



***“Like good stewards of the manifold grace of God, serve one another with whatever gift each of you has received.” 1 Peter 4:10***

October 4, 2017

Dear Church family,

The Apostle Paul felt so strongly about spiritual gifts that he wrote no less than three chapters about them to the church in Corinth. That church was having a struggle being the church and representing the risen Christ to the world in which it existed. Contemporary struggles are no less difficult, confusing, and perplexing now as they were then. Likewise, they no doubt require just as much attention and devotion to share God’s grace now as then.

Imagine our world without that spiritual gift of God’s love! In times such as these, the world needs Christ more than ever! Imagine if the church, God’s people, were not here to provide that. Now imagine Elkin, NC without First United Methodist Church. What would be missing here because of that absence? What may not be happening in this community without this congregation? What footprint of Christ’s has been left here because of this congregation and so greatly needs to continue to be seen?

It is for this reason, this calling of God, we have to plan for our future as a viable congregation. We support so many ministries that leave that footprint and we touch so many lives through the offering of Christ’s love, that our community would be spiritually hungry without the ministries of this congregation. We have vowed as members to support it with our prayers, presence, gifts, service and witness. Among those are our financial resources so necessary to continue to make that happen and to see that our witness grows and thrives in this community.

Our season of considering our Estimate of Giving is a sacred time of personal and congregational reflection on what God is calling us to do. Through our offering of our Estimates, our finance committee can project what we can financially afford in the service of sharing God’s love in this community and the world. As we know, costs go up each year, so perhaps through prayer and reflection, you and your family can devise ways to step up just a bit more to keep the ministry of Elkin FUMC at a high standard for the kingdom of God. Our commitment Sunday is scheduled for November 12 as we approach the Thanksgiving season so that we might be reminded of what truly makes us thankful in our relationship with God and one another. What are you thankful for in regards to our church that you would share with your neighbors? Pray about that and listen to what God may be calling you to do.

Thank you for all the ways you give to God, this church, and our community.

In Christ,

Pastor Mike