



Westminster Presbyterian Church

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Dear saints,

When you walk through the open doors on a Sunday morning at Westminster, you're warmly greeted simply for being who you are. Our open doors proclaim that we are happy you're here - that you belong as part of our chosen family, as God's beloved. The gifts of our stewardship allow us to open doors for others in our community and around the world to hear that same message: God loves you. Proverbs 18:16 tells us that gifts open doors and offer access to the great. On Epiphany, we celebrated that the Magi traveled so many miles to bring three gifts to Jesus' door. These gifts were not to bribe him but instead the proper adoration for a new King. The gifts that they freely offered led them on a transformative journey to an encounter with the Christ child. The gifts we offer too can transform our lives and the lives of others in Christ's name. Your generous gifts opened many doors in 2023:

The door was opened in **worship**, as two baptisms and numerous Lord's Suppers nourished our souls. Our faithful Minister of Music Elizabeth Barney opened the door to glorifying God through music with our wonderful Chancel Choir, the Blessed Bells, guest musicians, and the new Gospel Music Sunday. We also celebrated our open doors to the LGBTQ+ community with our first Shine Sunday.

Learning opened the doors to growth in our faith, both personally and corporately. Adults continue to engage in lifelong learning through Sunday School and Bible studies. The Rev. Dr. John Williams guest taught our summer study, opening the doors to learning more about Presbyterians and the Bible. Our children and youth curriculum is revisiting the biblical basics to make sure our younger members have a firm foundation for all the open doors that are yet to come. Our nursery children are walking through open doors of faith through stories and songs with the guidance of our Director for Children and Youth Brooklyn Richardson.

Your generous **giving** of time, talents, and money opened the doors to God's hopeful future. Our Swift Elementary volunteers gave their time to help children learn to read, opening up a whole new world of opportunities for them. Our first post-COVID-19 youth mission trip opened the doors to the youth group's hearts and minds to the reality of inner-city poverty. They also had the chance to open doors for those in need through hands-on service and action. Our faithful mission efforts through NEW DAY, Quilters, Welcome Home, and Living Waters for the World continued to open doors for rebuilding lives. We opened the door for autistic children as well, leasing space to the nonprofit River School during weekdays and enhancing our spaces with sensory tools.

The door was opened to **connection**, as we saw the return of the all-church UTA Baseball Game and the Ladies' Salad Supper. The doors opened even wider as we kicked off Men's Masterclass, a new men's group, and our Ladies' Lunch Out continued to grow and deepen relationships. Doors were opened in our Connect groups and special events for friendship and growing in Christ's love.

We are so grateful for the continued faithfulness and generosity of our church and WPC friends. By offering our gifts at Westminster, we are able to open doors for all kinds of people: gifts of food, gifts of space to gather, gifts of quilts, gifts of education, gifts of worship. All these gifts work together to open the door of faith in Jesus Christ, even if it's just a little bit at a time. Our Session has an ambitious budget for 2024 to keep building on the momentum of the Holy Spirit. Your gifts open doors within and outside our walls. (continued)

Imagine how many more doors could open if we all increased our gifts just that little bit. Can you step up your gift by \$1 or one NEW DAY bag or one VBS dinner or one month of curriculum or one guest musician or one week of Pastor Kate's Continuing Education? Can you open one more door in 2024 for hungry NEW DAY children or Swift educators who need a morale boost? When we open doors in God's name, we find God opening doors within our hearts as well.

We invite you to prayerfully discern if you can make a first-time pledge or increase your already-faithful giving in 2024. Through the giving of your time, talents, treasure, and legacy gifts, we keep the doors open at WPC for all of those who need Christ's grace and love. Even if you feel like your gifts are small, God uses them to open doors! We are fortunate that several families have already prepaid their 2024 pledge in 2023; please go ahead and fill out a pledge card that reflects those generous gifts. Please bring the enclosed pledge card with you to worship on **Stewardship Commitment Sunday, January 28** when we will start receiving our 2024 pledges. You are also welcome to mail your pledge card or drop it in the church mailbox.

Your pledge card is so much more than numbers; it tells a story of open doors and open hearts. Open the doors for Sunday School, Beer Tasters, and Women's Circle. Open the doors for our growing children and youth ministries. Open the doors to continue supporting our wonderful choir and music ministries. Open the doors in prayer for WPC and the communities we serve. We give thanks for God first opening the door of relationship through the gifts of Jesus Christ. Let us glorify him by opening new doors in this new year!

Grace and peace,



Rev. Kate McGee & Finance/Stewardship Committee



*Rooted in God's love and grace, we worship, learn, give, and connect, refreshing people with Living Water.
We reach out to share the Water with all who thirst.*

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