



ST. PAUL'S
United Methodist Church of Odessa
Reaching Up, Reaching In, Reaching Out

St. Paul's United Methodist Church of Odessa
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November 1, 2020

Greetings:

As we continue to navigate through these uncharted pandemic waters, St. Paul's UMC has continued to be blessed by each of you as you share your time, talent, and treasure. This has not only kept the church afloat financially, but it has allowed us to support the work of the gospel outside the walls of the church through mission giving such as Yellow Hat. One positive aspect of the COVID-19 pandemic is that we are learning many new and different ways of being the church. Even when it is safe to resume church life as usual, virtual worship will most likely continue. More people are being reached as time and distance are no longer factors in who attends services. Zoom meetings are proving a workable substitute for gathering in person. Pastoral care is continuing to be provided and various measures have been taken to make sure that the most vulnerable of our congregation are checked on. Stewardship is being practiced differently, too. More giving is being done through VANCO online giving. As we prepare for this year's Stewardship campaign, I am encouraging everyone to be in prayer about the 2021 financial commitment that you will make to support the ministry of St. Paul's UMC. This year, we benefited from a loan from the Paycheck Protection Program (PPP). We won't have that support for 2021, therefore, I am encouraging each of us to do our best so that the church can meet its financial obligations. A commitment pledge card has been included with this letter. After you have prayed and asked God to help you discern the role you will play in support of this ministry, please return your pledge card back to the church office by November 24th. There will be a pledge card drive-by on November 22nd so that we, as a church, can celebrate our commitment to our church. The pastor and finance team will be present to receive your confidential pledge card. We also have a small "thank you" gift bag. If you are unable to participate, your pledge card can be returned in the mail or dropped off at the church. In closing, we are thankful for your strong and faithful support of the St. Paul's UMC ministry. And may God continue to bless you on your journey. *Pastor Kevin*