

## Giving Opportunities

**Cash or Check** - simply place your donation in the offering plate during Sunday worship or mail a check to the church.

**Automatic withdrawal** - contact the church office to set up regular monthly gifts to be deducted from your checking account.

**Stock** - Donate appreciated stock, bonds, or mutual funds. Check with your financial advisor to ask about the tax benefits of this type of gift.



**Online-**

Visit [www.belmontumc.org](http://www.belmontumc.org) and click on "Give to Belmont UMC" under the "About" heading. Give a one-time gift or set up a recurring transaction.



**Texting -**

Text BELMONT to 73256. Click the link you receive in your text message response and follow the prompts to make a one-time gift.



**Smartphone App -**

Download the free app, "Church Life" and sign in. Click the menu icon, then click "Give." Don't have an account for the app? Contact the church office.



## Biblical Stewardship Three Financial Paradigms



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## Radical Discipleship

Definition: Jesus calls us to *“Love God with all your heart, soul and mind and love your neighbor as yourself.”*

*(Matthew 22:37)*

*In seeking to love God with our “all”, we realize every financial decision is a spiritual decision.*

In Matthew 19, someone asked Jesus about eternal life. After discussing the commandments, Jesus digs deeper *“If you want to be complete, go, sell what you own, and give the money to the poor. Then you will have treasure in heaven. And come follow me.”* As disciples we are *stewards of resources that ultimately belong to our Creator and we seek to invest on earth as in heaven.*

Formula: 100%! There is no set formula or fixed percentage for financial giving. Instead, disciples commit to make every economic decisions as Christ Followers. John Wesley’s *“On Riches”* encourages us to *“Gain all you can, Save all you can, and Give all that you can.”*

## Tithing: A Generosity Yardstick

Definition: The tithe is deeply rooted in Scripture, as a first order giving. We invest 10% of our income and earnings into God’s work. Genesis 28:22, Leviticus 27:30, Deuteronomy 14:12, Nehemiah 10:37, Malachi 3:8, Matthew 23:23, and Hebrews 7:2 teach tithing. Jesus assumes that faithful discipleship includes tithing, cautioning religious legalists *“You give a tenth of your garden herbs, while neglecting justice and love for God. These you ought to have done without neglecting the others.”*

*(Luke 11:42)*

Formula: The 10% tithe helps establish a baseline of generosity and invites God into our finances. Some view tithing as giving through the church, while others include other charitable giving. Prayer and peace should guide our giving more than legalism or compulsion. If you are not tithing, prayerfully consider giving one percent more this year to God’s work.

## Proportional Giving

Definition: Proportional Giving recognizes a synergistic relationship between our investing in God’s work and our spiritual lives. As we give we conform to the image of God, who created us and gives us *“every good thing.”*

*(James 1:17)*

Giving aligns our daily practice with Christ who taught us *“Give, and it will be given to you. A good measure, pressed down, shaken together, running over, will be put into your lap; for the measure you give will be the measure you get back.”*

*(Luke 6:38)*

Formula: As we invest our energy and resources in God’s work, we experience a deeper spiritual richness aligning our lives with God’s mission. As we give to God’s work, our souls grow closer to Christ, who models God’s self-giving love. *(John 3:16)*. Giving also connects us to others who are seeking to grow love, freedom, generosity, justice, hope, and goodness on earth as in heaven.