

Blake **MORE**

UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

October 25, 2017

Dear Friends,

Historically, at this time of year, the Leadership Board of our church comes to all of our members and regular attendees asking that they thoughtfully and prayerfully consider making a stewardship commitment to support the overall health and ministry of Blakemore UMC. As someone new to this community, I wanted to take a minute to tell you what we mean by stewardship and pledging.

The pledges we are talking about this season can be financial, but stewardship also includes our prayers, presence, gifts, service and witness to others. A pledge is a way of saying you will support Blakemore for the coming year in all the ways you are able.

At Blakemore, we don't consider pledges to be passive things. Instead, we see pledges as making a commitment to being part of something that changes lives: our own, our neighbors, and the world around us. I hope you have felt it, but Blakemore is not just some social club. Instead, we are followers of Jesus Christ and as such are committed to using all of our resources, our personal strengths, our collective energies to change lives—not least of which are our own.

Being thus transformed ourselves sends us back out into our homes and our communities and our jobs, among our friends and various networks to make a difference because we have been made different by and through Jesus Christ. What a wonderful gift and opportunity.

We hope that you will make a pledge towards next year's ministry at Blakemore UMC. Pledge cards are included with this letter and can be turned into the church office or Sunday offering at any time during the campaign, which concludes on Sunday, November 19.

As the Leadership Board Chair, I am also available to answer any questions you may have about the Church and our faith journey together.

Grace and Peace,

Ellen Zinkiewicz