



Dear St. Pauler,

Here's something that might surprise you: this is one of my favorite times of year.

The season at St. Paul UMC when we turn our attention to stewardship, to generosity, to taking care of God's gifts all around us, near and far.

The word "steward" comes from two ancient roots: *stig*, or "path, hall, part of a house," and *weard*, or "guardian, person who watches over." A steward is someone who protects a path, who watches over a house, who takes care of a treasure.

The inspiring good news is that you and I were born to be "stewards" in this ancient sense. To protect and care for a path, a house, a treasure – and not just our individual home or church, but also the wider community we all share, love, and serve. God's path, God's house, the bright and beautiful temple of creation, full of God's amazing creatures, great and small.

That's the mission each of us is born for. And that's the mission St. Paul UMC is born for, too. To embody and proclaim our values: children and youth, inclusion, and outreach. To make our extraordinary ministries possible: from Sunday worship to youth group and kids church; from Service projects to our men and women's groups. To care for our corner of creation, loving God and neighbor at every turn.

The season of stewardship, in other words, is a season of continuing to become the people God created us to be. Protecting the path of love and justice. Watching over creation's house of healing and hospitality. Taking care of all God's creatures, great and small.

In the weeks ahead, you'll hear from our "All Creatures Great and Small" series team, with more information about how you can help make this season an inspiring success. And on Sunday September 22, we'll celebrate the manifold works of God with a special worship service. Mark your calendars!

Thank you in advance for being a part of this special time of year, and most of all, for everything you do – great and small – to help protect, watch over, and care for God's bright and beautiful world.

Grace and peace,

Rev. Cassie Rapko



O God, how manifold are your works! In wisdom you have made them all;
the earth is full of your creatures. + Psalm 104:24



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