



Dear New Providence members and friends,

I can only imagine that, like me, you are feeling the stress of this pandemic and all its related issues. When you top that off with a hotly contested presidential election and a racial reckoning that has taken this country by storm, we're understandably exhausted, but there is important work to be done.

For that reason, NPPC's stewardship team has decided not to inundate you with emails and/or postcards... yet. You know that in this stewardship season, our goal is to secure financial commitments that ensure our ministries can go forward as planned in the coming months. "Stewardship is heart work," and our prayer is that you know that already.

Over the last 8 months, the members and friends of New Providence have been incredibly generous. Like almost every church in this country, we had to move everything online in March. But you responded in unprecedented ways. Because of your giving, we have yet to furlough or lay off a single employee. For that alone, I am grateful.

Even more, church leaders are adapting. Our children's programming has continued in virtual spaces. We have celebrated (in safer and smaller venues) the lives of saints of this congregation. The Community Food Connection and Good Neighbors continue to give hope to those who have lost job and incomes. Our Parish Nurse is reaching out to members in need of personal contact. This past Tuesday night, we served 306 drive-thru Welcome Table meals... the highest number since 2018.

All of that says to me that despite the challenges, New Providence continues to provide a distinctive ministry in Maryville and Blount County. Life in our community would be very, very different if we were not here.

And, truth be told, New Providence would be very different if you were not here. Your giving matters, whether it's a dollar a week or a tithe of your 6+ figure income. No gift is unimportant.

As you consider your response over the next few days (please let us know by November 1), I hope you know how important you are not only to Blount County, but also to our world.

Stewardship is Heart Work. I am glad we can do it together.

Emily Anderson
Pastor/Head of Staff

A word of explanation: this pledge card gives three opportunities for your giving. You may choose one, two or perhaps even all three.

- The **operating budget** is primary, and funds everything NPPC does in ministry and mission, including programs, mission support giving, staff salaries and building repairs.
- The **building fund** is a holding spot to make payments for our remaining debt on the Westminster Wing, currently about \$1.1 million. Gifts to this fund mean that we do not have to finance debt service out of our operating budget.
- The **per capita apportionment** is the amount that all Presbyterian congregations pay per member to support the work of the denomination at Presbytery, Synod and General Assembly levels. Currently, the cost is estimated at \$62/person.