

THE TABLE CHURCH · 2026 ANNUAL REPORT

TOGETHER FOR JOY

"Let the floods clap their hands; let the hills sing together for joy."

Psalm 98:8

October 2025 through October 2026

The Table's banner in the Capital Pride Parade, June 20, 2026

FROM THE PASTORS

Letters from our pastors



Rev. Tonetta Landis-Aina
Co-Lead Pastor

"We asked, and you answered, and it was gorgeous."

Dear Table Church Family,

As I sit down to write this year, I find myself wistful, my mind pulling toward stronger words than I alone know how to produce. Poet Jane Zwart, in her poem "All my life I was a bride married to amazement," wrote something that feels crackling and apt as I reflect on 2026. "I want," she muses, "to flip back to the times/my name came up lucky/in the raffle of who-gets-to-see herons."

While I am no avid birdwatcher, I relate to that desire when I think about this past year. A church is made of thousands of discrete connections between disciples of Jesus — herons bearing the mystery — that knit us into a true community. Thousands of moments that are specific and time-bound and fleeting. I've been surprised again and again by the joy of witnessing those moments. From lobby check-ins before church, to simple or serious questions exchanged while passing the peace, to meals shared in homes and at church events, I felt my name come up in the raffle of witnessing the miracle of life together.

At this time last year, when I invited you to financially invest in The Table Church during our 2025 end-of-year campaign, we were facing alarming obstacles. Looking back over my letter, I can sense the anxiety tinged with hope riding underneath the words. This year, I simply feel joy at how clearly the Spirit of God has been at work among us.

If I had to summarize the year as your pastor, I'd use two words.

The first? Pathways. This year, we made incredible progress in building organized practices for how we draw new congregants into the rhythm of our life and how we form leaders in the skills a decolonial, Christ-centered community needs to thrive. Through classes such as "New Wine" and "All In," Pastor Anthony and I were able to further seed theological and organizational clarity about who we are and what it means to follow Jesus.

The second word? Giving. Through our Next Six Recurring Giver Campaign, we raised the floor on our monthly income, moving the church toward greater sustainability. For me, that campaign felt like a watershed, because for too long, as pastors, we had been timid about asking. As I led a seminar based on the book *The Trauma of Money* during that campaign, I realized that money avoidance has been a problem in our church. As leaders, we can feel ashamed to ask. As congregants, you can feel ashamed to look, to confront your own finances with intentionality, whether you have a little or a lot. That campaign was a moment of resisting our shame for the sake of community. We asked, and you answered, and it was gorgeous.

Now, as we launch this year's "Together for Joy" campaign, we get to keep building together. We're seeking to raise $15,000 to lay the foundation for hiring a half-time worship pastor, a step that supports our worship co-directors and deepens our commitment to fostering belonging in a multiracial church. Last year at this time, I couldn't have dreamed of us having the financial space to make such an ask. This gift, combined with what our new giving floor lets us set aside each month, will make that hire possible in 2027, a move that will shore up our culture of authentic belonging.

I am so grateful that I get to witness all of this. Five years into ministry at The Table, I still feel like my name came up lucky in some cosmic raffle. I feel myself a "bride married to amazement," as Zwart puts it, "blown about/a feather on the breath of God."

Rev. Tonetta Landis-Aina
Co-Lead Pastor, The Table Church



Rev. Anthony Parrott
Co-Lead Pastor

"There's still no place I'd rather be."

Dear Table Church,

In 2020, through the lockdowns and the summer after George Floyd was murdered, I said one thing over and over: there is no place I'd rather be a pastor. I haven't said it in a while, so I'll say it again. There is no place I'd rather be.

I won't pretend I've never caught a case of grass-is-greener syndrome. There were stretches when the church had almost nothing in the bank, when we were closing services and cutting pay, and it felt nearly inevitable that a life of ministry at The Table wasn't long for this world.

Even then, I (almost) never went to churchstaffing.com looking for another job. Instead I'd wonder: what if I drove for Uber or DoorDash, or started talking people into iPhones at the Apple Store, so I could keep doing ministry at The Table? Because what I love about this place isn't the paycheck or a sense of job security. It's the people and the community, and the vision and mission and values we share.

