



Information on

***PLEDGE DRIVE FOR 2021***

**October – November 2020**

***“Celebrating New Beginnings, and  
our resilience!”***

## Pledge Drive For 2021

### Important Dates:

October – November	Pastor Sermon Series
October 25	“ <i>New beginnings...</i> ” Minute
October 25 (TBD)	“ <u>Gratitude</u> ” Brunch (all invited!)
November 1	“ <i>New beginnings...</i> ” Minute
November 8	“ <i>New beginnings...</i> ” Minute
November 8, November 15, November 22	Pledge Card Submissions!

*Matthew 6: 19. Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy, and where thieves break in and steal. 20. But store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys, and where thieves do not break in or steal; 21. for where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.*

## **Questions & Answers About This Year's Pledge Drive**

- **What do you mean by “Celebrating” and “New Beginnings”?**
  - First, we are celebrating *the capstone ministry of Pastor Marty's long career; twelve years as our pastor and head of staff!*
  - At the same time, we're celebrating *the possibilities the future holds for us as a church family as we embark on a prayerful search for our next permanent pastor.*
- **What's the “Resilience” we're celebrating? Hasn't the church shut down for months?**
  - Our pastor, session, committee leaders, deacons, and many other volunteers have kept the candle burning in spite of our limited ability to gather in person. Here are a few special examples:
    - Streamed worship services led by our pastor and worship team starting the first weekend of the quarantine
    - Creativity and energy from our staff:
      - Terrific support from our musicians (Nancy and Sharon)
      - Enthusiastic “Zoom” Sunday School and Youth Group (Courtney, Molly, Becky)
      - Ongoing Adult Education and women's ministries (Marty and Erin)
      - Ingenious financial and payroll management (Dale)
      - Keeping our office organization working and assisting our pastor (Gail)
      - Keeping our church home safe and secure (Thom)
    - ... and from our volunteers:
      - Help and advice from our RBPC Health Team
      - Deacons outreach and assistance
      - Volunteers of the “Facemask Ministry”

- Visits and video by the COVID Coping crew
- Ongoing Zoom Adult Education
- ... and our [session](#):
  - Regular monthly meetings and numerous special meetings via Zoom to monitor and adjust budgeting, plan for restoration of church operations, plan for 2021 and beyond
- ... and above all, [our congregation](#) who have kept the faith, stayed safe, loved and served one another and the community at large!
- We are proud of our congregation during this challenging time, and we hope and pray that we reached every member of our community, and that you all believe that we ministered as completely and well as we could. **We are also grateful for your generosity in keeping up with your pledged giving and other donations.** We could never have assumed that you would have continued to support the church budget so well under these conditions!
- **What is Session's main objective for pledging this year?**
  - We encourage you to increase your pledge over last year's amount as you are able. [An increase of even one or two percent would be in line with US inflation](#) over the past year.
- **Where does the church's money come from?**
  - The vast majority comes from your pledged giving. Last year, we received 104 pledges totaling nearly \$490,000. [The average pledge was more than \\$4,700!](#)
  - In addition, the church ordinarily receives unpledged gifts in the offering plates amounting to about \$20,000 each year and occasional bequests, memorial and other gifts.
  - We also earn money from our lease with the Island Children's Montessori School plus an additional several thousand from rentals of our facilities for events.

- **What do we spend it on?**
  - About three-quarters of the budget goes to paying our staff to lead and support our ministries. (See back page for roster.)
  - The majority of the balance is spent on utilities and other expenses related to maintaining the buildings and grounds, office supplies, and essential services.
  - The remainder is allocated to the church's many various missions and ministries.
- **Is that all the money we spend as a church?**
  - No. Session authorizes a number of groups to conduct supplemental fundraising each year. These events contribute thousands of dollars to finance ministries like the Yucatan and youth mission trips that are not funded in the annual budget.
- **Just how much is the church's annual budget?**
  - The 2020 budget is about \$524,000. That amount is very slightly greater than the budget for 2019.
  - For 2021, committees, administration, and others have submitted requests totaling about \$529,000. That would be an increase of less than two percent over the current year.
- **Where would we allocate that additional money? Is there anything new?**
  - Church committees and organizations were conservative with their requests for 2021. There were no requests for increases except from the Personnel Committee, which has proposed minor adjustments to staff compensation and a one-percent cost-of-living increase for staff.
  - And yes, ***"the big new thing" is to ensure that the ministries developed by Erin Grayson will continue to be led by professional staff.*** Our wonderful experience with Erin the past year in a temporary role has proven that there is a great desire for these ministry services, and we hope to be able to fund these ministries for the long term.

