



ST. PAUL'S

United Methodist Church of Odessa
Reaching Up, Reaching In, Reaching Out

St. Paul's United Methodist Church of Odessa
406 Main Street (mail to P.O. Box 253)
Odessa, DE 19730
Stpaulsodessa.org

October 26, 2021

Dear Members and Friends:

In October each year, the Finance Committee at St. Paul's United Methodist Church is tasked with preparing a budget for the upcoming year. Just as it is in your home, the church needs to balance expected income versus projected spending. It is for this reason that we have our Annual Pledge Campaign.

Perhaps you are thinking, "The church was closed for quite a while due to the Covid pandemic and no one was there, so there were no expenses." This, of course, is not true. With no in-house congregation, there was no loose offering plate income. Lack of attendance and difficult times found some folks unable to keep up with their pledges. Income went down, but the expenses remained.

While the building was closed, we are happy to say that with the help of God and many faithful servants, the work of the church continued. Pastor Kevin Benjamin and others continued to preach the gospel through weekly online services. There were increased in-home visits and zoom meetings. Outreach continued by providing dinners to Deep Roots, the Yellow Hat missions, and the Love Thy Neighbor Fund. Of course, there were some changes, but financially, the overall expenses of operating a church remained the same. It is kind of like when you go on vacation, you still have to maintain the house and pay the bills when you come home!

This is why we ask you today to make your pledge to your church by using the enclosed Pledge Card. As a cost-saving item, a decision was made to eliminate the use of envelopes. Your giving will be recorded for tax purposes through your checks. As an alternative, many folks have decided to contribute using the convenience of VANCO, our computer-friendly automatic withdrawal option which is explained on the church's website.

Please return your pledge card by Sunday, November 14, 2021. If you are unable to attend services on that day, you can mail your pledge to St. Paul's UMC, P. O. Box 253, Odessa, DE 19730.

Thank you and God Bless,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Carolyn".

Carolyn A. Stanley
Chairman, Finance Committee