

Grace United Methodist Church 201 Isle Royale St., Houghton MI 49931 906-482-2780 houghtongrace.org



9/24/2023

Dear

Years ago, there was a reality TV show known as "The Biggest Loser". Contestants would receive a cash prize for losing the most weight in a given time. Ironically, "losers" were actually winners in these challenges.

In the Bible, Jesus says, "Whoever wants to save their life will lose it, but whoever loses their life for me will find it." (Matthew 16:25) Jesus also asked, "What good is it for someone to gain the whole world, yet forfeit their soul?" (Mark 8:36) As we begin our annual fall stewardship campaign at Grace United Methodist Church, we want to ask ourselves, "Are we the biggest 'losers', biblically speaking, when it comes to giving?"

At Grace UMC, we care about our relationship with Jesus, our community, and our world. We surrender our worship, time, and finances to God for the cause of the Gospel.

You could think of Grace UMC as a company with shareholders. When we invest in our church by giving an offering, we see dividends: new disciples of Jesus, baptisms, new members, small groups and outreach, like youth ministry, VBS, and college connections. Because Grace UMC exists, our church comes alive for worship, music, weddings, and even funerals.

God has blessed us abundantly at Grace UMC. For over a century, this congregation has given their precious time and money <u>so that</u> our church can be a beacon of hope to the Copper Country. This stewardship campaign aims to continue our legacy, allowing each and every person in our church to commit to our future out of gratitude for what God has done.

We believe God has great blessings in store for us in 2024. We want to grow our reach into the community. We have the opportunity to support new missions and outreach. This can only happen with a concerted effort from our congregation to meet our financial goals.

We invite you to fill out the enclosed Faith Promise Card for 2024. You may mail it or bring it to a worship service anytime October 1st-22nd during the stewardship campaign. Even if you are uncertain what amount you plan to give in 2024, or that amount changes later, these cards will help our Leadership Team to make wise decisions about our ministry budget.

We are grateful you are a part of God's family here at Grace UMC, and we appreciate you. If you have any questions, please contact the church office or a member of the Leadership Team. From the bottom of our hearts, THANK YOU!

Sincerely,

The GUMC Simplified Accountable Leadership Team (SALT) Heather Myers, Jake Manchester, Mary Lou Vinson, Chris Walls, Bob Richards, Rae Vaught, and Pete Larsen, and Pastor Eric