



Thanksgiving, 2021

Dear Friends,

“Be a blessing not a turkey this thanksgiving.” (Wisdom from a local church sign.)

Thanksgiving is a time to **count our blessings**. An attitude of gratitude lifts the spirit, leads to praise, and inspires the most basic Christlike characteristic – **sharing**.

From the call of Abraham, God says, “I will bless you . . . so that you will be a blessing.” (Genesis 12:2) As the practice of offerings developed for the people of God, giving was encouraged for specific reasons. One type was a thank offering. Counting our blessings invites special giving.

This year, I hope you will count and then contribute to our Thanksgiving Offering designated for the work of our church beyond our walls. We are **blest to be United Methodists** and we have committed \$36,474 to the ministries of our denomination. It is exciting to think about the blessings we bring to others with our gifts.

- \$8,751 supports **mission work in 130 countries** through the worldwide United Methodist Church of **13 million members**. This includes Africa University, support of bishops, and education of pastors.
- \$10,182 accomplishes **ministry in Western Pennsylvania** through camping and youth ministries, training events for laity and clergy, mission work locally, and development of new local church ministries for the 150,000 United Methodists members in our conference.
- \$7,799 is our portion of support for our **ten districts** and the work of our superintendents.
- \$9,742 is our fair share of support for the **conference leadership** team, staff, and center that provides resources and training for the **800 churches** in the Western Pennsylvania Conference.

How good it is to know that our offerings become blessings for others! When we give to our United Methodist Church, we are sharing in a way that is faithful to Paul’s words to the early church.

You will be enriched in every way for your great generosity, which will produce thanksgiving to God through us; for the rendering of this ministry not only supplies the needs of the saints but also overflows with many thanksgivings to God. (2Corinthians 9:11-12)

Please use the enclosed envelope to help us produce thanksgiving as we care for the \$9,120 still needed to reach our 2021 goal. You may also visit edinboroumc.org and give online. **You are a blessing.**

Giving Thanks for You,

Lisa

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