

November 2023



Dear Family, and Friends of Westwood Christian Community,

The Christmas season has finally arrived with all of its wonderful music, bright decorations and treasured family traditions. Sharon and I are so thankful that we get to share our 32<sup>nd</sup> Christmas season with you, our Westwood church family! We have some very special events planned for the month of December!

One of the most exciting is our **2023 ANNUAL CHRISTMAS OFFERING**. This year's offering begins Sunday November 26 and will continue through the end of the year. Would you and your family please prayerfully consider participating with a financial gift over and above your regular giving? For 2023, we have decided to partner with these three valuable ministries:

**1. UNION GOSPEL MISSION - MEN'S RECOVERY CENTER - RIVERTON PLACE**

We are so excited to have the opportunity to bless this local faith-based residential recovery program, designed to help men find lasting freedom as they overcome homelessness and addiction. Their recovery journey includes counseling, mentoring, Bible study, relapse-prevention classes, accountability and much more. Currently there are 50 men enrolled in the program, with the Riverton campus at 94% capacity. Your gift will help those who have lost their way find the love and support they need for a new life!

**2. OUR OWN WESTWOOD CHRISTIAN COMMUNITY MISSIONARY FAMILIES**

As of November 2023, our church faithfully supports 10 missionary families around the world - from the Kingdom of Cambodia to Belgium, from Tanzania to Thailand and in Central America. Each year we make it our goal to surprise each of our missionary families with a one-time, much-appreciated "Personal Gift" for the New Year. Please take a look at the Missions Board in the church lobby to see the faces of our missions families your gift will bless.

**3. WESTWOOD CHRISTIAN COMMUNITY - FACILITIES & KIDS' TECHNOLOGY**

The funds will provide some much-needed updates to the main floor restrooms. (It's been decades since the first remodel in 1986.) Any additional funds will be used to purchase new electronics for our Community Kids Ministry.

We are trusting that through the generosity of our entire church family, the **BIG GOAL of \$40,000 (our largest EVER!)** will be realized. **Please join us this year by participating in our 8<sup>th</sup> Annual Christmas Offering.** You can give at any Sunday gathering or through the mail. You're always welcome to give via PayPal on our website at **[www.wccseattle.org/giving](http://www.wccseattle.org/giving)** without having to set up an account. (Go to "Registrations, Fundraising Events" and then "Donate".) PayPal is a safe and secure way to give whenever it's convenient for you. In past years some have chosen to donate appreciated stock via direct transfer to our brokerage account; if interested in this manner of giving (which can be beneficial to both parties), consult your broker as to whether it is best for your specific situation. All Giving Statements will be mailed by January 31, 2024.

Thank you in advance for your generous gift to these three important projects for 2023-2024. May this Christmas season find you safe, in excellent health, and always blessed!

We love each one of you and we continue to cheer from your balcony!

Pastors Tom & Sharon Colby



P.S. On Sunday, November 26 we will begin a new Christmas sermon series called: **"GOD with US"**. For all who attend a Sunday gathering in December, we have a special gift book, **"HIDDEN CHRISTMAS"** by Timothy Keller. Please join us for a delicious catered **ALL-CHURCH CHRISTMAS BRUNCH on Sunday, December 10 at 10:30AM**, with very special guests Taproot Theater performing **"ALWAYS WINTER - AN IMPROVISED ADVENTURE"**. (Reservations for the brunch will begin on November 19<sup>th</sup>.) We are looking forward to Christmas Eve Day and **"CAROLS BY CANDLELIGHT"**, this year to be celebrated at 10:30AM on Sunday, December 24<sup>th</sup>. We would love for

you and your family to join us! As always, it's going to be a wonderful Christmas season here at Westwood Christian Community. See you at church!