

## Taking the Next Step

**SUNDAY**  
**OCTOBER 29**

- Between now and Oct. 29: Examine your personal giving and how it reflects your commitment to Christ.
- Read the daily devotional in Practicing Extravagant Generosity and pray for God's guidance in your personal finances.
- Oct. 29: You will be invited to complete your 2018 Estimate of Giving Card during worship.
- If you are unable to attend, we will mail you an Estimate of Giving Card the following week.



PLEASE JOIN US FOR



**TAKE THE NEXT STEP**

**Sunday**

**October 29, 2017**

**9:00 am & 11:00 am**

**DURING THIS TIME  
OF CELEBRATION,  
WE ENCOURAGE YOU TO:**

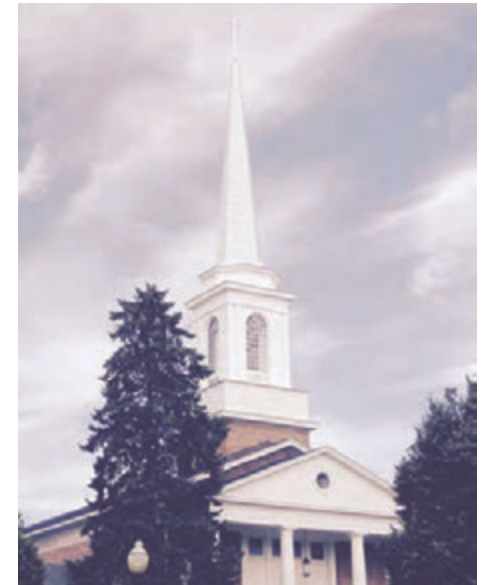
- Pray for God to lead you on new steps in your faith journey.
- Deepen your sense of generosity and gratitude.
- Discover the joy of giving.
- Give a percentage of your income systematically.
- Understand that stewardship is about raising disciples, not money.

**Clarkston United Methodist Church**

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**taking the  
next step**



*Each of you must give  
as you have made up your mind,  
not reluctantly or under compulsion,  
for God loves a cheerful giver.*

*II Corinthians 9:7 NRSV*

**CLARKSTON UNITED METHODIST CHURCH**

## OUR MISSION

To Vitally Connect  
People To People  
and People To God



## Taking the Next Step GOAL

**Stewardship is not our way  
of raising a budget.  
It is God's way  
of raising disciples.**

Discover the joy of growing  
in your relationship  
with God as you begin  
**Taking the Next Step**  
in your faith journey  
and live generously.

*The fruit of the Spirit is love,  
joy, peace, patience, kindness,  
generosity, faithfulness,  
gentleness, and self-control.*

*Galatians 5:22-23*

## WHY TALK ABOUT MONEY

### It's a Spiritual Issue

Stewardship is directly linked to our journey of discipleship. How we use our resources is primarily a spiritual issue, not a financial one. The quality of that decision is determined by the spiritual condition of our heart.

### Jesus Talked About It

Jesus spoke openly about money and possessions. About two-thirds of the parables and about one in every ten verses in the Gospels address this very issue. As followers of Jesus, we should not be reluctant to talk about giving as an outward expression of our love for Christ.

### It's Not About the Budget

In stewardship campaigns, it can be tempting to approach the financial needs of the church as if we were simply funding the budget. When **Taking The Next Step**, we acknowledge that living generously is an inseparable part of following Christ. God does not need our money; rather, we need to give it as an act of gratitude and trust.

### It's About Trust

As we learn to trust God more and follow Christ's teaching more faithfully, we learn to depend less on ourselves and more on God, relinquishing attitudes and habits that impede our relationship with God.

## WHY TAKE THE NEXT STEP?

**It is God's intention  
that we grow more generous  
and take bigger steps in our giving  
as we become more aware  
of how richly God has  
blessed us in Christ.**



## THE GIVING PATH

When we take a step along the Giving Path, we are moving forward in our spiritual journey to be more like Christ. Jesus said that, "Where your treasure is, there your heart will be also."

### Steps along the Giving Path:

#### First-Time Giver:

*Begin to give.*

#### Intentional Giver:

*Plan what percentage of your income  
to give for a year.*

#### Growing Giver:

*Increase the percentage of income  
toward a tithe.*

#### Tither:

*Begin to give a tithe (10% of income).*

#### Extravagant Giver:

*Give beyond the tithe, called an  
offering (10+% of income).*