

BELLPORT UNITED METHODIST CHURCH  
185 SOUTH COUNTRY ROAD  
P.O. BOX 460  
BELLPORT, NEW YORK 11713

Dear Members of the Congregation,

It is November and we look forward, with joy, to the coming celebrations of Thanksgiving, Christmas and the New Year. We reflect with thanksgiving on all we have to be grateful for including our loved ones, our friends and family, our health, our homes, and the freedoms we enjoy. We are thankful for our church and our church staff, our teachers, our choirs, our parishioners, and our youth as they provide our worship services, our educational opportunities, our outreach, and worship with us week after week. We are thankful for the support of our programs through prayers, presence, gifts and service. Most of all, we are thankful for the gift of our Savior, Jesus Christ. We are all truly blessed!

We pause a moment to look back on the year passed. You may recall that at the end of 2022, it was necessary for the Finance Committee to come to the congregation with a “special asking” in order to end the year with our bills paid. I am happy to report that our finances have been somewhat more stable during 2023 and it appears that we will not require such a special asking to meet our financial obligations this year. Covid restrictions have been lifted, our Pre-school is thriving, our Thrift Shop is holding its own with a three day a week opening, our outside building use has increased somewhat, and a mild winter resulted in lower snow removal and heating costs. All have helped us to meet our financial obligations in 2023. It remains a concern, however, that a small number of very faithful and generous parishioners are providing the majority of our pledged income.

As we look forward to 2024, we need to consider our church budget for the coming year and what part we will individually play in supporting our mission. As you begin to think about your stewardship for the coming year, please consider the familiar parable in the Bible about the master who, before leaving, provides his workers with various “talents”. Upon the master’s return, the workers are asked to account for what they have done with their talents and the master rewards those who used their talents for the master’s benefit.

We are all given talents by the “Master” and we are asked to use them for His benefit. Although some have more than others, we are all asked to use our talents for the benefit of our God. Our talents are as many, and varied, as we are, and our talents can be used in many ways: by volunteering, by teaching, by praying, and by giving a portion of what we have to the church. ARE YOU READY TO USE YOUR TALENT FOR GOD AND THE WORK OF HIS CHURCH? WILL YOU DO YOUR PART?

An estimate of giving for the coming year is enclosed. Please prayerfully consider what part you will take in the operation of your church for the coming year. If you are able, this would be a good time to increase your giving, even by a small amount. If we all work together, we can do great things in our church, in our community, and in the world at large.

In His Service,

  
Ellen Horn, Financial Secretary

**Commitment Sheet: Sharing God's Gifts  
and Bringing Back to God...**

In gratitude for God's many blessings, and to share the Good News and further God's missions through the ongoing work of the Bellport United Methodist Church, this is my/our 2024 giving commitment:

\$ \_\_\_\_\_ \*per (choose only 1):

Week \_\_\_\_\_ Month \_\_\_\_\_ Year \_\_\_\_\_

If you wish, please indicate special designation for the ministries: current expense, benevolence and building fund.

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Phone (s) \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

In addition to my financial commitment *or* though I cannot make a financial commitment at this time, I pledge myself to the ministry of the Bellport United Methodist Church by:

\_\_\_ Praying for the church.

\_\_\_ Offering my time and energy where they are needed.

\_\_\_ Offering my skills, talents and abilities. Share which skills, talents and abilities you would like to offer to the Church: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

The commitment I made here may be revised or cancelled at my request.