This past year at The Table, and these past two years in DC, have asked a lot of us. DOGE and ICE and the National Guard. The closing of our downtown service. A budget we had to slash.

But in that same stretch, we've helped people pay their rent and rediscover their faith and feel at home in their sexuality and experience the healing presence of Jesus. Some of you have watched your faith turn from water into wine.

None of this is possible without you. You singular and you plural. You keep showing up, and you keep committing.

After Tonetta's letter and mine, you'll find numbers and statistics, and you'll also find stories. Every picture holds a thousand moments. Every leader stands for dozens of conversations and phone calls and texts and open homes, each one a point of connection that helped someone feel less lonely, more connected, and closer to the tangible presence of God.

Yes, I believe God is present in a supernatural sense. That God, Christ, and the Spirit touch our souls and spirits in real ways. I also believe the most profound way we experience God's presence is through one another.

So thank you for helping me experience God's presence in this place, and for helping hundreds of others do the same.

There's still no place I'd rather be.

Grace and peace,

Rev. Anthony Parrott
Co-Lead Pastor, The Table Church



The year, counted

At least

146
people show up on Sunday in an average 12-week span

86
on a typical Sunday, in the room and online

13
watching the livestream on a typical Sunday

322
things on the church calendar over 13 months, on 189 different days

166
times a group met

53
sermons from 11 preachers

35
classes, workshops, and pathway gatherings

13
community groups, affinity groups, and Bible studies

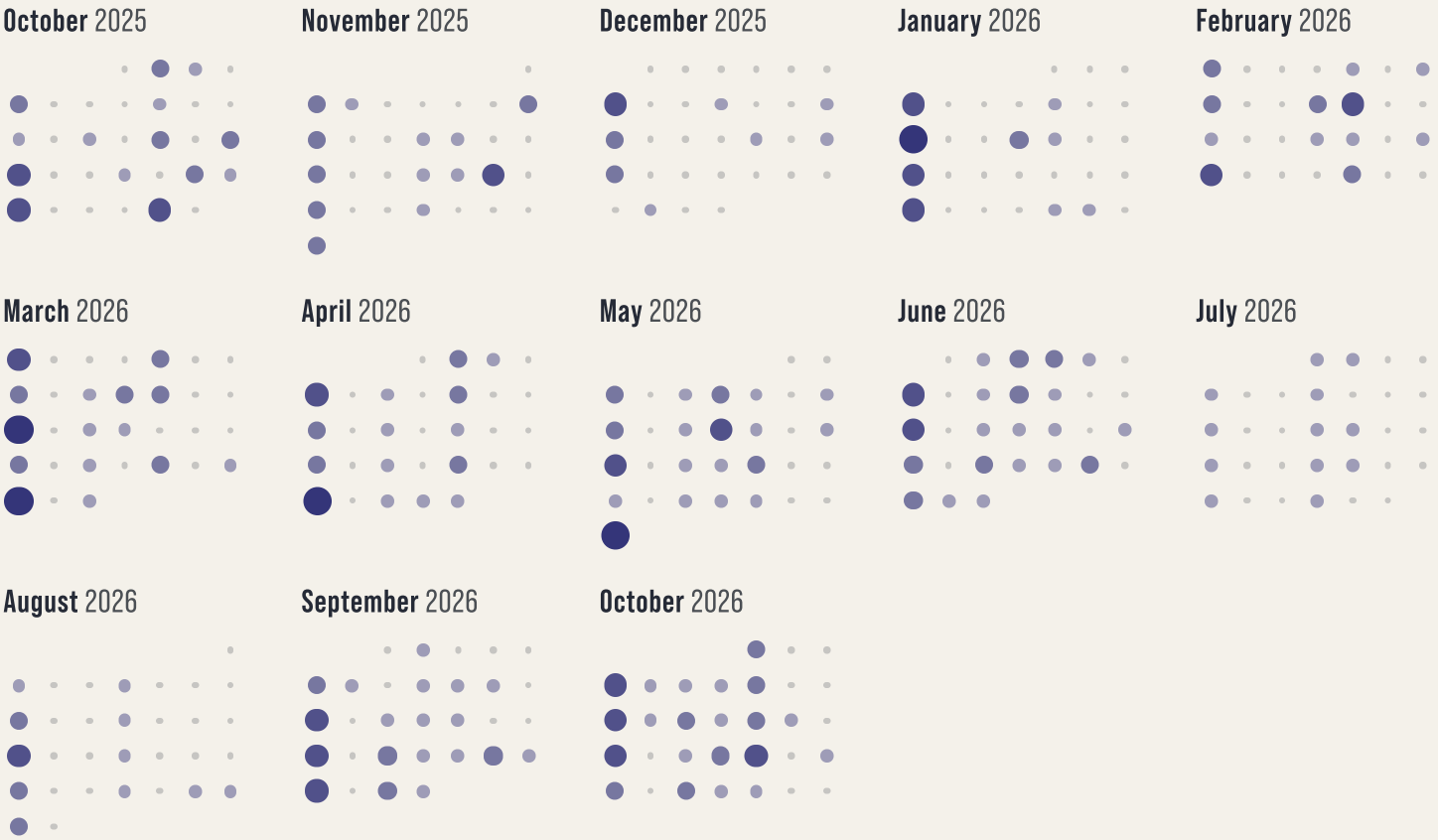
39
kids in TableKIDS and Student Ministry in the last six months

