



GENEROSITY AND STEWARDSHIP – God’s Grace in Abundance

Hello friends! We survived the flurry of activity in October, and are now finally looking at some cooler weather!

I love November. It is the month that refreshes after a long Florida summer. It’s the time when we start digging out those winter clothes, opening our windows in our homes to enjoy the crispness of the air inside and out, and eat and drink pumpkin spice everything!

I also love November because it is the month of gratitude! There are so many things I am grateful for – too many to list here! But, one of them is this church family. It is a privilege to serve such kind and generous people. Your love for God and His church is so very apparent; it is contagious!

This month is also the time when we make our commitments to the church that we so love. We will be celebrating our Thanksgiving Sunday on November 18th in worship, where we will have an opportunity to present and bless all that we plan to give back to the Lord for the following year. Sharing our individual plans enables the collective church body to budget, and to plan its outreach, missions and ministries for the year. It also helps you to plan out your ministry year as well!

In preparation for this special day, I am asking each of you to commit to the five practices of a fruitful congregation – your prayers, presence, service, gifts and witness. When we make these commitments, we are being good stewards of what we have been given. God has entrusted His church to our care, and we are responsible for managing what God has given us, for God and for the good of the Kingdom! A great responsibility, yes, but also a great honor!

Generosity and stewardship: it is what we do to give thanks to our God and to be an integral part of the larger whole. By working together as a community of faith, we exemplify Christ-centered lives and we rejoice in God’s grace. Abundant sharing of blessings and gifts opens the way for His grace to abound, our faith to grow, and the mission in the name of Jesus Christ to flourish. Who doesn’t want to live out that kind of generosity?

You will be receiving a letter in the mail from me, which will include an annual review of First UMC Seffner’s finances, missions, ministries, and a wish list for 2019! It will also include a commitment card. I ask that you prayerfully consider each of those five fruitful areas and make your commitments before God. Then bring your card back in a sealed envelope to place on the altar on November 18th. Blessings upon you as you give!

2 Corinthians 9: 11-12: “You will be enriched in every way for your great generosity, which will produce thanksgiving to God through us; for the rendering of this ministry not only supplies the needs of the saints but also overflows with many thanksgivings to God.”