Lake Deaton
United Methodist Church

A Note from Our Finance Chair

Dear Church Family,

I am grateful to be part of this church family. We are blessed with wonderful pastors, dedicated staff and faithful lay leadership. Week after week, we hear the Word of God proclaimed, care for people in need, participate in mission projects, witness the joy and commitment with which our staff and volunteers serve this congregation.

We have a wonderful church, but it does not happen by accident, The ministries we cherish, the missions we support, the worship service we experience, the staff who serves us and the outreach we provide to our community all require financial resources. Those resources come from us.

Stewardship season is not simply about preparing next year's church budget. It is an opportunity for each of us to stop and ask an important question: What is God calling me to give? God has entrusted each of us with resources. The question is not whether we have been blessed, but how faithfully we respond to those blessings.

In full transparency, in the past, my wife Carol and I receive the annual stewardship information; we looked at what we gave the previous year and essentially continued doing the same thing. Perhaps some of you can relate. As I assumed this role recently and came to understand the reach of Lake Deaton's ministries, Carol and I decided to increase our giving. We are committing to a 20% increase for 2027.

This year I am asking you to do something specific. Prayerfully, consider what God has entrusted to you, your personal circumstances and the blessings you have received. Then ask God, "what are you asking me to give?" To some it may mean tithing 10% and for others it may mean increasing your giving by a percentage that is meaningful to you. The amount will be different for everyone, but I believe each of us can take a step and our church will be stronger as a result.

I also strongly encourage everyone to make an annual pledge. It is much more important than a number written on a form. It is a commitment of our financial resources, time and service to God through our church. A pledge allows each of us to be intentional in our giving rather than simply giving what is left over.

The leadership of our church uses the pledges to establish a responsible annual budget. This budget allows us to plan our ministries, compensate the staff, support missions, maintain our facilities and carry out the work God has placed before us. Without faithful giving, there can be no faithful planning.

Lake Deaton
United Methodist Church

Every situation is different. Some individuals give directly from an Individual Retirement Account which is a tax efficient way to support the church. We also encourage giving monthly where possible. Our church's financial obligations occur monthly just as our households operate. Monthly giving provides a stable platform to fund our various ministries without interruption.

Our stewardship campaign is about funding ministry rather than balancing a budget. It enables our church to proclaim the gospel, support our missions, care for those hurting and providing a place where people can worship, grow in their faith, find community and encounter the love of God.

I am asking each of you to not simply do what you did last year. Pray about it; ask God what He wants you to do and take a step.

I believe in the mission God has given this congregation. I pray that together we will respond to God's blessings with generous hearts and a renewed commitment to support His church with our prayers, presence, gifts, service and witness.

Thank you for prayerfully considering how God is calling you to give.

With gratitude and faith,

Sam Souan
Finance Chair

6500 Wesleyan Way, Wildwood, FL 34785
352-571-4665
www.lakedeatonumc.com