

October 1, 2021

## **Dear friends of Grace Covenant,**

January will mark the beginning of a new fiscal year, and that means a new budget must be prepared. Last year we were reminded that we were "in this together." Now we are launching a new stewardship campaign, **Growing In Faith Together (GIFT.)** 

## This is a year of new beginnings for our congregation.

We can embrace our new beginnings and grow our faith by giving freely of our **Time, Talent, and Treasure** in thankfulness to God. We are looking forward to our first full year together with in-person worship and mission. More opportunities to **Grow In Faith Together** are on our horizon. Let's watch for them and nurture them together.

We're exploring exciting new opportunities for impactful mission. Our children's ministry is fun and energetic, with numbers in our SMASH program growing. The pandemic has shown us the clear needs of the community that we have the ability to help with. We've learned the balance we need in caring for the members of our church family and in caring for our sisters and brothers in need.

## The road ahead is exciting, but only if you are part of it.

Stewardship drives can be scary. Will members return their pledge cards? Will enough money be pledged so we can put together a workable budget and fulfill the ministries of our congregation? Stewardship drives become exciting when members *do* return their pledge cards — and show how much they love our church and want Grace Covenant to continue ministering to its members, the local community, and beyond.

Take a moment to think about what Grace Covenant means to you – to *all* of us. Will you return your pledge card by Sunday, November 7th and give generously of your time, talent, and treasure? Help us **Grow In Faith Together!** 

Sincerely, the staff and church officers of Grace Covenant



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In early 2020, many of us were excited with visioning work we had done as a congregation and felt a new connection from our first "Workship" Sunday. We began the year with energy, celebrating our Youth Sunday, the Mardi Gras pancake supper, and a very meaningful Ash Wednesday service.

Then the COVID-19 pandemic hit and our way of life as members of our community, as well as church members, changed. We had to find new ways of doing worship while holding on to cherished traditions; while keeping ourselves safe, we also needed to continue serving others less fortunate in our community; and maybe most importantly, we were reminded of our need for community with our fellow church members.

Our stewardship campaign for 2021, "We're all in this *together*!", reflected that. This year's stewardship theme, "GIFT – Growing in Faith Together," reminds us of two things. One, a continued commitment to one another, and two, our commitment to God to continue growing in our Christian faith.

This year we ask each other to help one another out as we make plans for what we see as a wonderful opportunity to share in God's grace. Our. This is necessary so we can have a timely and accurate budget for the year Pledge Sunday will be November 7, and we ask everyone to prayerfully make your pledge by that date. If we haven't heard from you by December 6 making any changes to your pledge, we will assume your pledge will remain the same for 2022. This is necessary for the Session to move ahead and provide direction for our mission and education programs. You may either send in the pledge form with this letter or do so electronically at <a href="www.gpcc.org">www.gpcc.org</a>.

As the pandemic is subsiding, we hope you will join us in person for worship or mission, if you haven't already. We think you'll find an atmosphere of grace, of joy, and one of hope – because of our shared faith and love.

With gratitude for sharing your time, talent, and treasures with one another,

The Session, the Generosity Team, the Finance Team, and your co-pastors, the Revs. Sue and Mitch Trigger



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