

Dear Church Family,

Thank you! Thank you for your faithful financial gifts to God through our church. Thank you for continuing to support ministries that had to be paused during COVID. Thank you for pivoting with us to do more things digitally like checking into worship or giving online. Thank you for your faith and trust in our staff and church leadership during these unprecedented times; both during COVID and losing our Senior Pastor in death. We have felt your support through your prayers, emails, and phone calls. Thank you!



I am honored as your new Senior Pastor to bring you words of HOPE around our stewardship efforts for 2022. It is with a grateful heart that I write to you this Fall and invite you to join us in “the HOPE effect” stewardship journey that will immerse us into thinking even more about Jesus’ call on our lives to be generous in all ways. *“I pray that the eyes of your heart may be enlightened in order that you may know the HOPE to which he has called you, the riches of his glorious inheritance in his holy people, and his incomparably great power for us who believe.” - Ephesians 1:18-19.*

We pray that you have already been touched by “the HOPE effect” sermon series since September 12th. Some of our classes are teaching corresponding lessons from the book, *“The Generosity Challenge: 28 Days of Gratitude, Prayer, and Faith.”* Any and all can also pick up a personal devotional book for FREE that walks along the same themes: *“The Generous Life: 28 Days of Devotion.”* I invite you to join us on this HOPE-filled Generous Life Journey. Books can be found outside each worship space.

Your staff and Finance Committee have been so very diligent this past year to be fiscally responsible in all that we do. In October of 2020 when we began planning the 2021 budget, we did so in anticipation that COVID would not lift significantly until at least the school year of 2021. As a result, we reduced our 2021 budget by \$336,508. Every single area in our budget tightened it’s belts. Vital and significant ministries are taking place and will continue through you and our creative staff! However, there are still so many more areas we want to revitalize and reinvent with your support.

As we begin to look at the ministry and mission opportunities for 2022, we turn to you, our faithful participants and members of our great church. The best budgets are created when not only the FUTURE expenses are known, but also the FUTURE incomes. That is where you come in. Your pledge cards are a helpful tool in our planning efforts for 2022. Your pledge cards are a FORECAST of what you feel you might be able to financially give to God in support of the ministries at Collierville UMC. We use these pledges to help us determine a projected income that gauges the appropriateness of our projected expenses. We can then adjust accordingly, to be faithful stewards of our projected income.

As people of HOPE and faith, we have established the following goals for this stewardship season. Pre-Covid (2019) we had 275 pledge cards turned in to help us craft our budget for 2020. In the midst of Covid (Oct. 2020) that number dropped to 201 pledge cards for giving for 2021. Our goal for 2022 is to return to and surpass 2019 pledge card numbers = 275-300!

To those of you who give financially but have not previously submitted a pledge card, thank you for your financial gift! We ask if it is possible to estimate what your giving for 2022 will be and fill out that amount on a pledge card for us to more accurately forecast our future together? If you are not currently giving, would you consider taking that sacrificial step this year and supporting your church? Could you consider donating the equivalent of a seasonal favorite of many (myself included!), Pumpkin Spice Latte (Venti), once a week at $\$6.58 \times 52 = \342.16 ? If 74 new pledgers would give $\$342.16$ per year, that would be an extra $\$25,319.84$ in our budget!

We have included a “Step Up” Chart for you to review to help determine your current level of giving in relation to our current budget. Our call to action for you is this:

- Determine your current level of giving and prayerfully consider “stepping up” to the next level for 2022.
- Turn in a pledge card, whether for the first time or for the 81st time.

Commitment Sunday will be October 3rd in all of our worship services. We pray that you will join us that morning as we present our pledges before God with generous and grateful hearts. At the end of each service, we will have a time to bring our pledge cards to God’s altar and pray for our future ministries made possible by each of our financial gifts! Please prayerfully consider how you might respond out of gratitude and generosity for all that God has provided for each of us; during our good days and months as well as during our bad days and months. Thank you in advance for partnering in the past, present, and future with our congregation as we are continually “reaching out to transform lives by extending God’s love to all!”

“For I know the plans I have for you,” declares the LORD, “plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you HOPE and a future.” - Jeremiah 29:11.

HOPE & Peace!

Jelnah C. Suddarth

Senior Pastor

P.S. If you would like to know more about online giving, check the box on the pledge card and one of our staff will be happy to assist you.



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