



# GPS Giving Guide

As we consider **VISION 2024**, we have learned ways to strengthen our core values and belief that God provides all we need. Generosity toward God is a simple way to celebrate our Joy, and to make our gifts to God each week as an act of worship. As you consider your intention to give in 2024, remember our offerings are vitally necessary to change lives and continue our missions. Through these gifts, we create an opportunity for God to work through us and to experience the joy of exceptional ministry.

## Why is giving important?

The Bible has much to say about wisdom and finances, with 2,300 verses that tell us to be generous and good stewards of our resources. Jesus taught generosity and sacrifice. He demanded that his followers serve not wealth, but God, and in the parable of the talents, he taught that God will hold us each accountable for what we do with all our earthly possessions.

## Why is it important to complete a card with my intention?

It is important that every member of our church family return an 2024 Estimate of Giving and Serving card. 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.

## What happens if my financial ability changes?

This is your gift to God—not legally binding. Circumstances can change—percentage giving recognizes this. You can increase or decrease your giving during the year in relation to your circumstances or blessings.

## What is expected of me?

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 generosity. Making a decision regarding your estimate of giving for 2024 is a personal, faith-based decision. The Bible teaches us to give a tithe, or the first 10 percent of what we earn, to God and the church's work.



For some in our church, giving one tenth is a very difficult goal. For others, it is the starting point, and their giving far exceeds 10 percent. The important thing is that each of us start somewhere; that our giving be in proportion to our income; that our giving reflects an appropriate offering to God given our means and that our offerings express both our desire to serve the Lord and invest in God's work.

We encourage you to review your past giving when planning your 2024 commitment. Start by determining what percentage of your income you are giving currently to God. If you are not yet tithing, consider taking a 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.

## Where are you in your giving journey?

### First-Time Giver

-Give a specific amount – you are regularly attending church and growing in your faith but have not yet taken the step to plan your giving. Making an intentional plan will feel like a big step yet you are growing deep in your faith and feel called to honor God with a regular financial gift in worship. You may be considering an intentional amount, perhaps 1% - 3% of your income.

### Intentional Giver

-Give a planned percentage of Income – you give generously when you attend church but you have not planned your giving in relation to your income. This is an opportunity to prayerfully make a plan to give 4-7% percentage of your income and start your journey towards Tithing.

### Growing Giver

-Increase the percentage of income - you have been supporting the church and its missions for many years and you are strong in your faith. You have heard God's call of obedience to increase your giving to a Tithing level. This may take you some extra planning and budget changes to give 8-9% of your income but this is an opportunity to step forward in faith acknowledging that all you have are gifts from God that is entrusted to you.

Tithing Giver – you have developed the discipline of honoring God with your Tithing and have experienced the joy of standing tall and giving generously. You may now be considering moving towards an exceptional generosity level and increasing your planned giving to 10-15% or more of your income.

Extravagant Giver – as a generous supporter of the church you are also intentionally planning to give a lasting gift by giving beyond the tithe, or remembering New Albany United Methodist Church in your will, trust, and/or insurance plan to continue to support God's work as your legacy.