MAGNOLIA
United Church of Christ

October 1st, 2020

Dear Magnolia UCC Members and Friends,

Every year at this time, the Moderator for MUCC is asked to write a Stewardship letter. Typically, the Moderator eloquently cites the reasons for supporting our Church mission and encourages our congregation to bring their pledge form to our worship service on Stewardship Sunday, the second Sunday in November. This year is different.

2020 has been a trial for everyone. For some the pandemic has been a colossal nuisance, but paradoxically a financial gain. Masked up and sheltered in place, these folks meet by Zoom, avoid personal contact, and may be saving by not traveling or dining out. On the other hand, many others have experienced lay-offs, business closures and added costs, resulting in real economic distress and impacts on our social networks.

Your Church—Magnolia UCC—has responded magnicently to this crisis. We were one of the first churches to stream worship services on-line once larger gatherings were prohibited. **MUCC never closed—we adapted**. Coffee Hour, Bible Study, Circle of Stones, Book Group, and other groups continued—just in a different setting. Personal contacts continued and even increased.

As the ministry of the church continues, so also does our opportunity for gratitude and generosity. For those in the fortunate position of having the pandemic being merely an inconvenience, I encourage you to consider increasing your pledge. For those facing financial challenges in these times, I encourage you also continue to pledge, though you may need to reduce your pledge this year and may even need to further adjust it later as circumstances change. Each pledge is important, and an expression of commitment, support, and connection.

**We ask is that you prayerfully consider your pledge and then submit your 2021 MUCC Pledge before our Stewardship Sunday on November 8th.**

You have several options for submitting your 2021 MUCC Pledge:

1. Go to **www.magnoliaucc.org/pledge** and fill out the online form and electronically submit
2. Mail in the enclosed pledge card
3. Call or email your pledge in to our Bookkeeper, David Anderson, at 206-819-2965 or accounting@magnoliaucc.org

This year has certainly been a time of challenges—however it also has been a time to count our blessings, prayerfully consider our circumstances, and act with the grace of God. The year ahead will be full of opportunities to address and overcome challenges, and I encourage your pledge, your prayers, and your ongoing support. Together, we will endure!

Roger D Werner

Roger Werner
MUCC Moderator