



November 2025

Dear Faithful Disciples,

We are in a season of remembering who we are, and how we express our gratitude to God here at Christ UMC. And this year, we would like to have a little fun. We know that our church knows how to have fun even in the midst of difficult times. That is countercultural. As God's children, we were created to function most optimally when we cooperate with one another and contribute to something bigger and beyond ourselves. The church is a gift to us, providing a space to have fun, do both things and thrive, giving us meaning and purpose and friendships, especially in times of turmoil. To be grateful and generous, and to say thank you to God, is to be countercultural.

It is also a good time to remember what the church is, and what the church is not. Did you know that many Jewish communities assign dues to their members? Each family is assigned an amount to give to cover the expenses of the congregation. While finance chairpersons and pastors might be tempted, we don't assign or bill you for your dues. This is where the church stands financially at the end of October 2025:

Income \$305,621

Expenses \$316,297

(Due to increases in building and parsonage maintenance, even with a reduction in staff salaries)

Deficit \$10,676

We've also been talking quite a bit about the distinct differences between membership in a club, and membership in the life of a congregation. Your gym, for example, will gladly sign you up and charge your credit card monthly, whether you show up for a workout or not. And they probably will not call you or come visit when you are sick. Places like gyms can also make it very difficult to cancel your membership. This can be stressful and a very unpleasant experience. The Church is different. We operate on faith and we have faith in you. Each year we request an estimate of your giving for the new year of ministry. It is not just about following the what the bible teaches or funding the budget, it is about making our deep faith and commitment primary and living in the abundance of God's grace.

Last year, we had an incredible response to our campaign. We increased the number of estimate cards by 89% (from 35 to 66) and 64% of those (42 estimates of 66) reflected an increase in giving! You are amazing. We are grateful and of course, we will ask you, once again, to give more to God's work if you can. Please first consider where you are in your giving. We know that some people give a dollar or two in the pew, some give a set amount regularly, and some give larger gifts each year. Please prayerfully consider how God might be calling you to take a radical **step forward in your giving**. Whether it's moving toward a tithe (a helpful chart is on the back), or growing your current commitment, giving regularly, even starting small, it is a step in trusting in God's blessing that will make an impact far beyond Sunday. Your giving helps energize worship, and provide missions and congregational care, and education.

This week, we are inviting every person to complete an Estimate of Giving Card for 2026. This is not a bill or a contract. It is an invitation to a powerful act of faith. It's an invitation to invest in something meaningful, and to take a first step toward a deeper spiritual connection. Please know that we are here for you and we need you.

Rev. Janice Lynn

Pastor Janice Lynn and The Stewardship/Finance Team at Christ UMC

Bring the whole tithe into the storehouse, that there may be food in my house. Test me in this," says the LORD Almighty, "and see if I will not throw open the floodgates of heaven and pour out so much blessing that there will not be room enough to store it. Malachi 3.10



TITHE CHART

TAKING A STEP UP TO TITHING

The chart below lets you compare what a tithe (10%) of your income looks like. God tells us, I give 100% of your blessings to you. Live on 90%. Return 10% to me. Sounds reasonable: *"Bring the full tithes into the storehouse... and you will see how I open up the windows of heaven."* - Malachi 3:10

Some people go "cold turkey" and just start tithing. Others have taken on lots of payments - mortgage, car, student loans, utilities, cellphone, etc. - and must take smaller steps. Maybe this is your year to get started with 1% or to step up to 5%. Spend time in prayer as you consider taking the next step toward tithing.

Weekly Income	Beyond A Tithe		Tithe	Upper Range of Giving			Middle Range of Giving			Lower Range of Giving		
	15%	12%		9%	8%	7%	6%	5%	4%	3%	2%	1%
\$200	\$30	\$24	\$20	\$18	\$16	\$14	\$12	\$10	\$8	\$6	\$4	\$2
\$300	\$45	\$36	\$30	\$27	\$24	\$21	\$18	\$15	\$12	\$9	\$6	\$3
\$400	\$60	\$48	\$40	\$36	\$32	\$28	\$24	\$20	\$16	\$12	\$8	\$4
\$500	\$75	\$60	\$50	\$45	\$40	\$35	\$30	\$25	\$20	\$15	\$10	\$5
\$600	\$90	\$72	\$60	\$54	\$48	\$42	\$36	\$30	\$24	\$18	\$12	\$6
\$700	\$105	\$84	\$70	\$63	\$56	\$49	\$42	\$35	\$28	\$21	\$14	\$7
\$800	\$120	\$96	\$80	\$72	\$64	\$56	\$48	\$40	\$32	\$24	\$16	\$8
\$900	\$135	\$108	\$90	\$81	\$72	\$63	\$54	\$45	\$36	\$27	\$18	\$9
\$1,000	\$150	\$120	\$100	\$90	\$80	\$70	\$60	\$50	\$40	\$30	\$20	\$10
\$1,100	\$165	\$132	\$110	\$99	\$88	\$77	\$66	\$55	\$44	\$33	\$22	\$11
\$2,000	\$300	\$240	\$200	\$180	\$160	\$140	\$120	\$100	\$80	\$60	\$40	\$20
\$3,000	\$450	\$360	\$300	\$270	\$240	\$210	\$180	\$150	\$120	\$90	\$60	\$30