

Stewardship of Money, Living Generously in a self-centered world

August 18 - September 29



A larger congregational budget for 2019 made many of us gulp. The mortgage from the building expansion added a sizable chunk to our spending plan. Our budget is a snapshot of the congregation, a picture of who we are and what our priorities are, but most of us only look at it once a year. Historically, we have had a commitment to giving away $\frac{1}{3}$ of our budget and using $\frac{2}{3}$ internally. A building renovation changes that. As we live into our new building and explore ways we might use it, we also want to take a close look at the ways we use money, both as a congregation and as individuals. **What does our spending say about who we are and what we value?** What does it model to our children and our community?

In this series we will hear biblical stories of first fruits giving, tithing and fundraising. We will study Jesus' teaching on wealth and consider what it means to participate in a capitalist economy. We'll be using an Everence study guide called "Generous Giving in a Self-Centered World." **Small groups may wish to download and adapt the curriculum for conversation at [everence.com/resources/stewardship-education](https://www.everence.com/resources/stewardship-education)**

As a way to kick off the stewardship series and to practice literal first fruits/first vegetables giving, all are invited to **bring garden produce for the offering on August 18**. This is intended to be a playful way to practice releasing the good gifts we have received. Overwhelm the front table with harvest offerings and share in each other's gardens of abundance!

Throughout the series we will hear from the finance committee about our budget: how it gets put together, and where the money is distributed internally and externally.

We will also celebrate the reason these questions are on our minds: a renovated building with enough space for Sunday school, worship and fellowship, plus the chance to welcome others to share it. **September 8 we will celebrate with a Building Dedication and Fellowship meal.**



September is also national hunger month. Our local food pantry, The Window, is asking congregations to collect food. Each Sunday in September, please bring soups, cereals, canned corn, green beans, pears and boxed dinners. This is one concrete way we can use our resources to address poverty locally.

The series will end on September 29 with pledge forms for the 2020 spending plan, a snack provided by Everence, and a blessing for the food collected for the Window.

Date	Text/ Theme	Preacher	Other notes	2nd hour
8/18	First fruits model Genesis 4:4 Deuteronomy 26:1-10	Anna Yoder Schlabach, pastor	First fruits/vegetables offering Learnings from Finance- pledging and budget formulation	Congregational meeting No Sunday School (activities provided for K-5)
8/25	Tithing Genesis 28:22, Deuteronomy 14:22-23, 28-29	Deanna Risser	Learnings from Finance- Assembly life and mission Deb Bloom Covenanting	Sound education -David Powell
9/1	Sacrificial giving 1 Kings 18:3-4, 2 Kings 4:1-7	Lora Nafziger, pastor	2% Communion	Labor day hymn sing
9/8	Dedicating the temple 2 Chronicles 7:11-22	Mary Lehman Yoder, pastor emerita Karl Shelly, pastor	Building Dedication, celebratory fellowship meal	No Sunday School, Fellowship meal
9/15	Kingdom economics, Matthew 6:1-4, 19-21, 24	Glenn Gilbert	Mentor Mentee breakfast. Recognizing new pairs	Capitalism: Sandy Fribley, Ben Beyeler.
9/22	Giving beyond ourselves Acts 11:29-30, Galatians 2:10	Joel Zwier		Ruth Ann Gardner, former treasurer, and others-panel on Assembly patterns of giving beyond ourselves.
9/29	How should we then live? Luke 12:15-21	Karl Shelly, pastor	Food drive blessing Pledge forms go out	Personal finance panel Everence provides special snack

