

ABUNDANTLY

Godlife GroupLife GiveLife

Abundantly FAQ's #2

1. Okay, if we're talking Abundant Generosity and a GIVeLife, isn't it a bit obnoxious to be talking about finances and stewardship in a time like this? While it seems "bold," and times are definitely tough, it's during times like this when we tend to see most clearly what is truly important—even eternal. If you want abundance and legacy, this may be your biggest opportunity. What could You and I need more than:

- Biblical truth applied to our lives? (A GODLife)
- A solid foundation of friends & community? (A GROUPLife)
- A trusted way to help those in dire need? (A GIVeLife)
- The presence of Christ, and a rock upon which to build our lives, (A GODLife for OURLife)

Hey, in good times & bad, that's exactly what I need in more abundance!

2. So, what is our current membership? It looks about 1,224, plus one more new member class on Saturday, Nov 21st.

3. What is our worship attendance? During Covid, it's difficult to say, but believe it or not, we're up! This fall we average 555 online each week (who engage for 30+ minutes), and 220 in person, plus 40 – 50 at our new Saturday Children & Family Worship Service!

4. What will happen on Ingathering Sunday, Nov. 22nd? We will worship, we will celebrate Thanksgiving, and like last year, we will dedicate our commitments for the coming year in worship.

5. Before we talk 2021, have we reached our 2020 goal and obligations? No. Like all churches, we rely on a significant end-of-year income, but this year has been tough on all of us. By year end, we will only have paid 73% of our ministry shares to the greater United Methodist Church's mission and administration, and in anticipation of the challenge, we are reducing staffing expenses for 2021. However we pray that continued faithful giving and good expenses management should put us in a position to finish strong in 2020.

6. If I commit to a giving amount on the card, what if I can't fulfill my pledge? No one will come after you. The amount you commit is helpful as we move toward our strategic planning for 2021. But Jesus said more than once "don't let fear of the future lead your decision-making." Decide now what is right and good – for you, your family, and the Lord.

7. What ways can I give financially to Dexter UMC?

- Online through our website: www.dexterumc.org.
- Automatic withdrawal from your checking or savings account.
- Cash or check in your giving envelope or in the offering boxes.
- If you are interested in donating stock or other investments, please contact our Financial Secretary, Teena Gordon (financialsecretary@dexterumc.org)

8. What about stewarding more than just our finances? The membership vow we each take is to support our church by prayers, presence, gifts, service, and witness. Basically, we "pledge" to have a GODLife, a GROUPLife, and a GIVeLife, all for Christ's life in our congregational life.

9. How do I participate in the "Abundantly" fall stewardship campaign? Most of us will receive a letter including a commitment card. If you do not receive this, but would like to, please call the office at 426-8480. We will have additional cards on our commitment Sunday.

- First, **PRAY** about your commitment in 2021. Ask God this awesome question: "What do you want to see accomplished for your Kingdom in the next year?" Just talking with God can help.
- If you are married, **TALK** with your husband or wife (always interesting!), and trust God to guide you in giving cheerfully and freely to the church. Talk with your children too, that they can witness your commitment to Christ in action. If you're not married, talk with a trusted friend.
- **BRING** your commitment card on Nov. 22nd, or mail it in when you can, or drop it in the office (with your mask on) and celebrate Jesus by saying with your church family and friends: thank you that you "have come that we might have life, and have it abundantly." John 10:10

Remember, God didn't need His people to create their own abundant lives! God just invited them to receive Jesus as their Good Shepherd, and Jesus Himself would provide abundance for living. Jesus can't help but provide abundant life for all those who turn from being self-centered to being Christ-centered. That's the whole mission of this church! To share the life of Christ with one another and with our community, that they too could have a GODLife, a GROUPLife, and a GIVeLife.

Love God, Love People, Serve the World for Jesus Christ