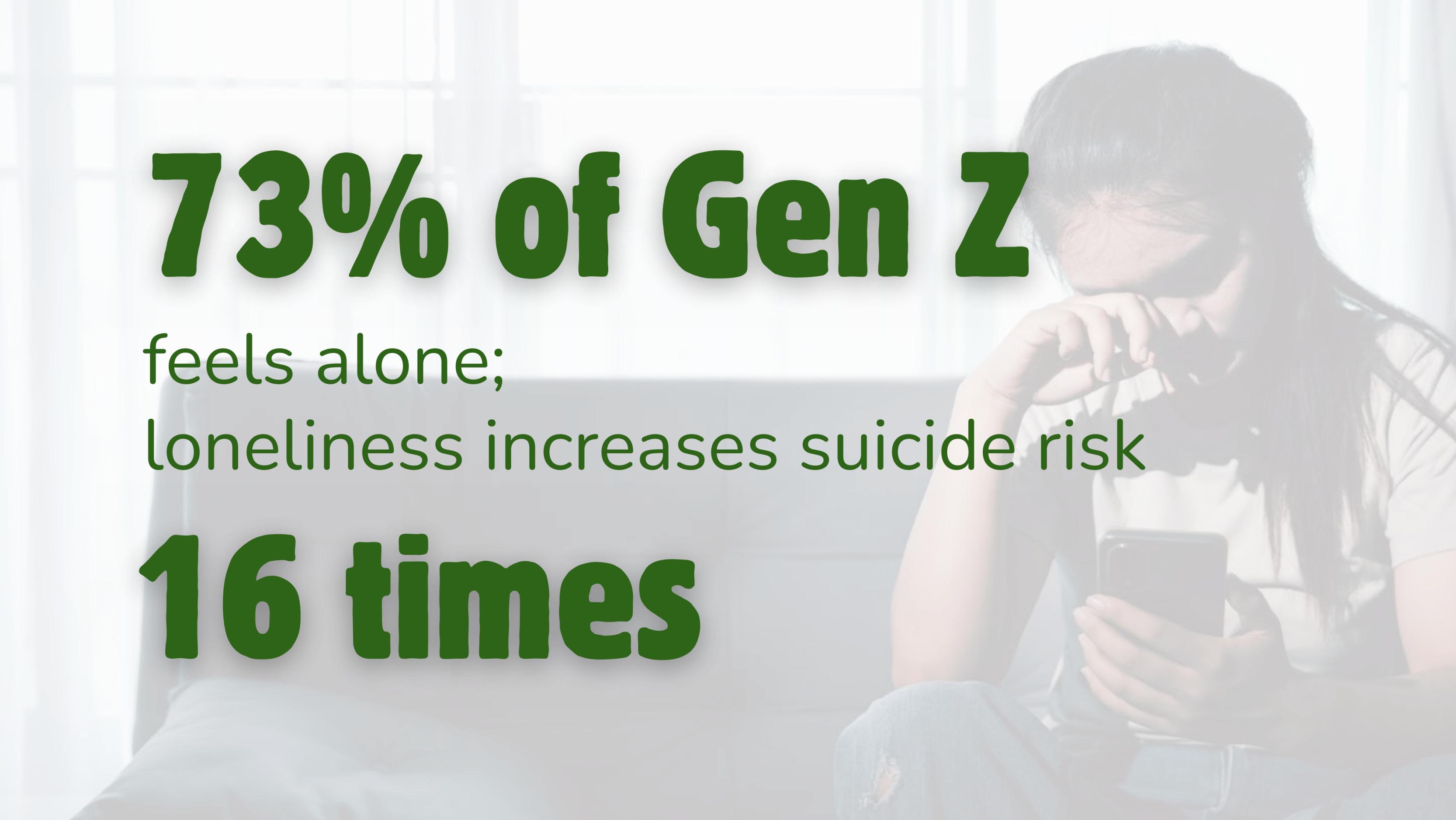
**65% of parents
(and 77% of
single parents)**

