

Our Gifts...

The following chart is another way to look at your weekly giving and may help you evaluate where you are and where you could be.

To use this chart, find your average annual income on the left and then move to the right to the amount you normally give each week. Are you in the lower, middle or upper giving range? Are you tithing? Are you beyond a tithe?

annual income	lower giving range			middle giving range			upper giving range			tithe	beyond a tithe	
	1%	2%	3%	4%	5%	6%	7%	8%	9%	10%	12%	15%
\$15,000	3	6	9	12	14	17	20	23	26	29	35	43
\$20,000	4	8	12	15	19	23	27	31	35	38	46	58
\$40,000	8	15	23	31	38	46	54	62	69	77	92	115
\$60,000	12	23	35	46	58	69	81	92	104	115	138	173
\$80,000	15	31	46	62	77	92	108	123	138	154	185	231
\$100,000	19	38	58	77	96	115	135	154	173	192	231	288
\$125,000	24	48	72	96	120	144	168	192	216	240	288	361
\$150,000	29	58	87	115	144	173	202	231	260	288	346	433
\$175,000	34	67	101	135	168	202	236	269	303	337	404	505
\$200,000	38	77	115	154	192	231	269	308	346	385	462	577
\$250,000	48	96	144	192	240	288	337	385	433	481	577	721
\$300,000	58	115	173	231	288	346	404	462	519	577	692	865

weekly giving based on 52 weeks

Wherever you currently are on this chart, we encourage you to prayerfully consider moving to the right. Can you move up to the next percentage or to the next tier? Consider what God is calling you to do. Are there changes you could make in your life that would enable you to take that step of faith to move to a higher giving level?

No matter what you give, you are honored by God.

2023 First United Methodist Church Commitment Card

After prayer consideration, I/we acknowledge our desire to build up Christ's Church by:

Praying for His church _____ times per week.

Attending His church _____ times per month.

Making the following yearly financial faith investment in His Church in 2023: \$ _____

I plan to give as follows: \$ _____ weekly \$ _____ monthly

\$ _____ quarterly \$ _____ annually

Please contact the office for eGiving instructions.

Serving in His church in the following ministries: _____

Inviting _____ # of persons to any church worship/activities.

PRINT NAME

PHONE

ADDRESS

SIGNED

DATE

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Your Copy PLEASE KEEP FOR YOUR RECORDS

Some thoughts on Tithing

What does tithe mean? Simply, to tithe is to give a tenth of one's income for the support of the local church. Why tithe? The practice of tithing one's income for investment in God's kingdom can be a source of joy and freedom. The concept of setting aside any portion of one's income begins with the first book of the Bible. In Genesis, Adam and Eve's children, Cain and Abel brought 'portions' of their flock and crops before the Lord. The idea was to set aside a portion of the first crop of the season to thank God for a successful harvest. This general practice continued with the Israelites as they grew and even as they were enslaved in Egypt.

After God freed the Israelites from Egyptian captivity, they wandered in the desert for 40 years. During this time their leader, Moses passed along laws from God. These laws were intended to separate the Israelites from the other nations as God's chosen people. The concept of offering 'first fruits' grew into offering God a 'tithe' or a 'tenth' of one's income. Abraham gave one-tenth of the spoils of war to Melchizedek, the priest-king of Salem. (Genesis 14:18-20)

Leviticus 27:30 says, "*A tithe of everything from the land, whether grain from the soil or fruit from the trees, belongs to the Lord: it is holy to the Lord.*" These gifts were a reminder that *everything* belonged to God and a portion was given back to God to thank him for what they had received. And Proverbs 3:9 (NIV) says, "*Honor the Lord with your wealth, with the first fruits of all your crops.*"

The last book of the Old Testament, Malachi also strongly urges God's people to "*Bring the whole tithe into the storehouse, that there may be food in my house. 'Test me in this,' says the Lord Almighty, 'and see if I will not throw open the floodgates of heaven and pour out so much blessing that there will be not room enough to store it.'*" (3:10) God blesses obedient love.

Paul shared how generously the Macedonian churches were giving. He wrote: "For I testify that they gave as they were able, and even beyond their ability." (2 Cor. 8:3) Instead of prescribing a certain amount or percent, the New Testament churches were simply encouraged to give generously. For those wondering, "Where does it say to tithe in the Bible," you may not find a prescription to "tithe" in the New Testament, but you will find multiple encouragements to "give generously."

While tithing 10% of your income is biblical, that doesn't mean you have to be a Christian to tithe. It also doesn't mean you're a bad Christian if you don't tithe. And guess what? God loves us when we give *and* when we don't give. In fact, 75% to 90% of those who go to church don't give a tithe. One wonders though, what God's people could do if these percentages change. In addition, Tithing isn't a way to earn God's love - because *we already have it*. In Matthew 23:23, Jesus warns against focusing too much on the rules of tithing without paying attention to the more important things like justice, mercy, and faithfulness. Finally, Paul offers some encouragement when it comes to giving, "Each of you should give what you have decided in your heart to give, not reluctantly, or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver." (2 Cor. 9:7)