

Guide to Giving

Each year we strive to grow deeper in our faith, continuing on our journey of becoming deeply committed Christians. As we return our financial blessings to God through our tithes and offerings, we are investing in God's vision and mission and creating an opportunity for God to work through us to transform and renew the lives people's lives .

What is expected of me? The Bible teaches us to give a tithe (the first 10% percent) of what we earn to God and God's work. Unfortunately, many Christians don't even know what percentage of their income they give to God. We hope you will prayerfully consider your gift and take the time to determine what percentage of your income you have been giving to God. Once you begin giving in proportion to your income it is easier to grow faithfulness. For some, the giving of the tenth may be a target you are growing toward each year. For others, it is the starting point, and you will give far more than 10 % . If you are not yet tithing, consider taking a step toward the tithe this year. For example, if you give 5% of your income in 2011, consider growing to 6% in 2012.

The goal is for your giving to reflect an appropriate offering to God given your financial means, Our offerings express our gratitude to and desire to serve the Lord and invest in God's work in our community.

Why am I asked to return a commitment form? There are two reasons why it is important that every member of the First Presbyterian Church family return a commitment card. First of all, the process of prayerfully asking God to guide your decision and then making a commitment to serve God with your financial gifts is an act of worship, an expression of gratitude and praise to God. Secondly, on a practical note, your commitment or pledge allows our church to budget and plan for our ministries in the coming year.

What if financial hardship prohibits me from making a commitment this year? Please don't let your inability to give at this time keep you from church. Remember that God honors your faithfulness. Your acceptance at First Presbyterian Church is not based upon your capacity to give. We do ask that you return a commitment form indicating a zero pledge at this time. You can always change your pledge if your situation requires it. Also, we invite you to let our pastoral staff know your situation so they can pray for and support you .

Why do I need to turn in a new commitment form each year? Financial situations change from year to year, and if we are growing in our faith, our annual commitment should likewise reflect that growth. Our church budgets for ministry each year based upon the commitments of our congregation.

Can I use Electronic Funds Transfer?

Electronic Funds Transfer (EFT) is the easiest, most cost-effective giving option for both you and the church. If you choose this option, you will need a commitment card each year authorizing the electronic funds transfer. If you have used EFT in the past, you still need to return a commitment card with this option checked, and you can select to use your bank account information already on file.

What about pledges to the Projects or Essential Fund?

Gifts to the Projects or Essential Fund represent a gift above and beyond your regular titles and offerings to the Operating Fund of the Church. These pledges are made using the small Projects Fund card. Gifts can be designated for specific approved projects. Undesignated gifts are used for special projects or areas of greatest need. Gifts go into a savings account until they are spent. Some designated gifts continue to grow for several years until enough money is raised for a particular project.



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*Where your treasure is,
there will be your heart, also. — Matthew 6:21*

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