

# *Every Perfect Gift*

*Like good stewards of the manifold grace of God, serve one another with whatever gift each of you has received. – 1 Peter 4:10*

July 26, 2021

Dear Members and Friends of the Church of the Mediator

Thank you for your past contributions and your commitment to continue contributing in 2022. As we look to the next year, we are more committed than ever to the ministry and love we share with our community and our neighbors. Mediator's ministry is your ministry and is funded through your gifts — your generous offerings given in grace and love. Your generous offerings help neighbors in our surrounding communities.

Members and friends were helping others in our community during quarantine who needed food due to lost jobs, reduced wages, or whatever put them into a situation where your generosity to Mediator gave them help and hope. During 2021, Mediator has sponsored or supported Mobile Food Truck distributions that have fed 114 households or 272 individuals with 13,243 pounds of fresh/frozen food. These figures represent only 3 food trucks, but we plan to sponsor or help with another 3-4 food trucks before the end of 2021. Of the 6-7 food trucks we supported, Mediator paid for 2 trucks totaling \$1100.

In addition to the Mobile Food Truck ministry and our support in the community, we must continue to maintain our church building and pay our staff, Mtr. Darlene and Candice. Your generosity this past year and moving forward into 2022 will ensure we are able to assist those that need help in our surrounding communities, but also ensure our church building, inside and out, is kept safe with required maintenance and we are able to compensate our staff that loves us as deeply as we love them.

Over the past few years, the number of families/individuals that commit to giving has been on the decline. From 2019 to 2021, the number of pledges decreased by approximately 12%. Our pledging dollars fell 7% from 2019 to 2020, and 9% from 2020 to 2021. Some of this can be attributed to member losses (deaths, unfortunately, as well as others moving away) and



possible pandemic-related issues affecting family budgets. For the 2021 budget, the Vestry agreed on using savings to balance the budget as a balanced budget is required by diocese guidelines.

What does the above mean to you? It shows we have a desire and willingness to help those in our community that are in need, but that we must pray and look at how we, collectively, can come together to meet our financial obligations and spiritual needs for our church families. The Gospel is rich with examples of how our faith kindles our love for each other and our Christian responsibility to share our love with the world. Again, we invite you and your household to pray and to consider how your generous response to God’s call has been shaped by our community and the friends who gather with us each time we walk through Mediator’s doors.

Thank you for being a part of Church of the Mediator and for your gifts to the 2022 campaign. We ask that you complete the enclosed Pledge form and turn it in no later than Sunday, August 29. You may place it in the offering plate during the service, mail it to the church (P.O. Box 223, Harbert, MI 49115), drop it off in the church office during business hours, or scan it and email to [treasurer@mediatorharbert.com](mailto:treasurer@mediatorharbert.com).

Please reach out to Mtr. Darlene, your Wardens, or any Vestry member if you have questions about our Stewardship 2022 campaign, the current budget, or any other topic.

In the spirit of generosity, love, and financial support for our Priest, our Administrative Assistant, our community, our building, and each other.

Your Vestry members,

David Lewis –  
Senior Warden

Paul Cromheecke –  
Junior Warden

Susan Collins -  
Christian Formation

Judy Joseph - Lay  
Eucharistic Ministry

Barbara Ryan - Prayer  
Walk/Stations of the  
Cross liaison

Jan Anderson -  
Worship & Music

Harold Russell -  
Seasonal Member  
liaison

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Note 1: Stewardship 2022 material, including this letter and a link to the Pledge form, is available by visiting the church website ([www.mediatorharbert.com](http://www.mediatorharbert.com)) and selecting the Outreach & Ministries > Stewardship tab.

Note 2: Please consider setting up online giving by visiting the Giving page on the website.