

A white sunburst graphic with multiple rays of varying lengths, positioned behind the word 'Hope' in the main title.

# Hope Rising

THRIVING COMMUNITIES  
IMPACTING THE WORLD  
FOR FUTURE GENERATIONS

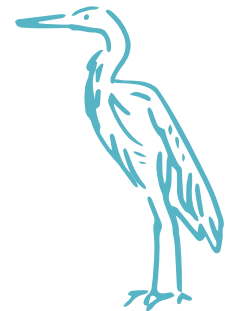


*This guide belongs to*



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## Dear Bethany Family,

I want to invite you to join me on a journey of generosity—a journey of growing in our awareness and response to God’s work in our lives. We see it all across our church: people are coming to faith, saying “yes” to Jesus through baptism, generations are worshiping together, and people are finding community and places to use their gifts to serve. The word is going out each week from six locations across our city, and together with our local and global partners, we are part of the new creation God is building. Hope is rising, and we get to be part of it!

Throughout this guidebook, you will find inspiration and information about how we as a church are responding to God’s generosity, leveraging His good work among us like never before. Why Hope Rising? Hope isn’t static. It’s not just a nice feeling or memories of God’s work in the past—it’s always looking ahead, asking: What’s next? What is God doing now? Hope is constantly growing and building, inviting new and better stories for all people.

Over the next five weeks, we are aiming for 100% engagement from our whole community, leaning in and walking together on the generous path God has laid before us. Hope Rising is an opportunity to see Bethany’s bright future and understand how each of us can contribute—not only for ourselves, but for our city, region, and world. Hope Rising is about supporting the people and ministries across our six locations, fostering thriving communities that impact the world for future generations. We will unpack more in the pages ahead, but the time to dream, see, and act is now. Will you join me on this journey?

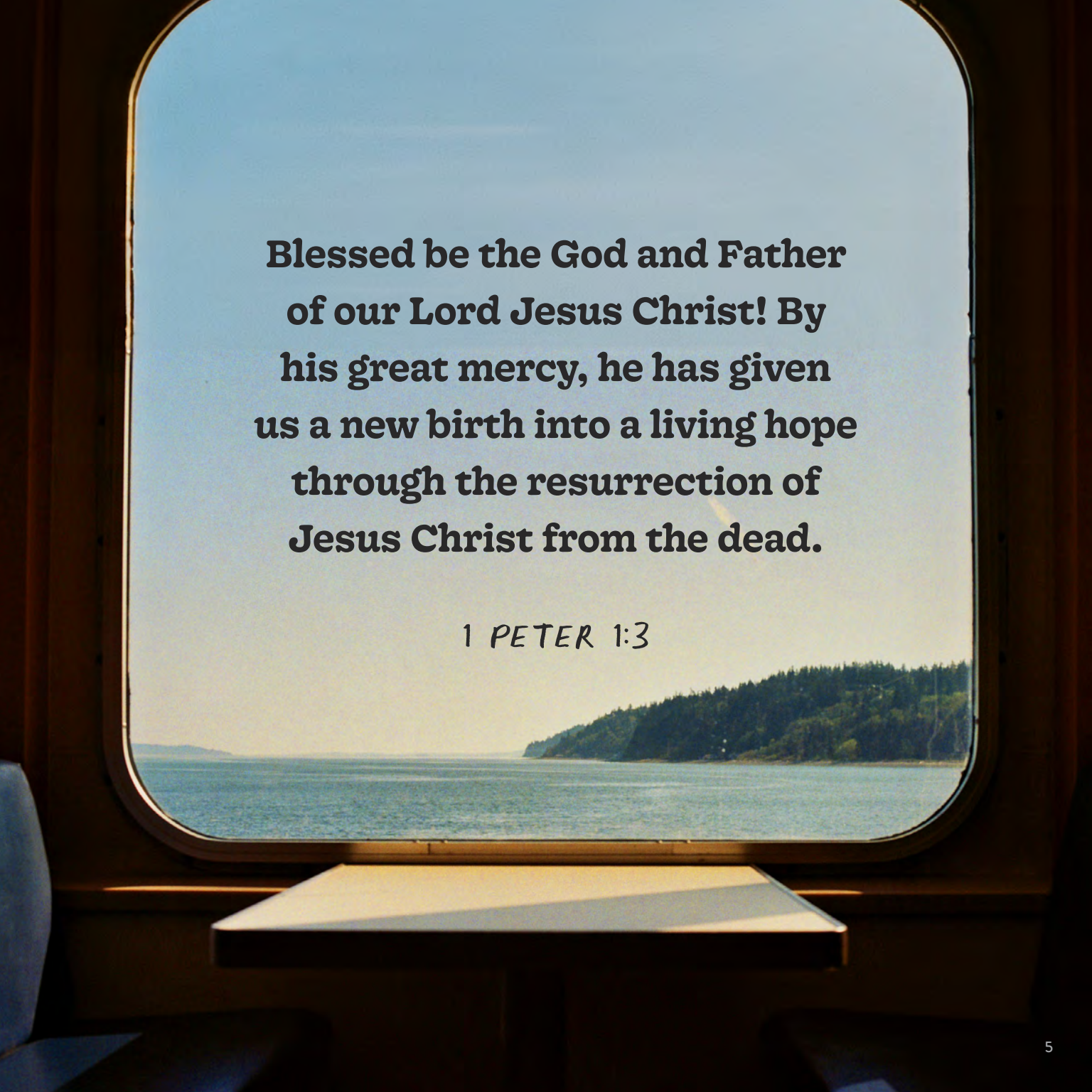
With hope,

*Scott Sund*

Scott Sund

Bething Community Church





**Blessed be the God and Father  
of our Lord Jesus Christ! By  
his great mercy, he has given  
us a new birth into a living hope  
through the resurrection of  
Jesus Christ from the dead.**

*1 PETER 1:3*

# 108 YEARS OF BETHANY



**1900**

BETHANY BEGAN IN BALLARD AS A MISSION TO NATIVE AMERICANS



**1916**

BETHANY BAPTIST CHURCH FORMS IN BALLARD

**1956**

BECOMES NON-DENOMINATIONAL BETHANY ASSEMBLY

**1957**

JOHN AND IONE MCCULLOUGH BEGIN 37 YEARS OF MINISTRY AT BETHANY



**1960**

CHURCH DRAWS MANY STUDENTS FROM SPU AND UW

**1969**

MOVES TO THE CURRENT LOCATION  
BY GREEN LAKE



**1971**

NAME CHANGES TO  
BETHANY COMMUNITY CHURCH

**1980**

PURCHASE BUILDING ACROSS THE  
STREET; BECOMES CHRISTIAN  
EDUCATION BUILDING



**1995**

RICHARD AND DONNA DAHLSTROM BEGIN  
29 YEARS OF MINISTRY AT BETHANY

**2005**

ATTENDANCE OUTGROWS CHAPEL  
BUILDING; CONGREGATION MOBILIZES TO  
BUILD A NEW SANCTUARY



**2008**

NEW SANCTUARY AT  
GREEN LAKE



**2010**

LAUNCH OF BETHANY NORTH AND  
BETHANY WEST SEATTLE

**2012**

2020 VISION SETS THE STAGE FOR  
CONGREGATIONS ACROSS THE REGION

**2014–15**

LAUNCH OF BETHANY NORTHEAST,  
EASTSIDE, AND BALLARD

**2016**

GREEN LAKE CLC CONSTRUCTION  
BEGINS;  
BETHANY TURNS 100!

**2021**

SCOTT SUND IS NAMED SENIOR PASTOR.  
CONTINUING HIS AND HEATHER'S MINISTRY  
AT BETHANY;  
A FIRE BURNED THROUGH THE FAMILY  
FUN CENTER, WHAT WAS TO BE BETHANY  
NORTH'S NEW WORSHIP SPACE





# Where are

**2024**

VISION 2030 LAUNCHES— WE ARE BUILDING A CHURCH THAT IS ENCOUNTERING GOD, CULTIVATING RELATIONSHIPS, AND SERVING OUR COMMUNITIES.



