



First United Presbyterian Church

406 North College Street – Charlotte, North Carolina 28202 – Telephone: (704) 376 – 8014

Fax: (704) – 376-8329 website: fupcc.org

Rev. Lorenzo R. Small, Sr., Pastor

“Being confident of this very thing, that He who has begun a good work in you will complete *it* until the day of Jesus Christ”

-Philippians 1:6 (NKJV)

January 8, 2019

Dear Member,

Greetings and Happy New Year in the name of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ! This is an exciting and momentous time in the life of First United Presbyterian Church, USA. With the continued leadership of our pastor, Reverend Lorenzo R. Small, Sr., we faithfully seek ways to support and grow our ministry and mission. To make our ministry as successful and viable as it should be, we invite you to join us on a stewardship journey as we explore together what it means to live more lovingly and generously.

This letter signals the beginning of our 2019 Stewardship Campaign. As we consider God’s blessings, we are in awe of the immense goodness and blessings bestowed upon us. The greatest of these gifts to us are Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior, and the constant presence of the Holy Spirit, working in the church and in our lives. As you make your pledges, please consider these questions: What does giving mean to you? How does your giving benefit our ministry? What ways can I give?

We invite you to use the enclosed form to make your financial pledge. You are requested to complete and return it by January 31, 2019. As in the past, we are asking that you consider the many ways God has blessed you, carefully discerning how much you are willing and able to give in response to God’s continued work at First United. On the reverse page of this letter, please review some of the 2018 ministry highlights of First United Presbyterian Church. Because of you and your generosity, these ministries were successful components of the overall mission of our church. With your similar expressions of generosity, 2019 will be equally as successful.

Thank you for your continuing support for the work of our church. Your contributions of time, talent and financial resources will allow First United to not only survive, but also thrive, as reinforced in our 2018 Homecoming Theme, “Loving our Past, Living our Present, Faith in our Future”!

Yours in Christ,

Stewardship Ministry Team

Your Gifts make a difference in carrying out our Mission in Christ's Name

In Worship – Your gifts helped The Stewardship Task Force worked through clarity in designating intentions for a Stewardship Ministry and our Financial Oversight Committee. Through the generous donation of the Carr, Tate, and Kerns families, new Presbyterian Hymnals, *Glory to God*, given in memory of Delia Marionetta Kerns Carr were added to our sanctuary for worship. Our Music Ministry welcomed new musicians and instrumental music, facilitating a spirited aspect of worship with the Praise Team. Generous donations from the Flowe and Harris families provided improvements to the pipe organ and the Hand Bells/Hand Bell choir. Our organist is completing an upgrade and restoration of our pipe organ broadening the range and experiences for the choir to unite and lead us in worship in singing of prayer and responding to the gospel.

In Service – Your gifts helped us demonstrate God's love in our 20th year of work with Habitat Charlotte Church Partners, helping first time home owners experience the blessing of home ownership. We donated used Presbyterian Hymnals to Second Harvest to share with the wider faith community. Community partners continue to use our facilities for meetings; training opportunities, etc. A major effort from our 150th Stewardship Capital Campaign, renovation of bathrooms in the education building, now completed, opens our doors to a new Show Ministry. Your gifts are practical, they help us pay our bills as our community of faith offers ourselves in service and devotion to God.

In Education - Your gifts helped in establishing "Faith Alive," a new Bible formation experience helping our growth in living as disciples of Jesus; - Continuing our scholarship program awarding \$4,000 to students in higher education programs. A new scholarship established, through generous donation of Charles Jackson, extended scholarship awards to middle and high school students to attend camps and conferences – 7 students participated. Youth Protection Policy established and training session completed. Adult Sunday School and Vacation Bible School (VBS) continue because of your gifts.

In Christian Nurture – Your gifts provide for partnerships to host community and church wide initiatives: Pink Sunday, VBS, the inaugural Family Reunion weekend & Faith Alive, Susan G. Komen 5K Race for the Cure, Annual Homecoming Coat Drive, collecting and distributing 80 + coats, and feeding over 100 breakfast. Bereavement support and materials also provided because of your gifts.