



October 15, 2020

Dear Church Family,

On Sunday we began a new sermon series entitled, God's Grace, Our Gratitude. Over the next three Sundays, we will explore the abundance of God's grace, and learn together the perspective we need in order to respond to His grace in gratitude and generosity. This will be a very meaningful time for our congregation as we not only explore God's Word but also hear witnesses from our own membership of how faithful stewardship has brought fulfillment into their lives. We know you will be greatly blessed by joining us in person for worship, watching us live, or viewing our archived services through the website or our podcast.

Each fall at PBUMC we explore the meaning of stewardship, and ask each person in our church family to discover how they want to express their love for God through generous giving of their time, talents, and treasure. We recognize that 2020 has been an extraordinarily challenging year for many. If you have recently been struck by financial difficulties or have lost employment or shelter, this year may be your time to simply receive God's grace from His Church. If that is the case, please email me or Pastor Levi – we want to help you! One of the reasons we ask persons to give generously is so that we may be a present help for our church family in their times of great need. When you can breathe again, you can begin to give proportionally, and grow in the grace of giving. For those who have been growing in their giving through their growth in discipleship for some time now, but this has been a tough year, I would encourage you to think about keeping your giving to the church next year the same as it was this year – for even that is a generous sacrifice of love for God.

What we cannot do is let the challenges of this world stop us from being the children of God. We are called to practice generosity through Christ's church by presenting God His tithe and our offerings. Nothing we have is too big or grand to offer our awesome God. No gift is too small if it represents our prayers, a sacrifice, and a generous portion of our resources. When our hearts are filled with gratitude, nothing God asks of us seems unpleasant or impossible.

Your Pledge Card is included with this letter (one per family). You may also access an online version of the pledge card at www.perdido bay.church/pledge. Your prayerful, intentional efforts to ask God for insight, and then act upon your decision, will express your love and gratitude for God in a personal and tangible way. Your estimate of giving confirms your desire to be fruitful and enables the church to plan for and implement ministries throughout the year.

Our pledge cards will be dedicated on Sunday, November 1. If you are not able to attend worship in person that Sunday you may turn them in at anytime to the church office. If you have questions, or need to talk about special ways to give to the church, please call me, Levi, or Janet in the church finance office. Let us pray for one another during this important time in the life of our congregation. Together, we will make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world and live into God's vision to be the heart of the community.

God's Peace,

David Saliba