29
people who gave to The Table for the first time in 2026

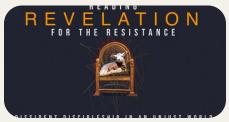


Every day

Each dot is a day from October 2025 through October 2026. The bigger and darker the dot, the more happened: Sunday worship, group meetings, classes, protests, parties, and the meetings that keep it all running.



The sermon series



Reading Revelation for the Resistance

Dissident Discipleship in an Unjust World



Surviving Saturday

Flourishing in Seasons of Exile



Stone to Flesh

Becoming Tender, Becoming Whole



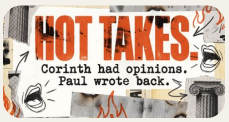
Everything We Carry

A Stewardship of Everything



Dangerous Imaginations

The Parables of Jesus and Afrofuturism



Hot Takes

1 Corinthians

WHAT YOUR GIFT DOES

$130 rents one of the four to six rooms we use at DC Bilingual for a Sunday.

$25 covers a week of Communion supplies.

NOV. 16, 2025

Farewell to the Downtown service

On Nov. 16, 2025, we gathered for the last Sunday evening service downtown, at First Congregational United Church of Christ. For the people who found The Table on Sunday nights downtown, it was church. Closing it was a loss, and we grieve it with them.





Sunday evenings downtown

NEW THIS YEAR

Pathways in, pathways up

This year we built two clear ways to grow at The Table. The engagement pathway walks a newcomer from a first meal to membership and serving. The Leadership Pathway, launched in April, organizes our 71 leaders into 12 circles, and 47 of them started its first year.



92

regular attenders, near and far

97

members, 10 of them under the new membership: Deeply Rooted plus the membership agreement

1	2	3	4
First Course	**New Wine**	**Deeply Rooted**	**All In**
Newcomer meal	**Liberative Christianity 101**	**Joining The Table**	**Volunteer orientation**
May, June, August, and September	May 31 and Sept. 26	Membership classes in October 2025; Deeply Rooted in June	Sept. 20, Oct. 4, and Oct. 18

WHAT YOUR GIFT DOES

$20 a week thanks volunteers one at a time.

$45 covers a week of Planning Center, where every group, class, and sign-up lives.



Directors' retreat, January

The Leadership Pathway

47 people started the Leadership Pathway with orientations on April 19 and 26, then gathered again in June and for an all-leaders session on Sept. 27. Every leader belongs to a circle.

