



## Loving Our Neighbours!

*"Do not neglect to do good and to share what you have, for such sacrifices are pleasing to God". (Hebrews 13:16)*

### Dear Members and Friends of Maple Grove United Church:

God provides an abundance of resources for our ministry and mission here at Maple Grove United. Our congregation is rich in faith, service, love, talent, life experience, care for one another, and financial capabilities. We in Canada, and in the Oakville area have been blessed with an abundance of wealth. How does our community offer thanks for God's generosity and respond to God's generosity by serving others?

Last year saw both fewer members in our congregation, and an increase in the average donation. We are so grateful to all members of the congregation for their support in contributing over \$267,000. While we struggled to meet our Stewardship goals, we were able to meet our basic funding needs for our ministries in the Church and our community.

Our ministry budget is raised entirely from folks in the pews and a few other faithful friends. This year our goal is to reach \$275,000 in givings. We have about 110 families who contribute regularly via PAR (pre-authorized remittance) and envelopes. The STEP chart on the next page shows the profile of all donations for last year. The average amount contributed per family was about \$2,500. For many, that is an unattainable stretch. If you are able to reach that mark, please do. Consider giving proportionally, but please do consider giving. Every contribution – small or large - is important and is gratefully received and appreciated!

We invite you to join us over the coming weeks as we hear how we are called in our worship and learning as Christians. We will share stories about why we give; how our generosity makes a difference here at Maple Grove; how we affect the community around us; and how, through the Mission & Service Fund of the United Church, we respond to this call nationally and globally – all components of how we sing thanksgiving to help heal God's World!

Please prayerfully consider how YOU would like to sing thanksgiving and respond to this call. We hope this will be an opportunity to reflect on the blessings in your life and how you can live out your faith in response.

In addition to financial resources, Maple Grove depends on the contributions of time and talent from many dedicated volunteers and lay leaders. New volunteers are always welcome and if you would like to contribute in this way, please approach any of the ministers, staff or members of your church council.

Please consider filling out the attached Commitment Card to pledge your donations for 2020. Your commitment is a way of expressing your faith and joyfully acting upon it. Maple Grove needs you!

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "C. Serles".

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Cameron Serles, Stewardship Committee



## STEP Chart for 2018/2019

| Of all households registered in the congregation: |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |                                                                  |
|---------------------------------------------------|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|------------------------------------------------------------------|
|                                                   |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | 0 households gave over \$200/week or \$10400/year                |
|                                                   |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | 1 households gave between \$150-\$200/week or up to \$10400/year |
|                                                   |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | 3 households gave between \$100-\$150/week or up to \$7800/year  |
|                                                   |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | 22 households gave between \$50-\$100/week or up to \$5200/year  |
|                                                   |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | 13 households gave between \$40-50/week or up to \$2600/year     |
|                                                   |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | 15 households gave between \$30-\$40/week or up to \$2080/year   |
|                                                   |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | 30 households gave between \$20-\$30/week or up to \$1560/year   |
|                                                   |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | 51 households gave between \$10-\$20/week or up to \$1040/year   |
|                                                   |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | 32 households gave between \$5-\$10/week or up to \$520/year     |
|                                                   |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | 55 households gave up to \$5/week or \$260/year                  |

**Please Fill out your 2020 Commitment Card Today (attached or found in the back of the pews) and deposit in the Stewardship box at the Church or leave it with Bobbi-Jo in the Church office.**

Payments can be made by PAR (Pre-Authorized Remittance), cheque, cash, or securities.