



SunCoast MCC Stewardship Prayer 2021

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In Jesus' Holy Name, we pray.

Amen

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- 9 months of Trivia via Zoom and other Social Events held virtually during the last year of the pandemic including Bingo, Scavenger Hunts, Pictionary and Christmas in July
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- 254 visitors to our new website the first week after launch

- 16-20 volunteer hours each month for CHAPS and Family Promise
- \$2,000 scholarship offered by Venice Pride Inc., founded by SunCoast MCC, to a high school graduating senior
- \$9,266.74 donated to MCC global via our tithes to share MCC around the world
- \$600 to CHAPS and \$600 to Family Promise from our Christmas Stocking campaign
- 10 calls per month from people seeking counsel and help from our Church
- **100's** of prayers offered for members, friends, newcomers and strangers who contacted our church looking for support

We paid down \$100,000 on the mortgage
We set aside funds for continuing mortgage expenses
We carefully monitored our budget during the ups and downs of the pandemic

STEPS WE WILL TAKE IN THE COMING YEAR:

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SunCoast MCC Stewardship Prayer 2021

BOUNTIFULGOD, thank you for the many blessings You have bestowed on me and all those I love – especially the blessings of the Community and Ministries of SunCoast MCC.

I am grateful for the time, talent and treasure of those who preceded me at Suncoast MCC providing its blessings for me today. Grant me wisdom as I contemplate my financial stewardship obligations so that MCC may thrive today and be there in the future for those who need the blessings of this faithful Community and its many Ministries.

In Jesus' Holy Name, we pray.

Amen

What a BLESSING it is to be part of a church community as spiritual, lively, diverse and welcoming as SunCoast MCC! If we did not know that before the pandemic, we surely know it now.

Our faith teaches us that counting our blessings, and becoming a blessing is what it's all about.

This congregation exists because of people who gave *before we even found our* way to SunCoast MCC. We became acutely aware of that as we worshipped outside last December: The generosity of those who went before us made it possible for us to gather in person on the beautiful land. It is our privilege to enjoy and preserve this sacred place, where eagles and sandhill cranes joined us for Worship. What legacy will we leave to those who come after us in the future?

BLESSINGS RECEIVED IN THIS LAST YEAR:

- 1053 Volunteer Hours to assist with landscaping, painting the Sanctuary, moving the sound booth, prepping the Sanctuary for new flooring, resetting the Sanctuary, preparing for outdoor Worship and the return to indoor Worship
- 9 months of Trivia via Zoom and other Social Events held virtually during the last year of the pandemic including Bingo, Scavenger Hunts, Pictionary and Christmas in July
- 12 new members joined us during the pandemic, some of whom are already volunteering
- 254 visitors to our new website the first week after launch

- 16-20 volunteer hours each month for CHAPS and Family Promise
- \$2,000 scholarship offered by Venice Pride Inc., founded by SunCoast MCC, to a high school graduating senior
- \$9,266.74 donated to MCC global via our tithes to share MCC around the world
- \$600 to CHAPS and \$600 to Family Promise from our Christmas Stocking campaign
- 10 calls per month from people seeking counsel and help from our Church
- **100's** of prayers offered for members, friends, newcomers and strangers who contacted our church looking for support

We paid down \$100,000 on the mortgage
We set aside funds for continuing mortgage expenses
We carefully monitored our budget during the ups and downs of the pandemic

STEPS WE WILL TAKE IN THE COMING YEAR:

Giving to the General Fund has been understandably inconsistent this year. During the pandemic, our habits of giving were interrupted and challenged. As we could not gather in person, it took extra steps to mail in an offering, or drop it by the church, or sign up for EZ tithe. Many of you took extra steps to do those things, and we could not have made it through this without you!

As a faith community, we need to re-establish good giving habits. Can we count on you? Can we count on you to pray for this campaign and for our church to thrive in these times?

Currently about half of our members and frequent attenders give with some regularity. If even 10 or 15 **new** people made a commitment to give regularly, what a difference that would make! And if some who now give would commit to an increase, it would bolster our Church's ministry and future.

Maybe you have never given regularly (weekly or monthly) to SunCoast. We would love to be able to count on you to begin to do that, at a level that feels meaningful to you. Every gift counts!

Or maybe you did give regularly, but got out of the habit. We would love to count on you with gratitude to renew that habit.

Or, perhaps you are one of those who has continued to give regularly. We would love to count on you to continue to do that, and pray about increasing that gift.

Can we count on you? Fill out the enclosed card, mail it to us, bring it by the church during a worship service or when the office is open.

Grace and Peace,

Stewardship Team

Scott Bickert, Cindy Duranko, Edison Feliciano, Jack Hutter, Sam Sinnett, Bill Smith, Scott Swonger and Rev. Nancy Wilson