

Dear friends,

When we started planning for Stewardship Season, we never imagined our campaign would be so different this year. While the last 6 months have been challenging, bright spots have come in the ways we have stayed connected as a congregation – Sunday school for all ages, summer Sunday School learning about reparations, serving the community, virtual Winesdays, Thursday night prayers on Facebook, and Sunday morning worship with amazing music, technology support, and thoughtful contemplation for the times we are living through.

Our theme this year was inspired by the hymn where we sing:

Refrain: I am the church! You are the church!
We are the church together!
All who follow Jesus,
all around the world!
Yes, we're the church together!

The church is not a building;
the church is not a steeple;
the church is not a resting place;
the church is a people.
(Refrain)

In keeping with our pandemic theme of being one body with many members (Romans 12:4-5), we have included a **puzzle piece in your packet** – each of you has received a different piece of the puzzle from the picture collage on the back of the brochure. We'll be sharing pictures on social media as you return your pledges and we assemble the jigsaw puzzle to show our progress (no worries – do not return your puzzle piece – we will assemble a second representative puzzle). Follow our progress!

Please read our brochure with a letter from our pastor, our annual budget goals for 2021 and letters from members of the congregation about our mission and ministry. Then:

- Fill out a pledge card with your anticipated pledge for 2021 and your Time and Talent Card.
- Mail it to the church in the return envelope on or before **Dedication Sunday, October 25**.
- Have children think about their gifts and how they can give to the church. Fill out and mail in their pledge form.
- Youth pledge packets are being mailed separately. Keep an eye out for them! They include a special note from John Weicher.

The many ways we have continued to be the church when we could not be together have been inspiring – as has our continued commitment to supporting the work of our congregation to care for each other, serve our community, advocate for change, and share the love of Christ in the world. That commitment and spirit is why we are confident that you will join us in pledging to grow our ability to care for the congregation, stay connected with technology, and serve our community in the next year. Be sure to join us on Sunday, September 27, after worship to kick off the season!

In Christ,

George Bernhardt and Sharon Hirsch
Co-Chairs, Stewardship Committee