



They shall be like a tree planted by water, sending out its roots by the stream. It shall not fear when heat comes, and its leaves shall stay green; in the year of drought it is not anxious, and it does not cease to bear fruit.

Jeremiah 17:8

September 19, 2023

As our annual pledge campaign gets underway, this year's theme, **Rooted in Abundance**, describes Grace Church and us, Grace's parishioners, in many ways. We are rooted in the extraordinary abundance of God through our worship, learning, and service. Our roots connect us to one another and to our neighbors, creating networks, sharing and spreading the good news of Jesus and God's abundance. We are living into these connections through our outreach ministries of nourishment and care, like Community Breakfast, Martha's Pantry, and Laundry Love, and by seeking to grow as a beloved community through our new ministry, the Justice Community of Grace. And we strengthen our rootedness in God through our inreach ministries of worship and music, hospitality, Grace Cares, Christian formation for all ages, and pastoral care. All of these roots and fruits of God's abundance keep our tree of Grace Church firmly centered in Christ, while also freeing us to grow and share.

We invite you to participate in supporting our beloved tree of Grace Church by making a financial pledge of support for 2024. When we pledge to give back to God a portion of the gifts we have received, we are engaging in a spiritual practice of deep gratitude for God and for one another. No pledge is too small, and every pledge matters. Our pledges are the foundation that will help Grace's vestry to form the parish's budget for 2024.

Along with this letter and pledge card, you will receive a green colored paper leaf. We invite you to write a few words in and around the leaf about, **How do you experience God's abundance at Grace Church? In your own life?**, either with your name or anonymously. We also welcome decorations! - (Do not write the amount pledged on your leaf- 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 leaf with your paper or electronic pledge card, either by placing it in the offering plate at church, returning it by mail, or filling out one on our website. Our leaves will show us the progress of our pledge campaign. They will be displayed on a poster: a tree including its roots will be covered with our paper leaves. If you choose to pin your own leaf 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 leaf will represent a pledging person or household, and every single pledge matters.

This year, as you pray about making a financial pledge to our church, please tap into that nourishing structure of faith and generosity shown to us by an extravagant God, a patient Shepherd, and a gathering Spirit who call us to extend our networks and share our gifts with the world. When we are rooted in God's abundance, we realize that our giving can be boundless as the Creation that gave birth to us all. Thank you for your generosity and your prayerful consideration of your pledge to Grace Church.

In gratitude,

Beth Sharp-McKay
Stewardship Chairperson

P.S. The last Saturday/Sunday of our campaign is October 21/22. While we can make a pledge at any point in the year, our stewardship committee asks that you strongly consider submitting your pledge by or on those dates so that we may gather them together and bless them. Submitting our pledges by October 21st or 22nd will also help our vestry to budget appropriately for the coming year. Thank you again!