
ABOUNDING



in hope

Dear Friends,

“Why use a nickel word when you can use a 25 cent word?” That is what I will often say when someone questions my love of fancy words like ‘domicile.’ It may be unnecessary verbiage but I find that the right word can completely change the meaning of a sentence.

In the coming weeks at University Presbyterian Church you’re going to hear a 25 cent word – Stewardship. Some would say that “Giving” would suffice, but the Church is holding on to the word Stewardship for good reasons. To be a steward means we are the custodians of something that belongs to somebody else. Underneath the word Stewardship lies the assumption that everything we have or earn is actually on loan to us from God. For generations, that simple belief has led individuals to be generous with the substance of their lives – with both their time and energy and expertise as well as with their money.

When I consider what it means to be a steward of my calendar or my energy or even my money, it changes my relationship to those things. It’s no longer that which I must guard jealously but rather that which I must carefully share with the world that is so loved by God. I say carefully share because our passions and intentions matter. I give to that which matters most to me – or to flip the saying from Jesus “Where your heart is, there your treasure will be also.”

I give to the Church because it is a place where I can come and pray when I feel powerless to bring about the change I wish to see in myself and in this world. Church is a space where I can come to worship and recapture the wonder of God who is bigger than my disappointments or doubts.

Church is also a people that I care about and who care about me; a people who challenge one another to be the best version of ourselves – both as individuals and as a community. Church is the family that reminds me again and again how to hold on to hope in spite of the daily invitations to despair. I give to the Church for these and so many other reasons.

The Stewardship committee selected the theme “**Abounding In Hope**” for our campaign this year. The materials included in this packet offer a glimpse of the many ways in which University Presbyterian Church is making a difference. When I look at these pictures and read the testimonies within, I discover even more reasons to joyfully make a pledge. We pray that you will consider joining us in making a pledge to the mission and ministry of this Church.

I give to the church for many reasons, but they can all best be summed up in one word. It’s not a 25 cent word like ‘domicile,’ because sometimes a nickel word carries the deepest meaning of all. At the end of the day, I give to the Church because it is home. I pray that University Presbyterian might feel like home to you.

Grace and Peace,

Jarrett McLaughlin, Co-Pastor

