



Woodland Presbyterian Church

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GENEROSITY 2017

Dear Friends,

Alexandrea, age five, confidently walks over to a member who is eighty-five years old. She holds out her hand and proclaims with a smile, **"Peace of the Lord be with you!"**

Her younger sister Maxine, now learning to walk, stands steadily holding the hands of two adults on either side of her during our final song in worship. Maxine's bright blue eyes look around at her church family circled around the sanctuary. With undivided attention, she watches and listens as God's people sing, **"Surely the presence of the Lord is in this place...."**

Our children's presence with us in worship makes a difference in their lives and ours, because at any and every age, worship unites the community of faith and reminds us who and whose we are. With parents' and grandparents' commitment to bring their children and youth to church, amazing things happen! Our children make up **20%** of our congregation most Sundays. Our children's chorus is growing in its second year under Lenore Heinson's leadership. Our first year of the Yolo Youth Collective is expanding its reach to deepen the faith of our young people with worship, Bible study, and service.

Worship informs not just one hour on Sunday, but how we live our days, weeks, and indeed, our whole lives. Having worshipped, we go into the world to be the church, the hands and feet of Christ. Examples abound: each fall we host "meet and greets" for Great Day families, so that they can get to know each other and we can get to know them. We are passionate about loving our neighbors, coming alongside the down and out, and serving the larger community of Woodland. This is Jackie Scott's **fifteenth year** leading a WPC team to cook and serve meals at **Fourth and Hope** every Thursday. Our church strongly supports the ecumenical movement to build temporary transitional housing ("**Tiny Houses**") for the homeless. One of our greatest strengths as a church is **pastoral care** ministry; many of our members visit and provide meals, prayers, and care to those who are in need. And, did you know that our Deacons have a new health ministry? They are actively finding and sharing resources and supports for those who are aging both in our congregation and the larger community of Woodland.

The Church provides something rare and exceptional; a place to call home from our borning cry to the days that we grow into a mature age.¹ Whether we are one or ninety-nine years of age, the Church is here for us--to nurture, equip and commission us for service in God's beloved world. From birth and the **waters of baptism**--to every time we **break bread** together--to the moment we take our final breath and enter into **God's eternal love**--the Church is there to remind us of the enduring grace of Jesus Christ.

Thank you for the many ways you give generously of your time, energy, and money to God's Church. The Session and I ask for your prayerful commitment and increased pledge to the Lord's ministry through Woodland Presbyterian in 2017. Consider raising your pledge by \$10 per week. With an additional \$520 WPC can provide for a month of youth ministry. With an additional \$5,000 WPC can sponsor and build a tiny house. On **Sunday, November 13**, we will bring forward our pledges during worship, signifying our commitment to follow Jesus' ministry. If you are unable to be with us on the 13th, please send or bring your pledge to church before Thanksgiving. We did great things with our time and talents this year, imagine what we will do with your continued commitments!

Gratefully,

Pastor Christin J. Norman

¹ John Ylvisaker, "I Was There to Hear Your Borning Cry", *The Faith We Sing*, No. 2051.

Yes! Here is my/our 2017 pledge to Woodland Presbyterian Church:

\$_____ per week [52 weeks]

\$_____ per month [12 months]

\$_____ per quarter [four quarters]

\$_____ for the year 2017



Name(s) _____

Address _____ City _____ Zip _____

Phone (____) _____ email _____