

#WeAre HGW



2018

AN INVITATION TO FAITHFUL

Stewardship



HopeGateWay

Stewardship Commitment Celebration

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 5

1. Pray for the HopeGateWay community, its leaders, its ministry and mission, all who are part of the community, and your part in our life together.
2. Read through this booklet, and let God speak to you through the words and images.
3. Pray for God's guidance as you consider your commitments for 2018.
4. Prayerfully fill out your stewardship commitment card.
5. Join us for worship on Sunday, November 5 at 9 am or 11 am. Bring your completed card with you.
6. Continue to pray daily for the mission of HopeGateWay: to do justice, to love kindness, and to walk humbly with God. Ask for God's guidance and blessing.



October 29, 2017



Dear Friends:

Maybe now more than ever, the ministry of

HopeGateWay matters. Maybe now more than ever what Portland needs, what the world needs, what each of us needs, is a community of diverse people, united in love, extending hospitality to the newcomer, feeding those who are hungry, celebrating the belovedness of those on the margins, holding fast to a vision of peace — doing justice, loving kindness, and walking humbly with God.

That's what we're about, and that's why God invites each of us to commit ourselves fully — through our prayers, our presence, our gifts, our service, and our witness.

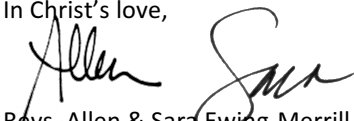
Recognizing the profound truth that everything we have in life — even life itself — is a gift from God, and recognizing the tremendous opportunities and challenges before us, will you offer not your leftovers but your very best to God?

On Sunday, November 5, you will be invited to make a stewardship commitment for 2018. This booklet contains some information and a number of testimonials from members of our community, which are intended to help you make decisions about your stewardship in the year ahead. This week, please spend some time in prayer. Then complete the enclosed stewardship commitment card, expressing your commitments for the year 2018.

Please bring this card with you, completed, to worship on Sunday, Nov. 5— 9 am or 11 am at 509 Forest Ave. As an act of worship, we will bring our commitment cards forward, giving thanks for God's many blessings and committing ourselves to God through our faithful stewardship in the year ahead. (If for some reason you are unable to be with us for worship on the morning of Sunday, Nov. 5, please try to drop your commitment card off ahead of time, or mail it back to us as soon as possible.)

If you have questions or concerns about stewardship, or about any aspect of your spiritual life, please don't hesitate to be in touch. It is a joy to serve as partners in ministry with each of you, and we look forward to seeing all the ways that God will inspire our ministry and mission in 2018.

In Christ's love,



Revs. Allen & Sara Ewing-Merrill
co-pastors **#WeAreHGW**





HGW is a fun, loving, and inclusive community of spiritual seekers who are committed to social justice and lifting up the marginalized and oppressed. They have melted a lifetime of prejudice towards organized religion and shown me what it truly means to follow Christ.

At HGW I have found a loving and inclusive spiritual home for my family. I want my children to know what it means to have spiritual community who express their faith not through dogma or superiority over other religions, but through joyful action and service towards creating more peace and justice in our sweet city and beyond.

Having grown up in a secular home quite hostile towards organized religion, the most transgressive thing I have ever done is join a church. I was attracted to HGW by their tireless work in lifting up the marginalized and oppressed in our community and wanted my family to be part of this motley crew of spiritual seekers who have shown me what it really means to follow Jesus Christ and live your faith.

Heather Barry
#IAmHGW



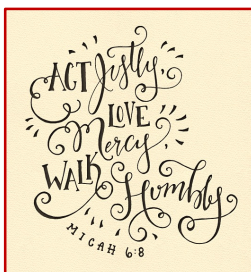
HopeGateWay represents for me the way church ought to be: compassionate, caring, justice-oriented, open to all, and proclaiming a God through Christ who loves all and invites all into relationship.

Don Rudalevige
#IAmHGW



For me HopeGateWay is a place to breathe. It's a warm, firelit room during a cold night, surrounded by your favorite family members, the Spirit wrapped around you like a home-knit blanket. It's the space to go before you take on the next challenge, where you are fed and warmed and made ready to strike out again.

