



CUMMING FIRST UNITED

· METHODIST CHURCH ·

March 8, 2024

Dear Cumming First United Methodist Church Member,

As we approach the culmination of our “Pathways to Generosity” initiative, I am filled with gratitude for the collective journey we've undertaken as a church community. This has been a time of reflection, prayer, and exploration of the indelible connection between our faith and the act of giving. Your commitment to this spiritual journey has been inspiring, and I believe it will continue to shape the future of our community.

Generosity, at its core, is a spiritual response to the boundless grace God showers upon us. It is an acknowledgment that all we have is a gift from God, and in return, we are called to steward these resources in alignment with God's vision. God's vision for the resources entrusted to us extends beyond mere provision; it is a divine invitation to share in God's kingdom priorities. It is not just a financial transaction but a sacred collaboration with the Lord, a tangible expression of our commitment to God's work in our church and community.

I trust that every person who considers Cumming First UMC their church home will pray about this step of faith and submit the enclosed *Estimate of Generosity* card. A strong church has strong participation; your participation is needed and valued. Your *Estimate of Generosity* allows us to move forward with our thriving 2024 Ministry Action Plan (church budget). Please bring your *Estimate of Generosity* card to worship on **March 17, 2024**, as we celebrate God's goodness in our lives, or you can submit your *Estimate of Generosity* no later than **March 17** online at cfumcga.com/generosity – where you can find additional resources as well.

Embarking on the generosity journey can be challenging, especially when grappling with the question of how much to give. To help you with this decision, please find on the back of this letter the *Guide to Making an Estimate of Generosity*. As we reflect on our decisions, let's all be in prayer for one another.

May our collective generosity be a testimony of the transformative power of God's grace in our lives and an instrument through which we fulfill God's vision for Cumming First UMC.

With heartfelt appreciation,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Matthew D. Stewart".

The Reverend Dr. Matt Stewart
Senior Pastor

Guide to Making Your Estimate of Generosity

for April 1 – December 31, 2024

As you walk the pathway of generosity, you may have questions about how much to give. Here’s a practical suggestion for how you might approach this decision:

1. Pray with God and ask God to guide you as you make this decision.
2. Start by identifying a specific percentage of your income. Write down the number and pray over it. Ask God to help you see how this gift would help you to grow in faith and make a difference for God’s kingdom. As you pray, God may confirm or challenge your decision!
3. Look over your budget with your number in mind. Remember that when God is guiding your decision making, God may challenge you to reevaluate some of your other financial commitments and priorities. Your decision here may cause the need to order and discipline other areas of your life – something we all could use.
4. Once you have arrived at the level you feel is the right spiritual step, fill out your *Estimate of Generosity* card and **submit it by March 17** at worship in person or online at cfumcga.com/generosity.
5. After making your estimate set aside your gift as the “first fruits” of your income as a way of honoring God as the source of all that you have. That way you’re giving to God from the first and best of your resources rather than from what is leftover.

Remember, the journey of generosity is an intimate part of your spiritual journey, so there's no one-size-fits-all “right” amount to give. What matters most is the sincerity of your heart in aligning your giving with God's vision.

Pathways to Generosity

Monthly Giving

A table calculating suggested percentages of monthly giving options based on Annual Income

Annual Income	Exploring Your Generosity			Growing in Your Generosity			Deepening Your Generosity			Centered	Extravagant Giving		
	1%	2%	3%	4%	5%	6%	7%	8%	9%	10%	11%	12%	15%
\$10,000	\$8	\$17	\$25	\$33	\$42	\$50	\$58	\$67	\$75	\$83	\$92	\$100	\$125
\$20,000	\$17	\$33	\$50	\$67	\$83	\$100	\$117	\$133	\$150	\$167	\$183	\$200	\$250
\$30,000	\$25	\$50	\$75	\$100	\$125	\$150	\$175	\$200	\$225	\$250	\$275	\$300	\$375
\$40,000	\$33	\$67	\$100	\$133	\$167	\$200	\$233	\$267	\$300	\$333	\$367	\$400	\$500
\$50,000	\$42	\$83	\$125	\$167	\$208	\$250	\$292	\$333	\$375	\$417	\$458	\$500	\$625
\$60,000	\$50	\$100	\$150	\$200	\$250	\$300	\$350	\$400	\$450	\$500	\$550	\$600	\$750
\$70,000	\$58	\$117	\$175	\$233	\$292	\$350	\$408	\$467	\$525	\$583	\$642	\$700	\$875
\$80,000	\$67	\$133	\$200	\$267	\$333	\$400	\$467	\$533	\$600	\$667	\$733	\$800	\$1,000
\$90,000	\$75	\$150	\$225	\$300	\$375	\$450	\$525	\$600	\$675	\$750	\$825	\$900	\$1,125
\$100,000	\$83	\$167	\$250	\$333	\$417	\$500	\$583	\$667	\$750	\$833	\$917	\$1,000	\$1,250
\$110,000	\$92	\$183	\$275	\$367	\$458	\$550	\$642	\$733	\$825	\$917	\$1,008	\$1,100	\$1,375
\$120,000	\$100	\$200	\$300	\$400	\$500	\$600	\$700	\$800	\$900	\$1,000	\$1,100	\$1,200	\$1,500
\$130,000	\$108	\$217	\$325	\$433	\$542	\$650	\$758	\$867	\$975	\$1,083	\$1,192	\$1,300	\$1,625
\$140,000	\$117	\$233	\$350	\$467	\$583	\$700	\$817	\$933	\$1,050	\$1,167	\$1,283	\$1,400	\$1,750
\$150,000	\$125	\$250	\$375	\$500	\$625	\$750	\$875	\$1,000	\$1,125	\$1,250	\$1,375	\$1,500	\$1,875
\$175,000	\$146	\$292	\$438	\$583	\$729	\$875	\$1,021	\$1,167	\$1,313	\$1,458	\$1,604	\$1,750	\$2,188
\$200,000	\$167	\$333	\$500	\$667	\$833	\$1,000	\$1,167	\$1,333	\$1,500	\$1,667	\$1,833	\$2,000	\$2,500
\$250,000	\$208	\$417	\$625	\$833	\$1,042	\$1,250	\$1,458	\$1,667	\$1,875	\$2,083	\$2,292	\$2,500	\$3,125
\$300,000	\$250	\$500	\$750	\$1,000	\$1,250	\$1,500	\$1,750	\$2,000	\$2,250	\$2,500	\$2,750	\$3,000	\$3,750