

Gather in...
Faith, Compassion, and Abundance

Dear CPC Members and Friends,

Scripture reminds us of the many and faithful ways that God gathers people together. We, who love because God first loved us, are God's people; an extension of the body of Christ. As part of this body, it is our privilege to join with others in faith, compassion, and abundance.

This year we have been inspired by the hymn "Gather Us In," by Marty Haugen, in the ways that it sings a message of hope into being. And so, the Generosity Team has focused on the many ways that we, individually and collectively, Gather In...and share our many blessings.

Our *faith* is like that of the mustard seed. "Though it is the smallest of all seeds, yet when it grows, it is the largest of garden plants and becomes a tree, so that the birds of the air come and perch in its branches" (Matthew 13:32, NIV). For each of us, the seed is our baptism.

Gather us in, the lost and forsaken; gather us in, the blind and the lame; call to us now, and we shall awaken; we shall arise at the sound of our name.

Our *compassion* is given freely to our friends who are hurting, in need, or just seeking to better their lives. As we grow as disciples, we grow spiritually and share our gifts freely, thus expanding the body of Christ. "Now you are the body of Christ, and each one of you is a part of it" (1 Corinthians 12:27, NIV). We reach out and serve, collectively and individually, both in our local community and beyond.

Gather us in, the rich and the haughty; gather us in, the proud and the strong; give us a heart, so meek and so lowly; give us the courage to enter the song.

Our *abundance* cannot be contained. We have an abundance of talent and energy which sustains this congregation and its ministries, and provides care and Christian love to many. You will find an insert in this packet that depicts the organization and rich diversity of CPC ministry area committees and teams. In reaching out, we share the abundance of blessings in this congregation. "Give away your life; you'll find life given back, but not merely given back – given back with bonus and blessing" (Luke 6:38, *The Message*).

Give us to drink the wine of compassion; give us to eat the bread that is you; nourish us well, and teach us to fashion lives that are holy and hearts that are true.

As members of the body of Christ, we have the privilege and responsibility to re-affirm support for the exciting programs and ministries of CPC, and to reflect back the enthusiasm of faithful, compassionate and abundant discipleship.

Generosity Sunday is November 19.

During both morning worship services we will collectively offer our commitments of prayer, time, money and talents.

"Each of you should give what you have decided in your heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver"
(2 Corinthians 9:7, NIV).

When we share, we grow; when we grow, we are generous; when we are generous, we become more like God in our compassion and the abundant sharing of our blessings.

With grace and peace,
Your CPC Generosity Team



Boyce Oglesby, Su Johnson, Jim Kurz, Rowena Morrison, Barbara Carew and Lori Pistor

Gather us in and hold us forever; gather us in and make us your own; gather us in, all peoples together, fire of love in our flesh and our bone.