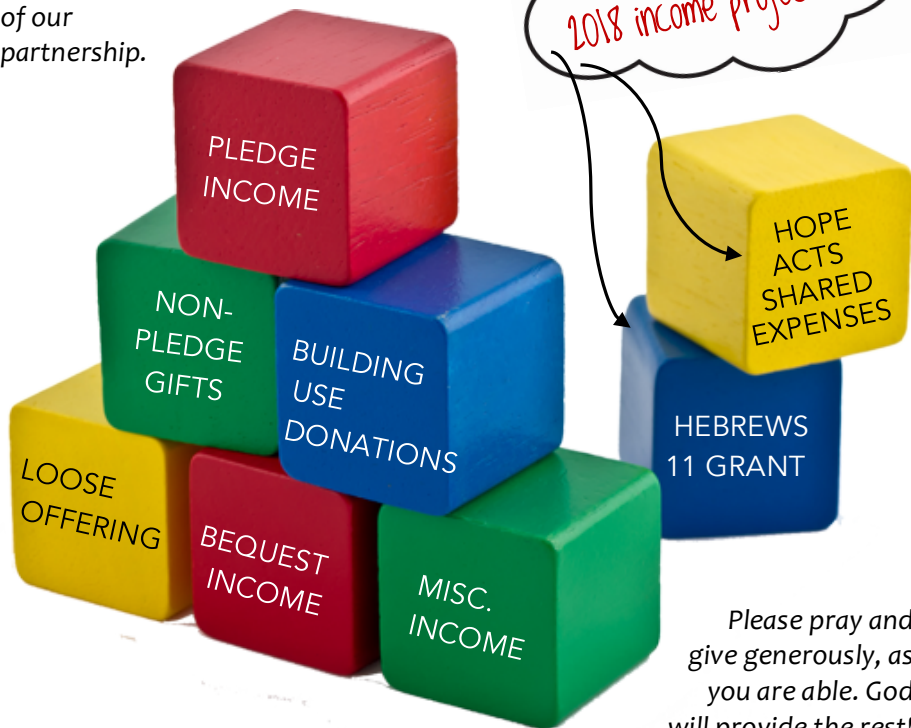
Patsy Frey-Davis
#IAmHGW



Building Blocks OF OUR INCOME

Quite frankly, this year's operating budget is going to be challenging, primarily because of the loss of two significant sources of income that have been part of our budget for the past five years: a five-year Hebrews 11 grant, which has run its cycle; and income from Hope Acts, for shared expenses, which we are no longer receiving because of changes in Hope Acts' mission and the changing nature of our partnership.

Though not finalized, our operating budget is likely to be around \$300,000.



Please pray and give generously, as you are able. God will provide the rest!



HopeGateWay

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\$170,000

IN PLEDGES FOR 2018



A GUIDE TO GIVING

Of course, financial giving is a personal decision, and ultimately that decision is between you and God. However, the Bible offers some guidance about our financial stewardship.

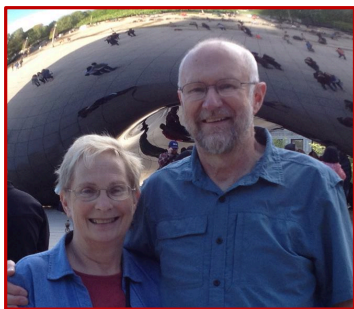
Did you know that Jesus talked more about money and possessions than any other topic? Read the Gospels and see for yourself! Then be prayerful as you consider your commitment for 2018. Listen to what God has to say to you. Let God guide your giving.

The Tithe

Tithing – the giving of 10% of one’s income to God – is an ancient custom still practiced today by many people of faith as a spiritual discipline and a means of expressing commitment to God.

Those who tithe discover that giving can be a source of great joy, and usually they find that 90% of their income is more than enough to live on! Consider taking a leap of faith by making a commitment to tithe this year, or prayerfully take a step closer to the tithe, using the chart at the right as a guide.

