



Breaking Bread

SHARING LIVES

Stewardship 2023 COMMITMENT SUNDAY, NOV 20

Dear Friends,

Stewardship is akin to portfolio management ... God gives us each time and various endowments such as skills and inheritance. How we use them determines our lives. One of our choices is how much of our time, talents, and financial resources to invest in WPC.

Though COVID made community life very difficult, **WPC is exhibiting significant vitality.** Our worship life is vibrant. We have many new families and individuals worshipping with us who now consider WPC to be their church home. We are hosting a new members' lunch on November 13, and our invite list is lengthy. We have fourteen young people going through Confirmation. We have a cooperative preschool launching from our building in 2023 that will bring additional families through our doors. We are active with our mission partners making a difference in the lives of many, and we are working to strengthen those ties. We continue to do amazing work helping Afghan refugees who have landed on the North Shore.

To support all this vitality, we have just hired a part-time office manager, and will once again fully staff our nursery during worship. To maintain our building, we need to reserve for some significant outlays because the band aids on our roof and air conditioner are not going to work much longer. Most pressing, we need to give our wonderful staff a cost-of-living increase.

The Church's budget runs around \$600,000. We have been able to operate at about break-even over the last three years partly because of a \$34,000 bequest in 2019 and a \$59,000 PPP loan in 2021 (now forgiven). We cannot expect these again. We have also been operating near break-even because we have not been taking any depreciation expense. Instead, over the last three years, some very generous members have supplemented their pledges with special gifts to cover \$143,250 of unbudgeted non-discretionary maintenance. We cannot count on such generosity continuing either. Perhaps most pressing, we have to give a cost-of-living increase to our staff. Every 1% wage increase we provide will increase our costs by \$3,700.

Taking it all together, **we should raise another \$90,000 for operations.** Assuming we continue to supplement our household support with other income from rents and events, **we can get there if our average donation for 2023 is \$7,500.** Of our roughly 80 households, only 26 of us pledged over \$5,000 last year, while 19 gave less than \$1,000. While everyone's capacity to give is different, many of us can stretch more. I'd be happy to talk with you personally if you have any questions. Thank you for prayerfully considering what you can contribute.

Finally, while financial support sustains the church, pledges help us to budget. Please pledge.

Sincerely,

George Bermingham, Elder for Stewardship

BREAKING BREAD SHARING LIVES DINNER

SATURDAY, NOV 5
6PM

NEW MEMBERS LUNCHEON

SUNDAY, NOV 11
FOLLOWING
WORSHIP

COMMITMENT SUNDAY

SUNDAY, NOV 20

ALL-CHURCH LUNCH

SUNDAY, NOV 20
FOLLOWING
WORSHIP



“THE TWO DISCIPLES TOLD
WHAT HAD HAPPENED ON THE
ROAD AND HOW JESUS HAD
BEEN MADE KNOWN TO THEM
IN THE BREAKING OF THE
BREAD.

WHILE THEY WERE TALKING
ABOUT THIS, JESUS HIMSELF
STOOD AMONG THEM AND SAID
TO THEM, “PEACE BE WITH
YOU.”

- LUKE 24:35-36

Dear Members and Friends of WPC,

One of the things I missed most during the pandemic was the gathering of our congregation for the sharing of meals - potluck suppers, the youth spaghetti dinner, pancake breakfasts, Dinner for 80, the weekly coffee fellowship time, and, of course, the sharing in the Lord's Supper in worship.

In all these things, we experience the communion of Christ. When gathered together at table, breaking bread and sharing lives, we encounter our risen Lord within us and among us.

Our financial stewardship theme for this year is Breaking Bread/ Sharing Lives. Three times during the campaign, we will share a meal together. First on Saturday, November 5th, we will do a Dinner for 80 format, gathering at the church for appetizers and drinks, and then breaking into groups of 8 to share a meal in a member's home. It is a wonderful way to meet new people, reconnect with long-time friends, to spark our gratitude as we talk and eat, laugh, and discover joy in the sharing of our lives.

On Sunday, November 6th, we will celebrate communion, gathering around Christ's table in worship for the breaking of the bread and the pouring out of Christ's life into ours.