## MINISTRY OF RACIAL JUSTICE & RECONCILIATION

**300** people participating in racial justice and reconciliation within our church and with our communities through pilgrimages, restorative circles, and learning events.



## CHILDREN & YOUTH MINISTRIES

Nearly **450** children and youth fill our halls with energy and laughter every Sunday!



## BETHANY WILDERNESS MINISTRY

**929** people experiencing Christ in the outdoors through the Bethany Wilderness Ministry.

# we now?



## BELONG MINISTRIES

Providing support and a place of belonging for **42** foster families, adoptive families, and families of children with disabilities, with **64** kids receiving care and support from volunteer Sunday buddies.



## BETHANY CONFERENCES

Thriving Conference engaging more than **35** Seattle-area churches and over **200** people on issues facing teens and tweens.

Relationships Conference supporting nearly **340** people in their relationships.



## COMMUNITY MEALS

Our Food Bank distributing approximately **1,053** bags of food, and our Community Meal program serving about **900** people over the last year.





## 2030 VISION

We are building a church that is encountering God, cultivating relationships, and serving our communities.

## WHAT IS HOPE RISING?

# One Fund, Two Years, Three Purposes.

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Bethany Community Church's Hope Rising Initiative builds on our 108-year legacy of strong biblical teaching and wholehearted dedication to Jesus as God empowers us toward **VISION 2030**: *We are building a church that is encountering God, cultivating relationships, and serving our communities.*

Hope Rising invites us to invest our time, energy, and resources into three key purposes over the next two years. Our goals are to engage the entire congregation in a discipleship journey toward greater generosity, while also providing the financial support needed to achieve Bethany's future through three focuses: **Thriving Communities** in our locations and ministries, **Impacting the World** through expanded mission investments, and serving **Future Generations** with a permanent facility for Bethany North, college and leadership development ministries, and other ministry expansions.

An aerial photograph of a body of water, likely a lake or ocean, with a white rectangular text box overlaid in the center. The water is dark blue-green with golden-brown highlights from the sun, creating a textured, shimmering effect. The text box is white with a thin black border and contains the following text:

*PRIMARY GOAL*

***100% Engagement***

Our primary goal through Hope Rising is that everyone at Bethany at Bethany will engage in this initiative and experience a life-changing encounter with God.

## SECONDARY GOAL

Our secondary goal is financial. If 100% of people at Bethany fully engage, we expect to see an increase in generosity such as we've never experienced before. We desire to unleash greater resources in order to share the Gospel of Jesus in our city, invite all people into mutually transformative relationships, and make a tangible impact in our communities.

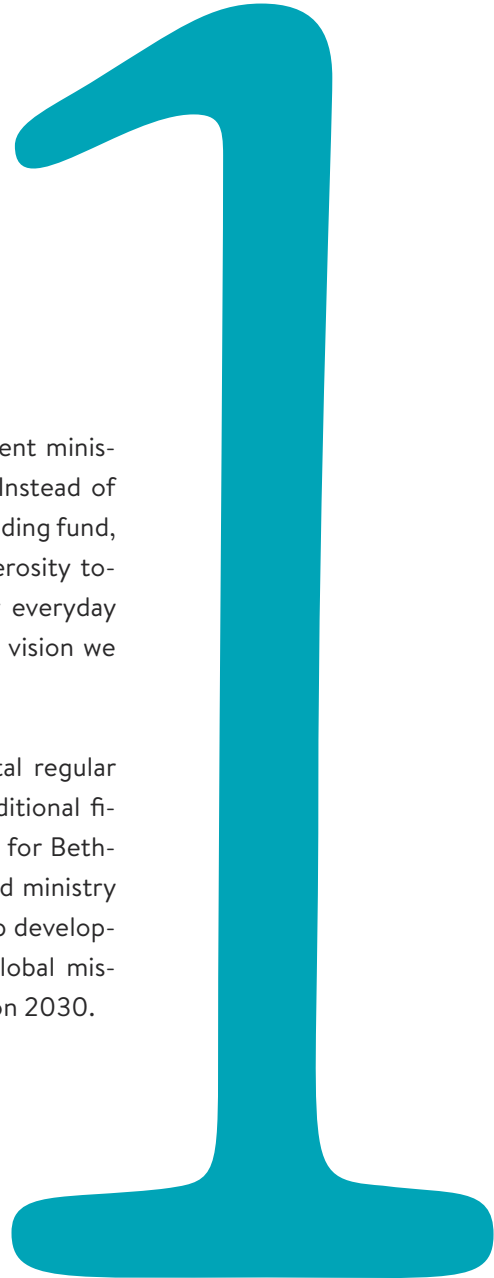
Whether you've never given financially to Bethany, are an occasional giver, or have given consistently, there is a next step God is asking each of us to take on this journey.



# What is a One Fund Initiative?

This is an initiative that seeks to fund all current ministries along with new projects and ministries. Instead of giving toward multiple funds (general fund, building fund, missions fund, etc.), we will combine all generosity toward **ONE FUND**. This includes fulfilling our everyday ministry (annual budget) as well as the future vision we are moving toward.

So, the dollar amount includes Bethany's total regular expenses for the next two years, plus the additional finances needed to provide a permanent home for Bethany North, along with other new and increased ministry investments: in college ministry and leadership development across locations, expanded local and global missions, All-Bethany Ministries, and funding Vision 2030.

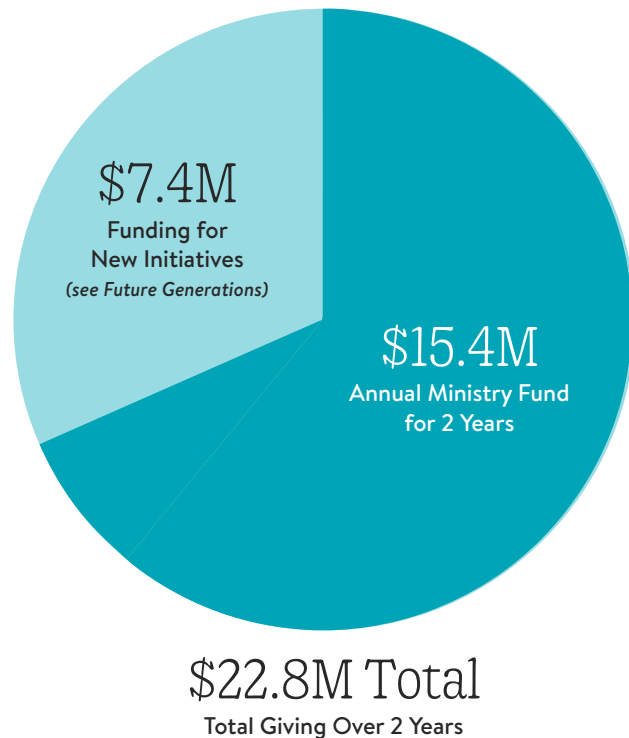




# What's the **BIG** picture?

In order to sustain our current level of ministry, our offerings budget is approximately **\$15.4M** over the next two years. This amount funds all our ministries, mission initiatives, and operational needs. However, over the next two years, we hope to raise an additional **\$7.4M**.

The total of **\$22.8M** represents the combined goal of sustaining our current ministries and operations while also expanding our impact and securing the future. The breakdown below details how these funds will be allocated over the next two years through the Hope Rising initiative:



## Thriving Communities

Investing in two years of Bethany's ministry plans across our six locations ensuring robust and sustained ministry impact

→ *page 20*

## Impacting the World

Investing in two years of Bethany's local & global partnerships to continue providing long-term solutions and immediate relief for poverty and injustice among the most vulnerable

→ *page 22*

## Future Generations

Investing in the future through a permanent home for Bethany North, a college and leadership development program housed at Green Lake, a Bethany-hosted after-school program, and targeted expansions of our All-BCC Ministries

→ *page 24*



# Thriving Communities

## Let's do the math!

**\$7,000,000** Annual Ministry Funding  
**x 2 years** Years of Hope Rising  

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**\$14,000,000** Thriving Communities



Our general ministry fund is anything but general! We are nurturing a vibrant community of faith where people are growing in their relationship with Christ far beyond Sunday services. This includes our weekend worship gatherings; Children, Youth and Family programming; Belong Ministries; Small Groups; Stephen Ministers; Deacon Care; and local and global missions. These efforts are essential to living out our calling as a church and making a meaningful impact in the lives of our congregants and the world around us.

