

all angels' church

Dear Church,

As we turn toward 2022 and near the completion of our second full year of living in the midst of a global pandemic, uncertainty and change have become the only constant. Even in the midst of it all, there is comfort in the rhythms of our shared church life. In the spirit of community and with commitment to our annual practice of budgeting and financial giving, the Stewardship Committee invites you to the 2022 Pledging Season. We do this humbly and with a great sense of hope because we trust that the God who has been with us, will also go with us into this coming year.

In the 5pm service, we've been inviting people to tell their "pandemic stories" -- testimonies that answer three simple questions.

1. What's your pandemic story?
2. Where and how have you met Jesus in the pandemic?
3. How can we pray for you?

Upon hearing these stories, we sing, "This is my story; this is my song. Praising my savior, all the day long." It's been a reminder that as we return to our gathering and as we navigate this moment of not-quite-normal life, we should do so gently and with compassion for the many different ways we've all been changed by the pandemic. As the wardens have reported recently in the weekly bulletin, giving is down significantly against pledges for 2021, and pledging overall was down in 2021, totalling \$716,440 versus \$892,000 in 2020. This undoubtedly reflects the many different "pandemic stories" we have been living. No matter what your financial story has looked like this year, this pledging season is for all of us. It is a moment to reflect, pray, and commit again to loving God with our whole selves.

The Vestry and Wardens continue their work of leading the church, and your pledges significantly reduce the guesswork in the budget planning process so that leadership has a clearer understanding of what the budget will allow for in the year to come. To help them in this process, **please join us in a season of prayerful consideration of your finances, and plan to submit your annual pledge by November 28th. Use one of the cards being distributed at service or complete your pledge online here: <https://allangelschurch.com/giving/>.**

Let us know if you want support, more information, or prayer from the Stewardship Committee. You can reach us at stewardship@allangelschurch.com

With gratitude,
Your Stewardship Committee