



SAILING INTO A BRIGHT NEW DAY

2023 Stewardship Booklet Vol. 1

40 Days of Prayer for our church.



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Into the Deep...

2023 Stewardship Theme Verse: When [Jesus] finished teaching, he said to Simon, “Push out into deep water and let your nets out for a catch.” (Luke 5:4, The Message)

We are kicking off our stewardship season on **October 8 (Stewardship Kick-Off)**. We say “stewardship season” because there is no other way to delineate it. As you know, “stewardship” is not an annual financial campaign, but a way of Christian life. As we begin the stewardship season, we invite each and every member to pray for our church and its ministries for 40 days. We know you have had 40 days of prayer for Lent or other occasions, but have you prayed for 40 days straight for our church and our ministries? We are calling all of you to do that. In our membership vow, prayer is a big part of it! This is a part of our stewardship campaign! I hope this guide will help you pray more specifically and fervently.

It is also a time for you to reexamine our financial gifts, service, attendance/presence, and witness to our faith. On **November 12 (Commitment Sunday)**, we will bring our commitment cards and celebrate God’s many blessings and our faithful responses with a meal with a special video presentation.

As we strive for excellence in life, that is, in schools, work, personal endeavors, let us also strive for excellence in faith. Jesus calls us to go deeper in our faith and in our stewardship. Let us respond to his beckoning.

Rev. Dr. Millie L. Kim

Dan Williams, Stewardship Chair

Day 1

Scripture: Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others, as faithful stewards of God's grace in its various forms. (1 Peter 4:10)

Dear Friends,

WHAT GIVING MEANS TO US

Why do we give? We understand we have first received from a loving and generous God. God blessed us throughout our lives. God asks that we be good stewards of what we have received. Part of being a good steward is giving back a portion of what you receive. For us, the benchmark for giving back is the biblical tithe or 10%. Once we reached that decision, we've never looked back. When we joined Mountain Park United Methodist Church (MPUMC) we renewed our commitment to "faithfully participate in the ministries of the church by our prayers, our presence, our gifts, our service and our witness". In addition to our financial gifts, our prayers, and our presence, as often as possible; we have learned to fulfill our commitments for our service and witness by looking for ways to say "Yes" instead of looking for ways to say "No" as opportunities appear. Doing that has led us to a multitude of activities over our years here providing many rewarding and fulfilling times. It's true, you really do get back more than you give. We have been members here at MPUMC for over 46 years. This has been our church home. We raised our children and our granddaughter here. Our friends and associates are members here. We've seen friends move away or some pass on to glory. Remembering the saints that have gone before us and built the foundation of this church helps keep us moving forward to contribute and do our part. It is only natural that we choose to give our gifts back to God through MPUMC. We are sure that MPUMC and The United Methodist Church are good stewards of what God provides through our gifts.

In short, we give because we want to and feel rewarded for doing so.

Lynn and Steve Kimbro

Pray for Pastor Millie and our mission to connect our community with Jesus to transform lives.

Day 2

Scripture: The point is this: whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows bountifully will also reap bountifully. Each one must give as he has decided in his heart, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. (2 Corinthians 9:6-7)

Dear Friends:

It fulfills what I was taught as a child that it was my duty to give and work for the spread of God's Kingdom. It helps to spread the word about the love of Jesus Christ. It allows for my dollars to reach not only my community, but throughout the world when combined with the gifts of others. It brings food to the needy, clothing and shelter to the poor, comfort to the victims of natural disasters and hope to those who despair. It keeps my church active and relevant. That's what giving means to me. 2 Corinthians tells us that the Lord loves a cheerful giver. I am one.

Yours in Christ,

David C. Will

Pray for David Gentry and our trustees as they maintain our buildings and grounds.

Day 3

Scripture: But since you excel in everything – in faith, in speech, in knowledge, in complete earnestness and in the love, we have kindled in you – see that you also excel in this grace of giving. (2 Corinthians 8:7)

Dear Friends,

As a young married couple, tithing to the church seemed overwhelming. How could we afford to give 10% of our meager earnings and have enough to get us through the month? Our new minister, during his first stewardship campaign, taught us the importance of establishing a discipline of giving a percentage of our income to the church. He encouraged us to begin with 3%, if that was all we could afford, and increase it each year. So we began this discipline of pledging our 3% and grew it each year. As my faith became stronger, I realized that my giving was no longer a discipline. It was an outgrowth of my love of the Lord.