Through Hope Rising, we will continue to invest in these essential aspects of our church, ensuring that these areas of ministry thrive and grow.

## Weekly Worship

Central to our community, our Sunday worship services provide transformative teaching and participatory worship, creating a welcoming space for individuals and families to encounter God and engage in meaningful fellowship.



## Children, Youth, & Family Ministry

Bethany's Children, Youth, and Family ministry is a vibrant and vital part of our community, with almost 450 kids in attendance on Sundays across all locations. Programs, including Vacation Bible School, high school retreats, middle school camps, family campouts, and Beyond Malibu backpacking trips for teens, provide opportunities for children and youth to grow in their faith and build lasting relationships. Strengthening these ministries is a core focus of Vision 2030, as we are led by the Holy Spirit to love, inspire, and equip children, youth, and families to follow and be transformed by Christ. Through Hope Rising, we will ensure that our children, youth, and family ministries continue to flourish and expand.

## Belong Ministry

Bethany's Belong Ministry is dedicated to supporting families of children with disabilities, foster families, and adoptive families by providing presence, support, respite, and care. Kids with disabilities are paired with a volunteer buddy each week, ensuring that church is accessible and welcoming for individuals of all abilities and that every family feels valued and supported. The ministry also fosters connection through support groups and events that encourage engagement across shared experiences. Through Hope Rising, we aim to expand this ministry to reach even more families throughout our region, ensuring that those often overlooked know they belong and are essential members of the body of Christ.

## Empowering Discipleship and Sustainable Growth Across Our Locations

A core value at Bethany has always been to create a place where people can grow in their faith through smaller gatherings. Small groups, classes, and other community-building events make it easier for individuals to both know and be known within our church family. Bethany Community Church is one church with six vibrant locations, five of which have been established in the last 15 years. Through Hope Rising, we are committed to empowering each location to address the unique needs of their neighborhoods, ensuring that these essential aspects of our church thrive and grow. Over the next two years, our ministry funding will prioritize these goals.



# Impacting the World

**\$700,000** Annual Ministry Funding  
**x 2 years** Years of Hope Rising  

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**\$1,400,000** Impacting the World



Through new and existing strategic partnerships, we will continue investing in long-term solutions and immediate relief for poverty and injustice globally and locally. As we seek to participate in Christ's mission in the world, Bethany aims to make a tangible difference in some of the world's most pressing issues by focusing on six key areas:

- **School Partnerships**
- **Refugees and Vulnerable Immigrants**
- **Unhoused Neighbors**
- **Foster & Adoption**
- **Creation Stewardship**
- **Duwamish Tribe & Rainier Valley**

## Current Local & Global Ministries

**LOCALLY**, we seek to support vulnerable families and individuals on their journey toward flourishing through the overflowing love of Christ. Each Bethany location is involved in outreach to their specific neighborhoods, hosting activities such as community meals, food bank, blood drives, and support for local schools. Collectively, we support strategic programs with faith-based partner organizations to make an impact across our six focus areas. These initiatives create opportunities for relational engagement between our congregation and those experiencing vulnerability, allowing us to broaden our experience of God's kingdom as we are transformed together by Christ's love.

*Among these programs are:*

- **Good Neighbor Teams:** Volunteers from Bethany assist in the resettlement of refugee families.
- **Strong Families Ministry:** Volunteers offer short-term respite for children and parental support to families in crisis, helping to prevent family separation.
- **Circles of Care:** This companionship program pairs volunteers with recently re-housed neighbors, providing essential support during their transition and addressing isolation.

These ministries and more seek to leverage the gifts of our congregation and community to experience the fullness of Christ together. We believe we all have a role in Christ's redemptive work in the places of greatest vulnerability in our city and that the Church will shine as light as we step into the story together.

**GLOBALLY**, we strive to share Christ's love and generosity by partnering with communities in Rwanda, Costa Rica, and Nicaragua. Through collaboration with local churches, we help introduce new farming methods, support community development, and provide family support. These efforts are helping entire communities to thrive. Bethany congregants are actively involved, visiting our global partners each year to learn, work together, and join in the renewal of God's creation.

## New Initiatives

**AFTER-SCHOOL PROGRAM:** In partnership with School Connect WA, a new after-school program will operate 5 days a week out of Bethany Green Lake's Community Life Center, supporting unhoused and low-income families of our school partner Daniel Bagley Elementary. The program will support literacy and math skills for students as well as social, emotional, and spiritual development. It will also support parental development through intentional community building and a no-cost solution to child care.

**CHURCH EMPOWERMENT IN NORTHERN MEXICO:** In partnership with World Relief, Bethany will expand its ministry of hospitality to the stranger to include support for asylum seekers in Northern Mexico. This new partnership in Northern Mexico will empower the local church to intervene on behalf of those who have fled their country of origin but have not yet been resettled.



**\$3,100,000** Annual Funding  
 x **2 years** Years of Hope Rising  
 -----  
**\$7,400,000** Future Generations





## Permanent Home for Bethany North

At the heart of our vision for future generations is a permanent home for Bethany North. This new space will provide a dedicated place for worship, youth gatherings, children and family ministries, offices, and a wide range of community-serving opportunities.

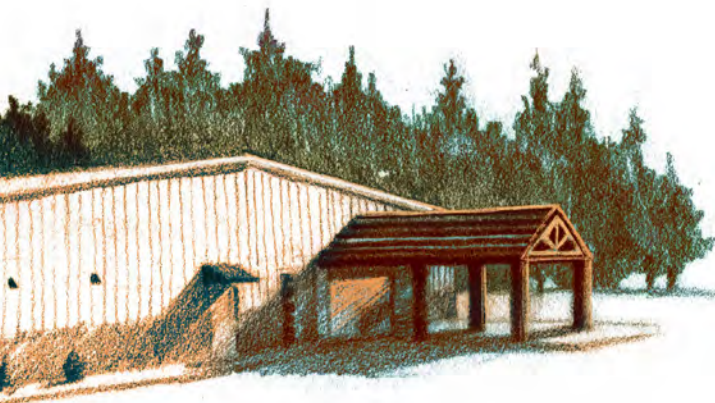
Thanks to the generosity of past capital campaign contributors and the diligent savings Bethany has set aside for capital investments, we already have \$2M to put toward this Bethany North Church Building! We are currently pursuing a specific building and have entered a feasibility study to assess its suitability. While we hope and expect this will become the new home for Bethany North, we are committed to continuing the search if it doesn't work out. Our goal is to secure a location that will serve the communities of Shoreline, Mountlake Terrace, Edmonds, Lynnwood, and beyond.



## College and Leadership Development

For nearly 50 years, Bethany has deeply valued engaging with college students and nurturing their lifelong journey with Christ. Many of our current congregants first came to Bethany as students and are now raising their families in our Christ-centered community.

Internships have also played a significant role at Bethany, with several key staff members beginning their vocational ministry journey as interns here. Our vision includes a thriving college ministry and leadership development program based at Green Lake, dedicated to cultivating the growth of future leaders both within and beyond our community. Through these initiatives, we are building a legacy of faith and opportunity for generations to come.



## All-Bethany Ministries Expansion

As we look to the future, we are committed to expanding two All-Bethany ministries—Wilderness Ministry and the Ministry of Racial Justice and Reconciliation. These ministries play a crucial role in living out Christ’s love by connecting people to God through nature and advancing biblical justice and reconciliation. Through Hope Rising, we will strengthen these ministries, extending their reach and impact as we move toward Vision 2030.



**MINISTRY OF RACIAL JUSTICE & RECONCILIATION:** As we follow Jesus together, our lives are shaped by God’s justice and reconciliation. The Holy Spirit is at work, transforming our hearts and healing the brokenness caused by racism in our nation, city, and daily lives. The Ministry of Racial Justice and Reconciliation provides spaces to engage with these issues, bringing diverse people together in unity and calling us toward God’s justice. Through learning opportunities and experiential practices, we explore how God’s justice impacts our hearts, relationships, and neighborhoods.

