



JAMES BAY
United Church

Opening Doors to God's Love

October 2025

Dear friend,

We are so excited to launch our Thanksgiving Appeal again this year. Unlike last year's incredibly successful Thanksgiving fundraising campaign, we're doing something different: **We're not asking for donations today—we're asking for pledges.**

Why pledges? Because when we know in advance what giving we can count on, we can plan wisely, dream faithfully, and build a budget that reflects our shared vision rather than our best guess. In the past, we have estimated giving (and our team has done very well!), but this year we want to plan with even greater clarity and confidence.

Growing Into Who God Is Calling Us to Be

What excites us most is that this campaign isn't about fixing a problem. It's about **becoming more fully who God is calling us to be**. By any measure, our programs are thriving. In fact, many of them are so close to capacity there is very little room for growth. We're already practically spilling out of the building! At the same time, we occasionally hear someone say, "I don't feel like I belong yet." That tells us our work is not finished. **God isn't done with us—and we aren't done with God.**

There is so much pain in the world, and while we can't take it all away, we can build bridges that help people experience God's love. That's our theme this year: **building bridges**. Picture our church as a bridge between someone's pain and the hope and healing found in God. We are already doing this—and with your help, we can do even more.

A Bold but Beautiful Goal

We are praying and planning for **\$115,500** in tithes and weekly or monthly donations for next year. That's about a **20% increase over 2024**—a bold step of faith. On our own, it might feel daunting. But shared across many shoulders, and with God's help, it is within reach.

Every Gift Makes a Difference

We know everyone's capacity is different. Some may give \$25/month, others \$1,000/month, and most of us will fall somewhere in between. **Every pledge is a blessing. Every gift expresses trust in God's abundance.** To help you consider your contribution, we've included a giving pyramid—and for those who like numbers, we've included a chart as well.

Your Part in the Vision

We would be so grateful if you would let us know, confidentially, how much you expect to give next year by completing and returning the attached pledge card. Your commitment—no matter the amount—will help us build a faithful, inspiring, and sustainable vision for the year ahead.

We promise that our Board will be **diligent, ambitious, courageous, and wise** as we steward these pledges and invest in the ministries God has entrusted to us.

Thank you for being part of this journey of faith.
Together, we can build bridges of love in our community and beyond.

With gratitude,

Karen Halliday

Chair, Fund Development Team
 James Bay United Church Board

and

Martin Stewart

Chair
 James Bay United Church Board



Monthly Giving Chart

Annual Income	10%	8%	6%	4%	2%	1%
\$30,000	250	200	150	100	50	25
\$50,000	417	333	250	167	83	42
\$70,000	583	467	350	233	117	58
\$90,000	750	600	450	300	150	75
\$125,000	1,042	833	625	417	208	104
\$150,000	1,250	1,000	750	500	250	125

How much do I give?

