



# *Incline Our Hearts to the Lord*

St. Andrew Presbyterian Church  
140 Gathering Place Lane | Iowa City, IA 52246  
[www.saintandrew-ic.org](http://www.saintandrew-ic.org)

October 27, 2020

Dear St. Andrew friends and members:

It was wonderful to see so many people join the Stewardship Team for our informational gathering on Sunday. The dozen people in the Sanctuary were joined by at least 75 people online to hear the latest news about St. Andrew's finances, the pastoral search, and our church's continuing mission and ministry. A video of the conversation can be found at <https://youtu.be/-aymY7suWgk>, and some highlights from the meeting can be found on the back page of this letter.

The updates from staff and volunteers alike helped remind us that the generosity of our church family reflects our worship of a generous God. And as the Stewardship Team calls on the congregation to "Incline Our Hearts to the Lord" in 2021, it's with the understanding that we have so much to give because God already has blessed us with so much. That's the whole point of a Stewardship campaign: to bring our hearts back to the wellspring of generosity at the heart of God.

We hope that you will join us as well (either in-person or online) during the worship service on November 8, when we will be collecting and celebrating the pledges made to the 2021 Annual Budget for St. Andrew. Hard copies of the pledge cards are being mailed to everyone who donated in 2019, and the cards can be returned through the mail or dropped off at the church office (140 Gathering Place Lane, Iowa City, IA 52245). Recurring gifts also can be made online at <https://pushpay.com/g/saintandrewic>. *(If you have any questions about how to give during this time of pandemic, please contact John Benson at 319-330-3197 or [finance@saintandrew-ic.org](mailto:finance@saintandrew-ic.org).)*

We continue to be excited about ministry at St. Andrew and into the community, and we look forward to seeing what God will do through St. Andrew in 2021.

As we incline our hearts to the Lord, we can be confident that Christ has completed the work already. He offers new mercy every morning; his steadfast love never ceases. No matter how daunting the circumstances, serving God together offers hope and renewal.

Sincerely,

*Christina*

Christina Charis-Donelson  
On behalf of the Stewardship Team



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Saint Andrew's Stewardship Team hosted an online conversation Sunday October 25 that included representatives of the Finance Team; Personnel Team; Pastor Nominating Committee; and the Mission, Outreach, and Service Team. Video of the online gathering can be found on the church's YouTube channel at <https://youtu.be/-aymY7suWgk>.

A few take-aways from the conversation include:

- Despite all the hardships and challenges we've experienced during the pandemic, St. Andrew's current year budget remains about "break even." Giving is down about 10 percent when compared to 2019, but expenses have fallen at almost the same rate.
- With the budget running at "break even," our cash reserves remain as strong as they were before the pandemic began. That means all our decisions concerning personnel and mission can be made based on what's best for St. Andrew's future -- rather than out of any short-term economic concerns.
- Important recent investments in ministries at St. Andrew include plans to purchase new equipment for livestreaming worship services, completing the next phase of the playground, and using Capital Campaign donations to prepay on our building loan.
- While access to 140 Gathering Place Lane has been limited throughout much of 2020, the St. Andrew community has continued to live out its commitment to ministry and mission:
  - We've opened our building to the DeGowin Blood Center and to the Neighborhood Centers of Johnson County.
  - We've sent multiple teams to help with the derecho recovery efforts in Cedar Rapids.
  - And we've continued to open our hearts and wallets to Impacto Ministry in Guatemala and to the special offerings from the national Presbyterian Church (USA).