MRJR offers heritage month celebrations, restorative practices circles, dialogue training, local pilgrimages, BIPOC gatherings, speaker events, discussion groups, and workshops.



**WILDERNESS MINISTRY:** Since 2000, Bethany’s Wilderness Ministry has facilitated transformative encounters with Christ, community, and creation through volunteer-led outdoor activities. This ministry serves as Bethany’s leading “front door,” offering first-time connections for new congregants through day hikes, trail running trips, backpacking, paddle boarding, stewardship outings, road cycling, urban walks, and more. By investing in staffing, gear, and other resources, we aim to expand this vital outreach, meeting the unique need for connection and spiritual growth in the natural world. Through these efforts, we bring more people to Christ, encourage engagement with creation, and foster a regular rhythm of retreat in the outdoors with Christ.

# How Can You Respond?

We are asking you to go on a spiritual journey with God—to take the biggest steps of generosity you’ve ever taken.



## PRAY

Pray for awareness of how God is inviting you to respond to God’s generosity in this season. Additionally, pray for our whole Bethany community to respond to God’s presence and movement within Bethany during this time.

**My prayer for Bethany is:** \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**My prayer for this season is:** \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

## ENGAGE

Our primary goal is 100% engagement in Hope Rising! Over the next five weeks, stand side by side with people from all locations of Bethany to be available for how God invites us to move. Join in worship each Sunday as we explore holistic generosity together.

**I will engage Hope Rising through:** \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

*(Ex: weekly worship, small group, read and use the guidebook, discussion)*

## GROW

Hope Rising is an opportunity to grow in holistic generosity as we explore the discipleship themes of worship, justice, family, relationships, and leadership. Use this guidebook for weekly reflection and daily invitations on your own, with those in your home, or with a group using the Hope Rising booklet. Read through this guidebook, and ask God to show you how to grow in your practice of generosity.

**God is inviting me to grow by:** \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

## COMMIT

Hope Rising is a five-week season that we hope will change us for the coming years! Commit to a personal intention of ongoing generosity through worship, justice, family, relationship, and leadership. As we journey together through Hope Rising to invite more people to God, community, and wholeness, join in by taking a step of financial generosity.

**I can grow in generosity through Hope Rising by:** \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

# Generosity Pathway

IT DOESN'T MATTER WHERE YOU ARE.  
IT MATTERS THAT YOU TAKE A NEXT STEP.




## INITIAL GIVER

An **INITIAL GIVER** decides to give for the first time out of a response to God's Word about giving. This is someone who decides to give something and trust God and the leaders of the Church with this gift.

## CONSISTENT GIVER

A **CONSISTENT GIVER** commits to give something on a regular basis. Consistent Givers start to think of their giving in the same way they think about other budget expenses that are always paid, regardless of seasons of plenty or want. They often set up an online recurring gift to help cement this important habit.



## INTENTIONAL GIVER

An **INTENTIONAL GIVER** thinks about giving in relation to other things they spend their money on: “Why do I give the cable company or my cell provider more money than I give to God?” They consider a percentage or amount they want to commit to in order to consciously grow in their generosity. Intentional Givers look at their budget and consider how their giving reflects their view of God and commitment to God’s work in the world.

## SURRENDERED GIVER

A **SURRENDERED GIVER** realizes the cost Christ paid on the cross for us and is surrendered to honoring God with 100% of their resources as a result. A Surrendered Giver gives in a way that changes them. Their giving governs their spending/saving rather than their spending/saving governing their giving. A Surrendered Giver focuses on how to give more holistically of their resources. They seek to honor God with 100% of what He has given them, whether direct monetary giving or a God-honoring use of an existing resource like a home or a vehicle.

## LIFETIME GIVER

A **LIFETIME GIVER** thinks about the long-term effects of generosity rather than month-to-month, or even year-to-year, generosity. A Lifetime Giver makes decisions in the short-term that have longer-term effects as it relates to their generosity capacity. They think of what home they buy, what car they purchase, and how much savings they choose to keep all in relation to their generosity capacity. A Lifetime Giver might be someone who has a lifetime giving goal that governs their larger-ticket decisions. Much like a Surrendered Giver makes a commitment that governs monthly and annual decisions, a Lifetime Giver makes a lifetime or longer-term giving commitments that govern larger-item purchases like homes, cars, investments, vacations, etc.



# Creative Ways to Give More Generously

Generosity Initiatives like Hope Rising are successful when everyone who calls Bethany “home” makes gift commitments that **expand and accelerate** their current level of giving. The best path to increased giving is the spiritual path, where we all set our hearts on things above. Financial priorities then take shape from spiritual priorities.

One way of defining this is “**Lifestyle Stewardship**,” a term used to describe a level of giving that affects our living. The challenge of Lifestyle Stewardship is to find ways, boldly and prayerfully, to expand our giving. Each one of us has different resources and abilities, which is why the phrase “equal sacrifice, not equal giving” rings true.

King David declared, “**I will not sacrifice to the Lord my God burnt offerings that cost me nothing**” (2 Samuel 24:24 NIV). David understood the gift that would touch the heart of God must first touch the heart of the giver. This is the spirit of Lifestyle Stewardship: if it is for my God, my gift must have value and meaning to me.

Often, Lifestyle Giving means sacrificing something in one area to give more of yourself in another. The three keys to effectiveness in Lifestyle Stewardship are:

- **Reassess lifestyle**
- **Rearrange priorities**
- **Reallocate resources**

Many believers have been amazed at their ability to give more generously to their church than they ever thought possible by engaging in the following practices.

## **1. PRACTICE PRIORITY BUDGETING**

Many people choose to rearrange their priorities and give up something in their current budget to give more to a generosity initiative. This may mean postponing a planned expenditure such as a new car, vacation, home remodel, or other major purchase. Many people find ways to give through sacrificial commitments made in faith and coupled with priority budgeting.

## **2. REDIRECT PRESENT EXPENDITURES**

Often there are significant short-term expenditures for particular needs. One example is the large expense a family incurs for a child to attend college. One family realized their daughters would be graduating from college during the two years of the generosity initiative, and as a result, they were able to increase their commitment to the second year of the initiative by thousands of dollars because they redirected what they had been spending on their daughters' tuition. Another example is the cash flow that is freed up when a car or home loan is paid off.

## **3. INCREASE GIVING WHEN INCOME INCREASES**

Some people receive periodic increases in salary or bonuses from their employers. The temptation for many of us is to increase our lifestyle to fit the higher income. In many instances, people have decided that they will commit the full amount of salary increases to their church's generosity initiative.

## **4. GIVE FROM YOUR EXCESS**

A young man decided that two collectors' baseball cards worth over \$20,000 that he had been holding

for a number of years would be the most appropriate means of sacrifice for him. Some families save money over a period of years for a special project. One couple had saved \$80,000 to build a lake cabin. When their church entered a generosity initiative, they decided the needs of the church were greater than their need for a second home.

## **5. COMMIT UNEXPECTED CASH**

Often, people pray for God to show them a way they can give beyond what they can presently see or afford. Sometimes, the answers come unexpectedly. A couple had been praying for weeks about their commitment to the church generosity initiative. Much to their surprise, they received an inheritance of several thousand dollars. They gave the entire amount to their church as part of their two-year commitment, in addition to a commitment from their regular income.

## **6. GIVE YOUR EXTRA TIME**

Some people have extra time they would be willing to use in a part- or full-time job to be able to give more to the church. One man was in the process of retiring when his church entered a initiative; he decided to postpone retirement by one year and committed his entire salary that year to the giving initiative.

## **7. DONATE APPRECIATED ASSETS (STORED RESOURCES)**

Many people own stocks that are worth significantly more than the original purchase price. That is good news. The bad news is that if these stocks are sold, a significant portion of the gain would be lost to taxation.

Gifts of appreciated assets—typically investment securities, real estate, and crypto-currencies—can be very advantageous to both the donor and to the church. By transferring ownership of the asset to the church, the giver avoids capital gains taxes on the sale of the asset. In addition, the giver receives an income tax charitable deduction for the full market value of the asset. That, in effect, makes these gifts less costly to make.

