

## The Check is in the Mail

May 1, 2008

The Check is in the mail. At least that is what the US Government is saying. It is the "Economic Stimulus Check". Are you looking forward to getting yours?

As a matter of fact, I am.

There are a couple of ideas that Debbie and I have for this money. We are running through them. We are talking about them and praying about them right now.

But one of the things that we are not even questioning, is that we are going to give one tenth of it to the church as a way to say thank you to God. This is a tithe of what we receive. This gift is intended to be over and above our pledge, because this is our way of saying thank you to God for unexpected money.

How are you making plans to say thank you to God for unexpected money?

I think that one of the reasons it is so important for the church to talk about finances is because God has created each one of us with a need to give. We feel better about ourselves and our faith when we say thank you to God through the giving of ourselves and our gifts. It makes a difference in the world when we give.

When we give to the ministry of the church, we make a difference for people locally through ministries that make a direct impact on people. Our gifts to the local church help the music program, the Christian Education program, taking care of the building and grounds (and with the winter of record snow that we have had, it has put a real strain on our trustee's budget). Our gifts to the local Church help us be in mission and ministry all around the world as well, through supporting missionaries, missions and providing relief for people in need.

I invite you to consider saying thank you to God for the unexpected money you are about to receive, by sharing 10% with the church. Pray about this. Then give with generous hearts, thanking God for the many ways in which God provides for you.

In the hope Jesus offers us,  
*Rev. Scott Carlson*

PS: This weekend our sermon is titled; *Hand It Over*. You may want to read I Peter 4:12-14; 5:6-11 in preparation.

ON THE LAST WEEKEND OF MAY (May 24/25) WE WILL BEGIN OUR SUMMER WORSHIP HOURS  
(SATURDAY 5:00 PM; SUNDAY 8:30 & 10:00 AM)

PS: This is intended to be a devotional e-mail sent to get you thinking about your relationship with God and what it means to live a life of faith. If you would prefer to be taken off of this listing, please

e-mail me ([scottcarlson@sunprairieumc.org](mailto:scottcarlson@sunprairieumc.org)) and let me know. It is sent to Laura Meixner, Our Church Secretary, with everyone else as a Blind Copy.

*The Mission of Sun Prairie United Methodist Church is to invite and welcome people to be committed and compassionate followers of Jesus Christ through worship, through spiritual growth, through fellowship and through service to others.*