

A LETTER FROM REV. LEANN HODGES



Dear Beloved in Christ,

Each year, as we enter this season of stewardship, we are invited to reflect on the ways our faith comes alive in daily living. Stewardship is not just about supporting a budget—it is about giving thanks to God for the abundance we have received, and trusting that, together, God will multiply our gifts to bless our community and world. Our theme this year, "Demonstrating Faith Through Generosity," reminds us that every act of giving is also an act of faith.

When we share what God has entrusted to us, we demonstrate that we trust God's promises. Generosity is more than meeting financial needs—it is a spiritual practice that draws us closer to God and to one another. It is a tangible way of saying, "We believe that God's mission matters, and we are willing to invest ourselves in it."

To help us see this more clearly, the Stewardship Committee has prepared what is called a *narrative* budget. Instead of simply listing line items and numbers, this budget tells the story of ministry at our church. It shows how your gifts support vital worship that grounds us in God's Word. It shows how your generosity nurtures children, youth, and adults by equipping us all to be faithful disciples of Jesus. It shows how your giving reaches beyond our walls—feeding the hungry, welcoming the stranger, and working for justice and peace. And it shows how we are called to care for one another within the GPC community. Every dollar given is transformed into a ministry that touches lives.

When we give, we are not just covering expenses; we are demonstrating our faith through generosity. We are helping to create a community where God's love is experienced and shared. We are bearing witness to a gospel of hope in a world that desperately needs it. And in the process, our own faith is deepened, as we discover the joy that comes from giving.

As you prayerfully consider your commitment this year, I encourage you to see your pledge as more than a financial transaction. It is a statement of faith, a response to God's grace, and a step into the future that God is calling us to build together. May your generosity be a testimony to the goodness of God at work among us.

In gratitude and hope,

Rev. LeAnn Hodges