

# ABUNDANT GENEROSITY



We have never experienced a year like the one we are currently living in. In-person worship and other gatherings canceled, learning to provide worship and other experiences online, and caring for one another from a distance, just to name a few. At the same time, God has very clearly been active in our life together. Here are just a few of the ways you have shared this with us:

- When I first volunteered to make calls to other congregation members, I wasn't sure how I would go about it, but I felt that nudge that meant it was something I was supposed to do. That was March and now it's September and what a blessing it has been to me to get to know some folks and to get to know others better.

***Kathy K.***

- It's easy to get overwhelmed by everything happening at school from exams to commitments. Receiving the care packages in the height of stressful times is a much-needed reminder that I have a team of church members supporting me back at home.

***Bridget E.***

- Providing backpacks and supplies has been a big help to our youth and their families especially now when families are facing an even more difficult time with the basics such as food and rent. Taking the burden off of parents by giving their children necessary school supplies allowed them to focus on putting food on the table while knowing that their children can start school prepared and ready to learn!

***Marie Estrada, Middle Earth***

- The COVID pandemic has been profoundly difficult, from facing the death and illness of loved ones to confining isolation away from those close to me. Gathering in the Word has been the one sure reminder that God's love still abounds as ever as I celebrate His word and communion surrounded by my brothers and sisters.

***Florindo G.***

- Sometimes lately, being a bit of a recluse has been easier for me than being sociable from a distance. But when Kathy calls to check in with me, I'm reminded that even so, I'm still a beloved child of God and a valued part of God's family at Good Shepherd.

***Cathy T.***

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## SEEK IN PRAYER GOD'S WILL FOR YOUR GIVING

What do we tend to do when the church asks for our support?

The common tendency is to consult our spouse, our budget, our bills, our income, our tax situation, our investments, our accountant, etc., and then determine what we can afford or spare.

Instead we should, as Christians, seek to discover what God's will is for us in our giving. A Christian pledge can really only be made on our knees, seeking God's will in fervent prayer.

Prayer is an integral part of the Christian life. The decision on how much to give should not be made without seeking first in prayer what God would have us do and listening for the voice of God in the prayer conversation.

Giving to the church is not a financial transaction. Instead, giving to the church is a spiritual exercise undertaken only after conversation with God.

