



“Come, follow me,” Jesus said, “and I will make you fishers of men.”

At once they left their nets and followed him.

Matthew 4:19-20

*As we near our half-way point for "On the Right Path," this year's stewardship effort for A&M United Methodist Church, there are many members and friends to thank. The list below may not be totally complete, as each day, members continue to participate in this effort that celebrates and equips the ministries of this great church. Thanks to each and every one of you who has helped keep A&M UMC **On the Right Path!***

Ruth Alfred	Lois Hellriegel	The Kyle Ross Family
Nathan Anz	Haylee Henning	Pat Sargent
Caleb Appleton	Steve & Ann Holditch	Gib & Nancy Sawtelle
Barbara Arrington	Don House	Nancy Schneider
Jana Barrett	Trip Jacks	Danielle Schroeder
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Chan Benedict	Dian Jones	Barbara Seals
Agnes Bennett	Abigail & Elizabeth Kellstedt	Katie Shannon
Alison Bennett	Kolache Rolf's	Tiffany Shine
Jill Bennett	Shirley Kraemer	Susan Skrabanek
David Bonds	Mildred Krehbiel	Judy Smeins
Katy Bonds	Lee & Sam Kwiatkowski	Mary Margaret Smith
Meredith Border	Kari Leavell	Toni Staplin
Sarah Bowman	Scott Leigh	Benton Storey
James Brewer	Craig Limesand	Dwayne & Carol Suter
David Brochu	LuBecca Long	Kathy Taylor
Karen Buck	Joyce Louis	Dawn Teal
Dan Castillo	Lauren Lovering	Kirsten Tesh
Bob Chenoweth	Jenny Mares	Amanda Timmermann
Keith Christensen	David Marion	Rachel & Hannah Tindall
Jered Dobbs	Amy Mason	Penny Thomas
Nelson & Annie Durst	Chris Mathewson	Sarah & Laura Thomas
Ann Ellis	Andy McCollum	Rachel Thorne
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DeEsta Garrett	Phyllis Nicks	Robert & Julie Wilson
Bob Gilmore	Heather Normand	Jeremy Wilson
Tammy Gilts	Bruce Norton	Carolyn Winthrop
Zachary Gilts	Becky Parr	Mike Workman
Jeff Gregory	Glen Patton	Sue Wright
Daniel Grooms	Bryan Pope	Frieda Younts
Jennifer Halling	Amie & Ross Ragsdale	Cat Zindler
Ginger Hamilton	Bob & Reba Ragsdale	
Michelle Hanham	Eva Read-Warden	

Giving Like God Gives



As we enter our **On the Right Path** Stewardship Emphasis, we are each being challenged to consider our giving to God through the ministries of the church. We are asking every member of our church family to make a proportional financial commitment for our church's operating ministries for the coming year. God expects us to give according to what we have (2 Corinthians 8:3, 12). Giving is one of the ways we respond to God's blessings. We give out of gratitude. But how much should we give? Before you answer that question, have you ever considered how God gives to us?

I. God Gives Lovingly

- A. *God is love*, says 1 John 4:16, so it follows that God gives lovingly.
- B. As the well-known verse reminds us: *For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son* (John 3:16).
- C. Just as God has given good gifts to us, God desires us to give good gifts lovingly to others (Matthew 7:9-11).

II. God Gives Freely

- A. *God is love*, says 1 John 4:16, so it follows that God gives freely.
- B. The gifts of God are gifts indeed, granted freely and without strings attached.
- C. Jesus instructed the twelve, *Freely you have received, freely give* (Matthew 10:8). His admonition holds for us as disciples today.

III. God Gives Constantly

- A. The most familiar phrase in the Lord's Prayer is a simple verse which says *Give us this day our daily bread* (Matthew 6:11). It is a reminder that God gives to us constantly, an unceasing provider.
- B. For the believer, giving is not just for special occasions. It is a constant priority for one who strives to give like God gives.

IV. God Gives Compassionately

- A. Throughout His earthly ministry, Jesus gave help and healing to the poor, the diseased, and the needy.
- B. God is pleased when we do what Jesus did, giving compassionately to those who are less fortunate. An excellent example of this is recorded in Acts 10, in the account of the Roman centurion, Cornelius. The Bible says that he gave generously to those in need and prayed to God regularly. In a vision from God, an angel told him, *Your prayers and gifts to the poor have come up as a memorial offering to God* (Acts 10:4).

While giving should be done responsibly and not blindly, it should be a significant sacrifice that results in a greater faith in, and a closer relationship with, God.

- Daniel Grooms

Let us look to God's example and follow it...

Get **On the Right Path** by giving like God gives.