

Stewardship Talk – Sunday, November 20th, 2016

Why do I give to our church? This goes back to how I started with church in general, for that, I blame my mom. Wherever I've lived, more than a dozen moves from Maine to Hawaii, attending Baptist, Congregational, Methodist, my mom has said I had to go to church. As a youngster, the only difference is how they the Lord's Prayer – Debt & Debtors or Trespass & Trespass. Sunday school was fun, lots of games, some learning, in the younger years, was great. In junior high, Sunday school was much more about learning, and had to memorize the books of the bible, a lot less fun... In high school, it was just another boy and I for all four years, whose dad taught the class, so we HAD to show up and HAD to behave.

Once I was 18 and off to college, I said goodbye to church, I'm done. That changed after meeting Christine, a couple of relocations, and our move to Monroe to our first house. After about a year in Monroe, we wanted to check out churches. MCC was a quick decision for us since Christine grew up Ukrainian Orthodox, which is a lot like the Catholic church, and neither of those churches, nor Sienna College, that Christine went to, would let us get married in their church. I mentioned how easy to follow and welcoming Congregational churches are and that anyone off the street can come in, follow a bulletin, and know what is going on during the service. Trying to keep up with the passing of the peace is a whole OTHER thing.

Monroe is the longest I've lived in the same town and MCC is the longest I've attended the same church. We have had many different roles in the church and have been part of many changes. Being part of the process and learning how it works with many people and many views has been a terrific experience and a wonderful community.

We want to see this church grow, thrive, and continue to help others. We give to help MCC continue to care for this community.

Thank you.