

First United Methodist Church of Dexter, Missouri

“We Make a Living by What We Get, But We Make a Life by What We Give” *

How we make and spend money, how we deal with debt, and how we save and invest for the future are shaped by our faith. Jesus had much to say about money, eleven of His parables mention money. Jesus cares how we use our money because it can control us if we’re not careful. Remember His words in Matt. 6:24, *No one can serve two masters. Either you will hate the one and love the other, or you will be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve both God and money.* In a world that’s driven by money, it’s hard not to let it make our decisions for us. God’s view of money is very different than society’s. How can we live a life of gratitude and contentment? How can we experience the joy that comes from knowing our gifts honor God and change lives, especially ours? Here are a few ways that come to mind:

1. Give to Be Blessed

“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) We often look at tithing from the wrong side, God allows us to keep 90% of what we earn! When we give more, it’s called a sacrifice. Giving is God’s way of introducing us into the concept of sowing and reaping. Join in the harvest that God has for you by sowing your gift with Him today and wait and see what God does in return in your life.

2. Give from the Heart

“Sell your possessions, and give to the needy. Provide yourselves with moneybags that do not grow old, with a treasure in the heavens that does not fail, where no thief approaches and no moth destroys. For where your treasure is, there will your heart will be also.” (Luke 12:33-34)

Where is your heart? Is it on your family, on your wealth or on your job? Sow an eternal return by giving to God from the treasures that you can’t take with you.

3. If You Give, You Will Receive

“Give, and it will be given to you. A good measure, pressed down, shaken together and running over, will be poured into your lap. For with the measure you use, it will be measured to you.” (Luke 6:38)

What you bring to God’s creation will yield either good or evil. What you add to the welfare of life on earth, you receive back in fulfillment. God desires to multiply that good through us *now* while we’re on earth. Give because that’s why God created you — to enjoy Him and to bring that joy to others.

4. Giving Changes Us

“As for the rich in this present age, charge them not to be haughty, nor to set their hopes on the uncertainty of riches, but on God, who richly provides us with everything to enjoy. They are to do good, to be rich in good works, to be generous and ready to share, thus storing up treasure for themselves as a good foundation for the future, so that they may take hold of that which is truly life.” (1 Tim. 6:17-19)

There’s something irreplaceable about giving. It does something in us — it makes us uncomfortable in a way that we need, but scarcely want. But we all want to be the kind of *people* that being generous makes us. In Acts 20:35, *Jesus himself said: “It is more blessed to give than to receive.”* You will never understand until you give from the heart. It’s only then do you *take hold of that which is truly life*. Even if we don’t have material wealth, we can be rich in deeds. Everyone has something they can share with others. Make a financial sacrifice for the sake of the kingdom as an expression of your gratitude toward God’s generosity toward you in Christ.

5. Lack of Generosity Causes Spiritual Waywardness

“Incline my heart to your testimonies, and not to selfish gain!” (Psalm 119:36)

What makes us selfish? For the Psalmist, it has to do with the heart, he prays *“Incline my heart ... not to selfish gain!”* Our spiritual heart can either *hold* onto things or *release* them. When you think of your money, does your heart *hold* or *release*? If it can release, it’s not selfish gain. God helps us fight against grasping so tightly to our money by calling us to give some of it away. He knows our hearts are inclined toward selfishness. Release your heart today by giving to God as we incline our heart toward obedience to His Word.

6. Generosity Brings Contentment

“All day long he craves for more, but the righteous give without sparing.” (Prov. 21:26)

The book of Proverbs tells us that the wicked man’s craving lasts *“all day long.”* It means he *“craves for more.”* That’s natural. You are never satisfied with what you have. The righteous who *give without sparing*, by contrast, are satisfied. It’s an oxymoron, if you give without sparing, won’t *you* be the one who *“craves for more”*? Not in God’s world. To give a portion of our earnings to God keeps our hearts reminded of the God who not only calls us to give, but blesses us more than we could ever give! As Jesus said, *“It is more blessed to give than to receive.”* (Acts 20:35)

7. Give to Worship God

“Do not neglect to do good and to share what you have, for such sacrifices are pleasing to God.” (Heb. 13:16)

There’s something at the heart of doing good and sharing what we have, it’s a way of worshiping God. 2 Cor. 9:7 says, *“Each of you should give what you have decided in your heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver.”* Giving is a part of worshiping God in a meaningful and sacrificial way.

* quote by Winston Churchill

Pastor Larry



FESTIVAL OF SHARING 2021

The 2021 Festival of Sharing will be held here at our church on Saturday, October 2. Our church will be making Food Boxes and Paper Product Kits again this year. If you would prefer not to shop for items you may make a donation to the church for the estimated value and we will purchase and pack the items.



Missouri Family Food Boxes

4,918 requested versus 1,531 shared in 2020

Estimated Pack Value | **\$25**

Instructions: Place items in a sturdy box (i.e. Girl Scout cookie boxes), tape and label "**Missouri Family Food Box.**" Please no more than 2 packs per box due to weight.

