The Caritela

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October 2026

PASTOR'S PEN

Giving Until It Costs Something!

Greetings to all United Methodists and Friends!

Every year we have our Stewardship Drive, or what we simply call Pledges or giving. We do this because we love God and his church. It is one way of saying, thank you Lord for all that You have given us.

We know that life is not easy. Many of us face financial struggles, health concerns, and many responsibilities. Sometimes we may honestly say, I want to give, but I have so many things that I need to pay first. God understands our situation. Yet the story of the widow's offering in Mark 12:41–44 reminds us that stewardship is not about comparing our gifts with others. Jesus saw the widow's heart, not just the amount she gave.

I am reminded of a single mother with seven children whose only source of income was a small rice farm. Life was difficult for them, the harvest is every three months, but she would often pray, Lord, teach me that everything I have belongs to You. Even when money was tight for her, she remained faithful in giving. He gave generously to the Lord without holding anything back, but she trusted God. Years later, all her children finished their education, and God never abandoned her family. Her secret was simple she always remembered to give back to God what belongs to God.

This reminds me of an apple tree. If we want an apple tree to grow and bear fruit, it needs water, good soil, sunlight, and care. The same is true with our church. Our giving helps provide the support needed for the ministries and programs of Ogden FUMC. It helps keep our mission moving forward and allows our church to continue serving. If an apple tree receives no care, it becomes weak and may eventually die. The same can happen to a church. If there is no care, participation, and giving, it may eventually die.

So, my dear friends, my encouragement for us this Stewardship season is simple Look at what God has entrusted to you. Pray about it. Think about your needs and responsibilities. And then ask God, "What can I give? Not, what can I give without feeling anything? but, Lord, what can I give that will help your church continue to grow and bear fruit?

I humbly invite you to join us in this ministry of giving for the church. It is my prayer that we will be able to give our pledges and offerings by October 25, 2026, so that together, as one church family we may present them to the Lord.

Thank you
In Gods Vineyard,
Pastor Apriniel Rufino Salmon

BOOK TALK

The Book Talk book of the month is *Warrior Girl Unearthed* by Angeline Boulley. Join us on **Monday, October 12, 2026, at 2:00 p.m.** at the home of Cheryl Thompson.

SUNDAY SCHEDULE

8:45 a.m. Adult Sunday School
10:00 a.m. In-person Worship and via Facebook Live
10:00 a.m. Children's Sunday School
9:30-11:30 a.m. Nursery for children ages 0-5
11:15 a.m. Youth Group

FELLOWSHIP HOUR

Fellowship time host sign-ups for October and November are now available on the clipboard table in the narthex. **Thank you, September hosts.** The coffee and treats after worship services are much appreciated!

OCTOBER MISSION EMPHASIS

Through the Craft Fair fundraiser (Oct. 23 and Oct. 24, 2026) our congregation and friends help five local charities. Last month we shared information on LANTERN HOUSE SHELTER. This month we share information on four charities, all 501 c3 facilities.

Established in 1945, **YOUR COMMUNITY CONNECTION (YCC)** offers services and programs for women and children of families impacted by domestic abuse, sexual violence and bullying. A phone crisis line is open 24/7. Transitional housing assists those who meet criteria via a screening process. Training and skill-based events and programs assist with job searches. Requests for legal assistance occur frequently , as well as requests for counseling for recognition of bullying and dangers associated with social media scammers.

FAMILY COUNSELING SERVICES is available with a lengthy history of benefitting those suffering from various mental health challenges (since 1966). Regardless of income or ability to pay, sessions are offered in Spanish and English. Currently, over half of seekers are under the age of 25. Sobriety programs, suicide prevention, healing from trauma of many types …the doors are open and welcoming.

OGDEN RESCUE MISSION on Wall Ave. has a sign in the front yard letting motorists know needs, such as milk, oatmeal, detergents, etc. Established in 1965 for families, now the focus is homeless men. Motto is " Restoring lives in the name of Jesus." Conservative evangelistic messages begin the daily routines.

JOYCE HANSON HALL FOOD PANTRY, the largest pantry in northern Utah, is part of Catholic Community Services statewide. Fridays are reserved for seniors (above age 60) and disabled. Items available include hygiene products, baby diapers and formula.

Volunteers deliver food boxes to homebound and disabled. Recall our August Mission emphasis was Pantry Packs—gallon size bags filled with easy to prepare foods for children distributed through some schools in Weber and Davis counties. Many children need food on weekends when school lunches are not served. Pantry Packs is another asset available through this food pantry.

