

Dear Friends,

2020 has been a year of challenges, but also growth and innovation. Despite the pandemic's disruptions, we have found new ways to connect. We've attended church services on YouTube; worshipped with the band Sunday evenings on Facebook; explored our faith during the week through online Morning Prayer; and met with our small groups via Zoom. We have used this time away from our beloved campus to make important upgrades to the facility. Before year's end, we will be taking a decisive step towards the greening of our ministry by installing solar panels, and as of August, our organ's bellows have been back to bellowing, thanks to their successful replacement.

Through the challenges of this past year, the generosity of this faithful congregation has been an overwhelming blessing. When our rental incomes dipped, many increased their giving to help FPCC continue its ministries. An example: your generosity allowed us to invest in new sound and recording equipment for the Sanctuary so we could provide online services, as well as make and deliver CDs/DVDs of services to those in our congregation who aren't online.

Prior to Commitment Sunday, please take time to pray about the ways you intend to glorify God in the upcoming year through your time, talents and/or tithes. Enclosed in this mailing is a pledge card for you to fill out. Please seal the card in the enclosed envelope and print or legibly sign your name across the seal. You can mail the envelope to Lisa Gonzalez or bring it to the service on November 1st to be nailed to the cross, a ritual that will symbolize our recognition of the selfless love of God for us, a selfless love that empowers us to give selflessly in turn.

In the coming year, we are committed to trusting God's providence and continuing to minister to our community both safely in person and online through worship, prayer, small groups, service, children's programming and social events. We are also ready to embrace new opportunities to meet the needs of the larger community, especially those whose lives have been upended by the pandemic. On November 1, Commitment Sunday, we invite you to join us in our mission to Love God, Love People and Serve...with a pledge to support God's holy work in and through this congregation.

Your pastor,

The Reverend Dr. Johanna McCune Wagner

Why should I pledge?

Many people say that they will give but don't want to write a specific percentage on a pledge card for various reasons. We welcome all gifts, whether or not they are pledges, but pledging really helps Session to plan for the coming year. Knowing what people intend to give makes budgeting and financial planning much more accurate and is very helpful!

How do I make a pledge?

Commitment cards have been mailed to church members and regular attendees. After inserting your commitment card and signing the back of the envelope, completed commitment cards may be mailed back to Lisa Gonzalez or brought to the worship service on 11/1.

Should I fill out a commitment card even if I cannot fill in a percentage?

Yes. Commitment cards not only assure the congregation's leadership of future finances but also of the extent of support from, and partnership within, the church family.

What happens if I can't give as much as I pledged?

While it's a commitment to your church and your fellow parishioners, your pledge is not legally binding. If your circumstances change, you may notify Lisa Gonzalez at 787-9471 if you need to change your pledge. *If you're blessed with unexpected extra income, you're always welcome to increase your pledge as well!*

Is my pledge confidential?

FPCC keeps pledges strictly confidential. Lisa Gonzalez, Financial Assistant, is the only person that has access to the information.

How much should I pledge?

We ask each family to consider making a pledge that is based on his or her financial situation. A tithe (10% of your income) has long been held as the standard of Christian giving. For most it is a goal to be reached through incremental increases each year. At FPCC, every pledge, no matter what amount, makes a valued contribution to our mission and ministry.

ANNUAL INCOME	ANNUAL GIVING		
	3%	5%	10%
\$ 5,000	150.00	250.00	500.00
\$ 10,000	300.00	500.00	1,000.00
\$ 15,000	450.00	750.00	1,500.00
\$ 20,000	600.00	1,000.00	2,000.00
\$ 25,000	750.00	1,250.00	2,500.00
\$ 30,000	900.00	1,500.00	3,000.00
\$ 35,000	1,050.00	1,750.00	3,500.00
\$ 40,000	1,200.00	2,000.00	4,000.00
\$ 50,000	1,500.00	2,500.00	5,000.00
\$ 60,000	1,800.00	3,000.00	6,000.00
\$ 70,000	2,100.00	3,500.00	7,000.00
\$ 80,000	2,400.00	4,000.00	8,000.00
\$ 90,000	2,700.00	4,500.00	9,000.00
\$ 100,000	3,000.00	5,000.00	10,000.00
\$ 125,000	3,750.00	6,250.00	12,500.00
\$ 150,000	4,500.00	7,500.00	15,000.00
\$ 175,000	5,250.00	8,750.00	17,500.00
\$ 200,000	6,000.00	10,000.00	20,000.00

How Do You Decide?

Please see the graph to the right.