Jesus is speaking: “For who is greater, the one who is at the table or the one who serves? Is it not the one who is at the table? But I am among you as one who serves.”

Luke 22:27
Q - Does it help the church if I/we make a pledge?
A - Yes. If you can estimate what you think you can do that always helps. If you find, during the year, that you can do better then, certainly we are eager for you to do so. Likewise if you find you cannot do what you thought then you can call or email and adjust your pledge. Pledging is a great help to us in determining our budget for the coming year and is a step toward a greater commitment to Christ.

Q - What is if I can't give 10%?
A - Many people cannot give 10%. Your tithe should be something that you think about, pray about, and decide what you can do. There is a spiritual value for each of us in recognizing that all we have is a gift from God. Sure you have worked hard, but God has been at work in your life since you were born opening doors and opportunities for you. Tithing, giving, and stewardship is an acknowledgement of God’s grace and our response to Him. Some people can only give 1% or 3%. Some can give 7% or 8%. Some can do better than 10%. God deserves our best. Just ask if you are doing your best.

Q - What is the most helpful way to give?
A - It is a great blessing to the church if you can set up your giving electronically. There are a couple of ways to do this. Many people pay their bills online and in the same way you can set up your church giving. We also have an electronic giving program here at the church that can be set up through our Financial Administrator or you can personally go through our website and give online. We do recognize that many people don’t pay bills online and we always welcome cash and checks in the offering plates. Some people mail their checks to the church. Some persons feel that there is something important about actually putting their gifts in the offering plate on Sunday morning. Again, giving should be an act of worship and thankfulness to God. So give as is most helpful to you.

Q - Is there a funding source from the conference that pays a significant portion of our budget?
A - No. All of the funds we receive come from members and friends of CFUMC. 100% of our income is generated from the people here at CFUMC. We do not receive any money from outside foundations or conferences.

Q - Is there a process for giving stocks and our endowment gifts?
A - Yes! Stocks are a win/win. They are a good way to bypass capital gains taxes. They are easy for us to process and many people give out of their stock holdings each year. Just call our Financial Administrator for information on how to set this up. During 2014 we have been establishing an Endowment Fund here at the church. We will begin to offer information and seminars about the benefits to both the giver and the church in the coming year.

Dear CFUMC Church Family,

Fall is harvest time of year. In most churches, it is the time for giving and pledging as we prepare for the next year. In my brief time here, I have emphasized the “ordinary means of grace”: regular worship, prayer and devotional life, small group belonging and giving of time and money. These are the “ordinary” ways God can be found, and the church is here to give us opportunities for all of these. Now is a time to consider where you are in your faith life and what your plans are for giving next year.

One of the themes for people of faith to consider is the statement that “it is not the church’s need to receive, but your need to give.” This can be a perplexing statement. I recall a stewardship reflection from one of the most faithful Christians I have known. She was confused by this statement. She and her family were generous givers to the church. She knew the church needs to have a budget and live within its budget. She wanted to do her part. She knew the fall was the time of year when the church asked for pledges for the next year. But this statement reminded her that this giving is not about what the church is asking for. Giving is about responding in faith to our God who is steadfast in love and abounding in mercy. This harvest time of year has Thanksgiving built in to provide opportunities for gratitude to our God of extravagant generosity.

This year’s stewardship theme, “Faithful Servants Together” is our opportunity to affirm that God’s grace is real in our life. Out of our experience with God’s love and light, we participate through this church in the work of God. Making a pledge and contributing to the church is one of the several means of grace that people of faith affirm over the years.

I invite you to consider the blessings of your life and respond with a pledge for the 2020 year. Please turn your pledge card in by November 10 or send it in before then. Also, if you wish to sign up for direct deposit giving, please check this on the pledge card and Sharon Heard will be in touch with you.

May we continue to prosper as “Faithful Servants Together.”