The Mission Committee appreciates your generous support during the Oct. Mission emphases. All loose change and undesignated offerings will go to the 5 charities: YCC, Family counseling Services, Ogden Rescue Mission, Lantern House, and Joyce Hanson Hall Food Pantry. Please label checks memo line with " October Mission Emphases." Questions? Contact Becky Senekjian (Chair) or Jennie Sambamurthi (United Women in Faith).

OCTOBER 10 YARD WORK DAY

Our annual fall yard work day is scheduled for Saturday, Oct. 10, beginning at 9:00 a.m. Please plan to come and lend a hand with weeding, pruning, mowing, and the many other tasks that need to be done in the yard before cold weather sets in. Please bring work gloves and tools.

CHILDREN'S MINISTRY

This October in Sunday School we will be learning about patience. In Psalm 37:7, we read, Be still before the LORD and wait patiently for him. Do you have trouble waiting for things sometimes? I know I do, but together with God's

help we can practice this Fruit of the Spirit.

Thank you to everyone who came to our playground cleanup in September. We had a great time and competed in two contests inspired by Emma Lubes's grandmother. Congratulations to Kody Storey and Elle Morales who won the most

weeds collected and Amanda Sorensen who won the longest root. We will be able to enjoy our playground through the fall!

If you were not able to come the parent's meeting, please see Amanda Sorensen to get forms for this year and a copy of our new Safer Sanctuaries Policy.

Also, we would like to ask for Sunday School volunteers. We have had a few teachers that were not able to continue this year or not volunteer as often. This has left us a bit short handed. We are in need of teachers or assistant teachers (assistants do not need to plan lessons). You will need a background check done if you have not had one done with the church in the past two years. Please talk to Amanda Sorensen for more information.

MEMORIAL COMMITTEE NEWS

This is just a reminder about our "Tree of Life" in the Narthex. Donations can be made to the church in memory or in honor of someone. Giving criteria is as follows: $500 to $4999 for a leaf. $5000 and up for a rock. Endowment gifts are also counted towards a leaf or rock. If you have any questions, please speak to a Memorial Committee member.

NOMINATING FOR 2027

The Nominations Committee will be meeting **October 4 (BY ZOOM) at 5:00 p.m. and October 18 (in person) at 11:20 a.m.** to line up volunteers who will serve on our various committees and boards in the coming year and beyond. Please begin thinking now if you would like to serve God and the church in some new or different capacity. Thank you to all our wonderful volunteers who make our ministry possible!

EDUCATION FUND CREATED

Our pastor and his family have found out that the costs of education in the United States are much more expensive than in the Philippines. This has caused stress for Pastor and Lea as they want their children to continue the classes and extracurricular activities that they enjoy.

The SPR committee has been told that congregation members would like to start an Education Fund to help with saving toward school fees that have been unexpected.

If you would like to contribute to help with the Salmon children's expenses, make your check to First United Methodist Church and mark it for **Education Fund**.

CHURCH GAME NIGHT

You're invited to the Church Night activity on **Friday, October 30 at 6:00 pm!** Please bring potluck snacks and games to share.

WORLD COMMUNION SUNDAY OFFERING

October 5 is World Communion Sunday. Besides celebrating the sacrament with other Christians around the globe, it also means we United Methodists will receive donations that support racial and ethnic students. There is a special offering envelope for the cause included with this newsletter.

Your generosity continues to provide scholarships, grants, mentoring and training for leadership development. By policy:

- 55% of the offering provides scholarships for graduate students from the U.S. and other countries.
- 35% supports racial and ethnic scholarships for students pursuing ordained ministry and includes a mentoring program.
- 15% funds Ethnic-In-Service Training Grant for leadership development, recruitment, training, and retention of ethnic United Methodist persons in leadership positions in every level of the church and its ministry.

The United Methodist Church, the world, and our communities are in a time of transition. Now, perhaps more than ever, we are called to extend healing and hope which will guide us to becoming a new creation in Christ. Through our gifts and support, we can invest in talented, qualified students from around the globe to transform the world as witnesses for Christ!

Barbara and I went to thank everyone for their cards messages and phone calls on our ongoing health problems and the health problems of our family. Your support has been very helpful in dealing with these ongoing problems in our family.

God bless you 🙏
Gary & Barbara Phillis