



*These things will last forever—  
faith, hope, and love—  
and the greatest of these is love.*

1 Corinthians 13:13

Dear Members and Friends of Mountain Shadows Presbyterian Church,

With this letter I am announcing the kick-off of Stewardship 2021, Mountain Shadows' annual stewardship program. Our biblical theme verse above is more often used in weddings than a theme having to do with committing one's time, talent, and treasure. So why is it fitting for Stewardship 2021?

As I have thought about this theme, and its association with weddings, I have come to appreciate just how appropriate it is. After all, weddings are all about the making of vows between two people, on the basis of a deep sense of love and caring between them. In biblical terms, a vow would be called a covenant between two parties, such as the covenant Jesus made the night of his betrayal and ultimate sacrifice on the cross. Luke 22:20 says. "He (Jesus) took the cup in like manner after supper saying, 'This cup is the new covenant in my blood, which is poured out for you.'" Jesus offered a covenant to each of his disciples who became his apostles.

As I strive to be a disciple of Jesus, it's important that I remember my vows or covenants with Him. My Christian vows were solicited by these questions: "Trusting in the gracious mercy of God, do you turn from the ways of sin and renounce evil and its power in the world? Do you turn to Jesus Christ and accept Him as your Lord and Savior, trusting in His grace and love? Will you be Christ's faithful disciple, obeying His Word and showing His love?" I answered, "I do and I will."

As I contemplate the pledge, I will make on Stewardship Commitment Sunday, January 17, 2021, I will reflect on Jesus' covenants with me and on the greatest gift of love to humankind, which Jesus showed in His death and resurrection. I will think about his faith that I will follow Him. I will reflect on how important it is that I meet His Hopes of giving generously of the bounty He has given. I must give generously, lest I disappoint my greatest love. Perhaps He is your greatest love as well?

Thank you and may God bless your deliberations and grant you peace.

Your Stewardship Elder Sam Leeper