



Emmanuel Presbyterian Church

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"Ask...Seek...Knock..." - Luke 11:9

Dear Friends,

November 12, 2025

I thought about sending the shortest stewardship letter ever...

"The Church is asking for your support for Emmanuel in 2026. Please fill out the enclosed pledge card."

Maybe that is enough. Many of you have been around churches for a long time. You've been through this before. You know the ropes and you are generous in your giving. I know this to be true. If that is enough, you need read no further...but if you are interested in reading more, I'd like to share an answer to a question that I sometimes get asked... **why give to the church?**

I have pondered this question through 28 years of ministry. Over the years my standard answer has been rooted in the theological belief that giving is a sign of thanksgiving, gratitude and generosity in response to our generous God. Giving is an act of faith as it challenges us to trust in God's provision and reminds us that all that we have is a gift from God. I still believe all of that, but I also believe that giving has the power to connect us to one another.

At the heart of my theology is the belief that God calls the church to be the Body of Christ, blessing us with the gift of community and connection. With this in mind, I believe in the core of my being that we need the church. We need the church to keep our focus fixed on God. We need the church to remind us that we are not made to live as individuals, divided, lonely, and isolated. We need the church to continually inspire us to live more fully into this vision of connection and community. We need the church to laugh with and cry with; to believe for us when we are struggling and to encourage us when we are doubting.

We need the church to remind us to hope and to encourage us to believe in God's power and provision, especially when we are anxious and uncertain; especially when the news overwhelms us; especially when we see and feel the pervasiveness of violence, hate and divisions. We need the church to challenge us to see injustice and to create God's Kin-dom vision. We need the church when we lose our vision or our way so that it can help us to find our way back to God. We need the church, because within the church we are enfolded in a community of love, grace, and peace where we are sustained, encouraged and helped to act with hope, live with faith and grow in grace. **We need the church!**

And the church needs you! You are a vital part of our community of faith and we could not do all that we do without you. With that in mind, we are asking for your continued support for Emmanuel. Please prayerfully consider how God is calling you to support the church in the year ahead and make a pledge to support Emmanuel. You can make your pledge here on this webpage, or if you prefer, you can bring it into the Church office. We hope to have all pledges submitted by November 23rd, as we will dedicate the pledges in worship. Thank you for your prayers, your presence and your continued support of Emmanuel! You are a blessing!

Pasta Laurie