



And taking the five loaves and the two fish, he looked up to heaven, and blessed and broke them, and gave them to the disciples to set before the crowd. And all ate and were filled. What was left over was gathered up, twelve baskets of broken pieces.
Luke 9:16-17, NRSV

September 20, 2022

Dear Brothers and Sisters:

One of the benefits of leading the pledge campaign for several years now is witnessing the continued dedication and love to those in our community both within and beyond our walls by giving of ourselves through time, talent, and treasure. Because of you, we can share our message of Jesus' love and abundance with so many, and this is the greatest gift!

Our pledge campaign for 2023, *More Than Enough*, focuses on the miracle of sharing with an abundance and how your gift of pledging is so meaningful. The theme is taken from Luke's version of the feeding of the five thousand, when Jesus took just five loaves of bread and two fish, blessed and broke them, and then gave them to His disciples to distribute throughout the crowds. They all ate and were filled. The broken pieces that were left were gathered, enough for twelve whole baskets.

Along with this letter and your pledge card, you will receive a blue colored paper fish. We invite you to write a few words in and round the fish about, "**Why I/we give to Grace Church**", either with your name or anonymously. We also welcome decorations! - (Do not write the amount pledged on your fish- your pledge amount will always remain confidential.) -- The committee will review all the comments and select a few to be published anonymously in the weekly bulletin, eNews, etc. with a few being read at services.

Please return your fish with your pledge card either by placing it in the offering plate at church, returning it by mail, or submitting online a virtual fish. Our fish will show us the progress of our pledge campaign. They will be displayed on a poster: a basket of loaves that we will fill with our paper fish. If you choose to pin your own fish to the board, push pins will be available. If you forget to bring it to the service, extras will also be available. Our goal is to collect as many on our poster as possible---every fish will represent a pledging person or household, and every single pledge matters.

Thank you ! We look forward to experiencing and sharing the abundance of our community's God-given gifts, just as the crowd and disciples experienced and shared the abundance of the baskets of fish and loaves that were blessed by Jesus.

In the spirit of love and abundance,

Beth Sharp-McKay
Stewardship Chairperson