A Guide to Proportionate Giving: Giving a Portion or Percentage of Income on a monthly basis												
Monthly Income	Beyond a Tithe (monthly gift)		Tithe (monthly gift)	Moving Toward a Tithe (monthly gift)								
	15%	12%	10%	9%	8%	7%	6%	5%	4%	3%	2%	1%
\$1,000	\$150	\$120	\$100	\$90	\$80	\$70	\$60	\$50	\$40	\$30	\$20	\$10
\$1,500	\$225	\$180	\$150	\$135	\$120	\$105	\$90	\$75	\$60	\$45	\$30	\$15
\$2,000	\$300	\$240	\$200	\$180	\$160	\$140	\$120	\$100	\$80	\$60	\$40	\$20
\$2,500	\$375	\$300	\$250	\$225	\$200	\$175	\$150	\$125	\$100	\$75	\$50	\$25
\$3,000	\$450	\$360	\$300	\$270	\$240	\$210	\$180	\$150	\$120	\$90	\$60	\$30
\$4,000	\$600	\$480	\$400	\$360	\$320	\$280	\$240	\$200	\$160	\$120	\$80	\$40
\$5,000	\$750	\$600	\$500	\$450	\$400	\$350	\$300	\$250	\$200	\$150	\$100	\$50
\$6,000	\$900	\$720	\$600	\$540	\$480	\$420	\$360	\$300	\$240	\$180	\$120	\$60
\$8,000	\$1,200	\$960	\$800	\$720	\$640	\$560	\$480	\$400	\$320	\$240	\$160	\$80
\$10,000	\$1,500	\$1,200	\$1,000	\$900	\$800	\$700	\$600	\$500	\$400	\$300	\$200	\$100



Being part of this amazing community keeps us anchored to “the better angels of our nature.” In this world of hatred and division we experience here what Martin Luther King, Jr. called “the beloved community.” HopeGateWay gives us *Hope* for the future, a *Gate* that is open to everyone, and a *Way* forward to a better world.

Bob Moore & Evelyn Johnson Moore
#WeAreHGW



HopeGateWay for me represents all that I am in this country. HopeGateWay gives me the hope of a better future by faith in Jesus Christ. With HopeGateWay, now I am a member of a family in which I feel like I am at home, where I feel fully integrated into my new life here in America. God bless you.

Armand Turinyungu
#IAmHGW



To me, HopeGateWay is a harbor. It takes us in from all ports of life, gives us rest from the open seas, and sends us replenished to do the work of building the kin-dom.

Ophelia Hu Kinney
#IAmHGW

HopeGateWay is a safe place for me to explore my questions about God and Christianity while still feeling worshipful. It's also a place where I can give my time, talents, and gifts.

Hayli Hu Kinney
#IAmHGW



HopeGateWay is the place where I feel warmly greeted and genuinely accepted, where Love is walked out in a tangible way.

Cassie Moon
#IAmHGW

At HopeGateway, one feels to be a meaningful part of a movement with an enduring belief in the power of goodness, demonstrated best through acts of love, compassion, and unconditional acceptance.

Steve Moon
#IAmHGW



HopeGateWay is a place that accepts me for who I am, that lovingly embraces me in all my messiness and

uncertainty. HopeGateWay is a place where my children can be children and where everyone sings with energy and joy. I love HopeGateWay because our community is not afraid to tackle the tough issues and the tough questions, and because it challenges me to a life of intentional justice seeking and kindness towards all people.

Courtney Tabor-Abbott
#IAmHGW

HopeGateWay means: The Church doors are open to all... Welcome to all those who are in need.

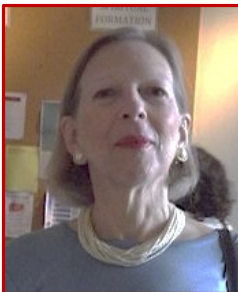
Eric Mutombu
#IAmHGW



HopeGateWay is a home, a family, a reminder and reinforcement of my faith — a place to practice my faith with contemplation,

funding and service to the church and the community.

Eileen Purdy
#IAmHGW



The HopeGateWay community is a reminder to me that God's kin-dom is being built right before my very eyes. That warms my heart and gives me tremendous hope.

Jeff Huot
#IAmHGW



HopeGateWay is a place where I feel challenged and encouraged to grow, and yet completely accepted for who I am. I am grateful to be

surrounded by so many generous and thoughtful people, all learning how to live out their faith.

Carolyn Turnidge
#IAmHGW

HopeGateWay is a spiritual community that seeks to know God through seeking justice, treating all with kindness, and being true to oneself.

HopeGateWay is where all people regardless of race, gender, gender identity, class, age, etc. have a place at the table of love, peace, and joy.

