

What matters is faith working through love.

*Galatians 5:6b (GNT)*

November 6, 2023

Dear Westminster Family Member,

I love this scripture that our stewardship team chose for our campaign this year. If you read back to the beginning of the verse, you’ll get a good sense of the context. Paul writes here about one of the biggest dividing lines in the church of his day – circumcised or uncircumcised? None of this matters, Paul writes. What really matters is “faith expressed in love.” While the dividing lines may have changed over the years, the one thing that matters for authentic Christian communities—faith in Jesus Christ that becomes visible in love—has *not* changed.

Over the past several weeks, as I listened to the impact reports given by our elders and committee chairpersons, I was reminded of the ways we set aside our differences, or better yet, employ our differences, to allow our faith to grow through the love we show, both among us and beyond us.

* I have heard and seen how our building and grounds are a not only a beautiful gathering place for us to worship and learn, but are also a safe and happy weekday home for children from our community, and a resource we are privileged to share with Girl Scouts and HAM radio operators, among others.
* I have heard and seen how we are growing spiritually through an increasing number of Bible and book studies and this fall, the addition of children’s Sunday school.
* I have heard and seen how you are caring for one another with meals and cards, but also how you are reaching out to pray and to care for neighbors and friends through generous donations and hands-on engagements.
* I have heard and seen how you are having fun together and are inviting others to share in your fellowship.

I believe that not only our church and our community have been impacted by our attention to this thing that really matters, but that we ourselves have been impacted. As we have made personally meaningful sacrifices of time, talent, and treasure, we have found ourselves to be a part of something bigger than ourselves.

Having taken stock of where we’ve been, we can look forward with hope to where we are going. Our session has prayerfully prepared a visionary budget to undergird the mission we believe God is calling us to engage and invites each of us to prayerfully consider our own answers to the following questions, “How will I be a part of what God is doing in and through my church? What impactful contribution will I make in the year to come?”

I thank God for you, for the commitments you have made and faithfully fulfill, and for your prayerful consideration of the gifts you will offer in the year to come.

With gratitude and hope, I am your pastor and friend,

Caroline