

Dear Friends and Members of Anaheim UMC,

We rejoice for how God continues to be present and gracious in our lives!

God gives us Hope in a caring church community. We meet challenges. We explore new ways to work together. We serve people in our community every day. This is a gift, to serve God by serving others.

As the Psalmist says: "Let them thank the Lord for his steadfast love, for his wonderful works to humankind. For he satisfies the thirsty, and the hungry he fills with good things" (Ps. 107:8-9). This has been a time of transition as our congregation bid farewell to one pastor and welcomed another, continued to build back up and create new in-person ministry opportunities, and engaged with our neighbors as all of us seek to make a positive difference in the world, with God's help and grace.

"*Setting the Table*" is our guiding theme as we renew our commitment to support our church in 2023. During the month of October, we will examine our current hopes, dreams, and the vision of where we believe God is calling us to "reach out, serve, and invite with the love of Jesus Christ." In fact, one way this mission statement of our church can be imagined is through the image of setting the table, welcoming all people to the feast of grace which God prepares for everyone. We also recognize that 2023 will be a time to celebrate our 50th anniversary of ministry in this location, following a long heritage of worship in and around Anaheim. We indeed give thanks to the Lord for the steadfast love we have experienced and have been blessed to share!

We celebrate God's faithfulness, and your faithfulness as part of our church community, as well as the gifts of time, talents, and treasure offered by so many. The Neighbor's Pantry continues to grow and bless all who participate in it, blurring the lines between guests and volunteers, and reminding us that we are all neighbors. We have been able to give hope to over 200 families each week.

The Church is also working to put a focus on family ministry, which we pray will reach people in our community. We want to be a church that no matter what age, a person can come to our church and find opportunities for welcome, spiritual growth, and the care and community that the Body of Christ offers.

With your continued support, we will be in a position to continue "*Setting the Table*." Enclosed is a Stewardship Card where you can pledge your greatly appreciated gifts. You can also submit a pledge online by going to our website and clicking the 'Setting the Table' image on the main page. We will collect these Stewardship Cards in the Church Office and also on **Consecration Sunday, October 30th**. ***Please save the date for our Consecration Luncheon following worship that day, right before our Trunk or Treat community event.***

Let us continue to be thankful for God's gifts, and to be loving stewards who extend the grace, care, and hope of God to all.

Thanks for all you give!

Bob Osborn, AUMC Finance Chair
Pastor Jessica Strysko