



November 2019

Dear Friends and Members of Audubon Park Church,

Believe it or not, there is more to Audubon Park Church than just what you see on Sunday morning! Each week our Tuesday Breakfast volunteers serve a warm meal to over a hundred people. Twice a month our food bank is open with additional food for those who live in our area. We have fellowship groups, small groups, and bible studies. We have community groups like the Boy Scouts several twelve step groups in the building each week. There's a lot more than Sunday morning happening at the church!

This year we were able to renovate our children's ministry space and expand our children's Sunday School class to both services. The kids love it and we have more kids involved in Sunday School than we've had in years. Our young adult ministry (20-30 year olds) and college ministry are also growing. We've started two new fellowship groups for 40-50 year olds and for senior. Our food ministry programs are continuing to grow as well and we continue to think through how we can better serve our community through these ministries.

The ministry and mission of our church take place because of the *spiritual and financial* gifts our members and friends choose to offer. These are the resources that fuel our mission; and yes, it does cost real money to provide these spiritual things!

The decision to give a gift is a choice, but as a follower of Jesus, it really isn't an option! We are called to give with grateful hearts! Based on what we have received, we are encouraged to give something – out of thanksgiving for what God has done, and as a sign of faithfulness and commitment to be a part of the good things that God is continuing to do in our world. We have the gift of Jesus and we are invited to respond to what God has given us with generosity of our own.

To make that gift means making a decision to give something away that you might use for something else. To do that may require choosing to not buy a fancy coffee, or deciding to carry a sack lunch into the office once a week instead of buying lunch. The amount may seem insignificant, but did you know that gift of just \$50 a month would almost fund a year of ministry for our children's Sunday School Program. Your gift matters – it matters to you as the giver, and to the church which utilizes it



as a resource for making a difference in people's lives.

The reality is that ministries need resources and money to succeed and grow. We want to continue to grow our ministries and our church and we want you to be a part of the exciting things that are happening at our church. I encourage you to prayerfully consider how you are called to give.

If you are in financial distress, unemployed or otherwise struggling, I understand and would encourage you to return your card anyway. Include a note that you're in a difficult place and let me know how I can be praying for you. Both your prayer requests and your financial commitments will be kept confidential.

My prayer is that you will be with us during the remaining weeks of our Journey to Generosity, that you are making plans now to attend church on **Sunday, November 24th** as we dedicate our financial commitments for 2020 and ask God to bless them. The gifts we bring make good things happen. Thank you for being a part of it. I've enclosed a brochure that includes more information on why we give to the church and how you can give to the church. I hope you'll find the right starting place for you. Challenge yourself to give in a regular and disciplined way. I promise you won't regret it.

Grace & Peace,

*Pastor Geoff*

Rev. Geoff Helton, Lead Pastor  
Audubon Park United Methodist Church





November 2019

Dear Friends and Members of Audubon Park Church,

I want to begin by thanking you for being a partner in the ministry and mission of Audubon Park Church. Your ongoing financial contributions are making a difference in the lives of many people. You know what matters in life, and through your giving, you are sharing that with others and reaching them with the love of God.

Our financial gifts do remarkable things when they are transformed into ministry and mission. I want to share with you some of what we have accomplished together this year. We renovated our children's ministry space and expanded our children's Sunday School class to both services. The kids love it and we have more kids involved in Sunday School than we've had in years. Our young adult ministry (20-30 year olds) and college ministry are also growing. We've started two new fellowship groups for 40-50 year olds and for senior. Our food ministry programs are continuing to grow as well and we continue to think through how we can better serve our community through these ministries.

To make these additions and to see this growth we've leaned forward in faith and it's working! We're seeing new faces in worship and lives changed through our ministries. We are transforming lives and being transformed by the love of God at the same time.

We want to continue to grow our ministries and our church and we want you to be a part of the exciting things that are happening at our church. As you know, that will require our investment with both our spiritual and financial gifts. Because you already contribute, you know the difference your gift makes. I am asking that you pray about how you want to answer the challenge to grow and I invite you consider joining me in increasing our financial gifts for the coming year.

We are called to give with grateful hearts! Growing in generosity is the mark of a developing faith and deeper walk with Christ. I give to our church because I deeply believe that its members are committed to being genuine disciples of Christ. I want to be involved with something that really matters in this community. As a congregation, we seek grow spiritually and to actively engage the world where its deepest needs meet our abilities, and with God's help, to be a difference for good.



This is an important time for Meagan and I each year as we look at the many blessing God has given us and we prayerfully consider how we are called to return some of those gifts. I'd like to invite you to grow in your giving this year.

Tithing is the goal given to us in scripture of giving ten percent of our income to God. As you fill out your commitment card; start by figuring out what percentage of your income you are currently giving. Then consider what you feel called to pledge to God through Audubon Park in the coming year. I'd invite you to pray about making it your goal to grow in your giving by 1% each year until you reach the tithe. I believe this matters to God and that you'll be the one who is blessed as a result of you stepping forward in giving.

