

FIRST NEWS AND NOTES

A Newsletter of The First United Methodist Church in Hagerstown IN

November 2022

What comes to mind when you hear the word “stewardship?”



Stewardship *a way of life*

Do you begin to think about your finances right away? Do you think of your church doing some sort of giving campaign? Does your mind start thinking about taking care of the environment?

These ideas and much more apply to stewardship, but they do not paint a complete picture of Biblical stewardship. Simply put, Biblical stewardship is one of the primary ways God calls us to live out our life, our Christian faith. It is a theme that we can see throughout the Bible, from Genesis to Revelation. It is something that God has rooted in creation and influences the way we live our lives for the glory of God.

In the New Testament, the word “steward” is rooted in the Greek word “oikonomos,” which means “the manager of a household.” If you were a steward in Ancient Greek culture, you were not the owner of the house. Instead, you would have been the manager of the house and the household affairs. From making sure the home was clean to managing the finances and perhaps servants, you would have managed everything on behalf of the owner.

When you read through Scripture, you see that your life is not your own. Your life is on loan from God and God calls you to steward everything about your life for his glory and the good of others. The Bible has a lot to say about stewardship, but I want to share with you four important themes that you can find as you read through Scripture to gain a better understanding of stewardship.

1. God created everything

We are introduced to stewardship in the Bible with the very first verse. We learn in Genesis 1 that God is the creator of everything: He created the universe, He created the earth and He created you. This is the heart of all Biblical stewardship. This theme is seen again in the New Testament when Paul writes to the church in Colossae. In Colossians 1:15-16 Paul writes, “For by him all things were created, in heaven and on earth... all things were created through him and for him.” This is the foundation, or cornerstone, of Biblical stewardship.

2. God owns everything

Not only did God create everything; God owns everything (Job 41:11; 1 Tim. 4:3-5). This is the next “building block” toward a better understanding of Biblical stewardship. God has given you your life so you can be a steward of it for His glory and the good of others. As the owner of everything, God desires for all things to be redeemed (Col. 1:20), including people, governments, businesses, and the arts. God desires all things to bring Him glory (1 Cor. 10:31). King David writes in Psalm 24:1, “The earth is the Lord’s, and everything in it. The world and all its people belong to him.”

3. God delegates responsibility

God calls us to manage (steward) what He has created on His behalf. Paul writes about this theme of participating in God’s work in his first letter to the Corinthians. He writes in 1 Corinthians 3:9, “For we are all God’s workers...” and in 2 Corinthians 6:1 Paul writes, “working together with Him.” God is at work in your life and around the world, and you have the privilege of participating in his work. How amazing is that?!

You can just look through the books of the Bible and see people that God has delegated responsibility to. When Jesus builds his church, He builds it through our participation in His work by preaching the gospel through the lives we live.

4. We steward resources for giving

God commands us not to love money and to be content with what we have (Her. 13:5). But he also commands us to work and take care of ourselves and family financially. In doing so, you will fight with the tension of providing for yourself and your family while facing the temptation to covet (desire) what others may have and love money itself.

Regardless of your beliefs about tithing, one thing you cannot avoid is that God commands you to give generously. There may be times in your life when you may not be able to give as much as you like and believe me God knows about those times. But aim to steward your resources in such a way that through your giving you bring glory to God.

Paul writes in 2 Corinthians 9:6-7, “Remember this—a farmer who plants only a few seeds will get a small crop. But the one who plants generously will get a generous crop. You must each decide in your heart how much to give. And don’t give reluctantly or in response to pressure. ‘For God loves a person who gives cheerfully.’” What Paul is saying is that if you give generously to bless others then you will gain greater blessings in return. When we steward our resources (time, talent, and treasure) in a way that blesses others, the blessings we receive extend throughout eternity. Not only that, but let us remember that our stewardship brings glory to God. What greater blessing could we ask for than bringing glory to God?



FULL OF LIGHT

*Matthew 6:22 The eye is the lamp of the body.
If your eyes are healthy, your whole body
will be full of light.*

Most mornings I wake up, make a cup of coffee and head for my favorite chair looking out over my backyard. I read my devotions and I love watching the day unfold as the sun rises higher in the sky. Sparkling gems of light reflect on the grass, bushes, garden plants and trees. Each season has its own unique personality which includes visits by the birds to my feeders and some four-legged critters, too. God has created a fascinating world and I am grateful for my daily views. How can you not praise God for his many blessings and a new day to enjoy them?

We have a family medical history with serious related vision issues that left my Mom and her mother legally blind and my Dad with compromised vision. I inherited some of these conditions. I love to read and drive. I would be devastated if I also, lost those abilities due to declining sight. I have benefited from earlier intervention and new aggressive treatments to maintain as much vision as possible. I am grateful for advances in medicine and a team of doctors who carefully monitor my vision. Yes, I must follow their directions and have had an extensive list of exams, tests and procedures over the last four decades. Some of them are unpleasant. I have been blessed with helpful, loving family and friends to drive me home afterwards when I need them.