- Elders
- Directors
- Group leaders
- Worship leaders
- Prayer leaders
- First Impressions leaders
- TableKIDS and family leaders
- Care Team
- Preaching
- Justice and Compassion leaders
- Emerging leaders
- Emeritus and seasoned leaders

The year in pictures


Sunday worship, Jan. 18


Ash Wednesday, Feb. 18


Good Friday, April 3


Easter, April 5




Communion


Snack bags for Miriam's Kitchen, Serve Sunday, May 24



Donor Appreciation Dinner, June 5



Capital Pride weekend, June 20



About 50 of us at a Washington Spirit game, Sept. 13











Baptisms





Sundays at DC Bilingual

WORSHIP

Every song we sang

Planning Center keeps every setlist. These are 51 Sundays of them, from Oct. 5, 2025, to Oct. 25, 2026.

230
songs on 51 Sundays

96
different songs

10
songs new to our library

Most sung

1. Friend of God — **8** times
2. Nothing Left to Prove — **7** times
   new in May
3. Worthy of It All — **7** times

Five more tied at six: “Lord You Are Good,” “Promises,” “Elohim,” “Let It Rise,” and “You Deserve the Glory.”

Keys



Every time a song was played, reprises included. A won by three. The only song in F#: “Hark the Herald Angels Sing,” on Christmas Eve.

The writers we sang most

Israel Houghton — **29** songs

Dante Bowe — **17** songs

Chandler Moore — **15** songs

Israel Houghton is credited on 29 of the 230, about one in every eight.

NEW THIS YEAR

“To Worship You I Live,” “I Exalt Thee,” “King Jesus,” “Nothing Left to Prove,” “Kingdom of Jesus,” “My Life Is in Your Hands,” and “Holy Place,” plus three for Christmas.

WHAT YOUR GIFT DOES

$15 covers a week of CCLI, the copyright license for the songs we sing and project.

$25 buys an XLR cable, the kind that plugs every mic and instrument into the sound board.



COMMUNITY FORMATION

“Well, maybe I do pray.”

In one community group this year, the topic was prayer and one member flatly stated that she doesn't pray. She said that because she grew up Catholic, prayer is triggering and feels transactional. The other group members came alongside her, listening without judgement, and validating her feelings.

During the discussion, the facilitator mentioned that prayer can take different forms. At this point, the first member said, “Well, I do *talk* to God. I see a sunset and thank God for it or something will happen that makes me think of God.” The other group members got excited and started telling her, “That *is* praying!” She looked shocked: “That's prayer?”

At the end of the night, the member laughed and said, “Well, maybe I do pray.” It was in this moment that I thought, “This is why we do this.”

Raisa Wells, Co-Director of Community Formation

25
group leaders

4
groups launched or relaunched this year

About 300
people in groups

Community groups

Capitol Hill

Greater Columbia Heights

McLean, Northern Virginia

Petworth and Shaw

Shepherd Park

Takoma Park

Affinity groups

Asian

Black

Emmaus Men's

Family

LGBTQIA+

Women's

Bible study

Queer Bible Study



That's a lot of brisket!



Friendsgiving, Nov. 21, 2025

During the Fall Retreat in August, we were gathered in the kitchen for a coffee break. Josh had offered to make coffees for everyone and it was taking longer than scheduled. We all started laughing about how off schedule we had gotten and one group leader said, “This is what I needed. I needed to learn everyone's coffee order!” It was a moment of community where we were authentically together for joy.

The most joyful moment of the year, from Raisa

TABLEKIDS

Baby Moses, in clay

I've been so impressed by the team's willingness to jump in and show up for the kids. We have had some volunteers move and take a break. The team has showed up for each other and jumped in last minute to help make sure we have enough volunteers.

I was proud to see the kids pumped about showing their parents the baby Moses they made out of clay. They were able to tell the story because the volunteers had made it memorable and a fun activity.

Liz Nagel, Co-Director of TableKIDS





39

kids took part in the last six months

About 18

volunteers this year

WHAT YOUR GIFT DOES

$20 covers a month of TableKIDS lesson materials.

Jess Shek meets with our middle and high school students once a month for Student Ministry.

JUSTICE AND COMPASSION

All over the city



Connects the church community with the greater city through volunteer opportunities, one-time and recurring workshops, and other resources.

We marched in No Kings 3 with someone who had never been to a protest before. An experienced protester shared personal safety tips and made sure we were staying together.

A Drop-In Center volunteer shared how impacted he was by a conversation he had with one of the kids. They talked about God, family, and the city for a while after dinner.

