



September 21, 2026

Dear Friends of Fairfax United Methodist Church,

Recent studies suggest we speak about twelve thousand words a day. Twelve thousand chances to build something, to encourage someone, or speak life into this beautiful and broken world. But if we're honest, most of those words come and go without leaving much of a mark in this world. Every now and then, a word comes along that settles deep down in our souls and changes the way we see everything.

Dayenu is one of those words for me.

It is an ancient Hebrew word that means simply: ***“It would have been enough.”*** Every year at Passover, the people of Israel sing it together, verse by verse, rehearsing, repeating, and proclaiming the faithfulness of God throughout their history. God delivered them from bondage. *Dayenu*. God parted the sea and led them through on dry ground. *Dayenu*. God fed them in the wilderness when there was nothing left to eat. *Dayenu*.

After every single act of grace, they stop. They breathe. They remember. And they sing it together: ***it would have been enough.***

The astonishing truth behind that song is that if God had done only one of those things, just one, it would have been more than enough to fill their lives with gratitude. Yet God never stops at enough. God keeps giving. God keeps showing up, pouring out more grace, more love, more community, and more hope than our hearts quite know what to do with.

That is the word and prayer we are bringing into our stewardship season at Fairfax UMC this October.

We are not interested in a cookie cutter financial appeal. We want something different, better, more spacious: a moment to pause together and a prayer that helps us to look back at all the ways God has blessed our lives and lets that gratitude become the foundation and motivation for our giving. **Think about the moments that reminded you of God's presence and sustenance.** The times you felt held and supported when you should have fallen. Remember how the community showed up when you needed it most and the grace that found you when you weren't looking for it.

Dayenu. It would have been enough. Yet God gave us more.

That is the giving posture we are inviting you into: not obligation, not duty, not guilt, but joy. A joyful, grateful, and generous response to a God who has never once stopped at enough.

Now, here is how we are going to do it this year:

We begin Sunday, October 4, exploring the prayer of Dayenu and how it can weave itself into the fabric of our everyday lives. We close Sunday, October 25, with a consecration of our **Estimate of Giving Cards**, and our **Serving Fairfax Commitment Cards**, both those returned by mail and those brought in person during the worship service. Following the service, we will gather in the Fellowship Hall for a meal to celebrate the unrelenting love of God, who has gone so far above and beyond all things in blessing us. Dayenu

We hope you will join us, not just in giving, but in singing, praying, and serving.

Dayenu.

Much Love, Hope & Peace

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "T. Bryson Smith". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large, stylized "S" at the end.

Rev. T. Bryson Smith
Lead Pastor
Fairfax United Methodist Church

Fairfax United Methodist Church

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