



Green Mountain United Methodist Church

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Dear GMUMC Family

Take my Life, and Let it Be

Our annual stewardship campaign takes place in autumn. It is a fit and proper time to consider our gifts to Christ's Church and our neighbors. The fall equinox is a time of the balancing of light and dark in the day. Autumn is a season of balancing, a season of letting go, and a season to acknowledge the impermanency of all earthly experiences. The beauty of a sunrise, of a relationship, of a child's hug are invaluable precisely because those things are fleeting experiences, and we will not always be around to enjoy them.

Autumn is also a time to reflect prayerfully on our stewardship and support for GMUMC, its community and its outreach. Sharon Saltzberg writes, "Generosity has such power because it is characterized by the inner quality of letting go or relinquishing. When we practice generosity, we open to all of these liberating qualities simultaneously. They carry us to a profound knowing of freedom, and they also are the loving expression of that same state of freedom."

Near the end of Jesus' ministry, he told the disciples the Parable of the Talents (Matthew 25:14 -30). This is the story of the wealthy man who was going to be absent for an extended time. He called in three of his servants, entrusting the first servant with ten talents, the second five talents, and the last servant one talent. A talent is a large sum of money, equivalent of many thousands of dollars. When the master returned, he found that the first two servants had each invested the funds, doubling the amount given to each. The master rewarded these servants with praise and greater responsibilities. The third servant, in fear of his master's demanding nature, hid the one talent in order to keep it safe. The master judged him harshly and cast the servant out. On first blush this seems harsh and at odds with the gospel of grace we have been taught. I believe the parable teaches us to act on God's behalf bravely, with faith in God's grace. "Investment involves the risk of loss." The third servant acted in fear of judgment, hiding the money "under his mattress." He was punished for *inaction, not poor decisions!*

We are challenged in the 2022 stewardship season to act boldly, with trust, faith and hope. Cynthia Kneen writes "when you are brave and have an open heart, you have affection for this world." It is that time of year when we renew our vows to uphold the Church with our pledge of gifts. Enclosed is a pledge card. Our pledges allow the lay and clergy leadership an opportunity to plan for next year. Your support is the foundation for all we do at GMUMC. Please return your pledge card at our 10:30 am service on October 23.

Thank you so much for all you do to support this beloved community.

Take my life, and let it be consecrated, Lord, to Thee.

Take my moments and my days; let them flow in ceaseless praise.

Take my silver and my gold, not a mite would I withhold.

Take myself, and I will be ever, only, all for thee.

With love,
Rich Arnold, Stewardship Chair