Nathanael Nelson, Co-Director of Justice and Compassion

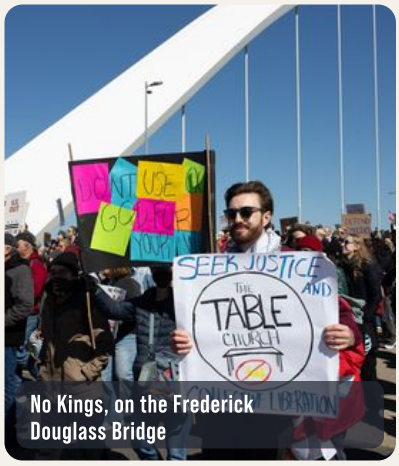
Oct. 19 – Dec. 7, 2025	A justice workshop series downtown: immigration, Rainbow Rights for LGBTQIA+ neighbors, and disability rights
Oct. 25, 2025	Ward 6 Health Day at Eastern Market
All year	Volunteers at the Drop-In Center at First Congregational, with a new training in May
June 20–21, 2026	The Capital Pride Parade and our booth at the festival
Oct. 12, 2026	An Indigenous DC walking tour
Oct. 18, 2025, and March 28, 2026	No Kings protests, the second time meeting up at the Frederick Douglass Bridge
All year	Groceries twice a month with St. Stephen and the Incarnation in Columbia Heights
May 24, 2026	Serve Sunday: snack bags for Miriam's Kitchen instead of a service
Aug. 23, 2026	Narcan training with the DC Department of Behavioral Health
This year	A new collaborative food pantry at DC Bilingual



Our booth at the Capital Pride festival, June 21



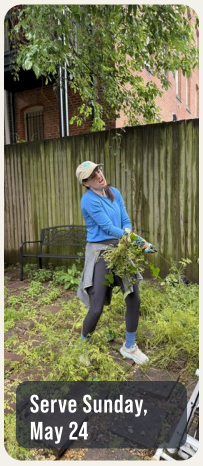
Marching in the Capital Pride Parade, June 20



No Kings, on the Frederick Douglass Bridge



Serve Sunday, May 24



Serve Sunday, May 24

WHAT YOUR GIFT DOES

$82 covers a week of our partnership with the food ministries at St. Stephen and the Incarnation.

$1 pays for a handful of the swag we gave away at Capital Pride. We handed out thousands of pieces.

The Justice Community Board

This year we launched a board of the organizations and movements Table members are already part of. It mapped 20 of them across the city, four looking for volunteers right now.

[See the board]

HOUSING JUSTICE AND HOMELESSNESS SUPPORT
Christ House
Good Neighbors Capitol Hill
Good Trouble Cooperative

FOOD JUSTICE
Bread for the City
Columbia Heights Food Pantry

ORGANIZING
Free DC
Movement Infrastructure Project

ABOLITION
Letters for Liberation

PALESTINE
Christians for a Free Palestine

CLIMATE
USCAN

SCHOOLS
Capital City Public Charter School
River Terrace Education Campus

THERAPY AND HEALING
Kennedy Counseling Collective
Ufan Ima Institute

NEIGHBORHOODS AND SMALL BUSINESS
Brookland Arts Walk
River East Design Center
Uptown Main Street

INTERFAITH
Mount Vernon Place UMC
The Festival Center
Women in Faith



Antonio Ingram on Good Friday, April 3

PRAYER

I prayed with a regular attendee who I haven't seen come up for prayer ever in my five years at the Table. It was a beautiful moment to see someone publicly reclaim a spiritual practice I had seen this person lay down, at least publicly, for a number of years.

Antonio Ingram, Co-Director of Prayer

WHAT YOUR GIFT DOES

$12 a week supports the Care Team.

FIRST IMPRESSIONS

Every hello at the door

First Impressions is the team that meets you at the door on Sunday, co-directed by Kaitlyn Hayner and Hannah Van Drie. First Course is our newcomer meal, the first step on the engagement pathway.

