

Be glad and rejoice forever in what I'm creating, because I'm creating
Jerusalem as a joy and her people as a source of gladness. Isaiah 18 CEB

As we prayerfully consider our giving today, I challenge you to invest in the creation of a new heaven and a new earth that reflects the value of God's hope and dreams for this community and our Connection through the United Methodist Church.

God has entrusted us with abundance so that together we are part of creating a new heaven and new earth where there is economic security, peace among those who were once enemies, and long full remarkable life. We are not consumers of grace but recipients of Divine grace through the love of Christ.

## Imagine what we can do when we transcend our own immediate needs and join together for a common good.

Friends, I invite you to step out with hope in the Holy One who creates, reconciles, and sustains us. May our gifts today manifest not only in the transformation of the hearts and minds in this community but in the lives of every one of God's beloved children.