report loneliness and lack of support



66% of caregivers

in the “sandwich generation”
feel socially isolated

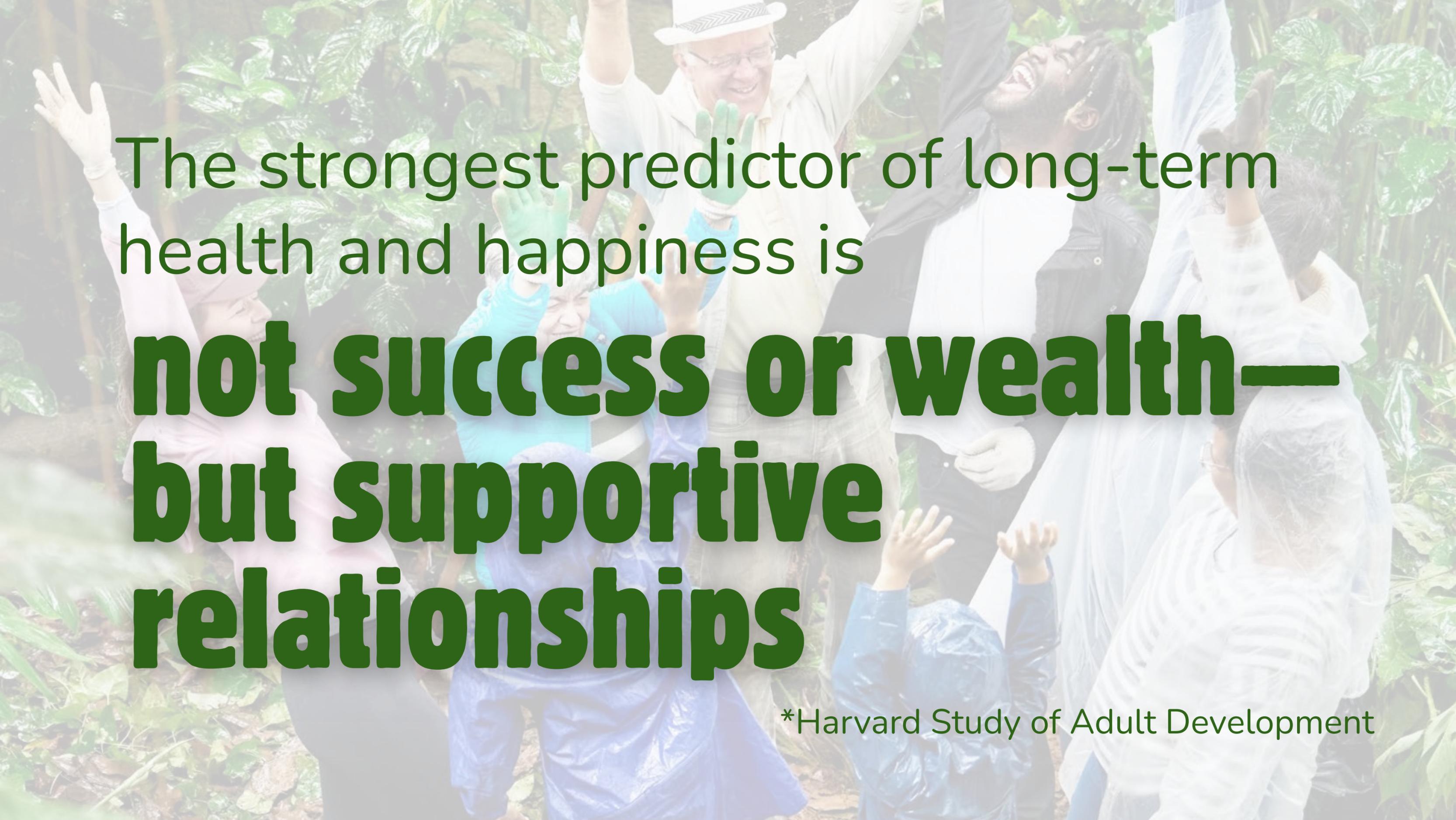


73% of Gen Z

feels alone;

loneliness increases suicide risk

16 times

A group of people, including an older man in a white hat and glasses, a woman in a blue raincoat, and a man in a black jacket, are standing in a lush green garden. They are all wearing raincoats and gloves, and have their arms raised in a celebratory gesture. The background is filled with various green plants and trees.

The strongest predictor of long-term health and happiness is

**not success or wealth—
but supportive
relationships**

*Harvard Study of Adult Development

Why the Church?

deep
communal
pain



deep
theological
hope.

A photograph of a brick building with a garden in the foreground. The building has a prominent gable roof and a circular window. The garden features a stone bench, a large tree, and yellow flowers. The text is overlaid on the image.

*Saturate our community with
connection and belonging...*

**on the Square
and everywhere.**

The Solution

We envision Brecksville UMC becoming the relational heart of Brecksville—on the Square and everywhere—where people of all ages move from isolation to belonging through deep, intergenerational connection.

We believe God is calling us to create spaces where no one has to struggle alone, and where faith is formed not just in pews, but in circles of shared life. This vision is bigger than attendance; it is about transforming lives and strengthening our entire community.



Saturate our community with connection and belonging...
on the Square and everywhere.



What it will take

Increased staffing/programming

Immediate building needs

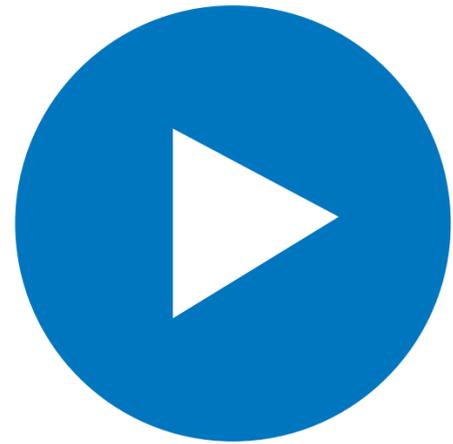
Alignment of space with mission

From Program-Focused to People-Focused



Systems of care for every stage of life.

