



## The First Presbyterian Church

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Dear Friends,

Everything has a season according to the author of Ecclesiastes. We head into the season for stewardship here at First Presbyterian Church. It is the season where we ask you to reach into your pocket and put your money where your faith is. Stewardship is when we reflect and renew our commitment to our communal faith in Jesus Christ. A time to visibly show our faith in God's mission in the world. I have always believed that giving and budgets are a statement of our faith.

There are some things that have been misunderstood about stewardship over the years. This is not fundraising. Unlike PBS we have no portion of our budget subsidized by the federal government. This is not a charity in which we need your funding to combat one issue in the world. We are the body of Jesus Christ of which you are an essential part. Your giving to this body is essential for the furtherance of our belief that each of us are part of something greater than ourselves. There are many things in which you can give; you could give to a political party, you could give to Netflix, you can give to the Rotary Club, or you could give to an alumni association. Still, our church is the one place that you give as an act of your faithfulness in Jesus Christ.

Stewardship always starts with God. God is the author of our faith. That means that whatever we do with our time, talents, possessions, and wealth is a reaction to our understanding of God. Again, we ask that you consider an overabundant act of giving during this season of stewardship as an act of gracious humility in response to a good God. Not only giving back a portion of your earnings, but also consider giving of your talents and time to help out with the many projects and programs that the church will work on this coming year. Perhaps you've been considering joining one of the leadership positions as an elder or deacon. This could be your time! Maybe you've always wanted to help with the church dinners. That time could be now! Perhaps you've always wanted to join one of the many committees that we have. You could make that happen this year! Think about what God is calling you to do this season. Pray about what God is calling you to do this season. And then ACT on what God is calling you to do this season.

In Christ

Rev. Brian Merritt