

Dear Ones in the Family of God

The statement, 'Our Pledge is Our Vote,' resonated deeply with me. When we make a pledge, we're not just contributing financially; we're casting a vote for the values and mission of BCUMC. We're investing in a community that fosters spiritual growth, offers support, and serves others.

This year's Generosity Campaign theme, 'Devoted to Generosity,' is fitting. The word 'generosity' is rooted in the Latin word '*generosus*,' which signifies noble qualities like magnanimity and kindness. True generosity involves giving freely, without expecting anything in return.

Jesus himself emphasized the importance of selfless giving. He taught, 'Love your enemies, do good, and lend, expecting nothing in return' (Luke 6:35). He also cautioned against giving for public recognition, stressing the importance of giving in secret without expecting anything in return (Matthew 6:2-4).

We support BCUMC with our time, talents and treasures, because we believe in the mission and ministries of our church. We give our vote whenever we give our offerings to the church. We vote for the continuation and thriving of our Sunday School program, Worship Services, Prayer ministries, HOPE HOUSE ministries, Men's Group, Women's Group and so on.

As we conclude the Generosity Campaign on November 17th, let's cast our votes for the future of BCUMC. Let's commit to supporting its mission and ministries, ensuring that our community continues to thrive and make a positive impact.

Before that, we have such a critical national election day soon. I pray for the election with the following prayer that I shared a month ago. It is from the UM Creation Justice (<https://umcreationjustice.org/blessing-of-the-ballots-four-prayers/>)

"Prayer at the ballot box"

Creator, Deliverer, Light of lights. As I post/submit my ballot, let there be hope! Bless this ballot and the ballots of my neighbors. Let our choices rise with justice, kindness, and peace. Let us bring joy to this nation. Let our neighborhoods, our families, and the whole community of creation be blessed. In this public space, in this public act, let my ballot and my faithful citizenship be a mark of hope. For I am rooted in the good of this Earth and the love of God. Amen.

Let's pray and hope that we have enough votes for a nation that is hopeful for everyone, full of justice, kindness and peace, filled with joy and blessings! May God help us all!

"Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, and give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you!" (1 Thessalonians 5:16-18)



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