



Stewardship 2021

“And now faith, hope, and love abide, these three; and the greatest of these is love.”

1 Corinthians 13:13



Stewardship 2021 Theme

Our stewardship theme for 2021 comes from the the thirteenth chapter of 1 Corinthians. This text is most often associated with weddings. So, how is 1 Corinthians 13:13 a stewardship text?

A traditional definition of stewardship is time, talent and treasure. But we should add temperament to this list. Generosity is a matter of the heart. A good steward is faithful, hopeful, and has a loving heart.

faithful

Faithfulness – not size, status, wealth, or heritage – is God’s measurement for Christians and congregations. All of Christ’s disciples and all of Christ’s congregations are called to be faithful to God’s mission and purpose. Generosity is a **faithful** act of discipleship, wrapped in trust in God and God’s purposes, whether we see them clearly or only in a mirror dimly.

hopeful

Hopefulness is a basic Christian characteristic. Despair and hopelessness can be damaging to congregations and their members. God offers the victory of hope through Christ and the Holy Spirit. To have a future we must live with hope. Generosity is a **hopeful** act of discipleship, made as a statement that God is still at work in the world and in our lives. We partner in these acts of redemption through our generosity.

loving

Loving. In verses 4 – 7 of 1 Corinthians, the apostle Paul unpacks love's characteristics – patience, kindness, and a lack of envy, never boasting or with arrogance, edginess, resentment, and bullying. Christians and congregations must experience and share love that looks like this. It is not optional; it is imperative. Generosity is a **loving** response, made in gratitude for God's love for us.

faithful hopeful loving

Paul concludes Chapter 13 of Corinthians by telling us that faith, hope, and love last. Paul reminds us that even if we practice generosity that leaves us with nothing and even requires our lives, if those incredible gifts have not been given in the spirit of love, the giver has gained nothing. So, as we begin Stewardship 2021, we need to be generous with our commitments of time, talent, and treasure, but these gifts must also be given faithfully, hopefully, and lovingly.



Stewardship 2021 Key Dates

During 2020, we have learned to act as a church without being physically present in worship and on our church campus. So, most of Stewardship 2021 messages and materials will be sent this year by email. Watch your email inbox for these communications. Key dates for Stewardship 2021:

Sunday, December 27: Stewardship 2021 Kick-Off

Monday, December 28: Announcement Letter

Saturday, January 2: Gratitude Report

Sunday, January 3: Moment for Stewardship

Monday, January 4: *faithful* message

Tuesday, January 5: Invitation Letter

Friday, January 8: *hopeful* message

Sunday, January 10: Moment for Stewardship

Monday, January 11: Letter with Pledge Card

Tuesday, January 12: *loving* message

Sunday, January 17: Commitment Sunday