

Friends 2023 Annual Appeal  
Letter #1 – Place on congregational letterhead

Date

Dear Friend in Ministry,

*“Entertaining Angels”* is the theme of our 2023 annual Stewardship Appeal. Based on Hebrews 13:1-2, it invites us to see with clarity how our generosity empowers us to embrace neighbor and stranger alike with the good news of God’s welcome *and* belonging!

As a part of this community already, you know with warmth and gratitude the powerful ways God draws us into God’s love and embrace. Our grateful response to this becomes the foundation for expanded efforts to reach those around us with this same Divine love.

In the coming weeks you will be hearing more about the exciting ministry plans we have for our 2023/2024 fiscal year. Newsletter articles, bulletin inserts, temple talks, letters and a brochure will inform you of our congregation’s plans to grow our impact for the coming year.

As a part of the *Entertaining Angels Annual Appeal* this year, you will be invited by letter to consider increasing your offering for the coming fiscal year. Please pray over this request and do your best to respond generously as the Spirit leads you.

On Sunday, June 11<sup>th</sup> we will have our Commitment Sunday and will have an opportunity to present our commitments (statements of intent) during our worship services. If you are unable to attend on that Sunday or if you worship primarily online, you will also be welcome to mail your Statement of Intent to the church office or submit it digitally through a digital form you will be able to access through our website.

Households from whom a response has not been received by June 25<sup>th</sup> will be telephoned to assure everyone has the opportunity to participate in our missional efforts for the coming year.

We are sure that you have noticed. Friends is a unique voice for inclusive welcome and belonging in our community. The ministry we share matters. We believe that God is dreaming a bigger and more impactful dream for our congregation. Thank you for being a part of that dream!

(signed)  
Pastor

(signed)  
Council President

P.S. Your *Entertaining Angels Annual Appeal* materials including Statement of Intent Cards will be mailed to your home on the week of June 5<sup>th</sup> so that you may bring it with you to worship on June 11<sup>th</sup>.