



November, 2016



458 High Street, Medford, MA 02155  
781.395.3360—SanctuaryUCC.org

*“Now which of these ... was a neighbor...?”, Jesus asked.  
The man replied, “The one who showed mercy.”  
Then Jesus said, “Yes, now go and do the same.” —Luke 10:37*

Dear Friend,

Our 2017 Stewardship theme, “Go and do the same,” is a powerful reminder of our commitment to be genuine followers of the gospel. It is a call to discipleship, to be more like the image of Jesus, so that our faith may be recognized by our actions toward others. As one level, we could infer that our “job” is to do for others the way that the “good” Samaritan did for the man who fell among robbers. Be kind, compassionate, generous and concerned for others in need. Give of yourself. Give financially. Make a difference. All laudable characteristics, to be sure.

At another level however, it is a commitment not just to particular actions or behaviors, but a dedication to a way of being—a dedication to ‘being sanctuary’. It is about being agents of transformation in the unfolding Realm of God around us. It is about extending the blessings of health and wholeness to all of creation, because we are certain that this is ultimately what God desires. The world is broken and hurting and we are called to be a movement for wholeness among its many fractured pieces. We are agents of grace, mercy, love, sanctuary.

Now more than ever, (even as our country is torn by the divisiveness of partisan politics and populism)—people need sanctuary and a way forward toward reconciliation. Now more than ever, our vision to ‘be sanctuary’—to create circles of love and care, to seek justice and build community—offers good news to people who hurting. Now more than ever, we must amplify our vision, tell our story, grow our community and move toward sustainability for Sanctuary—because **everybody needs a little sanctuary.**

Faithful financial stewardship is one way we work against the powers that harm and divide. Our generosity funds the mission and ministry of Sanctuary—which is surely a sign that God’s realm is among us, right here, right now. Gifts of time and talent serve this work as well!

God has done, and continues to do remarkable things through and with us—things that matter, relationships that matter, a vision of Sanctuary that matters! Your prayers and your participation are keys to helping us get to the next level of discipleship and sustainability. We know that when the early church gathered, they did so with glad and generous hearts and that there was no need among them (Acts 2). We desire such a spirit of true community to be among us.

You are invited to prayerfully consider what it will mean for you, as you seek to “Go and do the same,” to be a faithful disciple, to be an active and engaged part of ‘being sanctuary’. Commitment cards and access to the online campaign are enclosed.

With love and prayer,

Sanctuary UCC Staff and Leadership Circle



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*"Now which of these ... was a neighbor...?", Jesus asked.  
The man replied, "The one who showed mercy."  
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To support your prayerful decision about your faith promise, we encourage you to take a moment to review the enclosed insert entitled **"Faith the Size of a Mustard Seed."** Jesus tells us that we can do a lot more than we think we can—because we are infused with the power of God! Faith is increased in the acting and doing of faith—in the giving and being sanctuary.

Please consider the reflection on the insert and the Weekly Giving Guide as you pray about the percentage of your resources you might promise to God!

**We ask you to make your promise online: [sanctuaryucc.org/2017Stewardship](http://sanctuaryucc.org/2017Stewardship)  
If you would prefer you can make your promises on this form  
and return it to the Leadership Circle via the church office.**

### Faith Promises to God and Sanctuary

With Faith in God to provide and trusting in God's enabling power  
I/We make the following faith-promise **of monthly giving for this year:**

#### My Monthly Promise

- |                                 |                                 |                                 |
|---------------------------------|---------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$ 600 | <input type="checkbox"/> \$ 300 | <input type="checkbox"/> \$ 160 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$ 500 | <input type="checkbox"/> \$ 240 | <input type="checkbox"/> \$ 120 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$ 400 | <input type="checkbox"/> \$ 200 | Other: _____                    |

Name(s): \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

### Time and Talent Promises

I would like to share my time and talents through the ministry of this church in the following ways:

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Offering hospitality at worship and other events   | <input type="checkbox"/> Serve in organizational leadership (ie: Nominating Committee, Pastor/Parish Relations, Stewardship and Finance, Leadership Circle) - <i>please note your interest:</i> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> I can help in the office with administrative activities (filing, bulletins)                  | _____   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> I can help with online presence (social media, event postings, etc.)                         | <input type="checkbox"/> Serve on ministry team (ie: Arts and Inspiration, Lakota Youthstay/Pine Ridge, Worship, Circles of Care, Ministry with Youth) - <i>please note your interest:</i>      |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Volunteer at service projects such as bread of life, sandwiches for outdoor church and more  | _____   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Offer Care—ie: visit, pray with, listen  | Other: _____  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Coordinate and Organize: Arts programs, Events (big and small), Service Projects, Volunteers | _____   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Work for Justice (letters, marches, phone calls)   |   |



## Faith the Size of a Mustard Seed

*The apostles said to the Lord, "Increase our faith!" The Lord replied, "If you had faith the size of a mustard seed, you could say to this mulberry tree, 'Be uprooted and planted in the sea,' and it would obey you."*

Luke 17:5-6

**F** "Increase our faith!" That is a desire that most of us share. "Increase my faith as a person. Increase our faith as a congregation."

We desire an increase in our confidence that the realm of which Jesus speaks is present and coming. We ask God to increase our willingness to be part of it. And then Jesus says, "If you had faith the size of a mustard seed, you could say to this mulberry tree, 'Be uprooted and planted in the sea,' and it would obey you."

The mustard seed was tiny, proverbially the smallest of seeds. The mulberry tree (not our mulberry but something more like a sycamore), had deep roots and stretched 60 feet into the air.

Jesus' point: if you act on what you've got, you can do a lot more than you think you can, because what you are infused with is the power of the realm. It would be great to have an increased faith. But you don't need to wait for the gauge to register full on the faith tank in your heart and mind. All you need is a mustard seed.

Think about that today as you contemplate your giving for the coming year. Many of us, perhaps most of us, maybe even all of us, can do more than we think we can. And we can do it because we are caught up in the power of something bigger than we are.

### Weekly Giving if the Percentage Is

(Rounded to the nearest dollar)

Annual Income	Monthly Income	Weekly Income	2%	4%	6%	8%	10%	15%
16,000	1,333	308	6.00	12.00	18.00	25.00	31.00	46.00
20,000	1,667	385	8.00	15.00	23.00	31.00	39.00	58.00
25,000	2,083	481	10.00	19.00	29.00	38.00	48.00	72.00
30,000	2,500	577	12.00	23.00	35.00	46.00	58.00	87.00
35,000	2,917	673	13.00	27.00	40.00	54.00	67.00	101
40,000	3,333	769	15.00	31.00	46.00	62.00	77.00	115
45,000	3,750	865	17.00	35.00	52.00	69.00	87.00	130
50,000	4,167	962	19.00	38.00	58.00	77.00	96.00	144
60,000	5,000	1,154	23.00	46.00	69.00	92.00	115	173
75,000	6,250	1,442	29.00	58.00	87.00	115	144	216
100,000	8,333	1,923	38.00	77.00	115	154	192	288
125,000	10,417	2,404	48.00	96.00	144	192	240	361