Week Two: GROUNDED in Love

***"I pray that... Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith, as you are being rooted and grounded in love, so that you may have the power to comprehend, with all the saints, what is the breadth and length and height and depth of the love of Christ."* — Ephesians 3:16-19**



Being grounded in Christ's love allows us to reach out boldly beyond our circle to welcome others as Jesus did. We stretch beyond what is familiar to appreciate the unique differences and gifts people bring into our community. At Epiphany, we believe Christ's love transforms lives. Sharing Christ's love is something we practice together across every stage of life and any barriers dividing us.

Two ways Epiphany is working to ground our congregation more deeply in love:



Loving Across Generations

Our Faith Formation ministry is being reimagined for 2027 with new experiences for children, youth, and families designed to be more meaningful, accessible, and developmentally appropriate at every age and stage. This isn't just about curriculum; it's about creating space where faith takes root in the context of real relationships, shared meals, and fellowship that grounds each person in belonging.

Worship location and financial concerns should not be an impediment to participating in these activities. That is why we plan to offer weekly faith formation from Sunday School to youth programming at the Austin campus, including lunch. **Our goal is to cover the full cost for our confirmation program, youth fall retreat, and vacation bible school, so all can participate. And we want to make other faith formation/service activities accessible as well, including the Appalachian Service Project and "God's Work. Our Hands".**

GROWING
TO SERVE

GROUNDED
IN LOVE

ROOTED
IN FAITH

Listening Across Generations

Following Council approval, we're beginning congregational listening sessions to prepare for the drafting of a **Welcome Statement**—a shared expression of who we are and who we hope to become as a community that welcomes all people. Before we write a statement, we want to listen. Grounding ourselves in love means first understanding one another's experiences, questions, and hopes for this congregation.

Both of these efforts require real investment—in staff time, in program resources, and in the spaces where these relationships can form and deepen.



To support these initiatives and others, together we need to increase giving by $2,000 per week—$104,000 for the year.

Remember the Matching Opportunity!

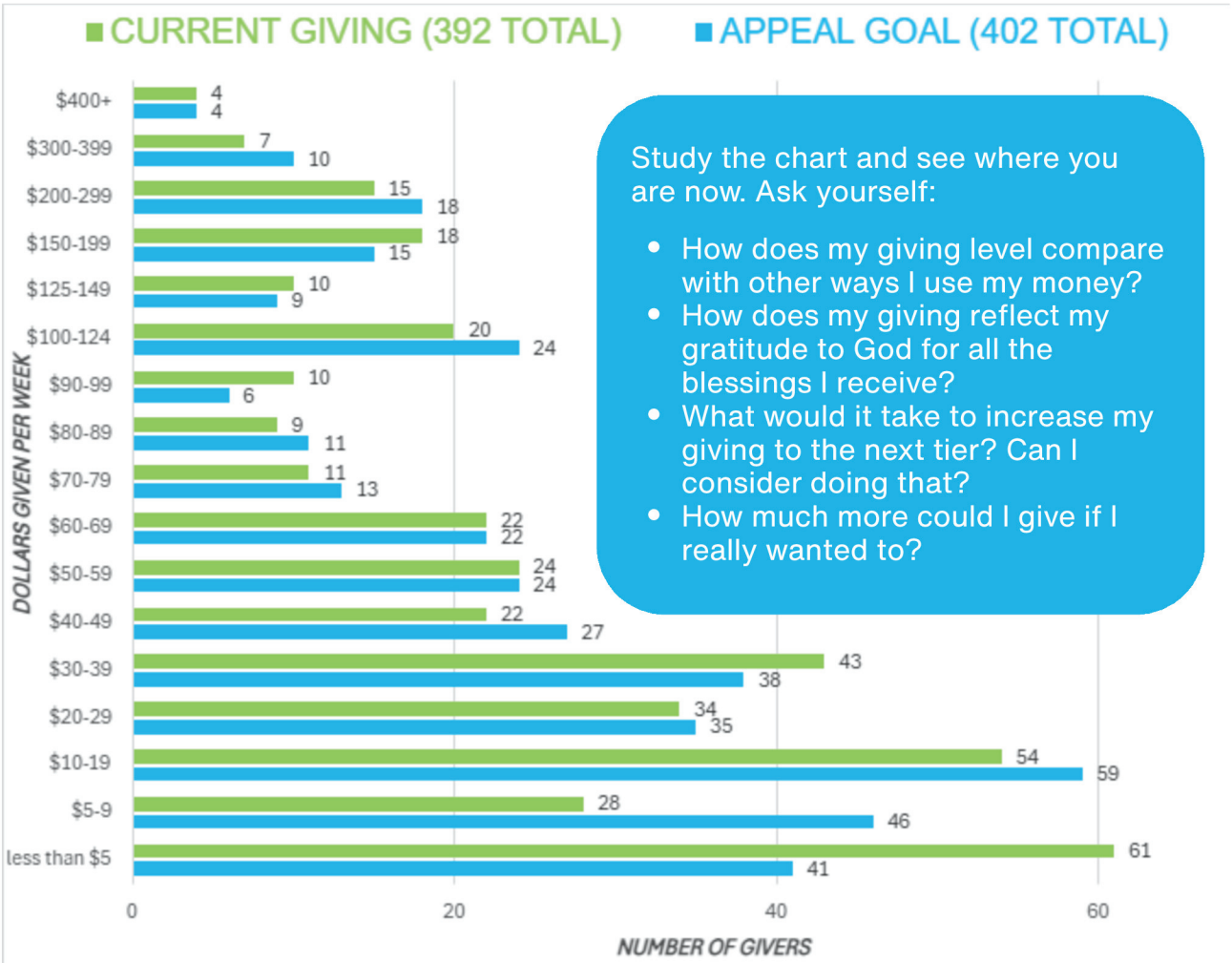
Thanks to our generous matching fund donors, every new pledge and every increase over last year's giving will be matched dollarfor-dollar, up to our $40,000 matching fund.

As the basis for our actions becomes ever more focused by Christ's love this week, may we also find the courage to listen well, grow together across generations, and welcome one another as fully as Christ has welcomed us.









Study the chart and see where you are now. Ask yourself:

- How does my giving level compare with other ways I use my money?
- How does my giving reflect my gratitude to God for all the blessings I receive?
- What would it take to increase my giving to the next tier? Can I consider doing that?
- How much more could I give if I really wanted to?