If you are in financial distress, unemployed or otherwise struggling, I understand and would encourage you to return your card anyway. Include a note that you're in a difficult place and let me know how I can be praying for you. Both your prayer requests and your financial commitments will be kept confidential.

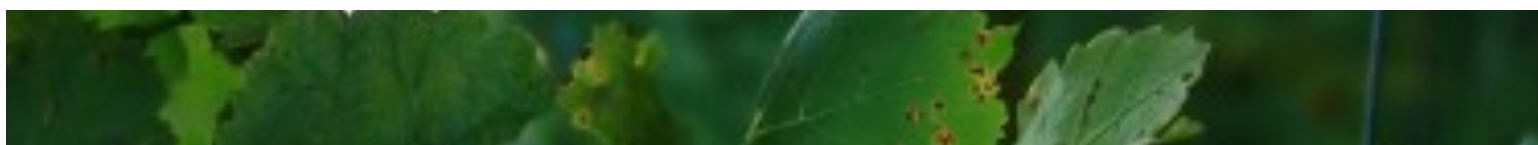
God is working through us and the things we do to accomplish positive change in the world. Every time we give, that gift becomes ministry and mission. Please keep our congregation in prayer as we move together toward discerning what gifts we will make in the coming year. Also be sure to make plans now to join us for **Commitment Sunday on November 24th** when we will ask God to bless and multiply our financial commitments for the next year.

Again, thank you for your part in the life changing work of this congregation.

Grace & Peace,

*Pastor Geoff*

Rev. Geoff Helton, Lead Pastor  
Audubon Park United Methodist Church





November 2019

Dear Friends and Members of Audubon Park Church,

It is out of a profound sense of gratitude for God's many gifts that we make the choice to return some of what we have. Stewardship is more than writing a check, or joining a committee, or helping out at an event. Stewardship is a way of looking at life.

I want to begin by simply saying thank you. You are among those who have this unique vantage point. It is a perspective unique to the Christian life. Thank you for your generosity. Your leadership in generosity contributes to the long standing success of our community of faith. Because of you, we are better equipped to give back to our people and help our neighbors in so many ways. You help us provide quality programs for children and youth. You help us create community through fellowship groups, small groups and study groups. You make the love of Christ visible and tangible to those who are poor, vulnerable and on the margins of society. Your gift means more people will hear about the love of God.

Our financial gifts do remarkable things when they are transformed into ministry and mission. I want to share with you some of what we have accomplished together this year. We renovated our children's ministry space and expanded our children's Sunday School class to both services. The kids love it and we have more kids involved in Sunday School than we've had in years. Our young adult ministry (20-30 year olds) and college ministry are also growing. We've started two new fellowship groups for 40-50 year olds and for senior. Our food ministry programs are continuing to grow as well and we continue to think through how we can better serve our community through these ministries.

To make these additions and to see this growth we've leaned forward in faith and it's working! We're seeing new faces in worship and lives changed through our ministries. We are transforming lives and being transformed by the love of God at the same time.

We want to continue to grow our ministries and our church and we want you to be a part of the exciting things that are happening at our church. As you know, that will require our investment with both our spiritual and financial gifts. Because you already contribute, you know the difference your gift makes.



I invite you take time again this year to prayerfully consider your pledge for 2020. This is an important time for Meagan and I each year as we look at the many blessing God has given us and we prayerfully consider how we are called to return some of those gifts.

Tithing is the goal given to us in scripture of giving ten percent of our income to God. Many of you who are receiving this letter are already tithing. Others of you aren't there yet, but faithfully give regularly. As you fill out your commitment card; start with your giving for 2019 and see how this relates to your income. If you're not yet tithing I'd encourage you try to grow your giving a little this year toward the tithe.

Whether you're able to grow your giving to the church next year or not you'll know that you've taken the time to ask God for guidance and direction. And if things have changed for you; if you are in financial distress, unemployed or otherwise struggling, I understand and would encourage you to return your card anyway. Include a note that you're in a difficult place and let me know how I can be praying for you. Both your prayer requests and your financial commitments will be kept confidential.

Again, I thank you for your support. Giving is where we find the true meaning and purpose for our lives, a discovery you have already made. Please keep our congregation in prayer as we move together toward discerning what gifts we will make in the coming year. Giving in the manner that you do does not simply happen – it takes faith and commitment.

Please plan to be with us for **Commitment Sunday on November 24th**. Not only will we dedicate our commitment cards for next year, but we will join together to celebrate the abundance of our God.

Grace & Peace,

*Pastor Geoff*

Rev. Geoff Helton, Lead Pastor  
Audubon Park United Methodist Church

