

November 16th, 2020

Greetings Church Family,

In November, we seem to be thankful for an awful lot! On All Saints' Day, we give thanks for the time and faithfulness of those well-loved members who were part of our fellowship for many years but have departed this life to be with God. On November 11th, we give thanks to veterans who used their various talents to serve our nation's armed forces and on the fourth Thursday of each November, we gather around tables of plenty and express our thankfulness for the treasures of family and fortune. In other words, we give thanks for the time of the faithful, the talent of those served and those things we treasure all of which are given or entrusted to us by a great God of many blessings.

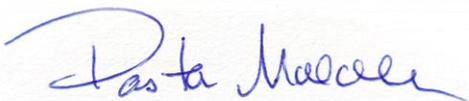
I will be the first to admit that 2020 has been a challenging year. Despite the challenges of being socially distant and wearing masks, of virtual worship and meetings, the mission and ministry of our congregation has continued on. We moved most of our in-person opportunities back to a virtual setting but that doesn't mean that we aren't worshipping, or holding Sunday School classes, or Bible and Growth Studies. We are still supporting our missionaries, our expenses for the church facility are down a bit and yet we still held a Virtual Vacation Bible School and our choir and music department are still holding practices and incorporating beautiful anthems for the weekly worship. Our staff has continued to learn new ways to support our congregation and many times have to pivot into new realms of technology to help us remain connected. Personally, I am thankful for our staff, and for our members who have continued to remain faithful in their tithes and offering to help us continue the ministry of the church. Why don't you take a few moments and create your list of thanks even during these challenging times?

This year's stewardship campaign is called Giving 2021. Our campaign will be shorter than in previous years. As a congregation and as individuals we will be challenged to see ways that God has blessed us and in response to our blessing we are going to be encouraged to give of our time, our talents and our treasures. Each of us will be challenged to find new and exciting ways that we can express our faithfulness to God: by intentionally giving of our time, by using our talents or abilities or spiritual gifts, and by tithing or stepping up to tithing in support of God's kingdom here at Westminster UMC's Center & Main.

Enclosed in this letter, is the 2021 Estimate of Giving Card and also a self-addressed stamped envelope. While we normally bring our cards and hand them in as part of our Commitment Sunday Service, this year we are asking that you or your family please complete the card and return it to the church office through the enclosed self-addressed stamped envelope. We are seeking one hundred percent participation this year, so please complete this and send it today.

We truly are a blessed people, we can accomplish a lot together, and it is my hope that together we can all respond to the challenge!

Grace and peace,



Pastor Malcolm

