



## Grand Blanc UMC

### How Can I Possibly Say Thank You

By: Pastor Brian West

a pledge – for the upcoming 2021 year. Perhaps this is even your first time making a pledge. As you know, we rely on these commitments to set our church budget for the coming year. They help us better understand the resources we can anticipate in order to fund ministries we've come to love, and even new ways of sharing the Gospel.

With this year being altogether different, we know it may take a bit of time for all of your pledge cards to come in, be it through the mail, in person, or online. Please know that it is never to late to return your pledge card. But, I also want you to know something else, and that is my immense gratitude for your committed pledge and for your faithful support of this church's ministry.

In the midst of preaching about gratitude and generosity, I've spent a lot of time thinking about how I could adequately express my thanksgiving to you, as part of this church family, for your commitment to give out of cheerful generosity. The problem is, I'm not entirely convinced that there is a way for me to *sufficiently* express my gratitude to you. As I have shared with you my experiences with giving over my lifetime, I understand that this kind of giving requires some sacrifice, a great deal of trust, and a leap of faith from time to time. And so, as I find myself asking, *is a thank you note enough to express my gratitude?* I find my answer being this: probably not.

So, here is how I am planning to thank you.

I will give thanks for you and your gifts when we serve the children in our church and community with programs and outreach that your giving provides for. I will give thanks for you and your offerings when we're able to buy and share with a 3<sup>rd</sup> grader their very own Bible so that they can discover a God who will walk on water for them. I will give thanks for you and your giving when someone receives ashes during Lent and, with tears, discovers God's grace for the first time. I will give thanks for you and your generosity when I meet with the staff of this church and see the amazing gifts, abilities, and faithfulness they bring to their work for this church and for the Gospel of Jesus Christ. I will give thanks as I stand at the pulpit, in the snow, or somewhere in our community and have the humble opportunity to share this simple truth with someone: "you are a child of God."

I will and do give thanks for your giving because it will help us to be the church that God is calling us to be. Your generosity will touch and change lives. Your generosity will help to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world. Your generosity will help to ensure that we will always be a church family – *friends in Christ exercising love, hope, and grace to enrich all lives*. Your generosity will do more than you and I could ever possibly imagine.

For that and for you, I give an abundance of thanks!

Peace,  
Pastor Brian