



*“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

*Dear Family and Friends of A&M United Methodist Church:*

*Commitment Sunday was a great day in our Church. Almost 200 members stepped forward to pledge their financial commitment. By this Sunday, Follow-up Sunday for our Stewardship Campaign, we expect to receive additional pledges from members who were unable to participate last week. We will need those pledges and perhaps more as we reach to set our goal for the coming year. It is an exciting time.*

*Commitment Sunday was special also because of great worship services, communion, brunch in the new Christian Life Center, and the commissioning of the two mission groups who will go to Mexico & Mississippi over spring break. It was also the first Lenten “Soup and Sermon” on Sunday evening at which Reverend Bob Waters gave the message; the other retired pastors who are part of our congregation will be giving Lenten messages on the remaining Sunday evenings in Lent. We are so blessed to have these men among us.*

*We want to thank over 100 volunteers who have contributed their time and talents for this Stewardship Campaign. We could not have done this campaign without you. It was our privilege to co-chair this committee.*

*Just a reminder again that this Sunday is our Follow-up Sunday. If you have not had a chance to turn in your commitment card, please try to do so by or on this Sunday, March 12. Please contact us or the Church office if you didn't receive your Commitment packet in the mail or if you have questions.*

*We'll see you in church on Sunday!*

*Mark & Linda Johnson*

*As another human, I can definitely understand the “pain” of parting with hard-earned money. We are still challenged every year when determining our financial commitment. But I know that only faith in Christ provides true everlasting happiness—something that money cannot buy. **- Shawn Turner***

*God has ways and resources larger than my understanding, so by having faith I can give and know that it won't put us in a financial bind. Rather, it will assure His ability to meet our needs. **- Sandra Baxter***

## Questions About Giving



*Earn all you can; save all you can; give all you can.*

*- John Wesley*

*Gain all you can, without hurting yourself or your neighbor. Save all you can, by cutting off foolish expenses, and wasting nothing on yourself or your children. Give all you can, or, in other words, give all you have to God. Do not limit yourself to a proportion, e.g., a tenth, a third. "Render to God all that is God's" (Matthew 22:21).*

*- John Wesley*

**What is our church's definition of stewardship?** Stewardship is the devout investment or use of money, time, and ability. In biblical times, a steward supervised a household or an estate. Today, as God's children, we deem God the source of all we have, seek to hold it in trust for God, and desire to be "good stewards of the manifold grace of God" (1 Peter 4:10).

**Why do we give?** Giving is rooted in God's very being. The ability to give in itself is a gift from God. All life is grace, a free, unearned gift from a giving God who invites us to share in the divine life and mission of giving. Giving is indispensable to Christian discipleship. It is part of holy living. Growth in discipleship inevitably includes growth in giving. Giving includes more than the products (money) of our labor. We also give by refusing to take from others what is necessary for their abundant lives. Simplifying our lifestyles and preserving the Earth's resources are forms of giving.

**What is a tithe?** A tithe is a biblical standard, usually one-tenth of one's annual income, given back to God to support the church and its ministries. God allows us to keep ninety percent of all entrusted. An offering is an amount above the tithe.

**What is proportional giving?** Proportional giving involves giving a percentage of one's income. You can begin your giving journey by identifying a percentage that is manageable, yet sacrificial. Each year, you can chart a course that allows you to grow in your stewardship aimed toward the tithe.

**Why is it important to make an estimate of giving each year?** When you determine your commitment, it ignites your faith and provides a path to guide your giving throughout the year. Such commitments allow us to grow in our faith. Your commitment also enables the church to practice good stewardship, planning ministries in anticipation of available resources.

**Why is giving important?** Giving is important because Jesus taught us it is important. Until we have committed our finances to God, we have not fully committed ourselves. Our attitudes toward possessions and money can either be a stumbling block along our faith journey or a means of growth in grace. God doesn't need our money. God wants our hearts, but our hearts are inextricably connected to our treasures.