

# Helping Hands

Edited 1/6/26

Helping Hands is a ministry of the pastoral care and service ministries offering grace, kindness, and confidential financial support to neighbors in need. This financial support is both a direct act of mercy and an investment in what we hope will be a transformative relationship with our church family.

Financial assistance is only offered when the situation is:

- Short-term
- Emergency
- Last resort (when other organizations can't help)
- Basic human needs (food, shelter, utilities, transportation, healthcare, etc.)
- Once per year

Our Process

- It all starts with someone asking for a helping hand
- We direct them to the pastor or parish nurse
- We listen with care to their story
- We share our community resource list
- In most situations, we can offer \$100
  - If a debt, it's paid directly to the creditor (landlord, utility, etc.)
  - If the need is transportation, we can offer a bus token or gas card
- Fill out fund request form with them, explaining it will often take a week to write a check.
- Ask, "Besides money, how can I help?"
  - "Can I pray with you?"
  - "How can we help going forward?"
- If in person, walk them out and wish them well.
- Add their story Annual Impact Report - keep track in a spreadsheet
  - Spread positive stories in moment of gratitude

Help Needed:

- Developing and maintaining community resource list
- Developing relationships with partner organizations
- Developing immediate response items (little free pantry, street go-bags, gas cards)
- Funding