



CUMMING FIRST UNITED

· METHODIST CHURCH ·

February 16, 2024

Dear Cumming First United Methodist Church Members and Friends,

I hope this message finds you well, basking in the enduring warmth of God's love. I am reaching out to share about our upcoming "Pathways to Generosity" and our Thriving Ministry Action Plan.

Cumming First United Methodist Church is more than a place of worship; we are a dynamic community dedicated to embodying Christ's love in all we do. Your financial giving plays a crucial role in sustaining ministries that feed the hungry, nurture children in faith, and offers healing to countless individuals within our community and beyond. Giving isn't merely a financial transaction; it's an integral part of our spiritual journey. As recipients of God's boundless generosity, we're called to express our love for God by joining in God's work in the world. Your generosity and commitment to spiritual growth are deeply appreciated.

In 2024, we're shifting our focus from financial concerns to our love for God and vision for ministry. Our Ministry Action Plan (MAP) outlines the ministries we believe God is calling us to, along with associated costs. Unlike traditional budgets focused on survival, this MAP addresses how we can thrive because at Cumming First UMC we are eager to love God and our neighbors wholeheartedly, cooperating enthusiastically with God's work. This Thriving Ministry Action Plan will be presented during worship on Sunday, February 25 at the combined 11:00 service and will be online after this presentation.

February 25 thru March 17, all who consider Cumming FUMC their church home are encouraged to reflect and pray around this question: "**What does God desire to do through the financial resources God has entrusted to me?**" Let these three weeks (four Sundays) of Lent be a time of spiritual introspection and growth for each of us as disciples of Jesus. To facilitate this, each of us is encouraged to:

- Participate in worship all four of these Sundays (February 25, March 3, 10, & 17)
- Engage with the daily devotions in *Practicing Extravagant Generosity* (If you need a copy, they're available in the narthex.)
- Lift our church and all those reflecting on God's call to generosity in your prayers. Prayer cards will be distributed on February 25.

Your love for God and neighbor, as demonstrated through your faithful financial support, enriches the ministries of Cumming First UMC immeasurably. Your willingness to give, serve, and grow in God's grace is a precious gift to this congregation. Let us join in prayer, asking that all who call Cumming First UMC home will respond to the call to deepen their faith through generosity. Your spiritual leadership is vital, now more than ever.

With sincere gratitude,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Matthew D. Stewart".

The Reverend Dr. Matthew Stewart
Pastor in Charge

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Robert Scott".

Robert Scott
Generosity Team Co-Chair