

Faith Presbyterian Church 2026 Fall Stewardship

*"The one who sows bountifully will also reap bountifully."
- II Corinthians 9:6*



Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Though I am writing this letter before I leave on sabbatical, you are reading it after I have left. During this time of extended rest that Faith has graciously provided, my "job" is to stop so as to discover afresh the abundant blessings of our Lord. Sabbath rest, whether once a week or in whole seasons, is a time to cease. I've heard it said that when we stop our work, we stop creating so that we can enjoy creation. I think of a farmer who works hard for a time, but then, after the harvest is collected, both he and his family stop and take time to enjoy the fruits of what the Lord has provided through their labor.

I'm not sure if you've ever connected the practices of sabbath and giving, but allow me to do so here. This fall, as is our practice, we will pause to consider all the ways that the Lord has blessed us, not just with material wealth beyond what we need, but also with abilities, and relationships, and time, and opportunities of all sorts. It's all God's and it's all good! During our stewardship season, we once again have the opportunity to pause and consider not only how the Lord wants us to return to him a portion of what he has given, but also to consider how we will be called to labor in the coming year. The person who never pauses in rest long enough to consider these things may neglect these and many more truths.

This coming Sunday, October 4, is Stewardship Commitment Sunday. This is an opportunity given to each of us this time of year to prayerfully consider how we will answer this question: *What portion of the resources which the Lord has given me will I pledge to the ministry of Christ through this congregation in the coming year?* This involves our treasure (i.e., material wealth) but also our time and talents. Stewardship is about so much more than just money!

Would you join me in taking a few minutes this week to prayerfully consider how the Lord is calling you to give of your time, talent and treasure in the coming year? As we have done in past years, we are once again inviting you to fill out *two* pledge cards, one regarding your treasure and one regarding your time and talents. You'll find each included in this packet.

If you are giving as a household, please include others in this time of prayerful consideration, even your young children. If you have kids and they are old enough to receive income, perhaps from a job or allowance, invite them to fill out their own financial pledge card for Sunday. We also encourage children to pledge of their time and talents in ministry this coming year. There are also lots of ways for children to serve here at Faith. Stewardship is something we can, and must, teach. You can download extra pledge cards of both kinds from our website at faithpresby.org. Click on the Give tab to access all the materials for our 2027 stewardship season.

On Sunday, we invite you to bring both pledge cards and drop them in the offering basket at the appropriate time in the service. If you are traveling out of town this Sunday, we encourage you to use the enclosed envelope to mail your pledge cards to the church, drop them off during office hours, or bring them on a subsequent Sunday. As a reminder, your financial pledge will only be seen by our Pledge Secretary. Ideally, we would like to have all pledges collected by November 1.

Don't forget that we will also hold our annual Ministry Fair on the patio between services on Sunday, October 4. We invite you to engage with the leaders of our various ministries and consider how you might be called to join in by offering your time and talents.

I thank God for each of you, and for this community. It continues to be a joy to serve as one of your pastors. I am grateful for this time of rest that you have afforded to me and Esther, and I look forward to being back with you soon.

Grace & Peace,

Pastor Jeff Chapman