

Welcome to the 2022 Stewardship Campaign for the First United Methodist Church of Howell. This campaign is in preparation for the pledges in support of the General Fund of the Church and the Church Building Mortgage. The Budget for 2022 is starting to be put together and it is anticipated to be about \$580,000. We are asking for separate pledges for the General Fund and the Building Mortgage. The Parsonage Repayment will be handled within the General Fund.

The theme for this year's campaign is "Grow as a Steward Through Faith, Love and Hope!". Our stewardship journey is a growing and maturing process. We are empowered by the Holy Spirit's work in our hearts to grow as stewards. As God continually changes and molds us, we develop into faithful stewards, and although we never become perfect, we do become more like Christ. Through his gifts of faith, love, and hope, God builds us into responsible stewards who please him. As we spend time in God's Word and participate regularly in the Lord's Table, our faith, love, and hope will deepen and mature. Our faithful stewardship is evidence of our faith, love, and hope.

The themes for the program are "Faith Produces Works", "Love Prompts Action" and "Hope Goes the Distance". Information will be presented at the October 10, October 17 and October 24 services. Additional information will be posted on the FUMC website and sent out via email.

Faith is the most precious gift anyone can receive from God (Ephesians 2:8-9). Faith "*has greater worth than gold*" (1 Peter 1:7). It is dependent solely on God. By God's grace he gives us faith. God expects that the love he "lavishes" on us will naturally flow out of us into others. Real love is evidenced by action; first in labors of love to fellow believers and then to our neighbors (Galatians 6:10). The word hope occurs more than 50 times in the New Testament. When you read the word hope in the New Testament remember that it is talking about a firm expectation. Remember this: our hope as believers comes from God, not from within us.

God's goal for our giving is a tithe (10 percent of our gifts received). The church's goal is a 10 percent increase in each family's pledge over the prior year's figure. For example, if you pledged \$4,000 last year, our goal for you would be \$4,400 for this year's pledge. The chart on the other side of this document provides some information on annual income and the weekly giving values associated with different giving levels.

This packet includes a letter from Pastor Scott Otis and a copy of the pledge form. We ask that this pledge form be filled out and brought to Commitment Sunday (October 24, 2021) or be mailed to the Church before Wednesday October 27, 2021. If you are mailing in the form, please place the words "Pledge form" in the bottom left-hand corner of the envelope so it can be properly handled by the office staff. We look forward to your participation in this important activity of the Church.

Norman Pratt

Chairman of the Finance Committee