

Westside United Methodist Church  
13420 SW Butner Road  
Beaverton, OR 97005  
(503) 643-8070



December 15, 2020

Dear Friend,

*You are representing Christ's light to me.*

During this holy season of Advent, **I have been reflecting on all that you have been doing to increase the faith of others and to make ministry happen. And I am so proud.** Because of you and your financial generosity, nine months (nine months!) into the pandemic you have made possible:

- Online worship
- Crucial Support for Family Promise of Beaverton
- April Day of Action in our community
- Monthly 'Random Acts of Kindness' for our community, like:
  - Support for unhoused youth through Home Plate Youth Services
  - Wildfire Relief for Migrant Workers affected by September Fires
  - Thanksgiving food boxes + clothing
  - Christmas food boxes + clothing
- Strengthening Western Farm Workers Association partnership
- Migrant Camp Ministry
- Distributing thousands of pounds of food through Free Food Ministries
- Helping Neighbors with rent assistance, electricity bills and food
- Building Houses with Christ UMC & Habitat for Humanity
- Combating Human Trafficking through our Change for Change fund
- The list goes on and on!

**This is the good news of the Christmas season. You have adapted to the challenges of this year and stayed engaged in ministry! You are making a difference.** Without you, none of these amazing ministries would be possible. What a wonderful testament to celebrating the birth of Christ.

**On December 24<sup>th</sup> we invite you to give** above and beyond to our Christmas Offering. Many of you have already given sacrificially and for that, I am deeply

grateful. We know that not everyone can give, but for those of you who have been waiting to give an additional gift...or an initial gift, this is the time to do it.

Our Stewardship and Finance Teams have identified **how the Christmas Offering for this year will be used:**

- 10% will go towards buying household appliances for the families that are receiving the homes we built with Christ UMC in August.
- 10% will go towards our partner, the Constanza Cecaini Teen Mom Home in the Dominican Republic through World Servants.
- \$4000 will be set aside for Help Build Hope 2021 – building another home through Habitat For Humanity
- The rest will go towards the General Fund with special emphasis on technology and any other needed updates to the campus in preparation for our return in 2021

**We invite you to find a way to GIVE.** Seek God and Ask: What would you have me give? And then respond. There are several ways you can give:

1. **Bring a check to the Christmas Eve Service** with “Christmas Offering” in the memo line.
2. **Mail a check to Westside** with “Christmas Offering” in the memo line.
3. **Online** – Go to our church’s website ([westsidejourney.com](http://westsidejourney.com)) and click on the “GIVE” button at the top right to make a secure donation through PayPal.

**Burn bright, lighthouse community.** Thank you, again, for your faithfulness. The world around us needs to hear our message of hope and healing perhaps more urgently than ever before! **Be strong in the face of darkness for the one who overcame it lives in you.**

Love from your brothers and sisters in Christ,

Pastor Brett and Your Stewardship Team:

*Kari Suppes, Wendy Fedderly, Markus Tollefson & Sally Sullivan*

P.S. I have also enclosed a flier on the special tax advantages of giving at the end of this year, in particular. And...I want to assure you that your gifts go to fund all the ministries that I mentioned and beyond! Thank you for your generosity.