



Laguna Niguel Presbyterian Church

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*Strengthened by the Past...
Faithful in the Present....
Moving strongly into God's Future....*

Dear Friends in Christ,

What a great joy it is to be your pastor! I have been overwhelmed by the love, grace, and warm welcome given to me by you in so many ways! I have heard wonderful stories of courageous faith from the past and it is clear that we enjoy a strong foundation generated by the saints who have preceded us at the church. I have learned of a number of faithful ministries that offer the love of Christ to those around us. Many of you have voiced a strong commitment to move boldly into the future discovering new ways to strengthen and expand the Kingdom of God here on earth. Wow! What a joy it is to be in your midst!

As we think about our calling today, and God's claim on us in the future, we are also called to think about how it is that we support these ministries - not only with our time, but also with the financial resources that have been entrusted to us by God. While many of our ministries are conducted by passionate volunteers, still the ministry of the church requires a significant outlay of financial support. Your Session works hard to be good stewards of those funds.

Scripture lifts up the spiritual discipline of the tithe as God's way of providing adequate resources for the ministry of the church. The tithe is considered to be 10% of our total income in any given year. **Scripture lifts the tithe as an expectation for each of us.** For many, the tithe is a goal to be worked towards. If that is your goal, **would you prayerfully consider working deliberately to that goal by moving from 4% to 6%, or even 7% to a full tithe?**

It is our hope and prayer that every adult member of the church would tithe and use the accompanying discipline of pledging, announcing to God and the church your intention. While one's personal financial situation might change in the midst of the year requiring an adjustment to one's promise; still the pledge is a critical tool used by the Session to accurately forecast income. That accurate forecast makes possible an effective and realistic church budget. **If you have not pledged before would you prayerfully consider the use of a financial pledge this year?**

God has blessed us in so many ways. We have been blessed materially; we have been blessed relationally; we have been blessed spiritually. At the heart, our financial support of the church through our pledged tithe is an expression of thanksgiving and gratitude for a God who has blessed each of us so abundantly. I pray that this year we would give gratefully and generously to enable the faithful work of Laguna Niguel Presbyterian Church!

In Christ,

Jim Szeyller,
Pastor

Dr. Binh Vu,
Music
Minister

John
Denton,
Youth
Ministries

Rev. Debbie
Gara,
Minister of
Children &
Families