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Dear Church,

I want to begin by simply saying thank you. Your leadership in generosity contributes to the long-standing success of our community of faith. Because of your commitment to the ministry of this congregation, we are an ever-increasing effective witness to Jesus Christ. This congregation is grateful for you, and for the example you set for each of us on what it means to be a faithful steward.

Amid challenging times, God has certainly been faithful to First United Methodist Church Killeen. We are grateful for the ways that we have stayed connected, both in-person and through online worship and groups, through the ups and downs of the pandemic and pastoral transition. The commitments that our church members have made to be present, to serve, and to give have been essential in helping our congregation continue as a healthy, vital church. Thank you for your participation in this. I know this is a result of sacrifice and dedication. I trust that it honors God when we invest in the church, the Body of Christ.

As we enter the last months of 2021, we begin to plan and pray for the ministry of our congregation in 2022. You are a vital part of this. Please join me in praying that our congregational life continues to be healthy and strong, our presence in our neighborhood is welcoming, and our outreach in the name of Christ is impactful.

In worship services in the month of October, we will consider what it means to be a good steward of our life in different ways. God has given us this one life, and we want to steward it well! We will look at how we use our time and energy, our talents, our voices and influence, and our finances in ways that bless God and bless others while giving us joy. As a part of this, we will invite all members and those who call this church home to make commitments and return an Estimate of Giving card for the next year. We will return the cards, in person and online, and pray over them on October 24. We call this an act of consecration—setting aside something and dedicating it to God for his holy purposes. I ask you to pray over your commitment in the next few weeks. I find it is a time that grows my faith and deepens my commitment to Christ when I approach giving as more than obligation.

Again, I thank you for your support. Giving in the manner that you do does not simply happen – it is the result of faith, trust, intentional choices, and a life of discipline. We join you in the hope of creating a culture of generosity that touches every person in our church. Giving is where we find the true meaning and purpose for our lives, a discovery you had already made.

In Christ,

Rev. Molly Simpson
Senior Pastor