

Dear God,

I humbly acknowledge that everything I have comes from and belongs to you and I come to you filled with gratitude and thanksgiving.

Lord, I desire to serve you and to invest in your work through my church. I ask your wisdom and courage as I seek to determine your will for my life as it relates to my financial blessings.

Please accept my gift and multiply it to fulfill your plans for Clarkston United Methodist Church as we fulfill your mission in the world.

In Jesus' name, Amen



Vitally connecting people to people and people to God.

To learn more about generosity and stewardship at Clarkston United Methodist Church, financial management, or legacy giving; please contact either the Pastoral Staff or Collen Godfrey.

If you have questions about your Annual Giving, please contact the Finance Office at (248)620-8410.

If you are experiencing financial hardship, don't let your inability to give at this time keep you from participating and serving. Remember that God honors your faithfulness and your acceptance is not based on your capacity to give. Our pastoral staff would be happy to pray with you and offer support.

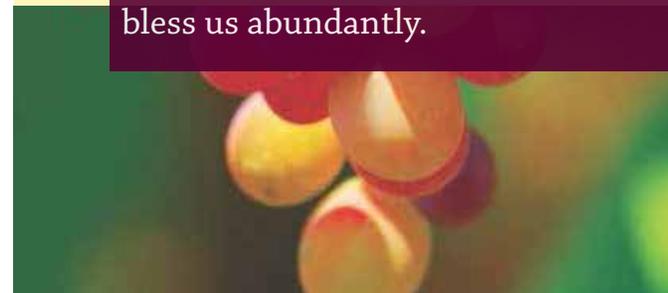
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The Joy of Generosity

*"Each of you must give as you have made up your mind, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. And God is able to provide you with every blessing in abundance, so that by always having enough of everything, you may share abundantly in every good work."
2 Corinthians 9:7-8*

As we share our financial gifts, we experience joy that comes from knowing we are honoring God and following his commandment to love one another. God has promised to bless us abundantly.



A Guide to Generosity and Stewardship

At Clarkston United Methodist Church, the giving of our tithes and offerings is an integral part of how we worship God, grow in our faith and serve others.

Worship

“Ascribe to the Lord the glory due his name; bring an offering, and come before him. Worship the Lord in holy splendour;”

1 Chronicles 16:29

Our annual giving represents an act of worship in which we thank God for our blessings and symbolically return the first fruits of our labor as an offering to the Lord. The Bible teaches us to give a tithe or the first ten percent of what we earn to God and God’s work.

Stewardship

“The earth is the Lord’s and all that is in it, the world, and those who live in it;” Psalm 24:1

Stewardship means to serve as one who manages another’s property, finances or affairs. It is not just a means for the church to raise money. For Christians, stewardship is a way of life that recognizes that everything we have is God’s, and we are simply managing those resources while here on Earth. Through our stewardship, we are the heart, spirit and hands of God, reaching out in love to share with our world.

Ministry

“Through the testing of this ministry you glorify God by your obedience to the confession of the gospel of Christ and by the generosity of your sharing with them and with all others,” 2 Corinthians 9:13

Our tithes and offerings support our church’s ministry and mission. Over the years, we have committed our resources to God, and God has truly blessed and used them to change lives, transform our community and renew the church.

Worship, programs for children and teens, adult Bible studies, small groups, pastoral care and support, mission trips and community service are all supported by annual giving that provides the operating funds for our church.

Each Fall, our congregation fills out annual pledge cards with our commitment, which make it possible for our church to budget, plan and expand our ministries in the coming year.

An Annual Commitment

Your annual giving reflects your tithes and offerings to support your church’s ministry and mission. The process of prayerfully asking God to guide your decision and then making a commitment with your financial gifts is an act of worship, an expression of gratitude and praise to God, and an opportunity to serve God with your financial resources.

Begin with Prayer – As you think about your commitment to giving, please begin with prayer. Thank God for blessing you and ask him guidance and discernment. Recognize that your offerings express both your desire to serve the Lord and your investment in God’s work.

Assess Your Finances – This is a good time to look at your budget. What does your spending say about your priorities? If you’d like to learn more about biblically based financial management, Clarkston United Methodist Church periodically offers financial bible studies, such as Dave Ramsey’s Financial Peace University.

Make a Commitment – Determine the percentage of your income that you will commit each year. Pray over your decision, asking God to bless and use your gifts for ministry. For some, the giving of the tithe is a goal to grow toward each year. Others are able to pledge more. If you are not yet tithing, consider taking a step toward it this year. Determine your giving in proportion to your income, then set a percentage that you can increase each year until you reach your goal.

Celebrate the Joy of Generosity – Giving is an opportunity as a congregation to worship God and renew our commitment to being God’s stewards in our world. Each week, during our worship services, we present our tithes and offerings. During this time of thanksgiving and praise, you can place your gifts in the offering plate. If you choose to give through electronic fund transfer, cards acknowledging your gift are available in the pew racks for you to place in the offering plate. During the offertory time, thank God for the blessings you have received and ask God to bless and use your gifts.