





2027

A Year to Grow

Resounding JOY —CHURCH—

Presbyterian Church (USA)







RJC

Centered on **Jesus**
Open to All
Saying "**Yes**...and" to God's call

Our Core Values:

Growing in Faith — We seek to help all to follow the Way of Jesus through engaging worship and study.

Belong — We seek to demonstrate compassion and grace so all feel welcome and may find belonging

Act — We seek to act for fairness for all through service and mission.

Innovate — We seek to embrace new ideas and creative approaches to ministry and outreach.

Our first year as RJC has been marked by *A LOT!*

Each ministry team has crafted short videos to celebrate some of what has taken place and you can find these at **https://resoundingjoy.church/growth-2027** or by scanning this QR code.

Our first year was like any new church

- Building Relationships
- Clarifying Vision
- Foundational Tasks (funding, organization, etc)

2027: A Year to Grow

Our first year was marked by us coming together internally but our second year has to be marked by how we are seeking to intentionally grow. This is going to require a different kind of commitment than is often asked at this time of the year. While the financial support of each member is vital for the ministry of the church, the Session is asking your commitment to something that is broader — your commitment to how God will use you to grow RJC in 2027 and beyond.

Toward this, we are setting out three initial growth steps for us as a congregation.

Building on our Current Outreach Ministries – Practical Grace and King's Closet

First, we have already begun the process of a greater intentionality of inviting people who are served by Practical Grace and King's Closet. Each month, those served by Practical Grace will be receiving information about what's coming up at RJC and how they can get connected if they do not yet have a congregational home. The same will begin with King's Closet.

Connecting with Colerain High School Students

Each school day, we have between 20-30 CHS students who hang out around the RJC building while they wait for rides to pick them up. **Starting in January**, we want to begin a short after-school time to give these young people a warm and dry place to be. We will provide fresh baked cookies or other treats, good wifi, and let them use the gathering area until their rides arrive. Initially the focus of these times will be on simply helping these young people know that RJC is a safe place for them and that they are welcomed and cared for.

Creation of a New Gathering / Worship Opportunity for the De-and Unchurched

While our 10:30 service will remain the same, we are going to begin a new weekly opportunity starting in Lent called Refugia. The idea behind Refugia is to provide a weekly space for people to come to restore, renew, and reconnect with God in their lives. The service will not look anything like what we do on Sunday but instead be more focused on contemplative practices, interactive stations, and interchange.

These are initial steps and the Session will do an initial evaluation of them in June 2027 to prayerfully evaluate how they are working, what changes might be necessary, or whether we need to pivot to other options.

But What About the Budget?

Yes, we have approved a preliminary budget for 2027 that is approximately $40,000 higher than our preliminary budget for 2026. The 2027 expenses are proposed to be approximately $323,000 compared to the proposed expenses for 2026 of $283,000.

Why the increase?

The 2026 budget was truly a guess at what would be needed for our first year. Some of it was based on previous building expenses and also had fixed costs for personnel but there were a lot of unknowns, especially with deferred maintenance for the building that needed to be taken care of.

We have included a 2% cost of living increase for staff members in recognition of their hard work and also the increased cost of living in general.

The building line item is the primary driver of this increase. We are intentionally planning for a higher amount that may not be realized in the actual when we come to the end of the year

But what about pledges?

We are trusting in the ways that the congregation has supported RJC thus far and in responding generously in what they will do in 2027. Continue to give and give in sacrificial ways as you are able.

We also have a large amount of resources that we can draw upon that are seed money to help us grow and not simply just survive that will supplement congregational giving.