

Good morning everyone. Before I start, I would like to recognize all of our veterans. Yesterday was a special day allowing us to honor all those who served in the protection of our country's freedoms. Could I ask all our veterans to please stand if you are able and let's give them a round of applause in thanks for all they have done.

As you all know, we are in the middle of our stewardship season here at UCCPH. Remember our definition of stewardship, "The overseeing and protection of something that is considered to be worth caring for and preserving". Even though we spend the months of October and November talking about it, Stewardship is actually a year round process, and involves the three "t's - Time, Talent and Treasure. By now you have all received the pledge letter from Pastor Tracy and myself which hopefully explains the challenges and opportunities facing us and how the donations received are used for the benefit of all. The financial team met last Sunday for the second time to work on our budget for 2018. As I mentioned a few weeks ago, the total is going to be right around \$165,000.

At this point, I feel it would be appropriate to say a big Thank You to everyone who helped us reach our goal of \$16,500 to pay for the new well. As Pastor Tracey mentioned last week, thanks to your generosity, we have reached a total of over \$18,000 so the well project will go

ahead in the Spring of next year. This just shows what we can do if we put our minds and hearts to the task.

Now for the not so good news, as of last Sunday, we have only received 20 pledges for an amount totaling about 40% of the budgeted revenue amount for 2018. Last year, we had 52 pledges so we have a way to go. To put it in simple terms, we have determined that if each giving unit was able to give an additional \$14/ month, we would reach our budget goal. I realize that there is still plenty of time before the end of the year, however, I hope you will consider making this a priority and either bring or mail your pledge letter to our financial secretary Bill Mathews at your earliest convenience.

Also contained in the pledge letter is a listing of the various ministry teams of the church. There are many ways to satisfy the Time or Talent aspect of stewardship and I hope you will all consider volunteering to be a member of at least one of the teams or ministries of UCCPH.

I want to mention one other way for us to help add revenue and that is the grocery store gift card program. Jeannine Glendenning is the person who runs this program for us. We have preloaded gift cards for Safeway and King Soopers that are available for purchase for \$10 (the preloaded amount). They are very simple to use, you go to the customer service stand and put money onto the card then use the card in lieu of

cash or a credit/debit card when you make a purchase at the store. When the card amount is used up simply reload it and use it some more. Last year we made approximately \$3500 from all of us using these cards and I think that amount could easily be doubled, and the great thing is that it costs you absolutely nothing. As far as I know, we all still need to eat and drink stuff to stay alive, right? We all need to put gas in our cars to get around don't we? Yes these cards can be used to purchase gas too, in fact I am going to get a separate card just for that purpose and I humbly suggest that you all do the same. Here's another idea, with the holidays approaching, consider giving a card as a stocking stuffer to a family member or members and teach them how to use it. The gift that keeps on giving.

OK, that's all for today except I would like all of you to recognize those who have told their stories about their life travels ending up here at UCCPH. A special thank you to JJ Chontos, Ardie Thompson, Gene Albright and Bob Jay, for being willing to do so and we have more to come in the following weeks. I know that we all appreciated hearing from you and thereby getting to know you better. And a special thanks to Nancy Clark who gave us another idea on a simple way that we can help the church and save a bit on our taxes as well.