	Sell Asset & Gift Net Proceeds	Transfer Asset Directly
Value of Asset	\$50,000	\$50,000
Original Purchase Price	\$10,000	\$10,000
Amount of Appreciation	\$40,000	\$40,000
Capital Gains & State Taxes*	\$9,720	\$0
Proceeds to Church <i>(asset value minus taxes)</i>	\$40,280	\$50,000

\*Assumes a 12-month holding period, 15% capital gains tax, 9.3% state income tax rate

It is important to consider the tax implications of making a gift to the church. Before making a commitment of this type, please consult your CPA, tax attorney, or other financial advisor.

### CONSIDER THE CHARITABLE IRA

Congress has enacted a permanent extension of the IRA charitable rollover. As a result, individuals age 70½ or older can make gifts directly from their IRA to charity.

### Benefits of an IRA Charitable Rollover

- **Avoid taxes on transfers of up to \$100,000 from your IRA to Bethany**
- **Satisfy your required minimum distribution (RMD) for the year**
- **Reduce your taxable income, even if you do not itemize deductions**
- **Make a gift that is not subject to the 50% deduction limits on charitable gifts**

## A Final Word about Planning Your Giving

Giving does not have to be in equal increments over the two-year period of the initiative. As you consider your financial commitment, think about both your current and future potential to give. It might be that you can make a two-year commitment in which 35-40% is given in the first year and 60-65% is given in the second year. Or, perhaps you are ready to give from stored resources and you are able to do that sooner. Giving earlier in the initiative is a boost for Bethany, as it would help with our ability to purchase the North Church building or even eliminate the need for a loan.

Finally, as you consider your financial commitment, you might want to consider estate planning. Many faithful believers have not made provision for God in their wills and estate plans. It might be as simple as including a provision in your will that 10% of the value of your estate will be donated to the church of which you are a member at the time of your passing. Or it could involve a planned gift such as a charitable remainder trust. While such gifts may not provide immediate financial benefit to the generosity initiative, they are marvelous gifts of faith to carry on the work of the church for future generations.



# Giving Scenarios

## Initial Giver

Michael is new to the faith and has never given before. He took the Spiritual Journey class at Bethany Green Lake and is now starting several spiritual disciplines, including financial generosity. It's a huge step of faith for him, but Michael has decided to give \$25 per week. Combined with \$500 from his savings, Michael plans to give a total two-year contribution of \$3,100 to the Hope Rising initiative.

## Consistent Giver

Michelle has witnessed changes in her own life as she's been part of ministry and community, first at Bethany Green Lake and now at Bethany West Seattle. So far, she has been giving casually if she has extra cash on hand during offering time. However, she now feels led to become more consistent in her giving by setting up a recurring gift online. Her plan is to increase her usual annual giving of \$500 by \$1250, bringing her up to \$1,750 a year. With the addition of \$500 from a vacation savings fund, in two years she will have given \$4,000 to the Hope Rising initiative.

## Intentional Giver

Christina and Mark are members at Bethany Northeast and have given consistently to the church at a steady 5%. With a combined income of \$120,000, they contribute \$6,000 each year. Hope Rising, however, has prompted

### INITIAL GIVER | WORKSHEET EXAMPLE

\$	<u>0</u>	What I/we normally give in one year
\$	<u>+ 1,300</u>	My/our extended annual generosity for Hope Rising
\$	<u>= 1,300</u>	x 2 years = \$ <u>2,600</u>
		<i>My/our gifts from stored resources (stocks, real estate, savings, selling items, etc.)</i> \$ <u>+ 500</u>
		<b>My/Our Two-Year Commitment</b> \$ <u>3,100</u>

### CONSISTENT GIVER | WORKSHEET EXAMPLE

\$	<u>500</u>	What I/we normally give in one year
\$	<u>+ 1,250</u>	My/our extended annual generosity for Hope Rising
\$	<u>= 1,750</u>	x 2 years = \$ <u>3,500</u>
		<i>My/our gifts from stored resources (stocks, real estate, savings, selling items, etc.)</i> \$ <u>+ 500</u>
		<b>My/Our Two-Year Commitment</b> \$ <u>4,000</u>

### INTENTIONAL GIVER | WORKSHEET EXAMPLE

\$	<u>6,000</u>	What I/we normally give in one year
\$	<u>+ 6,000</u>	My/our extended annual generosity for Hope Rising
\$	<u>= 12,000</u>	x 2 years = \$ <u>24,000</u>
		<i>My/our gifts from stored resources (stocks, real estate, savings, selling items, etc.)</i> \$ <u>+ 2,000</u>
		<b>My/Our Two-Year Commitment</b> \$ <u>26,000</u>

(Continued on next page)



them to tithe a full 10%. It will require some adjustments, but they know it's what they can do to respond to God's generosity. Also, they've been saving for a boat but have decided to give the \$2,000 in that account as well. They are now planning to give \$26,000 to the church over the next two years.

## Sacrificial Giver

Andrew developed the discipline of tithing years ago, and he has experienced God's provision again and again during his time at Bethany Ballard. Andrew will increase his giving percentage from 10% to 12% of his annual income of \$70,000, or \$8,400 a year. Over two years, with the addition of \$2,000 from the transfer of stocks that are no longer of interest to him, Andrew looks forward to giving \$18,800 to the Hope Rising initiative.

## Lifetime Giver

Amanda loves to give of her time, talents, and resources, and has experienced this joy at Bethany North. She has set a lifetime giving goal for herself, and she is excited to reach it. She has been giving 15% of her \$90,000 income (\$13,500) to the church in recent years, but she is inspired to increase the annual amount to \$15,000. She has been considering the purchase of a new home recently but has realized that purchase may inhibit her ability to reach her giving goal. So, Amanda has decided not to move and to give her down payment toward the Hope Rising initiative instead.

### SACRIFICIAL GIVER | WORKSHEET EXAMPLE

\$	<u>7,000</u>	What I/we normally give in one year
\$	+ <u>1,400</u>	My/our extended annual generosity for Hope Rising
\$	= <u>8,400</u>	x 2 years = \$ <u>16,800</u>
		My/our gifts from stored resources (stocks, real estate, savings, selling items, etc.)
		\$ <u>2,000</u>
<b>My/Our Two-Year Commitment</b>		\$ <u>18,800</u>

### LIFETIME GIVER | WORKSHEET EXAMPLE

\$	<u>13,500</u>	What I/we normally give in one year
\$	+ <u>1,500</u>	My/our extended annual generosity for Hope Rising
\$	= <u>15,000</u>	x 2 years = \$ <u>30,000</u>
		My/our gifts from stored resources (stocks, real estate, savings, selling items, etc.)
		\$ <u>60,000</u>
<b>My/Our Two-Year Commitment</b>		\$ <u>90,000</u>

# Making a Hope Rising Commitment

*HELPFUL EXERCISE AND REFLECTION TO DO  
AT HOME PRIOR TO COMMITMENT WEEKEND.*

1. List your current financial commitments - those that go beyond a one-time payment and have a time duration to them. Ex: a home mortgage, lease agreement, childcare, car loan, cell phone contract, school tuition, etc.
2. List your other monthly financial expenses. Ex: eating out, travel, etc.
3. If someone who didn't know you looked at your monthly commitments and expenses, what might they say you value? Would those statements be true about you?
4. Write out the commitment you plan to make toward Hope Rising.
  - a. Where does it fall in relation to your other financial commitments?
  - b. Will you need to modify other commitments to fulfill your Hope Rising commitment?
  - c. What would be needed if you wanted to increase your Hope Rising commitment?
  - d. How are your current financial commitments aligned with your desire to respond to God's generosity?
5. If you keep your commitment to Hope Rising over the next two years, what might deepen, grow, or change about the way that you follow Jesus? What spiritual transformation might happen in you?
6. How will you leverage this change to inspire others in your life - family, co-workers, Bethany family, or others in your circles of influence? What might you inspire them toward?

