



Stewardship – 2023 *VISION FOR THE FUTURE*

Explaining Financial Giving at St. Matthew United Church of Christ

Believe it or not, there is more to St. Matthew UCC than just what you see on Sunday morning! During the week, we hold committee meetings, pay the bills, produce newsletters and weekly bulletins, collect items for our local food bank, perform upkeep on the building, maintain our landscaping and flowers, host a Men's Group and a Women's Ministry, choirs and bells practice, Christian Ed works on curriculum, and our youth gather for a Craziest meeting.

All of these things are planned and prepared by leadership and staff who are deeply committed to our becoming who it is that God is calling us to be. The ministry and mission of our church take place because of the spiritual and *financial* gifts our members and friends choose to offer. These are the resources that fuel our mission; and yes, it does cost real money to provide these essential and spiritual components!

The decision to give a gift is a choice, but as a follower of Jesus, it really isn't an option! Based on what we have received, we are encouraged to give something – out of thanksgiving for what God has done. To make that gift requires making a decision to give something away that you might use for something else. It may mean choosing not to buy a fancy coffee, or deciding to carry a sack lunch once a week instead of buying lunch. The amount may seem insignificant, but did you know that a gift of just \$260 (\$5 every week) can sponsor a youth for a mission trip? Your gift matters – it matters to you as the giver, and to the church which utilizes it as a resource for mission.

As a congregation, we are entering a time of discerning what we will contribute monetarily in the coming year. Pledges help us to develop a more accurate income estimate for next year's budget. The practice of exercising financial stewardship is a spiritual discipline and a way to grow our faith. There is joy to be found in practicing generosity and it begins with a simple step of a commitment to contribute.

There are many ways to donate: monthly payments through your bank, electronically through St. Matthew's Vanco service (monthly or semi-monthly), or from our website (either through PayPal or by Credit Card). Challenge yourself to give in a regular and disciplined way. I promise you won't regret it.

We invite you to use the charts on the next page to see where your estimate of giving is as a percentage of income and relative to others at St. Matthew.

God bless you for all the ways you are generous.

Edith DeBoard
Financial Secretary

Giving as a Percentage of Income

| %Giving / Income | \$15,000 | \$25,000 | \$50,000 | \$75,000 | \$100,000 | \$125,000 | \$150,000 | \$175,000 | \$200,000 |
|------------------|----------|----------|----------|----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|
| 1% | \$150 | \$250 | \$500 | \$750 | \$1,000 | \$1,250 | \$1,500 | \$1,750 | \$2,000 |
| 2% | \$300 | \$500 | \$1,000 | \$1,500 | \$2,000 | \$2,500 | \$3,000 | \$3,500 | \$4,000 |
| 3% | \$450 | \$750 | \$1,500 | \$2,250 | \$3,000 | \$3,750 | \$4,500 | \$5,250 | \$6,000 |
| 4% | \$600 | \$1,000 | \$2,000 | \$3,000 | \$4,000 | \$5,000 | \$6,000 | \$7,000 | \$8,000 |
| 5% | \$750 | \$1,250 | \$2,500 | \$3,750 | \$5,000 | \$6,250 | \$7,500 | \$8,750 | \$10,000 |
| 6% | \$900 | \$1,500 | \$3,000 | \$4,500 | \$6,000 | \$7,500 | \$9,000 | \$10,500 | \$12,000 |
| 7% | \$1,050 | \$1,750 | \$3,500 | \$5,250 | \$7,000 | \$8,750 | \$10,500 | \$12,250 | \$14,000 |
| 8% | \$1,200 | \$2,000 | \$4,000 | \$6,000 | \$8,000 | \$10,000 | \$12,000 | \$14,000 | \$16,000 |
| 9% | \$1,350 | \$2,250 | \$4,500 | \$6,750 | \$9,000 | \$11,250 | \$13,500 | \$15,750 | \$18,000 |
| 10% | \$1,500 | \$2,500 | \$5,000 | \$7,500 | \$10,000 | \$12,500 | \$15,000 | \$17,500 | \$20,000 |

St. Matthew 2022 Pledge Results

124 families/individuals contacted, 72 pledged

