



First United Methodist Church Killeen
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October 6, 2020

Members and Friends of First United Methodist Killeen,

We will all have stories and memories from 2020 to share for the rest of our lives. For me, one of my forever-stories will be you. We began COVID-19 planning for the worst. What would it look like to miss sanctuary worship for such a long time? How would we cover our costs and staff salaries? First Methodist answered these questions and anxieties in a faithful way, our finances would not take a hit due to COVID. In fact, your giving was stronger this past summer through COVID than it was in 2019!

While we still have many hurdles ahead to navigate, we continue to make disciples of Jesus Christ. Our focus is not on maintenance, but pushing forward towards new ways of sharing God's grace and love with this community. Thank you all for joining us in this effort.

The enclosed Estimate-of-Giving card serves as an important tool for the Finance Committee as they work diligently to create a realistic and balanced budget for the congregation. Providing this confidential information to your church is not a requirement, but is certainly appreciated. Please consider returning this card by October 26th by either placing in our offering plates (driveway dropbox is locked and secure) or mailing to the church office. You may also submit your estimate online using the simple form found on the church website - fumckilleen.com/estimate.

For many, this will represent the first financial commitment you have made to a church. This is to be celebrated! Thank you for doing what you can as you grow in your giving. Every offering, no matter the size, is a "thank you" for God's work in our lives.

Our plans for 2020 debt-reduction were delayed; however, we did take one of our big steps towards financial sustainability as our mortgage was transferred to a new lender. This move allowed us to reduce our monthly payment by \$5,000 a month. The second step continues to be principal reduction on the note (currently 2.78 million). While dates are not yet confirmed, we anticipate a note reduction campaign in 2021 to encourage our congregation to help us reduce the remaining debt and focus on our future.

Matthew 6:21 reminds us, "Where your treasure is, there your heart will be also." I believe God has given this community a gift in this church. Let's all work together to support this work with the treasure God has placed in our hands.

Together in Christ,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Alan McGrath".

Rev. Alan McGrath
Pastor, FUMC Killeen

P.S. If you should have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact our Finance Committee Chair, Gordon Dungan (financechair@fumc-killeen.org), Administrative Assistant, Lisa Marshburn (lisa.marshburn@fumc-killeen.org), or me (alan.mcgrath@fumc-killeen.org).