

Stewardship Devotion

November 4

This Sunday, November 8th is our Stewardship Sunday. There has been much talk “behind the scenes” about what this year will bring. There is no doubt it will be a challenge on more than one level to cover the costs of extra expenses, to pass a flush budget as well as to re-imagine how to do church during this time. The church itself is in transition as we are discerning God’s call in this next phase of its life. In all transparency, none of the staff or Session is pretending otherwise. These are the moments where God in scripture becomes real and requests a response from us. Now is the time with our lives and in faith to make decisions about our stewardship. Scripturally we have this example. Let’s take the experiences of King David.

David was anointed King of Israel, was hailed a hero for conquering Goliath, led numerous successful military campaigns, became head of military operations for Israel, married the king’s daughter – he had it all going for him. Then suddenly, because of a jealous king, David spent the next ten or more years running from Saul, held up in a cave with a motley crew of misfits. It would be safe to say this is not how David pictured his journey toward becoming the king of Israel. Nor is our reality of God’s people what we “imagined” just a year ago, much less 50 years ago.

Though our circumstances change, our destiny does not (Ephesians 1:11). Sometimes during difficult times, we simply need to remember God. David embraced difficult times because he believed his future was in the hands of a God that loved him. We too are called to believe that our future is in the hands of a God that loves us. We may not know what it looks like, we may not know how it will be reached, but we know God. And God is the one who never promises something without returning on it. So too are we promising something to God during this stewardship time. We are promising our faithfulness in worship, our

connections in prayer, our friendships and motivations around the Covid-19 small group dining tables, and our finances to get us to this new reality.

David shows us it's not always easy but with God it's always possible when we are living and striving for God's kingdom and not our own. You are invited this Sunday, November 8th either during worship or online to place your pledges to God's Kingdom, if you have not already. We don't pledge because we believe in this church, though as we change during this time, we certainly hope to strengthen this relationship. We pledge because we believe in God. May all of our hearts, thoughts, prayers and minds be tuned into that promise here and now.

As we move along in our virtual and in-person worship kaleidoscope blend, you will notice that each Sunday there will be some form of offering built into the worship services. This offering can be a time for financial gifts to God but also is an opportunity to bring specific things that matter to us to God. For instance, on All Saints Day, you were invited to light a candle for someone who has passed from this life. This Stewardship Sunday, you are invited to write a word or image of what you are offering to God this year. Other opportunities of gifts shared within SOPC and across the world will come during this time as well. You are invited this Stewardship Sunday to honestly and openly reflect on God's gifts to you and the faith that inspires those gifts. It is this that should come to the stewardship table this season of SOPC.

May God's grace abound, the fellowship of the Spirit, and the Love of Jesus Christ fall upon you today and always.

Pastor Jana