



Sailboat Church

God provides the wind; [We] must raise the sails. — St. Augustine

Dear Friends in Christ:

Our stewardship campaign this year begins in gratitude. We thank you for your continued support of Westminster with your time, talent, and money. We thank you for your willingness to serve on the many committees of this church and to give generously to Westminster's programs. We thank you for your continued prayers for this community and for the Mission Study Team as it identified your hopes for the future of the church.

For our stewardship theme, the Stewardship Committee has chosen to use the ideas in Joan S. Gray's book *Sailboat Church*. During the stewardship season you will hear sermons and narratives about how the metaphor can play out in a church. For example, some of the themes of a sailboat church are that it is shaped and guided by interaction with Scripture, is Holy Spirit powered, is a place for transformation, and takes spiritual realities and resources seriously.

As Christians, we know that stewardship is not just a season, but a way of life of both purse and heart. God has given abundantly; in return we are called to give abundantly to God's work through the church. As you know our 2023 budget was a deficit budget. Our needs remain the same, with even higher costs, so your pledge is very important. If this year's budget is also a deficit budget, it may mean significant cuts in 2024 in our programs, our benevolences, and also in staff.

We encourage each of you to consider moving your pledge a little closer to a tithe - tithing is a spiritual discipline, just like praying, almsgiving, and fasting.

As you consider your pledge, please go to Scripture's teaching about tithe-based giving. It is *regular* with discipline (1 Corinthians 16:2; *proportional* to blessings from God (2 Corinthians 8:12; *sacrificial* and willing to take on risk (Mark 12: 41-44; and *joyful* with first priority given to God (2 Corinthians 9: 7-8). Please pray with these texts to decide what is the appropriate level of giving for you at this time.

On Pledge Dedication Sunday, **November 12**, we will celebrate with Brunswick Stew in the courtyard after the worship service. The Brunswick Stew contains the bounty of the fall harvest; it is a symbol of how God provides from the good earth what we need.

Thank you for your continuing support of Westminster Presbyterian Church.

In Christ,

Pastors: Lynne Clements, Jewell-Ann Parton, and Dorothy Piatt-Esquerre

Clerk of Session: Barry Parks

Stewardship Co-Chairs: Mark Outlaw and Helen Phillips

P.S. Additional information regarding the stewardship campaign will be available on WPC's website.