**PRAY OVER YOUR COMMITMENT:** Prayer, both individually and corporately, is essential to Hope Rising.

**LET'S DO THIS!** Let's boldly surrender ourselves to God in every area of our lives so that together we can be people of hope, shining the light of Jesus in every corner of our communities!



# My/Our Two-Year Commitment

Please use this worksheet to estimate giving. These numbers may be changed at any time.

\$ \_\_\_\_\_ What I/we normally give in one year

+

\$ \_\_\_\_\_ My/our extended annual generosity  
for Hope Rising

=

\$ \_\_\_\_\_ x 2 years = \$ \_\_\_\_\_

+

My/our gifts from stored resources \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
(stocks, real estate, savings, selling items, etc.)

=

## My/Our Two-Year Hope Rising Commitment

\$ \_\_\_\_\_

November 2024–2026





# Hope Rising

DEVOTIONAL

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Engage with the Hope Rising sermon series over the following pages - through additional reflections, scripture, questions, as well as the daily engagements (these are a separate handout that you can grab on Sunday), you can dive deeper as you consider what Holistic Generosity looks like for you in this season. Walk through this on your own or with a group.

## Generous Worship

Generous worship encompasses adoration, service, and devotion. By embracing these aspects, we can offer rich and generous worship to God that reflects our love, service, and commitment to Him. Let us strive to worship God in spirit and truth, with our hearts, lives, and actions fully devoted to Him.

### **JOHN 4:23-24**

*But the hour is coming, and is now here, when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth, for the Father is seeking such people to worship him. God is spirit, and those who worship him must worship in spirit and truth.*

## Devotional Reflection

ALISON HULLINGER

Worship by nature is a total pouring out, like perfume on the feet of Jesus. We can't worship just a little bit. To engage this true worship that Jesus describes, we are dependent on the Holy Spirit.

We see Spirit-filled devotion in Mark 14, where a woman anoints Jesus. She comes with an alabaster flask filled with burial ointment. To pour out the costly flask, she first breaks it, then drains the contents upon Jesus' body. Her posture is humble, yet she gives everything. She doesn't hold back.

Sometimes during worship, the physical posture I take is the first step in offering my heart to God. For me, inviting the Spirit to work can mean standing with open hands, asking for an open heart. When I raise my hands in surrender or praise, that becomes an offering. Worship is physical, engaging our senses as well as our spirit, mind, and emotions.

As a visual artist, I pay attention to the texture, sound, and feeling of things. I'm aware of how different spaces invite us to move (or not move) our bodies in different ways. Recently at a worship night, people were invited to come take a ribbon and move with them as part of exuberant rejoicing before the Lord. While this was understandably uncomfortable for some, I went forward and took a few ribbons. As more people did the same, the room was filled with beautiful swirling colors, worshippers singing and dancing with joy. Worship in the Spirit can look many ways. In my experience, delight

is often part of it. It feels like being a child before God, content and filled with unabashed affection.

The alabaster flask was poured out and became empty. Yet Jesus declares, "The water that I give will become in [you] a spring of water welling up to eternal life" (John 4:14). When we pour ourselves out in worship, the Spirit continues to fill us and overflow; this is the beauty of true worship. Let us offer our full selves to the One who made us, redeemed us, and fills us to worship in spirit and in truth.

## Prayer

*O God*

*We bring ourselves to You who created us*

*Give us eyes to see Your beauty*

*Holy Spirit, come*

*Show us what to lay down*

*For with Your blood You purchased us from every tribe and tongue and nation*

*That we can dwell with you*

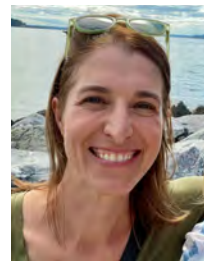
*You have given us life and breath and everything else*

*We pour out our lives to You in worship*

*Amen*

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**ALISON** and her family attend Bethany Ballard where they lead a small group. Alison works at Seattle Pacific University as an Assistant Professor of Sculpting, specializing in large-scale sculpture and installation.



## Response Questions

1. Generous worship includes adoration, service, and devotion. What do these mean to you? Are they currently expressed in your worship practices? If so, how? If not, why do you think that may be?
2. Read the story of Jesus being anointed in Mark 14:3-9. In light of this scripture and Alison's devotional, how does this expand your imagination of worship?
3. How do you prepare yourself to worship God? What physical posture is most familiar to you in settings of worship? What experiences have formed you in these ways?
4. How would you like to grow in generosity of worship?





### Generous Justice

The connection between generosity and justice explores how our giving can be an act of seeking justice and righteousness in the world. Generosity as a tool for justice impacts the world around us while simultaneously pressing us to be shaped more faithfully into God’s image.

#### MARK 12:41-44

*Jesus sat down opposite the place where the offerings were put and watched the crowd putting their money into the temple treasury. Many rich people threw in large amounts. But a poor widow came and put in two very small copper coins, worth only a few cents. Calling his disciples to him, Jesus said, “Truly I tell you, this poor widow has put more into the treasury than all the others. They all gave out of their wealth; but she, out of her poverty, put in everything—all she had to live on.”*



Example of a Widow's Mite, front and back

## Devotional Reflection

### KEITH NEROUTSOS

Repeatedly, in an attitude of justice, Jesus praises the faithfulness of those considered outside the realm of religious respectability. Jesus observes a widow at the temple offering two small copper coins, commenting that her small act counts more than the offerings of all the rich.

As World Vision's National Director of Gifts in Kind and Disaster Response, I once was responsible to mobilize \$50+ million per year of brand new school supplies, toys, and clothing to support 2.5 million kids struggling in poverty across the US. This large effort required the support of thousands of corporate, church, and individual donors to raise the cash and product donations required.

While I appreciated and needed large donations from the likes of Target, Coca-Cola, and Garth Brooks, the \$10-20 donations from struggling school teachers were the most treasured. Their gifts came from the heart. Those teachers played a significant role in the mission as they then distributed those school supplies to their students in need with compassion and care. Unlike the big corporations, they wanted no recognition, but only to know themselves that they were a valued stakeholder in the mission. Throughout my life, this example has reminded me that the sum of many small and enthusiastic voices speaks louder than a few powerful yet indifferent voices.

## Prayer

*Lord, may we recognize the justice issues with giving, that bigger is not better, and that even the smallest gifts of time, talent, and treasure, given from the heart, will sustain our mission. Amen.*

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**KEITH** is a Humanitarian Supply Chain Consultant with years of experience in international procurement, previously at World Vision. He and his wife, Amanda, attend Bethany Green Lake where, among other things, they are highly involved with Strong Families.



## Response Questions

1. What are ways that we see the idea that “more is better” and that having more makes someone “worth more” play out around us? How does Jesus’ response to the widow and her offering turn that upside down?
2. “[Justice is] setting things right according to God’s righteousness and vision, embodied in Jesus Christ and the whole story of Scripture, fulfilled in the flourishing of all God’s creation.”

Bethany Hanke Hoang and Kristen Deede Johnson, American authors of *The Justice Calling: Where Passion Meets Perseverance*.

What are some examples of small, heartfelt acts of generosity that you could do to contribute to broader justice initiatives in your communities?

3. How can our giving practices reflect a commitment to justice by prioritizing the needs of the most vulnerable in our communities?
4. How would you like to grow in generous justice? Write down an intention in this area.



### Generous Family

“Family” includes our immediate family, extended family, church family, and/or chosen family. Following Jesus expands the scope of family in our own lives and enlivens our imaginations for what our family legacy may be.

#### **JOHN 6:5, 7-11**

*When Jesus looked up and saw a great crowd coming toward him, he said to Philip, “Where shall we buy bread for these people to eat?”*

*Philip answered him, “It would take more than half a year’s wages to buy enough bread for each one to have a bite!” Another of his disciples, Andrew, Simon Peter’s brother, spoke up, “Here is a boy with five small barley loaves and two small fish, but how far will they go among so many?”*

*Jesus said, “Have the people sit down.” There was plenty of grass in that place, and they sat down (about five thousand men were there). Jesus then took the loaves, gave thanks, and distributed to those who were seated as much as they wanted. He did the same with the fish.*

# Devotional Reflection

## CHELSEA JUNG

Seven years ago, God gave me a dream and calling to create something that I could not do alone... something that would require a community of people in order to make it a reality. It would include my nuclear family, but in order to succeed, it would have to expand my definition of family. Along the way, I have witnessed the extraordinary momentum that an act of generosity can create and the tremendous impact this can have on the lives of many others.

