

October 2, 2014

Dear Members and Friends of First Presbyterian Church,

I would like to begin this letter with a personal word of thanks for being a part of the ministry of First Presbyterian Church. Your support of the ministry of Jesus Christ has made a difference in the lives of so many. As a congregation during the past 12 months we have

- Sent teens to camp,
- Once a week after school we have given snacks to over 30 kids in our community,
- We have served the community through the Thift and Gift shop,
- We have housed teens with developmental dissabilities,
- Together with local churches we have provided community meals,
- There have been communion visits made to shut-ins and those who have been hospitalized totaling over 50,
- We have surpassed the goals we have set for the Presbyterian offerings,
- We have given almost \$1000 to people experiencing special need,
- Our stained glass windows have been restored,
- We have a new roof and two updated offices.

The list goes on and on.

Your faithfulness has allowed our ministry to impact the Winneconne Community. Charlie and I give thanks for the difference you have made in our lives too. As a result we continually lift all of you, our spiritual family, in our prayers. It truly has been a privelege to be of service to you and to this community of faith.

November 9th will be an important day in the life of the church. This is the Sunday on which we will express our intended investment in the church for the coming year. Although we don't think of financial giving as an opportunity to tangibly express our love, devotion, and thankfulness to God, it is nothing less than that. The reality is the more we give the more opportunities we create for ministry. This is a healthy way of looking at discerning our stewardship.

As November 9th approaches, I would like to ask each of us to prayerfully consider supporting First Presbyterian Church in one of the following ways.

1. Be a planned Giver- a planned giver puts FPC on their personal monthly or weekly budget. In other words make your giving part of your spending plan.
2. Be a priority Giver- A priority giver examines why they give and gives to the church because what we do as a faith community fulfills their priorities.
3. Be a percentage Giver- Percentage givers give a percentage of their income to the church. Whether it's 10%, 5%, or 3%, the gift is based on their income.

4. Be a progressive giver- A progressive giver is someone who commits themselves to grow in their giving 1% at a time.

I know that in uncertain financial times, many of us hesitate to increase our commitment. Yet I believe that God gives us the strength to do what God leads us to do. Charlie and I believe that the Stewardship Campaign begins with us. Therefore, we have decided to increase our pledge for the coming year by 10%. With God's help, we shall be faithful in following through. Please join us in growing Christ's ministry.

In Christ's service,

Pastor Mara Liz Rivera