

### **Stewardship Moment**

Thank you, thank you, thank you for your generous gifts this past year to maintain the ministry of Chepachet Union Church.

The Apostle Paul said, "For if the eagerness is there, the gift is acceptable according to what one has- not according to what one does not have" (2 Corinthians 8:12).

As we prepare to worship our Lord through giving, today and in future days, let us display our eagerness in response to how the Lord has blessed us. Let us eagerly present our tithes and offerings, as we work to support the building of God's kingdom.

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As Paul writes in 1 Corinthians 12:12-31, the mystical body of Jesus Christ is a unity of interdependent members. We depend on the presence of every member of our community. And we depend on the diversity of gifts that each member brings to reflect God's kingdom. Only when all of our unique gifts are offered do we journey forward together in transformational ministries.

Through your support and through the abundant leadership of our many members, we connect people within our church, within our neighborhood - and indeed around the globe - more deeply to each other and more deeply to God.

We read to "strive for the greater gifts. And I will show you still a more excellent way" (1 Cor. 12:31). Our ministries in the church serve only a narrow path through God's kingdom if they are not wholly supported by each member. As you consider your commitments of work, wealth, and wisdom, do strive for the greater gifts, so that the many neighbors and members of our church will walk a more excellent way together – connected in the kingdom.