It all started with a desire to create my own CrossFit gym. I didn't possess many of the resources needed to achieve this: the financial resources to fund it, how to write workouts, how to manage basic business functions, or the confidence to consider myself an innovator or CEO. I just really liked fitness and felt pulled to make a positive impact.

The generosity of others turned this calling into a reality. To name a few: the generosity of a low-interest financial backer, friends who shared their expertise to build the space, other business owners provided tools to gain business savvy. My husband Matt gave up his desire for risk-free finances, becoming our sole financial provider. Mentors gave me confidence. Coaches gave their time without pay. Members created a welcoming community that, for some, have turned into their chosen family.

The generosity of others allowed us not just to create a gym, but a space where people of all backgrounds feel

seen and loved without the burden of financial hardship, perpetuating a community where folks support each other daily. It has become a space where so many acts of generosity happen, and I hear stories of how it continues to ripple out beyond the gym.

It turns out that God's calling was actually for a group of people to come together to teach ourselves and others about how generosity can change everything.

## Prayer

*May we have the eyes to see the little (or sometimes big) ways that we can show generosity towards others. May we have hands and feet that take action and ears to receive the ways that others are sharing their generosity with us. Amen.*

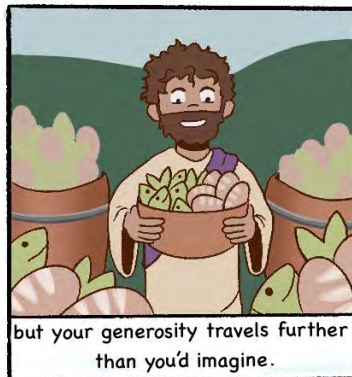
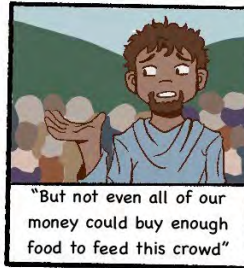
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**CHELSEA** loves making fitness available to anyone who wants it and dreams of how to remove barriers that limit access. She, her husband Matt, and their baby due in October attend Bethany West Seattle.



# Generosity

Cultivates Family



Created by Emma Davis, a recent Bishop Blanchet High School graduate and Bethany student.

Emma Davis



## Response Questions

1. How do you define “family?” What situations or circumstances have impacted your definition of family?
2. Think of a particular joy that has come from being generous toward someone in your family; now think of one that has come from someone outside of your family. In what ways are those joys similar? What ways are they different?
3. How does following Jesus bring us into a wide concept of family?
4. How would you like to grow in generous family?

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## Generous Relationships

Generosity enhances and transforms our relationships with friends, colleagues, and even strangers. Our ability to be generous in relationships is tied to nourishing and receiving from our relationship with Christ.

### **1 KINGS 17:11B-16**

*As she was going to get it, he called, “And bring me, please, a piece of bread.”*

*“As surely as the Lord your God lives,” she replied, “I don’t have any bread—only a handful of flour in a jar and a little olive oil in a jug. I am gathering a few sticks to take home and make a meal for myself and my son, that we may eat it—and die.”*

*Elijah said to her, “Don’t be afraid. Go home and do as you have said. But first make a small loaf of bread for me from what you have and bring it to me, and then make something for yourself and your son. For this is what the Lord, the God of Israel, says: ‘The jar of flour will not be used up and the jug of oil will not run dry until the day the Lord sends rain on the land.’”*

*She went away and did as Elijah had told her. So there was food every day for Elijah and for the woman and her family. For the jar of flour was not used up and the jug of oil did not run dry, in keeping with the word of the Lord spoken by Elijah.*

## Devotional Reflection

RACHEL LUO

Generosity is an act of faith with the power to restore wholeness to our relationships. In the story in 1 Kings, the widow and her family were facing starvation. Yet, seeing Elijah's need and having faith in God's provision, she gave Elijah the first bread from her oven. For that faithful generosity toward a stranger, God gave abundant food to the widow and her whole family.

I would like the story to end there, with generosity neatly rewarded by God. But I find giving hardest when it doesn't bring clear rewards or, even worse, brings relational disaster. And disaster did later befall the widow. Despite caring for Elijah under dire circumstances, the widow's beloved son died, leaving her asking why and wondering what will happen. Elijah answered by covering the widow's son with his own body and raising him from the dead. This echoes Christ's ultimate act of relational generosity in dying for our sins on the cross, covering us with forgiveness so death is no longer the final word.

Learning to be generous in relationships—even when it is messy—is core to why I returned to Seattle. I left Seattle as a teenager partly to escape parental troubles. Along the way, I found mentors, friends, and a husband who were wildly generous with their time, energy, wisdom, emotions, and money—in walking with me, caring for the grieving, opening their homes to the unhoused, buying plane tickets for those facing emergencies. In their generosity, I saw a God so abundant in his provision that I learned to forgive, face my own relational shortcomings,

and return to Seattle to care for my aging parents—even when that caring looks messy.

Generosity can be a messy business. But Jesus' death on the cross was messy, and he did it anyway. I am free to give because Christ on the cross was infinitely generous to me.

## Prayer

*Father, let the richness of your love fill us to overflowing. Open our hearts to see the needs of others. Use our gifts to restore wholeness to our community and make us more like you. Amen.*

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**RACHEL** and her family attend Bethany Green Lake. A consistent prayer team member, small group facilitator, and more, Rachel spends her days making space for others in her home and writing a Young Adult novel.



## Response Questions

1. How do you see generosity of relationships being lived out around you? How do you see generosity having the power to restore wholeness in our relationships?
2. Rachel shared a little bit of how relationships can be messy; how does the messiness in your relationships impact your ability to be generous?
3. What does thinking about the cross in terms of generous relationships make you think of?
4. How would you like to grow in generous relationships?



## Generous Leadership

As each of us is led by the Spirit, we find humility in our calling to lead in our own unique ways. As we embody faithful generosity, we are able to influence and inspire others in our homes, communities, workplaces, and beyond.

### **ACTS 20:35**

*In everything I did, I showed you that by this kind of hard work we must help the weak, remembering the words the Lord Jesus himself said: "It is more blessed to give than to receive."*

## Devotional Reflection

DON HEATH

As a longtime business owner, I've wanted my leadership to reflect Christ in his generosity. Of late, I've had two experiences where I had the chance to continue learning to hold "things" loosely.

A few months ago, as I was closing my landscape business of 45 years, I noticed several pieces of equipment were missing. It became obvious that my employees had taken many big ticket tools without consulting me. When questioned, no one admitted it. I felt cheated and betrayed until God spoke as I was reading Psalm 24:1. "The earth is the Lord's and all the fullness therein." I was flooded with certainty that all that "stuff" had been God's while I had it, and it was still His, as were the people who now had it. I haven't felt regret or loss since; in fact, I've been buoyed by a sense of freedom and gladness that those who took the items may be benefiting. And now I don't have to do the repairs on all that old junk.

In another situation recently, some family members were backed up against a financial wall. We heard their desperate trust in God and got to respond with enough money for them to breathe. Giving that gift to them has been so life-giving for us. We have never thought, "Darn, I wish we had that gift back," or "Wish we'd given less." We do discuss our giving, but it's often with a giddy feeling, because we're on the cusp of pitching in to help someone.

Reflecting Christ's generosity in my leadership has become not just a goal, but a blessing in both of these

situations. My experiences have taught me that true freedom comes from releasing my hold on material possessions and embracing a spirit of giving. I'm still learning and am grateful for the richness of life!

## Prayer

*Lord, giver of all blessings, help us every day to be ready to pass your gifts on to any and all in need. Help us feel the nudge of Your Spirit toward less reliance on things and to grow in the freedom of trusting more in you. Amen*

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**DON**, along with his wife, Ellen, are very active in INDY, a ministry for 55+ at Bethany North. Don also serves with the Wilderness Ministry and will likely be the most active retiree you've ever met.



