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## 2023 Stewardship - John Wesley UMC

"Offer to God a sacrifice of thanksgiving and make good your vows to the Most High." Ps. 50:14

Stewardship is about more than what we do with 10% of our check. That is not all God is asking for. So, what does God really want in the offering plate?

Our giving, and how we feel about, tells a lot about what we think about God. Our giving attitudes reflect our attitudes about others. Our giving connects us to God, the source of all. Our giving also connects us to God's creatures, especially to "the least of these." We give regularly to respond to the assurance that God gives us. We need a regular reminder that God will not let us go. "Nothing can separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord." (Romans 8) Thanks be to God.

The Bible tells us that giving is an important aspect of our Christian lives. When we give part of our resources, we help fulfill God's mandate for us here on Earth. Giving also proves our innate love and gratitude to our Creator and to fellow human beings.

Giving is not only a command but must also entail a cheerful attitude from the giver. 2 Corinthians 9:7 reads: "Each one must give as he has decided in his heart, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver." Giving is a primary duty and responsibility of every living Christian. By giving generously and cheerfully, we demonstrate our true faith in God and our identity in Christ.

We ask that you prayerfully consider what portion of God's generosity in your life you would invest in the ministry of John Wesley UMC. As we plan for ministry in the coming year we need to know the resources we have to work with. Please give us an idea of what you expect to give to the ministry of the church, no matter how large or small it might be. Please remember to indicate your willingness to intentionally pray for our church and our ministry and to indicate your willingness to serve as a participant in bringing God's love to bear on individuals, our community, and our world. Remember that whatever you give may seem small in the grand scheme of things, but if God is in it, if God is guiding you in it, it will be much!

You can print and fill out a Stewardship Card, place it in an envelope, and either mail it to the church or place it in the offering plate by November 27th, Commitment Sunday. The more information that we have, the better stewards we can be of what you invest in the ministries of John Wesley UMC as we are *Reaching the Individual, Touching the Community, and Serving the World.* 

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