

One of our challenges as members of Benson Memorial United Methodist Church is to always be looking for new ways to grow spiritually. As people who believe that everything we have comes from God, one way to do this is to offer our financial resources to God through our tithes and offerings. Through these gifts, we invest in the ministries of Benson Memorial UMC that serve our community and even the entire world. Our financial gifts to God are an act of worship, and our offerings are vitally necessary to change lives and transform our community.

## Why is giving important?

At Benson Memorial United Methodist Church, we believe that following Jesus and growing in our discipleship means that we regularly **gather, grow, give, and go**. This means that in order to become more spiritually healthy, we need to regularly be finding ways to **gather** with others, **grow** spiritually, and **go** into the community to serve. We believe that **giving** of our financial resources regularly is just as vital to our personal and collective spiritual wellbeing.

## What is expected of me?

You may have heard the word “tithe” used in a church setting. The Bible teaches us to give a tithe (or the first 10 percent of what we earn) to God and the church’s work. It’s completely understandable that for some,

giving one tenth of what we earn is a very difficult goal. **But, the important thing is that you start somewhere.** Begin by determining what percentage of your income you are currently giving to God and the community through the church. You may not yet be giving at all. You may find that you’re giving 2% or 3% of your income. If you are not yet giving that 10% goal, consider taking a step *toward* tithing this year. For example, if you now give 3% of your income, consider increasing your gift to 4%, and add 1% each year until you reach the tithing goal. Overall, our prayer is that everyone will grow in their faith by growing in generosity.

## Why do I need to fill out a pledge card?

Filling out a commitment card means that we are giving forethought to our giving. In other words, rather than giving infrequently and sporadically with whatever we have in our wallets when the plate lands in our lap on a Sunday morning, we give real consideration to how giving will impact our Church and greater community as well as our personal spiritual growth in the coming year. This is also why we’re encouraging everyone to return a pledge card this year. We would like every individual in our congregation to take a moment to reflect on the positive impact that their giving has already had and to have a personal conversation with

God about what impact an increase in giving could yield. Even if you only plan to give one dollar next year, it’s a start toward giving faithfully and intentionally.

## 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 Benson Memorial UMC 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 office. Also, be sure to let our pastors know of your situation so that they can pray for and support you during any difficulty.

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

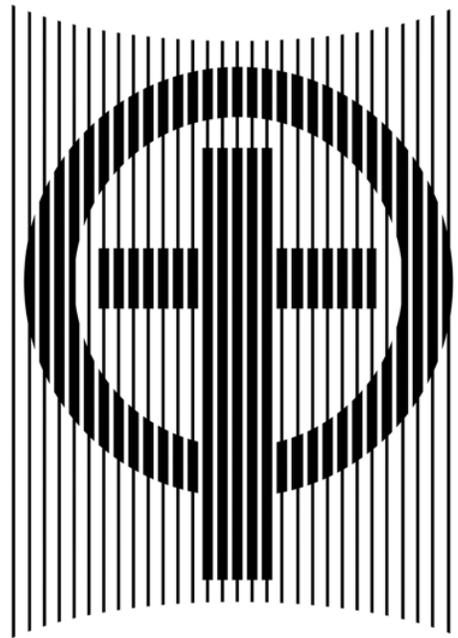
Each year, our church budget is prepared based upon the growing commitments and ministries of our congregation. Financial situations change from year to year, and if we are growing in our faith, our annual commitment should likewise reflect that growth in giving.

## Should I use online giving or electronic funds transfers?

We highly encourage online giving. Electronic Funds Transfer (EFT) is the easiest, most cost-effective giving option for both you and the church. With EFT, you can also reinforce your commitment to give to the Church 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 one Sunday or you forget your checkbook. And on a practical note, EFT reduces administrative costs and time to process offerings. If you choose this option, you must return an estimate of giving card each year authorizing the electronic funds transfer. Complete the EFT information and attach a voided check for the account you will use. For more information, please contact our Business Manager, Sally, via email at [businessmanager@bensonmemorial.org](mailto:businessmanager@bensonmemorial.org) or by phone at 919.787.0789.

Stewardship Commitment  
Sunday is October 1.

Please remember to bring  
your commitment cards  
with you at 8:45 or 11:00.



# GIVE



# 2018

BENSON MEMORIAL  
UNITED METHODIST  
CHURCH

•GIVING GUIDE•