



THOMPSON  
MEMORIAL

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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October 5, 2022

Dear Friends:

Love. It is, perhaps, the most important, overused, misused and misunderstood word in the English language.

We all have a deep need to love and to be loved. We all want to feel cared for, and to feel that we make a profoundly positive impact on others. Love is central to experiencing joy, satisfaction, and fulfillment in life. Every one of us at TMPC is here because someone took the time and exerted the energy to demonstrate God's love to us.

Jesus taught that the greatest commandment is to love God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind, and to love your neighbor as yourself. We love as a response to God's extravagant love for us. As Christians, we seek to be transformed to the image of God, who so loved the world that he gave his only Son so that we might have life eternal.

One attribute of love is that it gives generously. Just as God is love, it is the nature of God to give extravagantly. Sending Jesus to die for us was the ultimate gift, the complete sacrifice. But God's gifts to each of us are continuous, generous, and humbling. Each day, God demonstrates his love for us by bestowing on us new and wonderful gifts.

Stewardship, the act and spiritual commitment to give back to God, is an expression of our love for God, for our neighbor, and for God's mission in our world. We give generously because of our gratitude to God and because we genuinely want to advance God's purpose and enable more people to experience the joy of a relationship with God. As individual followers of Christ, we must give generously to God's work, both to model God's love for a watching world, and to grow in faith and discipleship.

Over the past several weeks we have heard in worship about how we can reset our lives, how we can better align ourselves with God's mission for us. Generosity in giving is a powerful tool to align our lives with God's purpose, to demonstrate trust and faith in God, and to model love of God and neighbor.

Thus, we embark upon our *Love, Generously* campaign. During the month of October, you will hear members of our church share their stories about the significance of giving in their lives, how it has enlivened their faith and brought them closer to God. You will also hear about the results of Thompson's long range planning process and how we feel called to demonstrate God's love to the world.

Let's see what *love* can  
do!!

Stephanie

This love is encapsulated in a scripture verse that embodies what we believe: Above all, love binds us together. Colossians 3:14

Love that binds us together is lived out in the following ways:

- We seek to love by modeling the God who welcomes everyone with open arms.
  - We seek to love by worshiping God with our whole hearts.
  - We seek to love by growing in faith and numbers.
  - We seek to love by serving others.

Within the next two weeks you will receive a mailing that outlines our ministry goals, the cost of that ministry, and the ways in which God is calling Thompson to demonstrate this love. Take time to consciously thank God for God's abundant blessings. Examine your spirit and your priorities and invite God to line up your heart with God's plan for you.

Ask yourself these questions:

**What is it that God wants for my life?**

**How can I respond to God's faithfulness to me?**

**How can I deepen my faith and trust in God, and better align my priorities with God's priorities?**

**What person, people or group can I benefit by giving generously to Thompson?**

Now is the time for each of us to say to ourselves: "because of God's boundless love for me, and as a reflection of my love for God and my neighbor, I am going to give generously to support God's work at Thompson."

We will learn and grow together in this season through worship, prayer and service, and then we will have the opportunity to make a pledge to God for his ministry in this church on **Stewardship Sunday: October 30th.**

Love. God is love. Love is the most powerful force in the universe. As each of us expresses our love for God and neighbor through generous giving, I can't wait to see the ways in which God uses our generosity to bring his kingdom to our community.

Gratefully yours,

Jeff Campbell

Chair, Stewardship Team