- 3 pkgs. macaroni & cheese
- 3 different cans of vegetables
- 3 different cans of fruit
- 1 jar peanut butter
- 1 can pasta sauce
- 1 pound pasta
- 3 cans tuna
- 3 cans chicken



Boxes Available Outside The Church Office



Missouri Paper Products Pack

5,244 requested versus 777 shared in 2020

Estimated Pack Value | **\$16**

Instructions: Place all items in a tall-sized kitchen trash bag. Label the trash bag "**Missouri Paper Products Pack.**"

- 2 facial tissue (large rectangle boxes)
- 2 rolls paper towels (good quality)
- 12 double rolls of toilet paper as 3 packages of 4 or 2 packages of 6 (unable to receive 12 rolls in one pack)





**Tuesday, Sept. 14
4:00 to 5:00 p.m.**

Please share the date with anyone in need. Everyone is welcome to drive through and receive household and personal care items.

In Our Mailbox

Church Family, Thank you for sharing in the celebration of Dad's life. Our entire family appreciates your support and the excellent dinner provided after the service. Dad always appreciated a good church dinner. Thank you again. Kent, Karen, & Kay

Dear Prayer Ministry Team, Thank you for continuing to pray and care for my family. I have felt your love and grace in unending care. Love you all. God Bless, Kitty Kandalaft

Prayer Ministry Team, Thank you so much for your prayers when I broke my knee. I'm still healing and recuperating, and during the time, prayers have been so appreciated. I am blessed to have friends like you for support. Debbie Kern

Dear Friends, Thank you so much for your thoughts, prayers, and kindness during this difficult time. Thanks for the meal you served my friends and family. Love, Drenna Lee

Thank you for the school supplies and Lifesavers. We appreciate your kindness and support. Thanks, Angie Duncan & Megan Miller @ Central





School Supplies Donated

Thanks to everyone who came out for the Ice Cream Social and donated to provide school supplies. A basket was delivered to each building in the Dexter School system.

Grief Support Group

Help and encouragement after the death of a spouse, child, family member, or friend

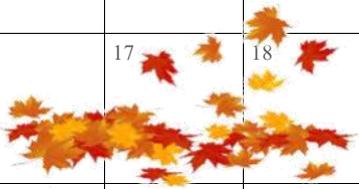
GRIEF SHARE

Join us weekly
on Sundays
starting
September 12
at 2:00 p.m.

Wesley Hall
(building on south side)
First United Methodist Church
501 S. Walnut St.
Dexter, Missouri
573-624-3344
573-421-9669



SEPTEMBER

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 Praise Band, 6:30	2	3	4
5 Morning Grace, 8:15 CrossOver, 9:15 Traditions, 10:30	6 Labor Day - church office closed WW Society in Wesley Hall	7	8 Praise Band, 6:30	9 WW Society in Wesley Hall	10	11
12 Morning Grace, 8:15 CrossOver, 9:15 Traditions, 10:30 Grief Support Group, 2 in WH	13 Wesley Hall reserved	14 Bethany, 4-5	15 Praise Band, 6:30	16 	17	18
19 Morning Grace, 8:15 CrossOver, 9:15 Traditions, 10:30 Grief Support Group, 2 in WH	20	21	22 Praise Band, 6:30	23 WW Society Meeting, 1:00	24	25
26 Morning Grace, 8:15 CrossOver, 9:15 Traditions, 10:30 Grief Support Group, 2 in WH	27	28	29 Praise Band, 6:30	30 Wesley Hall Reserved for Festival of Sharing		

September Birthdays

9/1 Megan Keller
 9/2 Larry White
 9/5 Peggy Palmer
 9/7 Virginia Lemar
 9/8 Brad Jarrell
 9/9 Donna Keller
 9/10 Jessica Freeman
 9/15 Phil Elam
 9/18 Connie Heil
 9/24 Lehman Godwin
 9/24 Ann Polsgrove
 9/30 Rhys Parsons

September Anniversaries

9/1 Jerry & Vicky Jarrell



If your family's birthdays and anniversaries are not on our list, please contact the church office at 624-3344 or email us at dexterfirstumc@gmail.com

OUR PRAYER MINISTRY

Current Prayer Requests

Laura Daniel, Carolyn Proffitt, family of Karen Tippen, family of Ron Acord, Sophia Harrison, Jack & Jo Pankey, Tom & Carmen Love, Steve Brown, Debra Wise, Barbara Rice, Peggy Currie, LeAnn Kelley, Ed Eubanks, family of Albert Shaver, Patty Shell, Jeff Lambert

Special Giving

In memory of Beth Weber - Dan Nichols, Terry & Glinda Almond, Ken & Jamie Jackson, Lynda Jones. In memory of Floyd Polsgrove - Terry & Glinda Almond



Our Prayer Ministry List is a valuable resource to keep our members informed about the prayer needs in our church and community. We also reach many people outside our church with a weekly email.

To add someone to the list:

- call the church office at 624-3344
- email your request to dexterfirstumc@gmail.com
- drop a note in the offering box

Don't forget to provide updates to the office after you place someone on the list. Please include an address if possible so that our prayer team can send a card.

