

What if financial hardship prohibits me from making a commitment this year?

Don't let your inability to give at this time keep you from worship. Remember that God honors your faithfulness and that your acceptance at First United Methodist Church is not based upon your capacity to give. We ask that everyone return an estimate of giving card even if it is a limited financial commitment at this time. You can always increase or decrease your commitment if your situation changes by calling the church. Also, be sure to let our pastoral staff know of your situation so that they can pray for and support you during any difficulty.

Because we reap what we sow.

"The point is this: the one who sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and the one who sows bountifully will also reap bountifully."

—2 Corinthians 9:6

Why do I need to turn in a new commitment card each year?

Financial situations change from year to year, and if we are growing in our faith, our annual commitment should likewise reflect that giving growth. Each year, our church budget is based upon the growing commitments of our congregation.

For more information contact:

Rev. John McClean
243.5646 x14
pastorjohn@fumconline.org
www.fumconline.org

Automated Contribution

Automatic contributions are both a convenient and reliable way to fulfill your financial commitment to the church. Automatic contributions are also the most cost-efficient method of giving to the church since it reduces administrative costs and helps maintain a predictable cash flow. With Automatic contributions, you can reinforce your commitment to give your tithes and offerings to God first, before anything else. One easy step each year guarantees that the church will receive your gifts on a regular basis, even if you are out of town or you forget one week. Below are examples of how you can 'Automate' your giving.

ACH (Automated Clearing House)

ACH entries are automatic entries that come out of your checking account. We process ACH entries on the 10th and 25th of each month and you can choose to have money taken from your account on either or both of these days. You will need to fill out an *Authorization Agreement for Automatic Deduction* form and then we will do the rest for you.

Credit Card

Credit card withdrawals are made here at the church on the 15th of each month. You will need to fill out a *Credit Card Authorization* form to get set-up and then we will do the rest for you.

Electronic Check

You can choose to send the church a check electronically thru either your bank or bill-pay. You have complete control of how often and when the checks are sent to us.

United Way

You can choose to send your offerings to the church through United Way. Some employers will even match up to a certain amount of your gift so that the church benefits even more.

For more information contact:

Jeannie Corley, Church Accountant
243.5646 x20 finance@fumconline.org

STEWARDSHIP GIVING GUIDE & ESTIMATE OF GIVING CARD

FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

We thank you for your generous acceptance of stewardship and pray you may find the level of giving that is right for you as you progress in your journey of faith and commitment. Your pledges and contributions are a critical part of how we can make a difference in our church, our community, and our world. Please complete the Estimate of Giving card located on the inside of this brochure and return it in the offering plate or to the church office. You may change your commitment at any time by notifying the church office. If you have questions regarding this card, call 243-5646, ext 20.

GIVING TO GOD RESULTS IN SPIRITUAL GROWTH!

Are you willing to become passionate about growing our biblical knowledge to be a lighthouse to our children, friends, and people we don't know, but are recipients of our generosity?

ESTIMATE OF GIVING 2011

Name (Please Print)

Address

City/State/Zip

Email

Home Phone

Yes! I/We will support our church in the coming year.

Choose One:

\$_____ weekly for 52 weeks

\$_____ semi-monthly for 24 periods

\$_____ monthly for 12 months

\$_____ as follows:

Shared Ministries

In addition to our initial giving, I/we would also like to give additionally to Shared Ministries:

\$_____ as follows:

Signature

Date

_____ I/We would like information on how to provide for First UMC in my/our will.

This year we invite you to celebrate the joy of generosity as you offer your estimate of giving card for 2011. We encourage you to find greater contentment and simplicity in your lives as you put God first in your giving and living and to experience the joy that comes from knowing our gifts honor God and change lives. Our challenge as members is to find ways to grow deeper in our faith. One way to do this is to offer our financial blessings to God through our tithes and offerings. Through these gifts, we invest in God's vision and purpose and create an opportunity for God to work through us. Our gifts to God each week are an act of worship; and our offerings are vitally necessary to change lives, transform communities, and renew mainline churches.

Why is giving important?

The Bible has much to say about wisdom and finances, with 2,300 verses that tell us to be generous and good stewards of our resources. Jesus taught generosity and sacrifice. He demanded that his followers serve not wealth but God, and in the parable of the talents he taught that God will hold us each accountable for what we do with all our earthly possessions.

What is expected of me?

The Bible teaches us to give a tithe, or the first 10 percent of what we earn, to God and the church's work. For some, giving one tenth is a very difficult goal. For others, it is the starting point, and their giving far exceeds 10 percent. The important thing is that you start somewhere, that your giving be in proportion to your income, that your giving reflects an appropriate offering to God given your means, and that your offerings express both your desire to serve the Lord and your investment in God's

work. Begin by determining what percentage of your income you are giving to God. If you are not yet tithing, consider taking a step toward tithing this year. For example, if you now give 3 percent of your income, consider increasing your gift to 4 percent, and add 1 percent each year until you reach the tithing goal. Our prayer is that everyone will grow in his or her faith through giving financially to the ministries of the church and experience the joy and blessings that come from financial generosity.

Everything we have belongs to God.

"A tithe [tenth] 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."

—Leviticus 27:30

Why do I need to return an estimate of giving card?

There are two reasons why it is important that every member of our church family return an estimate of giving card. First, the process of prayerfully asking God to guide your decision and then making a commitment to serve the Lord with your financial gifts is an act of worship, an expression of gratitude and praise to God. Second, on a more practical note, your commitment allows our church to budget and better plan for our ministries, key objectives, and mission outreach programs.

Additional Giving to Shared Ministries

Shared Ministries are the share each annual conference or local church pays to support international, national, and regional (annual conference) mission. If you would like to give towards First UMC's Shared Ministry commitment, please indicate your intent on your Estimate of Giving card.