

Wayne Presbyterian Church



Dear church family,

Pastors must always resist the urge to turn the doctrine of Stewardship into a fundraising campaign. Roofs always need fixing, salaries paid, bulletins printed, lights changed, carpets vacuumed. The temptation is to say, “The church is important to our lives, and all these little things cost money. Let’s keep it going one more year.” The church exists, however, not for its own survival, but for God’s mission in the world—to bring good news to the poor, to proclaim release to the captives, recovery of sight to the blind, to let the oppressed go free, for the proclamation of God’s grace (Luke 4:18-19). In essence, the church exists to touch the world. The call to stewardship then is not a call to maintain what we have, but a call to more faithful discipleship.

As one ninety-year-old elder once said to me, “I don’t give to the church because the church needs my money. I give to the church because I need to offer myself to God.”

May I then offer this rubric as a guide to your giving: Offer yourself at a level that avoids the guilt of giving too little and the anxiety of giving too much. Offer yourself at the level that helps you know you are a generous person, not a greedy one, a giver and not a taker, the trustee of your resources rather than a slave to them. Find a level of giving that joyfully expresses the grace you’ve known in God. Seek to grow in that grace and then reflect it in your stewardship— whether it is with money, time, or the gift of service. But whatever you give, give your heart along with it.

These last two years have been different than any other in our experience, but faith is forged most deeply in the midst of difficulty. In the midst of this difficulty, let us make a real what Jesus has taught us, “where your treasure is, there will your heart be also.” Let us show the world that our hearts are not afraid and that—even when we are worried about ourselves—we will not forget to love our neighbor.

Let me encourage you to give past your prior capacity and to offer yourself to God at an even deeper level. Our world is in need of our hearts and dollars more than ever.

In Christ,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Casey Thompson". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.