From *Program-Focused* to *People-Focused*



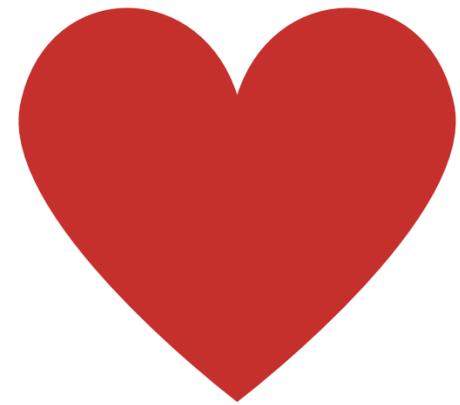
Part Time AV Director

To improve the quality, consistency, and reach of our online and in-person worship experiences, while allowing relational ministries to flourish.

Allows Communications & Connections Director to focus on:

- First-time guest follow-up
- Strengthening hospitality systems
- Developing welcome and connection teams
- Helping people move from initial contact into community

From *Program-Focused* to *People-Focused*



Care Pastor

To ensure that people in our congregation and community are not alone during seasons of illness, grief, aging, or emotional struggle—and to build a culture where care is shared rather than centralized.

A sustainable, church-wide culture of care where no one is expected to navigate life's hardest moments alone.

From *Program-Focused* to *People-Focused*



Children & Family Director

To support children and families in growing in faith and forming meaningful relationships with one another, recognizing that families are among the most relationally stretched members of our community.

Allows the Education Director to focus on discipleship at all ages/stages:

- Spiritual direction
- Exploring new (ancient)/different spiritual practices
- Helping adults connect faith with everyday life and decision-making
- Pay attention to spiritual lives

**Each role directly supports our vision of
saturating our community
with connection and belonging.**




**BRECKSVILLE
UNITED METHODIST CHURCH**
65 Public Square

Minimum Threshold Requirements

ROOF



BOILER



ELEVATOR



Longer-Term Building Vision (Phase 2-3)

dignity & accessibility



welcome & belonging

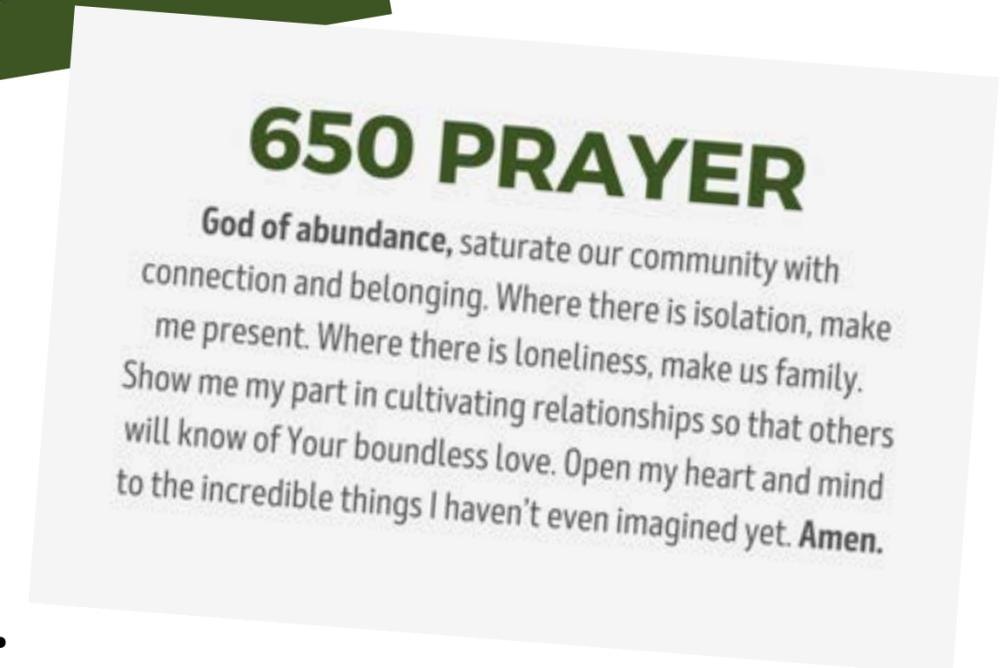


safety & stability



Next steps

1. **PRAY:** The 6:50 Prayer daily.
2. **LISTEN:** Where is your heart stirred?
3. **TALK:** Discuss this with family and friends.
4. **STAY ENGAGED:** We return in April to share what we heard.



This is an invitation to dream.



Finalized plan.



Pressure moment.



Communal step.



Spiritual discernment.



**"God is able to accomplish
abundantly far more than
all we can ask or imagine."**

Ephesians 3:20-21

Listening Post

SAVE THE DATE

April 26



**Interested in learning more?
Have questions?**

**What would you do
if you knew God
wouldn't let you fail?**