

# Treasure

## Commitment Card Letter

This Sunday, November 14, 2021, is the time we ask our members to return their commitment cards as we look forward to what God will do through our church this year. I'm writing to say thank you to those members and attenders who gave last year. Without your support, our church's ministry could not happen.

For the past year, many of us have had to adapt to changes caused by the pandemic – our jobs, education of our children, shopping, travel, and socialization with others. Some of us have lost our family members or friends to Covid-19. It has been a tough year both physically and emotionally. It is natural to switch to the survival mode based on anxiety and fear today. Above all, it is easy to lose the spirit of gratitude and instead be filled with resentment and doubt.

Apostle Paul exhorts us, "Give thanks in all circumstances; for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus" (1 Thess 5:18). Despite many challenges from the pandemic, we can still find reasons to be grateful to God because our gratitude is not based on our circumstances, but on God who is the source of our lives and blessings. I am personally thankful for our church, as we continue to witness the grace of God who calls us to share the love of God in our community and the world.

During the pandemic, we have continued to provide meals at the Community Café on Thursday, giving a hundred of take-out lunch to our neighbors. We set up a little Christmas tree on which we hung the facial masks made by women in their prayers. We have continued to serve at the Daily Bread distributing the food items to our neighbors in need and delivered the furniture. Our Sunday school is growing with new children and confirmation class meets to discuss faith and spiritual growth of our young confirmands.

I am excited to share with you that we have started two new ministries this past year. With the leadership of Monica, Susie, Veejay, and Dennis, our Grief Share Group has ministered to those who grieves the loss of their beloved ones and encourage them to find comfort and hope in Christ. Becca, Bev, and Pastor Judy have started visiting the shut-ins and elderlies with the Communion elements and share the grace of God with them. And we continue to discern new ministries for the next year as the circumstances of our community constantly change.

As the Stewardship Sunday approaches, we would like to send this commitment card. There are two reasons we ask you to fill out and return a commitment card each year. First, it allows the church to plan accurately for ministries, since we can base our ministry budget on the dollar amount our members plan to give. Second, the act of filling out a card is a way of inviting you to grow in our generosity, as God is the God who gives us generosity. "Every good gift and every perfect gift are from above, coming down from God the lights" (James 1:17).

I know that some of you receiving this letter are struggling financially and may not be able to give right now. Know that we care, and if there is any way we can be of support to you—by praying with you, praying for you, talking with you, or providing other assistance—please contact me or Pastor Bob at 508-685-6291.

Enclosed you will find a commitment card. Please take a few minutes to pray about your giving for next year and fill out the front of the card. Then bring the card with you this Sunday when we will collect commitment cards at the end of the worship service. If you are unable to be with us Sunday, you can return the card to the church office (Bev Shaw 53 Grove St. Putnam, CT 06260) or bring it to worship the following Sundays.

Thank you for all you do to further the mission and work of Living Faith UMC. You make a difference here!

In Christ,  
Shawn Johnston, Chair of Finance/Stewardship Committee

Rev. Bob Jon, Pastor



Youths and Adults at UConn Women's Basketball Game  
on November 7, 2021