November 14, 2024

Dear Beloved Friends of the UMC in Wayne,

On behalf of the United Methodist Church in Wayne’s “All Creatures Great and Small” stewardship team, we’re writing to share the good news about this year’s campaign, and to invite you to help with this important, joyful work.

Last week you received a letter from Pastor Ninabeth, reflecting on how being a “steward” isn’t just about giving a gift – it’s about protecting a path, watching over a house, helping to take care of what matters most for the wider community.

In Psalm 104, an ancient song of celebration, the singer praises God as the creator and caretaker of every creature, from the biggest whale to the smallest sparrow, blessing all of us with breath, life, nourishment, and a bright and beautiful world. In fact, Psalm 104 is the first time in the Bible the word “Alleluia!” (meaning, “Praise God!”) is used, an exclamation inspired by the beauty of creation.

*Alleluia!* For creating, redeeming, and sustaining the birds of the air and fish of the sea.

*Alleluia!* For creating human beings in the divine image, called to be stewards: protecting the most vulnerable, caring for those in need, speaking up for the unheard.

*Alleluia!* For creating the gift of the UMC in Wayne, a community called to this protecting, caring, and speaking up – not for our own benefit alone, but for the love of the world. Hallelujah for stewardship!

Enclosed are both a pledge card for your prayerful consideration, and an “all ages” pledge poster, perfect for coloring, posting on the fridge, and/or adding to the Communion table next Sunday! Our hope is that our hearts are filled with gratitude for the gifts in our lives and the call to be generous and good stewards, so all our neighbors might thrive.

In Joy and Hope,

*Kim Grebel, Patty Hassler, & Tim Cooper*

The “All Creatures Great and Small” Stewardship Team