



Catalina United Methodist Church

2700 East Speedway Boulevard · Tucson, Arizona 85716 · (520) 327-4296 · catalinamethodist.org



November 1, 2022

It is stewardship time of year. Often, when we talk about stewardship, we also talk about pledging. Pledging is a part of stewardship. Stewardship is like a painting and pledging is one of the colors or sections in that painting. So, stewardship is the "big picture," and pledging is just a part of it.

Stewardship is a practice of the whole of our lives as Christians. God has given us many things--life, creation, and relationships. God has given us grace, love, and God's presence. What we have in our lives is ultimately due to God. We have money, homes, and vehicles. We have families, work, and entertainment. We have skills, gifts, and interests. Now I am not saying that God directly put these things in our lives, in my opinion, God did not say, "Joe gets \$500,000 a year, one child, 3 cars, and a time-share in Hawaii. Also, Joe will be handsome and have a gentle heart." I am not saying God works like that. What I am saying is that God is the source of everything that makes whatever we have in our lives possible.

Stewardship is the practice of how we manage the things God has placed in creation, in our community, and in our own lives. Stewardship is the practice of living in such a way that we honor God's gifts with thankful and generous lives. Stewardship is a living commitment to practice gratitude and grace toward God and toward others.

So, stewardship is the "big picture." Now, we can look at how pledging contributes to that picture. Pledging is a tool to help us in our stewardship. If stewardship is the picture, then pledging is a brush stroke, a color, a layer. Pledging is what helps us create the picture. We can pledge to live with more gratitude. We can pledge to share part of our time with others. We can pledge to be a better listener so that we can pray better for others. Pledges are the commitments we make to guide the stewardship of our lives.

One of those commitments, or pledges, is to the church. And we can make a number of different pledges to the church. In our membership vows, we pledge our prayers, presence, gifts, service, and witness to the ministries of our church. Right now, I am asking for your pledge of gifts, or money, to our church. Pledge Sunday is November 20th. On the 20th we will offer our pledges during the worship service as an act of worship. My family will be pledging our money to our church this Sunday. I invite you to join us. If for some reason you are unable to join us in worship on the 20th, you can make a pledge by mailing in the enclosed pledge card.

I want to thank you in advance for this and all of your various pledges. Stewardship is both a personal journey and a communal journey. We each paint the pictures of our lives and contribute to the picture of our lives together. Catalina UMC is a work always in progress and you are a part of that process. Thank you for the colors, strokes, and layers you add to Catalina. Thank you for your commitment to add them.

May God bless our stewardship of all things and guide us to keep the "work" progressing.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Mike Kerr-Osman', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Rev. Mike Kerr-Osman
Senior Pastor
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