Sam Johnson
#IAmHGW

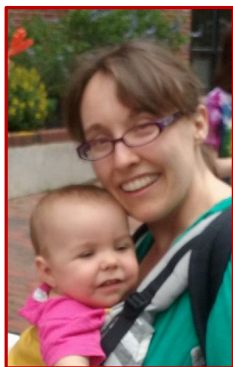




HopeGateWay is alive! It's a movement, with a message, music, children to nurture, voices for justice – and mission commitments to match them. We are diverse in age, ethnicity, sexual preference, and economics. We continue to consider how else we can serve each other and the community. HopeGateWay offers both of us HOPE for the reality of a vital, growing, seeking community of faith.

Jonathan & Shantia Wright-Gray
#WeAreHGW

I feel incredibly blessed to be able to raise my daughter in the HopeGateWay family. I am certain that through the people, the worship, and the opportunities given where we can serve others, that she will know that she is a beloved child of God and will learn to share God's love with others.



Cara DameBrusie
#IAmHGW



HopeGateWay is a place where our family has gained a large multi-cultural, multi-generational extended family. Each week our children are engaged in conversations

and passed around the room by a congregation who mirror God's love to them without even trying. Watching them be embraced by this community is truly a gift.

Erica Lovejoy
#IAmHGW

HopeGateWay is my family and my friends in my new country.

Jean Luc Habimana
#IAmHGW



After 40 years as a clergy spouse attending many churches, HopeGateWay is a breath of fresh air in striving to do justice, love mercy and walk humbly with our God.

Sue Rudalevige
#IAmHGW





ELECTRONIC

Giving



We are so grateful for your faithful stewardship, and we hope you will consider taking advantage of our Electronic Giving option.

It's easy. It's convenient. And there's no cost to you!

Two options:

Electronic Funds Transfer (EFT) (preferred)

Set up a recurring automatic withdrawal from your checking or savings account. At whatever interval you choose (weekly, monthly, or twice monthly), the funds are transferred directly to the church's account, making it easy for you and easy for us! Begin at www.hopegateway.com, and choose "Give" to go to our secure online giving page – or request an EFT authorization form to set up your transfer. Feel free to be in touch if you need assistance!

Online Giving with a Credit or Debit Card

Make a one-time or recurring gift with your credit or debit card. Begin at www.hopegateway.com, and choose "Give" from the menu. This will take you to our secure online giving page, where you can set up a recurring gift or make a one-time donation. By setting up a password-protected profile, you will be able to log in at any time to make donations, change a recurring donation plan, or view your personal giving history.

Just think... If you are currently giving on a weekly basis, electronic giving means you will no longer need to write out 52 checks a year or prepare 52 envelopes. And when travel, illness or other circumstances prevent you from being present for worship, this electronic giving option will allow your weekly offerings to continue on an uninterrupted basis, which is helpful for ensuring the church's financial stability.

Thank you for considering this giving opportunity. Feel free to talk to Allen or Sara if you have questions or concerns.



One of the songs we sing frequently at HopeGateWay includes the line, “a shelter, a space, a safe place for growing.” This describes the environment at HGW extremely well to me. On the surface this can sound very warm and fuzzy, but it’s the type of safety that empowers us to take risks in practicing radical hospitality and seeking justice in the world. I’m very grateful to be part of this community.

Wanda Stahl
#IAmHGW



Betty Hartley
#IAmHGW

At HopeGateWay I feel God's presence in many ways but especially in the love and caring shown for one another. I travel to Portland each Sunday to be in the midst of people who care about everyone, not just those who are like themselves.



**Sunday,
November 5**

*Remember to set your
clock back one hour!*

To me, as a long-time United Methodist pastor, HopeGateWay is the embodiment of “the way church should be.” All churches will claim to be friendly, and accepting of all, but HopeGateWay is a shining example of a congregation that truly *is* accepting of all. When I look around the congregation on Sunday mornings, I see the reign of God in all its fullness, right here on Earth.



Charlotte Hendee
#IAmHGW



For me, HGW means being part of a community of imperfect people who are striving to live out their faith in tangible ways and aiming to love others in everyday life. It’s having a spiritual “home” here in Maine, but much more than that.

Rachel Katyl #IAmHGW