



APRIL 7TH -  
MAY 5TH

# Gratitude

## Honoring God with thankfulness

Stewardship Campaign 2024-2025



### **This year's Stewardship campaign focuses on being grateful for the faith community we have at UMCWFB.**

***Romans 12: 4-6 For just as each of us has one body with many members, and these members do not all have the same function. So in Christ we, though many, form one body, and each member belongs to all the others. We have different gifts, according to the grace given to each of us.***

In the current times, now more than ever, we need a strong community where the qualities of love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control are taught, mentored, witnessed and worked towards.

The stewardship committee is very **Grateful** for the family we have at UMCWFB. We are grateful for the many sermons, programs, songs, and mentors who have shaped our families, values, priorities, emotional intelligence and relationship with God. We are thankful for the generations before us who have given their gifts and talents to maintain this faith community.

Theologian Joe Trull told of a primitive tribe located in the South American jungles, the most important role within the tribe was the "keeper of the flame". Fire was a precious commodity to the tribe, and one member was entrusted with the responsibility of keeping the flame alive. As we give financially to God's work, we become keepers of the flame. We spread the gospel. We meet people's needs. We assist people in growing spiritually. We enable the church to continue to spread God's light into the world.

We hope you will consider pledging for the first time, continuing your current pledge or increasing your pledge to help the church keep pace with increasing costs, increasing enthusiasm and increasing program offerings. Please return your pledge card by **May 5th**. On that Sunday, there will be a casual thank you reception in the Narthex. *We pray that God continues to open doors to opportunities that allow all of us to glorify Him.*

Thank you for your support!

The Stewardship committee, Kent & Nancy Anderson, Bill & Peggy Mulligan, Mike & Linda Stolz, Tom & Suzie Webster, Hui & Kristen Zhang, and Pam Vaughan



Dear Church Family,

It is with a profound sense of gratitude that I write this letter introducing our Stewardship theme - **Grateful: Honoring God with Thankfulness**. I am nearing the completion of my first year of serving as your pastor, and it has been a journey of great joy, hard work, and learning about the loving people of this faith community. It is interesting that gratitude has this power to help us see the abundance in our lives rather than focusing solely on what we lack. When we appreciate the blessings we have received, we are more likely to feel a sense of abundance, which in turn makes us more willing to share with others. I hope you might join me in celebrating the abundance of God's blessing at the United Methodist Church of Whitefish Bay.

In this first year at our church, I have experienced amazing care and support...even in the moments when I am less than I should be. The grace-filled encouragement, hardworking staff, and gifted leaders of our church have caused me to constantly give thanks. The easy marks of celebration center around amazing worship led by gifted musicians, awesome vocalists, and inspiring youth guided services (did you get a chance to experience the powerful youth-led Good Friday Service?). The children's musical in December was more than amazing...don't miss the spring kid's choir musical coming up on April 27 and 28. These events have a way of connecting us with God and each other.

I am also so grateful for the 160 adults and many children who participated in our Spiritual Journey Pathway Study groups during Lent. A vital blessing came from hearing about people in our congregation connecting with others as well as growing in their faith. I was amazed to learn that our mission giving, beyond the budget, was over \$143,000 in 2023. At the Accountable Leadership Board meetings over the last several months, members of the board have been sharing their faith journeys...they have been amazing and inspiring.

Join me during this Stewardship campaign in expressing gratitude for all God is doing in and through our faith community by reflecting the image of God in our lives through our acts of generosity. May we take the time to prayerfully consider how God is calling us to commit our prayers, presences, gifts, service, and witness to the work of Christ in the world. This is such an exciting time, and I am so grateful to God that I can be a part of this generous congregation.

Please prayerfully consider your commitment for the coming fiscal year (starting July 1, 2024) and return the included pledge card during (or before) Worship on Sunday, May 5, 2024.

In Christ's Love,  
Pastor Gary