

Give Thanks

LIVING A LIFE OF GRATITUDE

“Every time I think of you, I give thanks to my God. Whenever I pray, I make my requests for all of you with joy, for you have been my partners in spreading the Good News about Christ from the time you first heard it until now.”

- Philippians 1:3-5.

Members & Friends of Audubon Park Church,

I want to echo Paul's sentiment to the Philippians—my heart is filled with deep gratitude for YOU—the people of Audubon Park Church, your prayers, your presence, your service, and your generosity.

Bishops and other church leaders often ask us to consider whether anyone would even notice if our church closed its doors. I love that I can always answer that question with a resounding, “YES!” People would notice if our church were not here because of the way you consistently show up for our community. A recent example of this was your response to the cessation of SNAP benefits during the government shutdown. You rallied around our food ministry programs with donations, food, and volunteer hours and so many people received the food they desperately needed because of your support. When our food bank wasn't open, our staff helped connect people to other food programs where they could find help. This is just one way we seek to live out our faith. Each act of faith, whether seen or unseen, helps our church embody the love and hope of Jesus Christ in real and meaningful ways.

Each year our stewardship campaign helps us focus our gratitude and generosity to support the ministry of Audubon Park Church. Stewardship is not primarily about obligation; it is about giving thanks. It is our joyful response to God's abundant generosity and grace, a way of saying, “Lord, we remember all You have done, and we offer ourselves to Your work with grateful hearts.”

Your giving to Audubon Park Church supports our food ministry programs; spiritual formation for children, youth, and adults; and pastoral care to members of our church and our community. It creates a place where all are welcome and no one is turned away. Your giving helps us share God's love through warm meals, inspiring worship, and supportive community.

This year, as we consider our commitments, I invite you to pause and notice the blessings that have shaped your life and the life of our congregation. Gratitude opens our hands, strengthens our faith, and reminds us that everything we have is a gift entrusted to us for God's purposes.

Each year my wife, Meagan, and I take some time to look at our finances and our giving to ensure that our giving keeps pace with our income. We know that inflation has risen significantly in recent years and, with it, the cost of doing ministry. So we are planning to increase our financial commitment for 2026 so that the life-changing ministry of Audubon Park can continue to flourish and grow.

You may not be able to increase your giving to the church. In fact, you may need to decrease it due to circumstances in your life, and that's very okay. If that's the case, please leave a note that you're in a difficult place and let me know how I can pray for you. Both your prayer requests and your financial commitments will be kept confidential.

Our main goal for our stewardship campaign each year is for each of us to prayerfully consider how we are being called to financially support our church's ministry. We hope everyone who calls Audubon Park Church home will turn in a commitment card—no matter the amount you're able to give. You'll help us meet our goal as long as you've taken the time to pray and reflect on how God is calling to give.

We also recognize that we all give to the church in different ways and while financial giving is essential, so are gifts of time, talents, and skills. The ministry of Audubon Park Church takes all of us to accomplish, and it is a ministry for which we can all be proud.

Whether your plans for supporting Audubon Park Church this year represent a first step, a deepened commitment, or a continuation of faithful generosity, together we are building a church that embodies welcome, justice, and joy.

Again, thank you for all of your support as we seek to continue being the church that shows up for people when life gets hard and people need tangible expressions of love.

Grace & Peace,

Rev. Geoff Helton

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3 EASY STEPS

- BEGIN WITH PRAYER.** Thank God for your blessings and ask for guidance and discernment. Ask God to bless and use your gifts.
- SET YOUR GIVING GOAL.** Assess your income and determine your current rate of giving using the chart to the right. Then set a goal for this year. Consider whether you can grow in your giving. If you are not currently tithing (giving 10 percent of your income), start with a lower percentage and then plan to increase the percentage each year, growing toward the tithe. The important thing is to begin the spiritual discipline of regular, consistent giving.

income	2%	4%	6%	8%	10%	12%	15%
\$ 20,000	\$ 33	\$ 67	\$ 100	\$ 133	\$ 167	\$ 200	\$ 250
\$ 40,000	\$ 67	\$ 133	\$ 200	\$ 267	\$ 333	\$ 400	\$ 500
\$ 60,000	\$ 100	\$ 200	\$ 300	\$ 400	\$ 500	\$ 600	\$ 750
\$ 80,000	\$ 133	\$ 267	\$ 400	\$ 533	\$ 667	\$ 800	\$1,000
\$ 100,000	\$ 167	\$ 333	\$ 500	\$ 667	\$ 833	\$1,000	\$1,250
\$ 150,000	\$ 250	\$ 500	\$ 750	\$1,000	\$1,250	\$1,500	\$1,875

- FILL OUT YOUR COMMITMENT CARD.** Use the form included with this mailing and bring it to worship with you on Sunday.

OR mail it to the church: 3908 N. Driscoll Blvd., Spokane, WA 99205



OR share your financial commitment to the church for 2026 online:

audubonparkumc.org/give

COMMITMENT CARD

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My Financial Commitment for 2026

Through the grace of God and in thanksgiving for all God's blessings, I/we pledge our gifts & resources for the mission of our community.

First Name _____ Last Name _____

Address _____

Email _____ Phone _____

If this pledge is a joint or family pledge, the additional family members to whom this pledge should apply includes:

I/we commit to give (check one):

☐ weekly in the amount of \$ _____ a week.

☐ monthly in the amount of \$ _____ a month.

☐ for the year 2022, I pledge a total amount of: \$ _____ for the year.

☐

Payment method* (check one): ☐ Cash ☐ Check ☐ My Bank's Bill Pay ☐ Our Church Website *

Check any that apply:

☐ I would like the church to provide me with envelopes so that I may mail my gift.

☐ I would like help to set up automatic payments via direct deposit. Please contact me.

☐ I have made a plan to give in my will. Please contact me for more information about my plans.

☐ I would like more information about Planned Giving.

☐

Signature _____

* Visit our website for more info about online giving: audubonparkumc.org/give