

EVERYDAY Stewardship



May 1, 2022

Salem First Family,

As we enter our third stewardship campaign during the covid era we want to thank everyone in the congregation for their continued support over the last two years. We entered this period not knowing what to expect and the congregational support has been incredible. Both financial and program support have been great in many inventive ways to continue serving our congregation and community. And, our congregation showed its flexibility and willingness to change during the pandemic with a significant jump in contributions coming electronically or through automated giving from their local banks. We cannot thank you enough for your continued financial generosity.

This year's stewardship campaign will be critical as Salem First Presbyterian Church (SFPC) looks to find our next pastor. We need to show that we are a healthy congregation that has grown stronger through this transition and pandemic, and that we are committed to the next chapter God is writing for us. We believe that all we have are gifts from God and that we are to be good stewards of these gifts. We are all given different amounts of time, talents and treasures to be used for the common good. When we joined this congregation we said, "we would give of ourselves in every way and seek the Church wherever we may be."

Biblical stewardship is the process of dedicating a portion of our time, talent and treasure to the Lord. While so many in our congregation were faithful and generous in giving of their treasure, the pandemic did take away from many of us the ability to also give of our time and talent as we had before. With that in mind, our theme for this year is **EVERYDAY Stewardship**. We encourage everyone to reflect daily on how to reengage in the fullness of biblical stewardship by the committing of your time, talent and treasure. We also encourage you to ask God for the inspiration and be open to the answers of how to maximize those resources to benefit SFPC and those we serve in our community. How may God be calling you to step up (or step back up) to help our new pastor in the next chapter of life and vision of SFPC.

We can't plan the work ahead until we know what resources are available, and that's where our annual stewardship campaign comes in. Between now and May 22ND, we ask you to prayerfully consider your level of commitment to SFPC's future, particularly in financial giving for the 2022-23 budget year. We all know that inflation has made everything more expensive, and the church is no exception. So, this year we are specifically reaching out and asking if you are able to increase your giving to help us cover this gap in our expenses.

One of the beautiful things we have witnessed during this pandemic is many new families and individuals discovering SFPC online. Our hybrid worship services have allowed many new friends to join our church family, some even already becoming new members and we have been growing during this time. If you are one of those who discovered SFPC during the pandemic, and you believe in the work we are doing, would you consider sending our next pastor a confirming message by becoming a first-time pledger?

On Sunday, May 22ND, we will have our dedication of pledges, and we look forward to including your pledge for the 2022-2023 year. We have multiple ways you can make your pledge this year to SFPC.

- 1. Fill out the included pledge form and drop it in the mail to the church.**
- 2. Bring your completed pledge form and leave it in the offering baskets after service.**
- 3. Make your pledge online at www.salemfpc.org/pledge.**



We thank you for your willingness to commit to the future of our church this year through our **EVERYDAY Stewardship** drive. In closing, may we be inspired with these words from this year's Lenten devotional:

Now comes our mission. Each new day gives us the opportunity to the good works which God desires us to do. He even supplies us with the gifts to accomplish them. This means our role as servants of Christ is never finished. And everything is to be done for his glory.

In Christ,
Pam Morris & Chuck Zemanek
SFPC Stewardship Committee

P.S. If you have not responded to the Per Capita request, there is information enclosed.

A full inclusion community of ordinary people experiencing and embodying God's extraordinary love