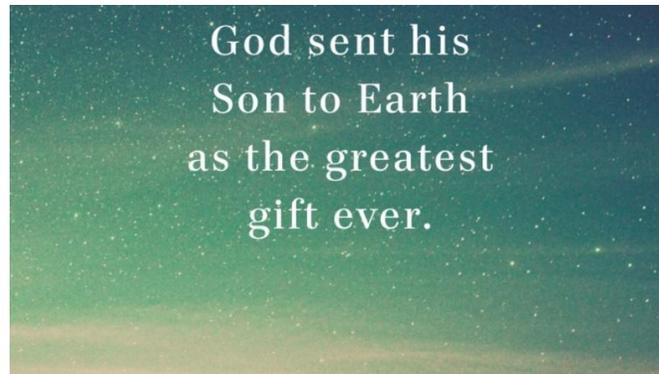


ANNA KRESGE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
MARCH TO THE MANGER
CHRISTMAS 2019



"⁷You must each decide in your heart how much to give. And don't give reluctantly or in response to pressure. 'For God loves a person who gives cheerfully.'⁸And God will generously provide all you need. Then you will always have everything you need and plenty left over to share with others. ⁹As the Scriptures say, 'They share freely and give generously to the poor. Their good deeds will be remembered forever.'¹⁰For God is the one who provides seed for the farmer and then bread to eat. In the same way, he will provide and increase your resources and then produce a great harvest of generosity in you. ¹¹Yes, you will be enriched in every way so that you can always be generous. And when we take your gifts to those who need them, they will thank God. ¹²So two good things will result from this ministry of giving – the needs of the believers in Jerusalem will be met, and they will joyfully express their thanks to God. ¹³ As a result of your ministry, they will give glory to God. For your generosity to them and to all believers will prove that you are obedient to the Good News of Christ. ¹⁴And they will pray for you with deep affection because of the overflowing grace God has given to you. ¹⁵Thank God for this gift too wonderful for words!"

- 2 Corinthians 2:7-14, New Living Testament

How do we respond to God's awesome, fantastic, free gift? Do we accept, receive, live in and share His gift to us? Do we love God first, foremost and always? Do we love others as God loves us? Do we love ourselves as God loves us? Do we believe God loves us so much He sent His only Son to take on all our sin?

This year we have two opportunities to bring a special offering to the manger; the first, at the end of the Choir Cantata on December 15th and the second, during our Christmas Eve Service, December 24th at 7:00 pm.

Proceeds from this year's March to the Manger offering will be used to bolster our 2020 General Fund Budget in 3 ways: Improve our ability to respond to those in need by increasing planned Benevolence spending; assist with mortgage payments; and pay for some of the Unfinanced Maintenance Requirements identified by the Board of Trustees. Please pray about your gift, then be obedient to that which God lays on your heart.

We give thanks and praise for God's abundant blessing in our lives; and we ask that with the gifts we receive, we will improve our planned missions and ministries. Please designate your gift to "March to the Manger" offering. Your gift will be distributed across the three areas of focus.

Merry Christmas from the Finance Committee, members of the Administrative Council, and Pastor Ed;
may God's blessings reach deep within you this coming year!