Recently, I saw a new eye doctor who reviewed my history and his test results. He was amazed at the good condition of my eyes and my remarkable acuity considering my medical history. So yes, I daily praise God for my view of my backyard and my ability to read and drive. Life is good and full of light! To God be the glory!

Paula Guth, the Church Mouse

FOOD PANTRY SUPPORT

Jefferson Township Food Pantry thanks us -HUMC for our monthly supports. Our donations of specific food items helps each recipient/family in preparing a meal or meals. The donations may be placed on a shelf until the recipient is ready to use it. Some months the Food Pantry will have items to add to our donations. Example: this '22 October hamburger was available if recipient wanted to add to the Chili. At the printing time of newsletter, HUMC continues to work on the October goal of 100 Chili & Crackers.

**'22 November Donations Focus is
Thanksgiving Day Foods.
Goal 100 Potatoes- Instant**

Cans of Green Beans canned
Cans of Mushroom soup
Box or bag of Stuffing
Cans of Gravy
Cans of Cranberries (Jellied or Sauce)
Cans(15oz) of pie pumpkin
Pie Shells ready to bake

Please bring your donations to the church café table by door or take donations to Hagerstown-Jefferson Township office.

***Bless Each of Your Generous Hearts of
Compassion and Giving.***

Our 2022 Saints

1-13-22 Bertha Kirkman Davis

4-1-22 Don Sturgeon

5-17-22 Peggy Pierce Bullock

5-29-22 Marilyn Shore

6-6-22 Jo Anne Sager



Daniel's Vision of a Kingdom of Saints

80 + Birthdays

Phil Bond November 9

2820 S Memorial Dr New Castle 47362



Ron Luellen November 12

2030 Chester Blvd Bldg.1H 101

Richmond 47374



United Women in Faith News *by President Mindy Smith*

Pastor Nate reminded us on Sunday morning how close we are to Advent and decorating the church on Sunday, November 20 after church. December 4th is HomeTown Christmas and we have our Cookie Walk starting Thursday, December 1st! Whew!!!

That means United Women of Faith have some decisions to make. We will be busy getting a meeting scheduled before the end of October—meaning you will hear from me before you read this article.

We looked ahead and know how busy we're going to be finishing out the year of 2022. Let's take a quick look back to October 7th. WE were able to have a successful Food Booth again this year at the AMR Annual Car Show. We served breakfast, and lunch and because Dot Foods donated our sausage gravy and biscuits we were able to have a profit of \$1,020.31 This was in spite of much colder temperatures on the day of the car show, which resulted in at least 100 less cars participating which would mean too at least 100 less people there to need food. Over all our group of Committee Members was extremely pleased with our results. We donated \$150.00 to the Car Show Scholarship fund for having the opportunity to use their venue. We have not voted as of yet on how to use the rest of our profit. There is always so much need and we are planning to put the proceeds in the hands of as many local projects as possible. We will also need to look at helping Lucille Raines Residence with the "Love Lifted Me" Campaign for the new elevator and handicap accessible entrance. This is another item of Business we will be addressing at our next Executive meeting as we want to distribute the funds before the end of 2022.

Make sure you check out the announcement elsewhere in the newsletter inviting you to our last General Meeting of the year. General Meetings are the perfect opportunity to invite someone to attend that are not involved with United Women of Faith. Please be thinking of someone whose not attending.

The Scripture I want to share for this month is 1st Thessalonians 5:11. Continue encouraging each other and building each other up, just like you are doing already."

I really feel like our Executive Committee does encourage each other and works well together. We need that encouragement and support to get through the busy end of the year ahead of us.

Thanks to our United Women of Faith and our Supportive Church Family!





November Sermon Series – All In: Taking Your Next Steps with Christ

Big Idea of the Series: This series is intended for both an introduction for visitors or new believers and as a reminder to more mature believers about the work God continues to do in our lives after salvation. “All In” is about the next steps after salvation, the gifts God graciously provides for us to grow closer to him and into greater Christlikeness—baptism, giving, church community, and the importance of ministry service.

- *October 30th – Communion - Hebrews 10:23–25*
- *November 6th – Giving Attitude - Genesis 4:2–10*
- *November 13th – Finding Family - Colossians 3:9–15; & Matthew 19:6*
- *November 20th – Spiritual Growth - Romans 12:3–8*

Bring the Kids Every Sunday Morning.

Begins at 9 a.m.



Nursery is available every Sunday

During Church

K.I.D.S.



Kids in Devine Service)

Adult Classes meet!

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First Hagerstown

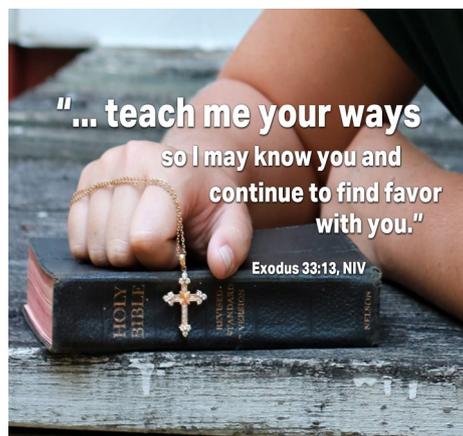
United Methodist Church



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