LET'S MAKE SOMETHING BEAUTIFUL

Dear Sugar River friends,

Here's a question for you: *What's the most valuable thing in your life?*

You might say "family" or "friends." You might say "faith" or "love," "justice" or "joy" – and you'd be right, of course. Each of these is a priceless gift from God.

But there's something else, too, shining in the faces of family and friends, glowing in acts of love and justice, generosity and celebration. When we see it, we smile and say, "Ah, look! How wonderful! How beautiful!"

And there it is: one of the most valuable things in our lives is *beauty*. God's beauty. Creation's beauty. The lovely, radiant goodness of the world.

As we become, together, the Sugar River Valley Episcopal Churches, part of our mission is to give thanks for this beauty – and to make something beautiful **together**. The beauty of the Gospel in action. The beauty of Scripture and preaching. The beauty of singing together, learning together, and serving together, from our community meals to the Warm Welcome Shelter to our StoryWalks, our community gardens, our Little Free Pantry and Blessing Box, to sharing our spaces with so many mission-aligned community groups: *Ah, look! How wonderful! How beautiful!*

Over the next five weeks, we'll be having church-wide conversations about investing in this beautiful community, financially and otherwise, with boldness and imagination. **This is our shared Stewardship Campaign**, preparing the way for SRVEC's 2027 unified budget for mission and ministry. And on the afternoon of Sunday, December 13—the third Sunday of Advent, "Gaudete," the Sunday we "Rejoice," we'll wrap up the campaign with a celebration, blessing our offerings and sharing special refreshments. **Save the date – and start thinking about what's most beautiful to you about our Sugar River churches.** We're planning to discover our shared favorites, and hold a "Beauty Festival" at a special reception on Gaudete Sunday. **Not to be missed!**

Thank you again for the radiance you already bring to the table, and for the valuable work we can do together. We are making something beautiful!

Grace and peace from your clergy team,

Geof, Kelly, Lucretia, Mark, Susan

p.s. This giving season, you're invited to practice beauty in all kinds of ways – and not just with your checkbook. The enclosed "30-Day Beauty Challenge" offers simple, daily prompts to notice beauty and grow in gratitude, kindness, and joy. Give it a try!