

Dear Friend,

Paul's exhortation to the early church rings as clearly today as it did in the first century.

"Keep alert, stand firm in your faith, be courageous, be strong. Let all that you do be done in love."

1 Corinthians 16:13-14

In 1849, our forebears had the vision to purchase a one-acre lot and build what became the beloved church we gather in today. Their faith and the generosity of countless others worked together with the blessings of God ... and here we are, looking back with full and grateful hearts; looking around with deep appreciation and humility; looking forward with joyful expectation. We ask, "What is God's plan for ministry in this place, through us?"

In the coming weeks, we will share stories of thanksgiving and anticipation. We are trustees of a great inheritance here at UPC, a legacy that has grown due to your continued giving and your service. As we pause at the start of a new era, our new building rises as a brick-and-mortar offering. New staff members enliven our worship and expand our ability to share God's love and grace both within and beyond these walls. Our future here is ripe with possibility and promise.

Reflecting on the certainty of God's faithfulness and the limitless opportunities to serve in this world, our theme and our charge for the 2017 Stewardship Campaign is:

"See what love can do ... and dare!"

We invite you to ponder how God's providence sustains you. We ask you to pray about your thank-offering to Him. Our community and the world are crying out for the love of Jesus. How is God calling you this day to bold faith, courageous living, and daring love?

Please join us on October 23 for Dedication Sunday. At that time, we will present our personal commitment cards as an act of worship. You may pick up your labeled 2017 Stewardship Packet after worship on September 25, October 2 or October 9. Tables will be set up on the church's porch.

In God's grace and peace,

Robert E. Dunham | Pastor

Dapane Little Con With Daphne & Crowell Little | Stewardship Co-chairs

Karen & Brian Vandersea | Stewardship Co-chairs