## Response Questions

1. What are the areas that you have a role of leadership right now? In your family? Workplace? Community? Church? Why do you think it's important to consider the way each of us is a leader?
2. What are some of the barriers that keep us from being generous leaders? Is there a particular way that material things are currently making it harder for you to be generous?
3. Read Psalm 24. What, if anything, are you hearing God say to you about generous leadership?
4. How would you like to grow in generous leadership?





# FAQs

## *What are you asking me to do?*

### **Pray, Engage, Grow, Commit**

Ask God what He is calling you to do, and be willing to go where He leads you.

**PRAY:** Pray and seek God's direction. Prepare your heart to hear Him, and then listen to what He says.

**ENGAGE AND GROW:** Engage in personal reflection with God using this guide and by engaging in weekly worship during the Hope Rising sermon series. Talk with your family and friends about what this commitment to discipleship and generosity will mean for this next season of your life.

**COMMIT:** Follow with joyful obedience whatever God asks you to do. Mark your calendar for Sunday, October 27—we will engage in very special worship services at all six locations. Together, we will bring our commitments forward. We can't wait to see what God will do!

### **What is Hope Rising?**

Hope Rising is an initiative aimed to fund the priorities of Vision 2030 along with ongoing ministries and capital expenses. We want to grow in faith and in generosity so that we can provide energy, resources, programs, and staff related to these essential core values. We believe that God will draw people to Christ through these expanded programs and our own generous discipleship. We are all here at this moment in time at Bethany for a reason; let's grow together! Hope Rising will help all of us take steps to strengthen our church and lean into God's purposes for us.

### **What is Vision 2030?**

**Vision 2030 is the direction God is leading Bethany over the coming years:**

We are building a church that is encountering God, cultivating relationships, and serving our communities. We will follow Jesus and lead others in five key ways: worship, relationships, justice, leadership, and family.

### **Why are we doing this now?**

Bethany is at a crucial point of growth and momentum. By establishing more permanent and thriving locations, we're aiming to reduce the number of mobile and temporary ministry sites so that we can steward deeper discipleship and share the good news in our city.

We are considering a specific building for Bethany North, which has influenced our cost estimates, but our plans extend beyond this building. With increased support over the next two years, we believe God is calling us to expand. We are committed to making decisions in faith, trusting in God's provision as we move forward.

## How does this work with our regular Bethany budget?

Hope Rising is a unified giving initiative in support of our mission and vision at all locations. We want to be clear that Hope Rising's financial goals include both regular annual giving and expanded giving toward new capital projects and ministries. All money given will be used to fund ongoing ministry expenses throughout Bethany, local outreach and global missions, significant projects such as a permanent home for Bethany North, expansion of key ministries (such as college ministry, leadership development), and Vision 2030 priorities.

## How is Hope Rising different from other campaigns we've done at Bethany?

Our primary goal is 100% engagement and spiritual growth in the area of generosity, and our secondary goal is to raise all the money needed to fund our vision and ministries over the next two years.

**GOAL 1:** For our entire community to experience a deepening of discipleship and encountering the generous, overflowing love of God. This generosity initiative is discipleship-oriented. It is aimed toward helping us grow as individuals and increase our impact as a church.

**GOAL 2:** To raise all the financial resources needed to fund our vision and ministries over the next two years, including new capital projects and ministries. All giving will be unified as one fund. There will not be a separate "capital campaign" as there has been in some campaigns in the past.

## How does the financial goal compare to current giving at Bethany?

We believe this financial goal is attainable based on current annual giving. This initiative will invite new and existing givers to think creatively about generosity, aiming for an additional \$7.4M over two years. While we don't know exactly how God will provide, Bethany has spent months in prayer and financial projections with wise counsel, and we believe these numbers are achievable for a church of our size. Throughout our 108-year history, God's people at Bethany have stepped up to fund expanded visions for the future of our city and church, and we're excited for what God will do next.

## Does Bethany have financial resources available for these Hope Rising priorities?

Bethany's Council has approved using \$2M of Bethany's current available capital toward a down payment for purchasing the Bethany North Church Building. While it is a blessing to have this financial sum available from prior campaigns and from the stewardship of the annual operating budget, there will be additional funding needed to either purchase outright or finance the building and remodel.

## What if the Hope Rising commitment is more or less than \$22.8M?

This isn't just about raising money—in fact, if someone offered to write a check for \$22.8M right now, we'd still do this giving initiative! We are aiming to experience a deepening of the discipleship of our community. If God provides financial resources beyond \$22.8M, this would allow us to move more quickly and widely to expand ministries and facilities, to dream bigger! Additional funding will allow greater “pay-it-forward” resources to be available for future facilities and ministry expansions. If less, we would scale back the timing of expansions and review funding priorities to align with the decreased resources available. Bethany has and will continue to prayerfully steward resources and exercise careful fiscal responsibility.

## I've never given to Bethany before. Is Hope Rising for me?

This is a great time to give your first gift to Bethany. Please consider joining this exciting Hope Rising journey and making your first-time financial commitment.

## How long is my commitment?

This is a 24-month commitment that will give Bethany a strong foundation upon which to build. We'll begin giving together toward the Hope Rising Initiative on Celebration Sunday on November 17, 2024 at all locations, and will conclude in November of 2026.

## It's hard for me to imagine taking a step forward in financial generosity because money is tight. Does Bethany have any classes or counselors that could help me create a budget and get a handle on my finances? And should I still give even if I'm in debt?

We do have classes and counselors who would love to help you. You can reach out to the lead pastor of the location you attend to be connected. Engaging with this discipleship journey is for everyone; don't let your financial situation hinder your participation. We hope that you will experience the hope and healing of Christ in this area as you come to know the generous heart of God.

## Can I make a gift of appreciated assets to Hope Rising?

Yes, Bethany is set up to accept gifts of stock, property, cryptocurrency, IRA distributions, and more. Please reach out to Finance Director Nicole Summervill at [finance@churchbcc.org](mailto:finance@churchbcc.org) with any questions.

## Can I set up a matching gift from my employer?

Yes, Bethany regularly receives matching gifts from employers such as Microsoft, Google, Apple, and Salesforce. Contact Nicole Summervill to set this up: [finance@churchbcc.org](mailto:finance@churchbcc.org)

## How does this Hope Rising Giving Initiative help Bethany accomplish our mission?

Inviting people to God, community, and wholeness is Bethany's mission. We hope that every person who calls Bethany "home" will discern their role in the Body of Christ at Bethany and will understand their role in the big story God is writing.

## I have further questions; who can I reach out to?

We'd love to talk with you about Hope Rising and your discipleship journey. Please reach out to the Lead Pastor of your location or [staff@churchbcc.org](mailto:staff@churchbcc.org)



## THE PRAYER OF STEWARDSHIP

O' Eternal God,



Although I cannot see you with my eyes or touch you with my hands, give me today a clear conviction of your reality and power. Do not let me go into the day believing only in the world of sense and time, but give me grace to understand that the world I cannot see or touch is the most real world of all.



My life today will be lived in time, but it will involve eternal issues. The needs of my body will shout out, but it is for the needs of my soul that I must care for the most. My life will consist of material things, but let me be aware of the spiritual things behind them. Let me always keep in mind the things that matter are not money or possessions, not houses or property, not bodily comforts or pleasures, but your will and ways that come from a pure love and trust in you.

Lord, what do you want me to do today with all you've entrusted with to honor you, and to advance your kingdom?

In Jesus' name, Amen.

*Adapted from John Baillie's A Diary of Private Prayer & The Steward's Prayer*





## *Behind the Design*

The logo that you see here has lines emitting from a wordmark. The lines play a double meaning. They depict a sun and were also directly inspired by the “Sacred Heart of Christ,” an ancient visual depiction of Jesus, which has appeared throughout church history. Our hope through generosity and service is that the heart of Christ would live in us and move outward to the people of Seattle.



**bethany**  
COMMUNITY CHURCH

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