



November 2020

Dear Friends:

Every year we write at this time asking you to prayerfully consider financially supporting the life and ministry of First Presbyterian Church. The letter usually continues by iterating the wonderful things accomplished through your generosity. We could create a similar list this year as well. God continues to sustain souls, transform lives, impact our community, and extend the gospel internationally through the work of First Presbyterian Church. But this year we would like to encourage you to consider an additional outcome from your giving. How does God want to form your soul through your act of sacrificial giving?

God impacts the world through our generosity, but He also chooses to form our souls through the spiritual discipline of giving. Julian of Norwich's favorite designation for God was "Glad Giver." God thoroughly enjoys giving. The Bible teaches that He gives us breath, wisdom, our daily bread, family, peace, joy, ability to earn, and most significantly His only Son that we might receive His Holy Spirit and Eternal Life. God is the great Glad Giver (and likewise calls us to be cheerful givers).

The Bible further teaches that one of the ways He forms us into His very image is through our practicing the discipline of giving. I remember one year when my wife and I (Matt) prayed about our giving and the Lord called us to challenge our status quo and triple our intended pledge. It became a financially challenging but spiritually enriching year as God formed us into glad givers. I have never regretted that year as God formed a generous spirit in our hearts.

This year as you seriously pray about your level of giving for 2021, consider not only what God will accomplish at FPC through your act, but also consider how the Lord wants to form you into the image of Jesus, the Glad Giver, as you commit to giving.

As always, thank you for participating in this process. Enclosed you will find a faith commitment card. Faith commitments help bring stability to our planning for 2021, so please return the card by Monday, November 23. Faith commitments may also be submitted online through our [2021 Faith Commitment Online Form](#). If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Pastor Matt, Pastor Mike or Peggy Yoder.

Blessings,

*Pastor Matt Lewis*

*Pastor Mike Parker*