



I give you a new commandment, that you love one another. Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another. By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another.

John 13:34-35, NRSV

Dear Friends,

Jesus promises us, “In my Father’s house there are many dwelling places” (John 14:2) and “Render... unto God, what is God’s” (Matthew 22:22)

This week starts our Stewardship season. Stewardship is our faithful reply to God’s generosity. Stewards are protectors, benefactors, caretakers, teachers. Families and Individuals make pledges of time, resources, and talent in thanksgiving for our beautiful community at Advent.

This year’s theme, *Plenty Good Room*, is a call back to a beautiful, mesmerizing and historical spiritual of the same name. Originating from the slavery era southern Black church communities, the refrain beckons us:

*Plenty good room, plenty good room,
plenty good room in my Father’s kingdom,
Plenty good room, plenty good room,
just choose your seat and sit down.*

That sounds like an invitation to talk – with each other and God. In other words - all are welcome and together we have enough – take a load off. Time and again Advent, though a small church, has shown that “enough” can grow love, welcome, belonging, joy, and compassion to new heights.

We live in uncertain times. Where true abundance seems out of reach. Abundant living, abundant peace, abundant opportunity, abundant love. In these times – when many have lost jobs, dreams, or motivation – that is when trusting in God, trusting in each other, trusting in this Beloved Community, that there is enough, takes center stage.

Break glass in case of emergency! We often hope the tool God keeps in the glass box is a get out of jail free card or a lottery ticket. Surprise! It’s actually God’s love – in the form of community, constancy, and peace. Which all flow from God’s grace. Our time, our talents, our resources are a gift from the Almighty.



Each pledge and gift sustains our common life: children growing in faith, neighbors receiving meals and care, worshippers being welcomed, and friends finding hope. Our budget is more than numbers; it is a reflection of our values, our mission, our trust in God that when we have love, we have enough to sustain not only us, but others.

Included in this mailing, you will find more information about stewardship and proportional giving, our new Ministry Brochure which shares the many ways you can be involved in your parish community, and a Pledge Card that asks for your financial pledge, as well as your pledge of time and talent. Please take some time to prayerfully consider the relationships that have sustained you in this church, and how your generosity can help extend that welcome to others.

Pledge cards can be placed in the offering plate on Sunday or mailed to the church. You can also pledge online at adventmedfield.org/stewardship-2027. Please return your pledge cards on or before November 22nd, so that we may include them in our ingathering and blessing.

There is, indeed, *plenty good room* in God's house. So much room. Enough room. Together, choose your seat and sit down - let's talk.

In Christ's service,

Lucy Bullock-Sieger, *Warden and Stewardship Chair*
Emily King, *Stewardship Chair*

P.S. We encourage you to Listen to Plenty Good Room - Rev. James Cleveland's version is on youtube and spotify.