

With Grateful Hearts

Our stewardship theme this year reflects our joyful response to God's many blessings and steadfast love for us. God greatly blesses us even in times of challenge and change from what was once familiar to a future that is not yet entirely clear to us. Yet we know that God's grace will lead and comfort us throughout the journey. How can we help but respond with grateful hearts to share God's love with each other and those in our community and the world? Here are some of the ways that your faithful generosity enables Westminster to carry out its programs and ministries as disciples of Jesus.



Worship

Your pledge to Westminster supports our pastors who preach the Word of God, lead, teach and empower us to serve Christ. This stimulates us to grow as disciples and share God's love. In response to the recent pandemic, your support has allowed us to provide regular worship services online and reach new worshippers seeking spiritual guidance during these challenging times. The church continues to welcome visitors and new members, while many church members assist with the worship services. Your generosity will enable us to return to worshipping in a well-maintained and welcoming sanctuary once it is safe to do so.



University Mission

Your pledge to Westminster helps support our University mission to serve students and young adults, as they seek guidance through periods of questioning, growth and faith exploration, guidance particularly needed during these times. Your generosity helps our UKirk undergraduate students and the 20/30 CreW young adults build community with one another through spiritual, service and fellowship opportunities.

Peace, Justice and Inclusion

Your pledge enables Westminster to undertake vital ministries that welcome, support and protect our immigrant and refugee neighbors; promote racial justice in our community; serve as allies to our LGBTQIA+ community; and advocate for the passage of reasonable gun laws. Your giving also allows us to maintain our status as an Earth Care Congregation and supports our jail ministry. Your generosity makes it possible for us to maintain and hopefully soon resume providing a welcoming space for more than 100 non-Westminster meetings and events.

Benevolence

Westminster has continued to support our many mission partners during difficult times. Your pledge to Westminster will allow us to continue to make 20% of our pledges available as benevolence grants that support the work of the Presbytery of the James and our many mission partners, such as the Alliance for Interfaith Ministry (AIM), Habitat for Humanity, IMPACT, PROSAMI, The Haven, our Child Care Center, PACEM and the Charlottesville CROP Walk.

Pastoral Care

Your pledge to Westminster also supports the ministry of our Pastors and Deacons in providing spiritual, emotional and physical support to our congregation. This includes providing communion for the home-bound; visits to homes, hospitals and residential facilities; and extending love and support to families experiencing illness or loss. Your generosity helps sustain a loving church family through fellowship activities that continue in modified forms today. We pray they will soon return in full, including Fellowship on Tap, CROP Walk Lunch, Pickin' and Picknicking Event, Men's Breakfasts, Dinner Conversation Groups and more.



Music

Your pledge to Westminster supports our outstanding music ministry, including three choirs and many talented musicians. In this very unusual year, music has continued online in worship services, regular choir rehearsals for both the adult and children's choirs, hymn singing gatherings, and videos of music for comfort and inspiration. With your continued generosity, we look forward to the return of a multifaceted and multigenerational music program with Christmas Lessons & Carols, a Spring Musical, the Little Summer Music Concerts, and the Westminster Organ Concert Series.



Christian Formation

Your pledge to Westminster helps nurture the life of faith for children, youth and adults through regular Church School classes and special programs for all ages. During this past year, this has involved moving most classes online and learning new skills for teaching and learning remotely. Special celebrations, such as Rite 13 for youth and their families, as they begin their journey to adulthood, were held in the church courtyard, observing proper precautions during the pandemic. With your support, we look forward to returning to in person classes and programs in the future.

With Grateful Hearts!

“The earth is the Lord’s and all that is in it . . .” (Ps. 24:1). The Scriptures remind us that all we have belongs to God. Stewardship is the way we use what God has entrusted to our care to show our love for God and our neighbors. Through the faithful practice of stewardship, we grow in discipleship, providing the time, talent and resources needed to support the active and growing ministries at Westminster.

While recent circumstances have been challenging and the future remains uncertain, God’s promise to be with us in difficult times remains sure. Our church is blessed to have many very generous members and friends. Let us respond to God’s steadfast love with grateful hearts. Our pledge goal for this year is \$935,000.

If you have never pledged, or have not pledged recently, we ask that you consider supporting the ministries of the church with a pledge. This will greatly assist us in planning and sustaining the church’s active life and service in the community during the coming year.

If you regularly pledge, thank you for your support! As you consider your pledge for the coming year, please give prayerful thought to whether you could increase your pledge to reflect God’s many blessings in your life.

“And God is able to provide you with every blessing in abundance, so that by always having enough of everything, you may share abundantly in every good work.” (2 Cor. 9:8).



Please return your pledge card by mail or bring it to Westminster for drop-off on Dedication Sunday, November 8, 2020. You also can pledge online at:

www.westminsterva.org/giving/

Westminster Presbyterian Church

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With Grateful Hearts

STEWARDSHIP 2021

Westminster Presbyterian Church
Charlottesville, VA

Dear Members and Friends ~



We are grateful for God’s good gifts. In a time of COVID, in a time of national grief over the death of Ruth Bader Ginsberg, in a time of civic unrest, we are all seeking ways to give thanks. The prophet Micah, I believe, gives us a fresh perspective on the nature of gratitude. “With what shall I come before the Lord, and bow myself before God on high?”

Micah wonders what gift will satisfy or ever be enough for the God of the heavenly hosts. “Will the Lord be pleased with thousands of rams, with ten thousands of rivers of oil?” Indeed, what human gift can compare to what God has given us?

The stewardship theme, *With Grateful Hearts*, reminds us that there is much to be grateful for in this life. We have our families, our homes, our health, people who love and support us, and we have our faith in God through Jesus Christ. We are also grateful for the many gifted people at Westminster Presbyterian Church, including pastors, musicians, finance people, church administrators, sextons, videographers, and the countless number of living saints in our midst who freely offer their gifts of compassion and wisdom to us and to our neighbors. We are blessed and we are grateful. David Steindal-Rast writes:

With what shall I come before the Lord, and bow myself before God on high? Shall I come before God with burnt offerings, with calves a year old? Will the Lord be pleased with thousands of rams, with ten thousands of rivers of oil? Shall I give my firstborn for my transgression, the fruit of my body for the sin of my soul? God has told you, O mortal, what is good; and what does the Lord require of you but to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God?

Micah 6:6-8

“In moments of surprise we catch at least a glimpse of the joy to which gratefulness opens the door.”

For the prophet Micah, opening the door to justice, of mercy, and walking humbly with God, begins with being grateful. Gratitude leads to acts of grace and mercy.

This year, as we embark on the 2021 stewardship campaign,

I hope we will all take time to reflect on what we are grateful for and then make a pledge to support the ministries and mission of Westminster Presbyterian Church. In this unusual year of pandemic and health precautions, we can either return the enclosed pledge card through the mail, or drive by the upper Rugby Road parking lot at Westminster Presbyterian Church on **November 8, 2020** and deliver it in-person.

With grateful hearts, we turn to God for healing, peace, and justice. With grateful hearts, we turn to God in helping us through these challenging times. With grateful hearts, we offer our lives, our resources, our time, and our thanks.

Thanks be to God,
Ken Henry, Pastor
Westminster Presbyterian Church