

# Frequently Asked Questions about Stewardship at FPC

## Why is it that Jesus talked about money more than any other topic other than the kingdom of God?

Because there is often no greater cause of anxiety and distraction in our daily lives than financial issues. Because money can so often be our master rather than our servant. And because, when money and financial goals become the center of our values and priorities, then our lives get off-track and misaligned. We can either serve God or money, Jesus taught, but not both.

## Why do we give?

We give in gratitude and glory to God, because all that we are and all that we have are gifts from the God who made us, whose only Son died for us, and whose Spirit sustains us every day of our lives.

## What can we give to God?

- Our time by participating in worship, spiritual formation, and the ministry and mission of our congregation.
- Our talents in service to others in the church's ministry and in our community.
- Our financial gifts as we prayerfully and intentionally set aside a proportion of our income to give to God to reflect our gratitude and our faith.
- Our prayers for the continued faithfulness and growth of this congregation and to spiritually support our Christian brothers and sisters.

## How much should I give?

The traditional tithe, 10% of one's earnings, is the biblical goal for giving. We are encouraged to give in proportion to the material blessings one has received and calls us to give, not out of obligation, but in a joyful gratitude for all God has given us. (Consider: [Matthew 6:19-21 & 33](#); [Matthew 23:23](#); [Luke 6:38](#); [Luke 21:1-4](#); [Malachi 1:6-14](#); [2 Corinthians 8 & 9](#); [Proverbs 3:9-10](#))

In any case, we give as we are led to give in prayer by God. And where we do not feel we can give as generously as we like to give, we can seek to grow our giving over time, increasing the percentage of our giving incrementally each year or with each raise in income.

## Why does FPC use pledge cards?

Each fall, our pledge cards give church members an opportunity to prayerfully consider and communicate what God may be calling to offer in time, talents, and money to the congregational ministry in the new year. These "pledges" are not binding, but they are a statement of intention or goal and they enable us to be prayerful, intentional and regular in our giving. The Session does not see individual pledge cards but uses the cumulative statements of intention to put together a responsible and faithful budget for the year.



May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.

Romans 15:13