91
newcomers so far in 2026

44
became regular attenders in 2026

4
First Course newcomer meals

33
RSVPs to First Course

$4,700 for welcome, hospitality, and newcomers, January through October

WHAT YOUR GIFT DOES

$20 covers lunch for a newcomer.

BOARD OF ELDERS

The elders

The Board of Elders meets on the fourth Wednesday of every month, with our two co-lead pastors as non-voting members. On March 15 the elders met the congregation for a vision Q&A.

7
elders serving now

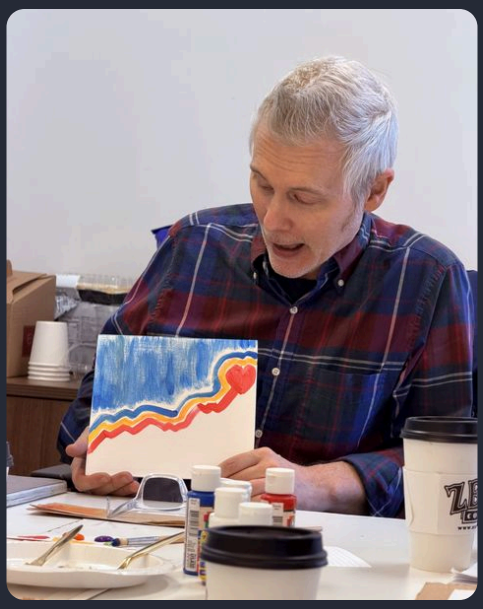
2
new to the board this year

3
finished their terms in October



Most of the Board of Elders, Nov. 7







Comings and goings

Thank you

Daniel Dixon
finished a term on the Board of Elders

Kimberly Myers
finished a term on the Board of Elders

Madison Quijano
finished a term on the Board of Elders

Jules Park
led First Impressions

Julie Moran
Communications and Administration Director

Patty Hutton
served as Co-Director of Justice and Compassion

Lizzie Mekonnen
organized and managed the food pantry at St. Stephen and the Incarnation

Welcome

Kim Edwards
Board of Elders

Gwyth
Board of Elders

Jessica Rodriguez
Co-Director of Worship

Raisa Wells
Co-Director of Community Formation

Hannah Van Drie
Co-Director of First Impressions, with Kaitlyn Hayner

Jonathan Holley
Pastoral intern

Board officers

Anna Alcaro
President

Josh McComas
Secretary

Skyler Showell
Treasurer



Chicago, Sept. 24

A MILESTONE

Credentialed by Wild Fig

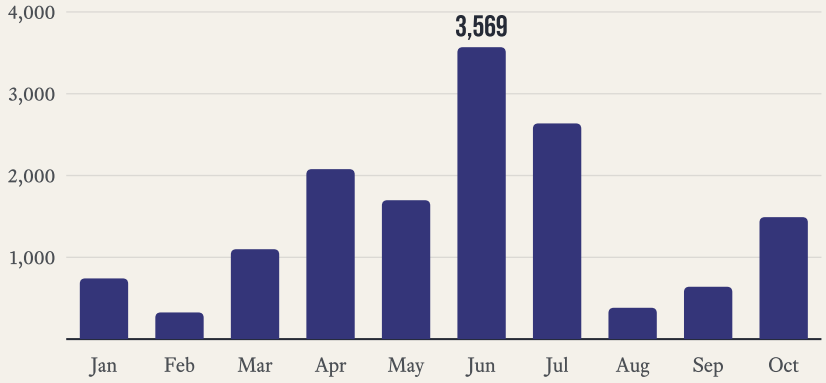
On Sept. 24, at the Wild Fig Network's first national gathering in Chicago, Pastor Anthony Parrott was one of the 28 ministers in its first group to be credentialed. Wild Fig calls itself "an emerging relational network for ministers and ministries looking for an alternative to traditional denominational structures."

The Table ordained Anthony in March 2020. This credential ties him to ministers beyond our church who have promised to stay in relationship, to be held accountable, and to keep learning together.

About Wild Fig

14,663 podcast downloads

Sermons reach well past the room on Sunday. These are downloads of The Table's podcast, January through October.



June was the biggest month, with 3,569 downloads. Source: Podbean.

