

*“May the God of hope
fill you with all joy and
peace in believing, so
that you may abound in
hope by the power of the
Holy Spirit”*

Romans 15:13

ABOUND IN HOPE BY THE POWER OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

God is doing a new thing at UPUMC. God's renewing Spirit brings us **hope, joy, promise and power**. Now is the time to celebrate God's work at UPUMC, rise to the challenge of what God is calling us to become, and commit ourselves to the funding of UPUMC's life-giving and life-changing mission and ministries in 2020.

We pray that you would enter into this season of generosity with an open heart, mind, and spirit. God is changing lives and can change the world through UPUMC. God is calling each of us to grow in our faith so that UPUMC can continue to change lives and change the world. Taking the next step (or the first step!) is your pathway to meet God's call to help us grow in ministry and as disciples.

Over the coming weeks, we'll engage in a congregation-wide discussion of where God is leading UPUMC and how our collective generosity with God's grace can expand our ministry in Dallas and beyond. You will have an opportunity to share an estimate of your 2020 giving with us by filling out a pledge card or making a pledge online. You will receive a pledge card and a letter from me in the coming days.

Your estimate of giving plays a critical part in our church's ability to confidently plan ministries for the coming year. Constance Harp, our church's Director of Finance will total all of the pledges made prior to October 27 and provide that total to the church staff and church council as they begin to prepare our 2020 plan for ministry.

We hope that you would prayerfully consider how God is calling you to be a part of the UPUMC story and we look forward to living that story alongside you.

Grateful,



Dr. Keith Payne Boone
UPUMC, Senior Pastor

“University Park United Methodist Church has responded faithfully and intentionally to God's call for our community and congregation.

Guided by a clear vision, governed and structured to deliver on our well-considered purpose, and well down the road of walking our walk, UPUMC is positioned to know and love our community well and feed and challenge our Christian brothers and sisters to more faithful discipleship.

As we celebrate our 80th anniversary, we are beginning a bold era in the life of UPUMC in which we offer people who we dearly love a new way of living and growing in Jesus Christ.”



ABOUNDING IN HOPE

Recent Milestones to Celebrate

2019 has been a year of tremendous growth and transformation at UPUMC. We believe that God is calling us to offer others a new way of living and growing through Jesus Christ and we have seen the new growth throughout our congregation this year.

Through the tremendous generosity of our congregation in the **Forward Together Capital Campaign** UPUMC's debt has been paid off in full! Savings on interest payments resulting from the retirement of our debt have been earmarked toward funding innovative ministries that will help us reach more of our community and more deeply engage with our members. Forward Together gifts in excess of our debt have been applied to critical maintenance and repairs throughout the church.

Church staff and lay leaders affirmed the priorities identified through the 2018 Big Rocks visioning process and set five key strategies for 2019 and beyond: **Hospitality, Outreach, Communications, Worship and Discipleship.**

- Alignment of resources related to staff, laity, strategies and funding is yielding results in new members, increased guest engagement and outreach, and a new website design coming late 2019 and early 2020.
- We have grown our outreach to children, youth and senior life ministries this past year. We celebrate the appointment of Rev. Victora Robb Powers as the Senior Associate Pastor to the diverse and gifted staff of UPUMC.
- Several generous families have contributed to make much needed improvements to the landscaping on our church property, providing a welcoming and beautiful exterior for our church home.

As an additional testimony to the abounding hope at UPUMC, several individuals and families committed to exceptional gifts to fund operations over a three year span. These commitments addressed the gap between the 2019 estimate of giving for our operating budget and anticipated expenses. Because of these special commitments, UPUMC is in a much better financial position than in recent years.



“ I see God's presence in the Youth Center – quite literally a “sanctuary” from the pressures and struggles kids face in the world today. They know they are loved, affirmed, and celebrated as children of God. If we had more funding, I would love to be able to use our Activity Center for community team sport practices and games like basketball and volleyball. The floor needs repairs, new basketball goals need to be attached to the walls to be raised and lowered as needed, and staff would need to be in place to schedule and facilitate.”

Kim Brannon



The Challenge for Now

To fully engage our vision everyone is needed. Please join us during the Sunday School hour on Sunday, October 20 to learn how even a small percentage increase in church-wide giving can make a major impact on our ability to minister to our current members and the community beyond our doors.

If you are unable to attend the October 20 session and would like more information, please contact Keith at kboone@upumc.org

WHAT IF YOU MET THE CHALLENGE ?

FIRST-TIME GIVER

I plan to make a first gift to God's work.

PERCENTAGE GIVER

I plan in advance what percentage of my income to give in the upcoming year.

GROWING GIVER

I plan to increase the percentage of income given each year to reach a tithe by a specific date.

TITHER

I plan to return a tithe (10%) of my income to God's work through the church each year.

ABUNDANT GIVER

I plan to make offerings (a gift over and above a tithe) as led by the Holy Spirit.

“Coming to UPUMC totally changed my life! I want to thank the church for this huge opportunity. I see God working in my life in indescribable ways and part of that is thanks to so much support and help from the church. Thanks for helping me have a better education and a better life by getting closer to God. “

Ezri Gomez.

UPUMC LPI Intern

