



Central United Methodist Church

*30 Union Street North
Concord, NC 28025*

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Rev. Tom Latimer
Senior Pastor

Rev. Savannah Glover
Associate Pastor

October 12, 2022

Dear Members and Friends of Central,

One day, Jesus was teaching a large crowd in Galilee and the hour grew late. His disciples worried over how to feed so many people! They knew they did not have the resources to meet such a staggering need (several thousand people). "Six months wages would not buy enough bread for each to get a little," they complained.

Then, Peter's brother Andrew stepped up with a young boy who offered what he had to Jesus – five barley loaves and two fish.

Jesus received that gift, gave thanks and instructed the disciples to begin serving the crowd. After everyone had eaten, the disciples collected 12 baskets of leftover bread!

When we place ourselves, our gifts, our talents IN GOD'S HANDS, Jesus inevitably multiplies what we give to accomplish His purpose, strengthen the Kingdom of God, heal the children of God and build up the Body of Christ.

That is our true legacy at Central UMC – trusting God to multiply our resources to impact our community and world with the grace and love of God in Jesus Christ.

Historically and currently, Central UMC engages in this work by offering money, support and volunteers to ministries such as the Academic Learning Center, Backpack Buddies, Cabarrus Meals on Wheels, Coltrane LIFE Center, Community Free Clinic, Cooperative Christian Ministry, CVAN Domestic Violence Program, Esther's Heart, Habitat For Humanity, Hospice, Kannapolis Food Pantry, 100 Men Who Care Concord, Ruth Dollars, Salvation Army Shelter and Soup Kitchen, Opportunity House, UMAR, our United Methodist District and Conference Apportionments and many more.

And we have recently continued building our Church Staff with the addition of our full-time Director of Administration and Communication Toni Hagerman and our full-time Director of Christian Formation (children and youth ministries) Liz Boldman.

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So, we are invited to make the leap of faith with our generosity and see how God will multiply our gifts and talents!

With this letter, you will receive an Estimate of Giving sheet for 2023. Please complete, sign and return on October 23. We will provide an opportunity in worship that day for everyone to offer their commitment as a prayerful act of worship. You may also mail your Estimate of Giving to Central UMC, 30 Union St. N, Concord, NC 28025.

Please also find a Time and Talent sheet through which you can indicate ways you would be willing to give of your time and energy to serve the church. If the examples in each section do not match your willingness, please indicate at the bottom the opportunity to serve that best fits you. You may return the Time and Talent sheet on October 23 in worship or to the Church Office at your earliest convenience.

Finally, please pray for Central UMC! Consider all the ways God is blessing, moving, encouraging, loving, forgiving and calling us to serve. To God be the glory!

With so much opportunity around us, we can be like those anxious disciples wondering how they could ever have enough.

OR, we can follow the example of that little boy who gave whatever he had to Jesus ... and trusted God for the results.

God has a great and fruitful future for our Church and our community, let's lean into the abundance of Christ which is always more than enough!

Peace, Tom Latimer