Online, all week

YOUTUBE

About 22,500 views

About 1,500 hours watched

426 subscribers, 67 of them new

Nov. 12, 2025, to Nov. 11, 2026

TIKTOK

About 35,900 video views

About 1,200 likes and 105 shares

298 followers

Nov. 12, 2025, to Nov. 11, 2026

INSTAGRAM

21,749 views

10,281 accounts saw our posts, most of them people who don't follow us yet

2,307 followers

The 90 days before Nov. 12, 2026

WHAT YOUR GIFT DOES

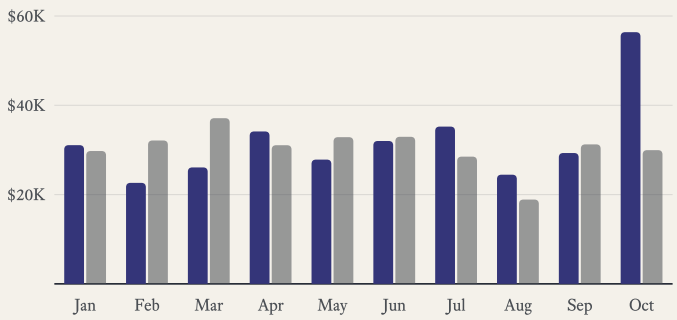
$10 keeps the podcast online for a month.

Where the money went

January through October, from the closed books of the General Fund. We received $14,693 more than we spent. Monthly summaries are on our financial summaries page.

$319,103
Received in gifts

$304,410
Spent



Month by month. October includes gifts from earlier in the year that arrived later than expected.

Spending by category, January through October

Personnel	$196,388	65%
Operations	$32,448	11%
Building	$30,298	10%
Ministry	$24,882	8%
Organizational Development	$8,935	3%
Justice and Outreach	$8,297	3%
Other	$3,163	1%

More than $10,000

given away through Benevolence and the DMV Community Support Fund, on top of the spending above

Gifts designated for those funds covered most of it, and $2,000 came from the General Fund.

WHY I GIVE

“I had never felt so seen.”



Captions are part of the video. The full transcript is below.

Madison grew up in a church that refused to baptize her. In 2018 she searched for “places that don't hate people” and walked through The Table's red door in Columbia Heights.

My name is Madison Quijano. I get to serve as an elder here at The Table. The reason I give at The Table is because this is the first place that I felt comfortable showing up, being my full self.

I had come from growing up in a pretty big Southern Baptist church, and I had a lot of hurt that I experienced, being made to feel invisible, when I one day came back as a college student and decided that I wanted to get baptized, and they refused to baptize me because I couldn't prove that I had been there.

When I moved here and came across The Table, I really just Googled places that don't hate people. And when I walked through the door, we were in Columbia Heights. This is in 2018. There was a big red door, and there was a young man there who said, “Hi, what's your name? You must be new here, 'cause I've never seen you before.” And I said, “I'm Madison.” “You'll forget that. It's fine.” The next Sunday I came again. I was blocks away from the church, and he ran out onto the sidewalk and said, “Madison, you're coming again!” I had never felt so seen.

It's okay to be going through something and not have to be perfect, 'cause it turns out no one is, and that's okay. I want to see more people finding a home where people recognize you, you don't have to perform, you can be tired, it can be messy, you can be confused.

I hope that you really will partner with us, because we don't wanna see this place go away. We wanna see that community amplified, and we wanna reach people where they are, in whatever sense of invisibility past churches may have left them.

Madison Quijano, May 17, 2026

If we had the people and the resources

We asked each ministry what it would dream of doing next year.

A summer weekend camp with the kids, or a fall retreat.

TableKIDS

An off-site retreat where group leaders could have time and space to bond and be spiritually filled.

Community Formation

Keeping the food pantry at DC Bilingual fully stocked every week with a variety of items.

Justice and Compassion



TOGETHER FOR JOY

Together for Joy runs through Dec. 31: 150 givers, toward a half-time worship pastor. Every donation counts, no matter how large or how small.

Give at thetablechurch.org/joy.

Even with this designation, all gifts fall under the sole discretion of The Table Church and may be used wherever the need is greatest.