



# Will You Grow?

Living into Radical Kinship  
Through Loving God,  
Serving Others,  
Building Christian Community  
*and*  
*Giving Generously*



**UNIVERSITY**  
**UNITED METHODIST**  
C H U R C H

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Dear University UMC Family,

**“Will You Grow?”** is the title for our generosity campaign for the 2020 ministry support for University United Methodist Church. It is an expression of what we believe should happen when God’s people are asked to respond to God’s prompting to grow in discipleship and generosity.

This year we aren’t focusing on bridge pledges or budgets or maintaining basic levels of operation. While budgeting has its place, during this campaign we will be focusing on the spiritual aspects of giving. Ephesians 3:20-21 states:

“Glory to God, who is able to do far beyond all that we could ask or imagine by his power at work within us; glory to him in the church and in Christ Jesus for all generations, forever and always. Amen.”

We can use this passage as a guide for growing as a church. God is often inviting us into God’s abundance - abundant grace, abundant joy, abundant peace, abundant love, abundant gifts. In God’s abundance, we see an extravagant generosity. By being generous with the resources God has given us, we can create inviting spaces at University UMC for ministry to all ages, reach more people in more places with the gospel of Jesus Christ by planting new campuses, and work missionally with those in our community to make a concrete difference in the lives of children and their families. Our hope is that we would be signs of God’s extravagant generosity to all those we are called to be in ministry with in our church and community.

Over the next few weeks we will talk more about the spiritual aspects of giving. There will be prayer resources and information sent to your homes, your inboxes, and social media pages. In this season, we hope that you will be inspired, that everyone will say “YES” to the challenge of our “Will You Grow?” campaign, and that God’s extravagant generosity will overflow into our lives and ministries.

Peace,  
*Pastor Justin*



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# Will

As a verb *will* expresses a future tense and as a noun it can express that part of our spiritual lives in which God has given us free will to follow God (or not to). *Will* is an invitation to align ourselves with God's purposes for our lives and our church. The book of Proverbs says, "Generous persons will prosper; those who refresh others will themselves be refreshed" (Proverbs 11:25). This verse is simple in its wisdom. If we exercise our **WILL** to help others, that help overflows and becomes reciprocal.

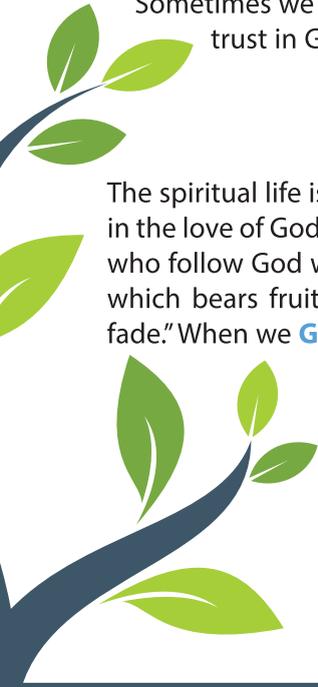
# You

"You." "Who? Me?" "Yes, you." *You* signals that this campaign may be in part about others, but also that we want you, as an individual who exists in community, to become generous in your support of the community. When we become invested, so much is possible. Matthew 19:26 says, "Jesus looked at them carefully and said, 'It's impossible for human beings. But all things are possible for God.'"

Sometimes we question what is possible, but when **YOU** and I trust in God as God leads us, all things are possible.

# Grow?

The spiritual life is about growing in grace, in faith, in service, and in the love of God and neighbor. Psalm 1 encourages us that those who follow God will be "like a tree replanted by streams of water, which bears fruit at just the right time and whose leaves don't fade." When we **GROW** spiritually, our community of faith thrives.



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*Glory to God,  
who is able to do far beyond  
all that we could ask or imagine...*

*Ephesians 3:20*



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