

Committing to Grow Together in Stewardship...One Step at a Time

Why do we give? As **God's Church**, we are called to give:

- **God's church needs it now for ministry:** God has entrusted Eastminster with so many new ministry opportunities and our goal is to continue to expand our ministry outreach. At our current giving levels, funding for additional ministry growth is challenging.
- **God's church needs it now for mission:** We would not send our missionaries to the field unequipped to serve. Nor can we expect our church to meet the mission needs around us without supportive funding.
- **We are investing in the future of God's church:** We have a place in which we gather and worship because earlier congregations were led in faith to build it.

Why do we give? As **Christians seeking to walk with Christ**, we are called to give:

- **We give to resist materialism:** When we commit our first fruits for God's use, we focus on our values rather than our wants. With that perspective, it is easier to put the material way of the world in its rightful place.
- **We give out of obedience:** We give because we love the Lord and He has told us to give, although we may not really want to or fully understand why.
- **We give out of trust:** As Christians, we believe in an all-powerful God who created us, saved us, walks with us and loves us unconditionally. We trust that such a God will take care of us in any situation, including if we part with some of our money.
- **We give to cultivate our faith:** We long to see God work in our lives and we believe that if we step out in faith, God will respond in faithfulness. One of the easiest ways to see God work is to give, perhaps not knowing how our needs are going to be met, and then watch Him provide.

What should we give?

The Tithe is the biblical model for giving. Ten percent of our first fruits going to the Lord honors Him, sustains His work, and keeps us from submitting to greed and idolatry. For many of us, tithing may seem impossible. Reaching a tithing level may not happen overnight. It's okay if it takes time getting there as long as we continue to move towards the goal.

The +1% Commitment Challenge

If you are not currently tithing, ***we challenge you to increase your annual pledge by 1% of your income.*** Whether you are giving one percent, two percent, or more, we are asking our church as a whole to go beyond our individual comfort levels. One percent is a relatively small amount to us as individuals. If our entire church congregation participates, God's church would have more funds to use for His ministry and mission, and each of us would move one step closer to tithing.

We challenge each member of our congregation to take these steps:

1. **Return your commitment card and pledge to increase your giving by 1% of your income.**
2. **Pray for God to show you the way to meet that pledge and to give you the discipline and faith to satisfy it.**
3. **Trust that God will meet your needs, financial and otherwise.**
4. **Over time, reflect on the effects of your giving: Does God provide for you? Have you grown closer to God as a result? and, How has God used your contributions to His glory?**

God is at work here at Eastminster. He has abundantly blessed us and is leading us forward. It is time for us to answer His call.