



## COMMUNITY STEWARDSHIP

Growing faithfulness and investing in a vibrancy of heart, soul, and mission

Dear Friends and Members of Community UMC,

There is a prayer from Teresa of Avila that starts with, "Christ has no body on earth but ours, no hands but ours, no feet but ours." It's a call to action, not just to meet Christ in church on Sundays, but to *be* Christ in the world. Once our worship is over, our service begins.

As we prepare to move into 2024, we do so with many unknowns; but we also go with hope for a healthy, sustainable future, and the faith to make it so. We rely on Community United Methodist Church (CUMC) to be our spiritual home, perhaps now more than ever. The good news is that the foundation of this home is strong and its people are resilient. It is, and we are, as faith-full as ever!

We are called to keep that faithfulness growing and to invest in a vibrancy of heart, soul, and mission. We are being called to continue in service to our community and each other. We are called to provide ourselves with the resources to plan for new challenges and adapt to new opportunities.

Your ongoing financial contributions support the work that God is doing in our midst and are making a difference in the lives of many people. You know what matters in life, and through your giving, you are sharing that with others and reaching them with the Good News of Jesus Christ.

This year, with the help of many in the congregation, we discerned our vision for the future. CUMC is building a community of people who love God and neighbor through a focus on **overall wellbeing** (spiritual, physical, mental and emotional health) and **intergenerational community service opportunities**. This vision calls us to care for ourselves and others as we connect with God and live out Christ's teachings. As CUMC seeks to grow and answer God's call, the investment of our spiritual and financial gifts will be necessary. Our building, our staff, our programs, our very existence is dependent upon our generosity.

Many who read this have been pledgers for a long time. Thank you! Others have given regularly but haven't made the pledge commitment. Thank you, too for your offerings! As we look to our future, we are asking our pledgers and regular givers, **and those who are a part of this community** to please continue their gifts and consider a proportional increase; perhaps increasing your gift on the way to a biblical tithe of 10% or more, trusting that God will work to provide us with what we need.

We ask that you pray with us as we enter our annual stewardship season and consider your part in providing the resources with which God will work! Returning your pledge cards to the church office by mail or the offering plate will help us to plan and prepare for ministry in 2024.

Thank you for all the times you show up in whatever ways you can, all the times you step up to act with love and mercy, even when it is hard. Stewardship isn't just funding, it is a way of faithfully trusting in God's grace. Your promise is essential to fulfilling the mission and vision God has given CUMC.

Together in Ministry,

Pastor Kris Androsky, Pastor Bridget Case, Tom Twinem, Finance Chair; Dean Johnson, SLT Chair