



# FROM THE PASTOR

“In the same way, **let your light** shine before others, so that they may see **your** good works and give glory to **your** Father in heaven.” Matthew 5:16 NRSV

Dear Friends,

As we approach November, we will begin our annual commitment drive in support of the day to day operations of our ministry here at FLC. (If you will recall we had between March and April a separate commitment campaign just for the retirement of the debt on our building.)

I know what it's like to get another appeal for money, but in my two and a half years here at FLC, I don't work on this as a chore, but because I believe most enthusiastically in our inward and outward witness as a community of faith. I think an annual commitment drive allows time to give thanks and celebrate what we've done, and what we enthusiastically, with the help of God, would like to do in the future.

So, I prayerfully chose the theme, from Matthew 5:16, thinking about all beautiful pictures we have of our church with the northern lights. I like to think the northern lights are especially meaningful with our long hours of darkness in the winter months. This also helps us think of John's Gospel; "The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it." John 1:5 NRSV.

We've been shedding God's light here since 1944 in many ways in worship and in service. For example, a welcome was extended to troops stationed here in 1944 by having an armed forces welcome center. Today we offer two very distinct services of worship to help folks experience the light of Christ. We've ensured that those need a light during their addictions have a place to meet. We've been partners with Foodbank for over twenty-five years. This is just a very partial list of how we have endeavored to let the light shine here.

We face many challenges today so sometimes we wonder what's happening to our church as well as other churches. But make no mistake there is still darkness, and a need for Christ's light to shine. How can you, let Christ's light shine? How can we as a body of Christ let light shine so others may bear witness to God's presence in their midst? I believe this stewardship commitment time in our church life gives us such a time to prayerfully respond.

May we give thanks for what God has done in our midst to have the light shine. Let us look to God, so that Christ's light will continue to shine bright in 2018.

Your Brother in Christ,

John

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