- **Who are our biggest pledgers?**
- **Individual pledges and donations are confidential.** Only the church Treasurer has access to the names and numbers associated with each pledge or donation, and that is only to enable him to assist donors tracking their accounts.
- **What are the pledge drive goals this year?**
  - Over the past seven years, we have stabilized budgets and restored some pay and benefits to our staff. We've made terrific progress rehabilitating much of our church. We've enabled other important ministries to enhance their works in modest ways.
  - This year we wish for at least as many pledges as last year, and that as many of you as possible increase your pledge as you are able, and hopefully by at least the annual rate of inflation.
  - Our Session endorsed these goals, and we hope that you will follow their lead in putting money where your heart is.
- **What should we members and friends do this year?**
  - If you are not in the habit of pledging but donate to the church anyway, fill out a pledge card. A pledge helps us to determine more accurately and confidently what our budget should be.
  - If you are a regular pledger, consider how much you can increase your pledge for next year.
  - Listen to our speakers, read our correspondence, then talk, think, and pray about your pledging plans.
  - Get your pledge cards back in the collection plates or through the mail as soon as possible beginning November 8<sup>th</sup>.
  - If you are an online giver, please fill out a pledge card anyway so our Treasurer can track your giving plan.
- **What is the "right" pledge amount for me?**
  - Try this: Talk to God and do what's right for you.
  - Other suggestions? Well, our average pledge this year was more than \$4,700. How has your year been financially? How much

can you manage each week? Maybe \$30, \$60, or \$100 every service?

- Can you increase your gift by one or two percent to help us keep pace with inflation? Maybe more?
- Our church does not prescribe averaging, tithing or any “formula” for pledging, and no two families will have the exact same considerations in their decisions. But this might be a useful rule of thumb: If you feel your pledge is stretching you, you’ve probably reached the right amount.
- **I want to pledge more this year, but I just don’t know if I’ll be able to make all my payments. What should I do?**
  - Our church is a place of understanding and forgiveness. Pledge the amount your heart is telling you to offer the church, and then do your best to make the payments.
- **Okay, once we’ve made our pledge, what do we do?**
  - First, keep a record of your pledge amount so that you’ll remember it in January!
  - Second, deliver your offering in whatever way is most convenient for you. Some make single lump sum payments at the start of the new year. Others pay quarterly, monthly, or every week. You also can deliver your offerings on-line by clicking the “Give” button on the top right corner of church’s home page (rbpres.org).
- **Who should we talk to if we have other questions?**
  - Feel free to talk to any member of the Stewardship Committee (Bob Wyman, Ted Eimon, and Al Westphal) or to any Session member.

- **Reminder: Here is a roster of all our terrific employees**
- Sharon Acton: Director of Music In worship (part-time)
- Nancy Lyman: Organist/Keyboardist (part-time)
- Courtney Cook: Director of Youth Ministries (part-time)
- Molly Dunn: Director of Children's Ministries (part-time)
- Becky Lathe: Children's Ministry Assistant (part-time)
- Gail Williamson: Office Admin/Comms Manager (part-time)
- Thom Spitler: Caretaker/Custodian (part-time)
- Dale Christopherson: Bookkeeper (part-time)

**I have noticed that when money leads us toward God, I think it says:**

***“Don't look to me for contentment. Love God and others with me. You will like your life better if you give me away.”***

**The time for generosity is now.**

**(Pastor Marty Shelton-Jenck)**