And on Sunday, November 20th, Stewardship Dedication Sunday, we will share a meal together in the CLC following worship. We will give thanks to God for the goodness of life, for the grace that we have received, for the blessings of this church family which grounds us in faith, for the opportunity to give of our resources and ourselves in Christ-like service to others, and for the generosity of our members and friends.

“Peace be with you” as we break bread and share our lives, as we give generously to the work of Christ's church for 2023.

In Christ's Peace,
Paul E. Gilmore
Pastor

Breaking Bread
SHARING LIVES
Stewardship 2023 COMMITMENT SUNDAY, NOV 20

Pledge now at winpres.org/pledge

Our contributions sustain...

OUR CHURCH which supports us on our spiritual journeys, where the Scriptures are read, the Word preached, and where bread is broken in humility and gratitude...



OUR SUNDAY WORSHIP where we gather to encounter Christ in the Scriptures and Sacraments, expressing our gratitude and longing in music, meditation and prayer...



OUR COMMUNITY where we can make friends, share our joys and concerns, our laughter and our longings, and where we can help each other in countless ways...



OUR PASTORAL CARE when doubt or loss overcomes us...

OUR SUNDAY SCHOOL which forms our children in the Christian faith so they may come to know, love and serve Jesus...



OUR YOUTH PROGRAMS which value every young person for who they are, and not for what they have accomplished, and which inspires them to live lives guided by faith in Jesus' teachings...



OUR MISSIONS where we feed, house, and befriend people who have nowhere else to turn...



OUR ADULT FORMATION where we dig deeper into the truths of God's word for our lives...

OUR STAFF who help us fulfill our mission in the daily operations of our congregation...

OUR BUILDING which provides lovely space for all these activities...

OUR HOME where we gather confident that in life and death we belong to God...



and so much more...

STOCK & ESTATE DONATIONS

For those wishing to donate stock or mutual fund shares to WPC before year-end, here are instructions. Tell your broker what stock and what amount of shares you wish to transfer. Provide your broker with the following information as applicable.

If to the **Operating Account** (for pledges or regular and special donations):

- Electronically transfer the stock to ETRADE - DTC #0385 for further credit to the account of Winnetka Presbyterian Church Account 5734 - 3767

If to the **General Endowment**:

- Electronically transfer the stock to ETRADE - DTC #0385 for further credit to the account of Winnetka Presbyterian Church Account 5734 - 3768

Please contact either Michael Jin (mikejin85@gmail.com) or Bill Bringham (ecbfinl@att.net or 847-710-5080) with the following information:

- Name of stock
- Number of shares
- Approximate dollar amount
- Brokerage firm you are transferring the stock from
- Broker's name and phone number
- Date you have given the transfer instructions

IRA ANNUAL REQUIRED MINIMUM DISTRIBUTION (RMD)

Members older than 70½ can transfer up to \$100,000 per year from their traditional IRAs to charity, which can count as their **required minimum distribution** but is not taxable if they follow the rules for a qualified charitable distribution (QCD). *This doesn't apply to a Roth IRA, which has tax-free withdrawals and no required distributions.* The gift stays out of your adjusted gross income only if you make a direct transfer from your IRA to the charity. It doesn't count as a tax-free transfer if you withdraw the money first and then make a donation to the charity. Ask your IRA administrator what steps you need to take, because the procedures can vary from firm to firm. This can be especially important to members who do not itemize (Schedule A) on their taxes, or are borderline on deductions. Contact Bill Bringham for more information.



Pledge now

SCAN THE QR CODE



OR

PLEDGE ONLINE AT
WINNPRES.ORG/PLEDGE

OR

FILL OUT THE
PLEDGE CARD AND
PUT IT IN THE OFFERING
BOX OR MAIL IT TO THE
CHURCH OFFICE

2023 PLEDGE CARD

Name _____ Pledge 2023 _____

I pledge to be a loving and generous follower of Christ,
supporting Winnetka Presbyterian Church's vision and mission
with my time, money, and talents.

WINNETKA PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

1255 Willow Road | Winnetka, IL 60093 | 847-446-7777 | www.winnpres.org