**2023 Stewardship Theme: JOURNEY TO GENEROSITY: *The Way of Jesus***

This year’s approach to stewardship is that of a journey to generosity. When we follow the way of Jesus, we follow a path that leads to a generous way of life that derives from the generosity of God. While some people pop into Christian faith as fully-mature stewards, most of us follow a journey in which our generosity grows as we become ever more aware of the generosity of God and of how to respond adequately.

The way of Jesus begins with the recognition of God’s love for all (that means you and me), and includes responding to that love with love for others. “For God so loved the world (*kosmos)* that [God] gave [God’s only heir] so that everyone who believes in [that heir] may not perish but have eternal life” (John 3:16).

Something to think about from our theme materials for the year: “The extraordinary claim of the Fourth Gospel is that despite the hateful, lying, imperceptive, fractious, and death-dealing ways of the world, God *loves* the world. In the ancient world—and in the Gospel of John in particular—love is less an emotion and more a decision to act for the good of the other, including the community. Love can be accompanied by emotion, of course, but a person or group can make a decision to act for the good of community without a lot of feeling. On occasion, an individual or a group must decide to act for the common good by going against certain kinds of feelings.”