

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 Collegiate/Wesley is not based upon your capacity to give. We do 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 office (292-6936).

Also, be sure to let our pastoral staff know of your situation so that they can pray for and support you during any difficulty.

To whom much has been given...

"From everyone who has been given much, much will be demanded; and from the one who has been entrusted with much, much more will be asked."

—Luke 12:48

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.

Should I use EFT?

EFT (Electronic Funds Transfer) is the easiest, most cost-effective giving option for both you and the church. With EFT, you can reinforce your commitment to giving to God first, before anything else. One easy step each year ensures that the church will receive your gifts on a regular basis, even if you are out of town or you forget one week. On a practical note, EFT reduces the time needed for members and staff to process offerings.

If you are choosing this option for the first time, be sure to check the box authorizing the electronic funds transfer on your estimate of giving card. Our Administrative Coordinator will be in contact with you to help you complete the process.

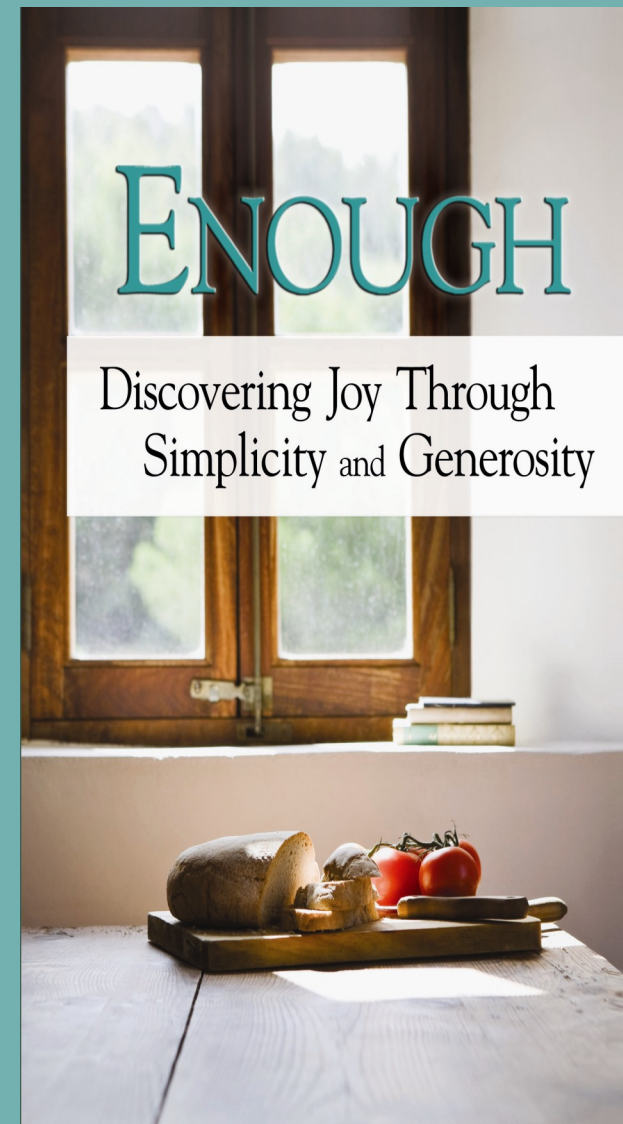
If you have participated in our EFT program before, please return your estimate of giving card and our Administrative Coordinator will make the arrangements accordingly. You can always increase or decrease your commitment if your situation changes by calling the church.

For more information contact Joyce Rasmussen, CUMC/WF Administrative Coordinator, at (515) 292-6936, ext. 11.

Scriptures tell us to share our gifts

"Command those who are rich in this world . . . to do good, to be rich in good deeds, and to be generous and willing to share. In this way they will lay up treasure for themselves as a firm foundation for the coming age, so that they may take hold of the life that is truly life."

— Paul's First Letter to Timothy 6:17-19



ENOUGH

Discovering Joy Through
Simplicity and Generosity

Stewardship Giving Guide

Giving Guide

ENOUGH

Stewardship Campaign

Collegiate United Methodist Church & Wesley Foundation

This year we invite you to celebrate the joy of generosity as you offer your estimate of giving card for 2010. 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 that 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 to the church. 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, make disciples and transform communities.

Everything we have belongs to God.

“A tenth [tithe] of the land's produce, whether grain from the ground or fruit from the trees, is GOD's. It is holy to GOD.”

—Leviticus 27:30 (*The Message*)

Why is giving important?

The Bible has much to say about wisdom and finances, with 2300 verses that tell us to be generous and good stewards of our resources. Jesus taught generosity and sacrifice. He wants his followers to serve not wealth but God, and in the parable of the talents he taught that God will hold each of us accountable for what we do with all our earthly possessions.

What is expected of me?

The biblical standard of giving is a tithe, or the first 10 percent of what we earn, to God and the church's work. For many, giving one tenth is a very difficult goal. For others, who have achieved tithing, it is a starting point toward even greater giving.

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 investment in God's work and your desire to serve God.

Begin by determining what percentage of your income you are currently giving to God. If you are not yet tithing, consider taking a 1% 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.

Giving is not an issue of dollars and cents. When Jesus said, “Your heart will be where your treasures are,” he was indicating that giving is a spiritual issue. 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.

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. God loves a cheerful giver.”

—2 Corinthians 9:6 –7

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.