God's grace has provided so much for me and for my family. I am rich in blessings. What a privilege and joy it is to return to the Lord a portion of what He has given me. A thriving church needs abundant finances to operate, from the staff salaries, building maintenance and utilities, office supplies, and educational materials for all ages to provisions for missionary outreach, apportionments to the conference, help for congregation members in need, and technology to support worship and church ministry. My focus word for this year has been "EXPECTATION." I have realized that expectation for me is knowing there is no limit to what God can accomplish. I know when we commit our tithe, God will work wonders with it in our church, community and around the world. The grace of giving humbles and fills my heart.

Marla Scroggs

Pray for our Care Team as they minister to our shut-ins and the sick.

Day 4

Scripture: How can we thank God enough for you in return for all the joy that we feel before our God because of you? Night and day we pray most earnestly that we may see you face to face and restore whatever is lacking in your faith. Now may our God and Father himself and our Lord Jesus direct our way to you. And may the Lord make you increase and abound in love for one another and for all, just as we abound in love for you. And may he so strengthen your hearts in holiness that you may be blameless before our God and Father at the coming of our Lord Jesus with all his saints. (1 Thessalonians 3:9-13)

Dear Friends,

We have been asked to give reasons why we give to the church. We are like many of you, because first of all, the Bible tells us to give. But why give to the Mountain Park United Methodist church? There are many reasons why we give:

1. We like the people in the church.
2. We like and support our Minister and Support Staff.
3. We support our Janitorial Staff.
4. We believe in our Outreach Program.
5. We enjoy the Wednesday Night Dinner.
6. We enjoy and want to support our choir and the great music.

We are sure there are many other programs that we support, but too many to mention. These are just some of the reasons why we give.

Don and Florence Magee

Pray for Joan, our office manager, and all office volunteer workers.

Day 5

Scripture: We know that all things work together for good for those who love God, who are called according to his purpose. (Romans 8:28)

Dear Friends,

What does giving mean to me?

When asked to write about this, I really had to think about it. Giving makes me happy. Why is that? When I think about myself, I know I am a rule follower. First and foremost, I believe giving is an act of obedience to God and to our church. When I first joined, I answered "I will" when asked as a member of this congregation, will you faithfully participate in its ministries by your prayers, your presence, your gifts, and your service? It fulfills me to be true to this commitment.

I love our church and I want it to be here for years to come for Guy and me and for the community's future. Church is a place where I feel love, peace, and joy. I know our church has numerous programs that reach lots of people. By giving, it makes me a part of helping those I would never even know needed help.

Again, I want to say giving makes me happy. Giving is love in action. God is love. As a Christian, I am here to spread the word of God.

That's why I give,

Lyn Pihera

Pray for Dorothy Kopp and all finance committee members as they keep our finances accountable and transparent.

Day 6

Scripture: So then, you are no longer strangers and aliens, but you are fellow citizens with the saints and also members of the household of God, built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, with Christ Jesus himself as the cornerstone; in him the whole structure is joined together and grows into a holy temple in the Lord, in whom you also are built together spiritually into a dwelling place for God. (Ephesians 2:19-22)

Dear Friends,

We chose to give to the church because God, this church, and the church members are our home away from home and “family.” God has blessed us with so much, we chose to give it back to God – and to our church family.

Giving to the church allows both our “family” and us to grow, connect and fellowship through Sunday worship, church activities, and Wednesday night dinners.

It is a wonderful thing!

John and Rosalie Carden

Pray for Ferrell Wooten and all Wednesday Night Dinner Crew.

Day 7

Scripture: The earth is the LORD's and all that is in it, the world, and those who live in it, for He has founded it on the seas and established it on the rivers. (Psalm 24:1-2)

Dear Friends,

First, let me state that I consider it to be a wonderful gift from God to be able to give time, service, and funds to the church. It is an opportunity to give back to God what He has given so freely to me and what He continues to do and give to me and my family. Our Blessings are many.

God has a plan for every person. If you listen and follow His teachings and work together to further His kingdom, we will all be blessed beyond measure.

Rosalind Webb

Pray for Dr. Walters, liturgists, and all choir members.

Ways to Give:

In Person:

During Worship Service

10:45 -Contemporary Worship (Family Life Center)

11:05 -Traditional Worship (Sanctuary)

1405 Rockbridge Rd. SW, Stone Mountain 30078

By Mail:

Mountain Park UMC

P. O. Box 871147

Stone Mountain, GA

30087

Online:

www.mountainparkumc.org/give



Text:

Simply text “give2mpumc” to the number 73256

Legacy Giving:

mountainparkumc.org/legacy





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