



Dear Friends of Maple Grove,

***“Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others, as faithful stewards of God’s grace in its various forms.” - 1 Peter 4:10***

Our 2025/2026 Stewardship campaign is upon us. As we progress through another church year, we are reminded once again how blessed we are to be able to attend church, to see our friends and neighbours, hear our wonderful music and practise our faith either in person or via livestream!

It is so great to have you in our congregation in this important time in our church’s history. A big thank you to all those who have made a difference over the past year as we build our efforts to strengthen our church. We are grateful for such generous and consistent support for the ministry and mission of our congregation and for the Mission & Service of The United Church of Canada! We cannot say thank you enough.

As a compassionate faith community, we have responded to the call to be the church in the past year by:

- Providing worship that speaks to the hope of our faith amidst the needs and concerns of our world;
- Continued our outreach in the community through our connection with Kerr Street Mission, refugee sponsorship, indigenous relations, community gardens, greening initiatives and more;
- Playing wonderful music as part of our strong music culture to enhance our in-person, livestream and recorded worship with a new music director and pianist;
- Providing opportunities to explore spirituality through prayer, meditation, and service
- Holding study groups, bible studies and book studies in-person;
- Providing pastoral support in times of crisis and grief;
- Holding a “Faith of Sundaes” faith exploration group for youth exploring confirmation;
- Welcoming those who are seeking a new spiritual home;

This letter forms part of a Stewardship package which also includes a Narrative Budget and Commitment pledge sheets. The enclosed Narrative Budget will tell you more about the impact you made through your gifts this year to the church to support this community of faith. We also have plans for the coming year to expand our programming to meet the needs of our congregation and community, extend a warm welcome to those who are seeking, and fill our hearts and our worship with beautiful in-person music!

Today, to encourage you to continue the spiritual practice of generosity through consistently supporting God’s mission, we are inviting you to take some time to prayerfully consider how you will financially support Maple Grove United Church in the coming year.

To assist you in deciding, we have included a Step Chart showing the number of donors at each giving level. After you identify your current level of giving on the Step Chart, we invite you to prayerfully consider if it is possible for you, in these challenging economic times, **to step up one or more levels in your giving**. Please know that any increase will make a difference and will be deeply appreciated.

Perhaps this is also the time to choose to start giving monthly? Regular consistent giving is easy through the Pre-Authorized Remittance (PAR) program. **A PAR brochure can be found at various places around the church to help you sign up. We are also available to help with any questions you may have about PAR.**

Once you have decided how you will contribute to God’s mission, please return the enclosed **Commitment pledge sheet** by the end of the Stewardship campaign, Sunday Nov. 10, 2024. By making your intention to be generous known to the leadership of the congregation, you are clearly demonstrating that you care about your Christian community and intend to generously follow the Way of Jesus. We know this is important to you! You can fill it out and email it back to the church as directed.

Remember that you can also give by donating securities. This can be a tax advantageous method of giving to the church. If this is interesting to you, please contact the church office and they will forward your request to someone who can help answer your questions.

With heartfelt thanks for your continued generous support,



Rev. Jessica McCrae



Called to Be the Church Giving Team

### STEP Chart for 2020-2025

Of all households registered in the congregation:						Fiscal Year Ending:					
						2025	2024	2023	2022	2021	2020
# households gave over \$95/week or over \$5000/year:						10	10	9	8	8	7
# households gave between \$47-\$95/week or \$2500- \$5000/year:						25	20	20	23	19	23
# households gave between \$20-47/week or \$1000 - \$2500/year:						48	50	50	49	49	51
# households gave between \$10-\$20/week or \$500 - \$1000/year:						25	29	39	34	32	38
# households gave between \$5-\$10/week or \$250-\$500/year:						19	20	14	16	17	17
# households gave up to \$5/week or \$250/year:						37	33	25	18	18	23
Total Number of Donors						164	162	157	148	143	159
Total Offering for Operations						\$ 264,837	\$ 265,054	\$ 253,551	\$ 252,753	\$ 242,279	\$ 255,042