



ST. PAUL'S

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

November 1, 2022

Dear Members and Friends:

What interesting time we're living through! So many losses, so much fear and worry. And yet, as beloved children of God, we know ourselves to be blessed no matter the current circumstances.

We see blessings in being part of this community, and we respond by inviting our neighbors to church activities.

We see blessings in being together and we respond with mutual support. We know that St. Paul's is there for us: with an encouraging word, a card, an opportunity for ministry and service, with counseling and prayer. We've found an extended family with whom we can share our worries and our joys.

And since it is impossible for us to save the world, we are blessed that our contributions to the wider Church share our resources across the district, the annual conference, and the world. We help build the church, assist in disaster recovery, provide nutrition, clean water, and fight disease.

This is how St. Paul's UMC responds to our many blessings: generosity. We hope that our generosity improves the lives of our neighbors; we pray that generosity improves us. It changes our relationship with our 'stuff' and changes our relationship with God. Generosity moves our perspective to trusting in God instead of relying on our hard work, knowledge, and our resources. What a relief to understand that we can rely on more than ourselves!

This is why we ask you during the month of November to make your pledge to your church using the enclosed commitment cards. The first commitment card asks you to consider how you will support St. Paul's financially, of course, but also with your prayers, your presence, your service, and your witness. There is a separate Time and Talent card where you can indicate specific areas of service that you wish to explore.

As a cost-saving item, a decision was made to eliminate the use of weekly offering envelopes. Your financial 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 bring both commitment cards with you to worship on Sunday, November 20, 2022. If you are unable to attend services on that day, you can mail your commitment cards to St. Paul's UMC, PO Box 253, Odessa, DE 19730.

We look forward to being in ministry with you this year.

Together in service,

Stewardship Team

St. Paul's UMC