

Hello, my name is Geoff Van Fleet. I am on the St. Johns Stewardship committee and wanted to share with you this short message with the perspective as a new member at St. Johns. My family including my wife Monica and our 3 boys have been members of this church for about a year now. St. John's has been an extremely welcoming space. Going to the weekly coffee hour with the family has allowed us to meet so many various people with great similarities as well as new view-points. We have been able to enjoy gathering with other families with young children, worked with the many volunteers to prepare the building for Christmas and take part in the adult faith formation classes currently going on.

I joined the stewardship committee in November of this past year and the group was working on finding ways to thank everyone who have filled out their commitment cards and to encourage those who haven't yet returned them—myself being included. I learned how our family can use tithely to make sure our weekly pledge gets to St. Johns even when we are out of town or under the weather—or if we just forget to bring a check. I also gained the perspective of how important it is for St. Johns to know how much they can expect to realize as income weekly and annually to cover the budgeted activities and expenses.

I've always preferred to bring an envelope to services and have one of my children drop it in the basket with the hope that they see this weekly contribution and build the habit themselves. The recent changes in how St. Johns provides services has certainly put a crimp in that practice and I am grateful that we can continue to support weekly through online giving or by mailing.

If you have watched the previous videos created by the members of the Stewardship committee, you have heard encouraging messages on how you can help, where your financial donations go to, how St. Johns is adjusting to these challenging times and how important your continued prayers are.

I realize that there are not many who actually watch these videos so thank you for being the select few! Can I ask that you share the link (<https://stjohnsithaca.org/stewardship/>) or the Fledgling email you receive with others and point out the Stewardship corner? We have wonderful group of people at St. Johns, but many times out of sight is out of mind and this bit of encouragement may help bond us closer together. The Fledgling is full of great messages and ways to actively participate in our community.

I do want to encourage people that perhaps missed pledged donations due to not meeting in person to honor those pledges if they can. If you find yourself blessed with fewer expenses or some additional space in your budget, please consider expanded support of St. Johns Church here in Ithaca. I have been pleasantly surprised many times when we gave more than we thought we could and found through God's provision that we could do even more.

I hope that this short video has provided some input into my perspective and has encouraged you to evaluate your support of St. Johns. Thank you all for partaking in this community whether it is financially, socially or spiritually. Your continued support is so greatly appreciated. Thank you for your time.