

From Pastor:

You may remember this verse from your youth!

*We give thee but thine own, whate'er the gift may be; all that we have is thine alone, a trust, O Lord, from thee. -William Walsham How*

Stewardship: “the conducting, supervising, or managing of something; especially: the careful and responsible management of something entrusted to one's care” Miriam-Webster Dictionary

As Christians we proclaim that everything we see, know, and are is a gift from God. And we are called to care for something that will go on after us. I find this proclamation both comforting and challenging.

Every November, the Stewardship Committee asks us to prayerfully consider the wealth God provides each of us and in gratitude lift a token of that back to God's work in the world.

Every November we scratch numbers on note cards and place them in the plate. We offer a projection of our tithe of time, talents, and financial resources, and we pray that these numbers are transformed into a reflection of God's love to our neighbors.

Superficially these cards serve to form a foundation for United in Faith's budget for the coming year, allowing us to support our combined ministry to this place in the form of our building and staff. Yet we know that the numbers on our cards don't cover predecessor congregations and the loving gifts made to United in Faith.

It might be tempting to overlook this opportunity to consider your wealth, or dis-miss it as too small to share. I hope you don't. I hope you recognize the power that God has provided you where you live. The power to see need in your

neighbor and share God's blessing. The power to offer loving comfort, attention or regard. The power to connect neighbor to resource and hope.

As you prayerfully consider God's abundance in your life, write it down. Consider how you can share a fraction of that gift with your community and your church. Bring that notecard. Put it in the offering plate and let us add our prayers to it.

Let us give thanks as a community for God's blessings in our shared lives this November.

Peace,

Pastor Jeanine