



Friends in Christ,

In our last letter, we reflected on how rhythms of exile and return, diaspora and homecoming, have always been a part of Christian life. And that's so true.

The beauty of worship — gathering together in the midst of a world full of discord and anger. The wonder of music — singing together in the midst of a world full of silence and loneliness. The sweetness of sacraments — celebrating together the waters of baptism and the nourishment of Communion in the midst of a world full of dust and hunger. And the joy of service — working together in the midst of a world full of broken systems and broken hearts.

In short, if the world is full of exile, First Presbyterian Church is a community of return. A place to come home to, again and again. A congregation in which we can tangibly experience God's ancient promise to "bring you back to this place," and "give you a future with hope."

That's why we're here. That's who we are: a waystation of hope along life's way. It's the same reason God chose to be born with us as Jesus of Nazareth, to help us build bridges of connection and companionship — so that everyone might experience a homecoming to God's new world of joy, justice, and love.

We invite you to continue praying and giving thanks for all the ways our faith, our prayers, our worship, our music, our sacraments, our building, our service, and our lives help bridge the gaps that divide creation. And we hope to see you on Giving Sunday on October 27 for our grand celebration of God's gift of "a future with hope."

Faithfully,

Your Stewardship and Finance Committee:

Brandi Clark (chair)
Beverly Dowling
Stephanie Bryan

Julie Anderson
Howard Elliott
Marna Weaver

Jessica Commeret
Al Holtzcher

Matt Croy
PJ Milligan