

January 15, 2021

Dear _____:

Oh, come let us adore him...

Christmas may have come and gone but the true gift of Jesus and the Wise Ones who still seek Him continues far into 2021.

Epiphany is one of my favorite holidays on the church calendar. January 6th is a reminder of the famous “We Three Kings” who traversed afar to give their gifts to an infant. While Epiphany has past, our opportunity to be like the Wise Ones of old is still possible.

Much like the Wise Ones who came to worship the newborn baby with rare gifts of great value, we modern day disciples are asked to make similar sacrificial gifts.

It's in this spirit that I ask you to make an intention to give your gifts – of time, talent, and financial treasure – to First United Methodist Church in 2021. You're getting this letter because we didn't receive a 2021 pledge card from you. The new year, with Epiphany in our rearview mirror, is the perfect time to make a regular gift to honor Christ through the work of your church. If you turned a card in and we overlooked it, please forgive us. Call the office and let us know.

One of my favorite phrases is “God is the owner, I am the owner.” I like it because it stands in such stark contrast to what society tells us to believe. As people of faith, however, this *is* our truth...hard though it may be to live out. But I believe that the more we can come to understand that all that we have are gifts from God, “things” and “money” won't control us or our relationship with God as much.

I have included an “intention to give” card. I can assure you that your gifts will go directly to fund important ministries that impact people in our church and the community you love. **Your gift allows us to plan for the future and helps us dream big.** If God is calling you to give, please return the card by January 31.

I am praying for you – and for our church – as we enter into this new adventurous journey of 2021. May we, like the Wise Ones, be confident on the road.

God bless you.

Pastor Suzie

P.S. If you turned 70.5 in 2019 or earlier, or if you turned 72 in 2020 or later, you've reached the milestone where you have to take a required minimum distribution from your retirement account each year. We hope you will consider First United Methodist Church as a beneficiary!