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LOVE,
GENEROUSLY



LOVE, GENEROUSLY

Can you imagine saying to a child, "I am only going to love you a little bit, so it doesn't run out." Or, if on your wedding day, in your self-written vows, you proclaimed to your beloved, "I will measure out my love for you in logical and rational amounts."

These examples sound ridiculous because God has placed love in our hearts in a way that is lavish and life-changing. We have been created to love generously. Love pours out and overflows. It moves us and it grips us. In fact, sometimes Jesus' extravagant love is hard to understand. How could he love so much that he was willing to die for us?

God tells us in scripture that the reason behind God's great generosity is love.

For God so loved the world that he gave... (John 3:16)

This fall we zoom in again on what we love most as we take a season to give thanks to God for his incredible generosity to each one of us and to respond with the generous love that is in our DNA as Christ followers.

As you begin to prepare your heart for the sacred act of giving, I encourage you to hold the generous love of God for you in the front of your mind. Let this love be your guide and your barometer for living a generous life.

ABOVE ALL, LOVE COLOSSIANS 3:14

This booklet will outline the stewardship goals for our 2022-23 campaign: **Love**, Generously. Throughout these pages, you will read about God's design for generosity and how your participation in what God is doing at Thompson can open doors for more people to experience the generous love of God.

In Christ,

Stephanie



BIBLICAL DESIGN



The Bible is very clear about how God wants us to be generous people who use what we have been given to love and serve others.

Ultimately, generous giving is motivated and developed by our:



Love for God



Gratitude



Belief in God's promises regarding generosity



Recognition that everything we have comes from God



God's Cycle of Generosity

God's Generous Love for Us and Blessings On Us

God's generous love for us never changes, but our understanding of God's goodness and our response to it strengthens and grows over time..



GOD'S BLESSING: MUSIC AND WORSHIP



Worship is our central act. Traditional, Contemporary and online. All avenues exist to bring glory to God. Our worship experience has changed since Covid and we are celebrating what God is doing here. We love hearing our choir and bells, worshipping with guitar and drum and saying hello virtually to our friends all over the world. Under Tricia Murphy's leadership, our kid's choir has grown to 15 kids, our bell choir continues to wow us all and we are inspired by the sacred voices of our With One Voice choir. Bill Stauffer has built a Contemporary Music team and brought inspiration to our 11:00 service.

*Did you know?
Tuning the pianos
twice a year costs
\$1700?*

*Our music budget
replaced the badly
worn bell pads
which cost \$3000.*



GOD'S BLESSING: CHILDREN'S MINISTRY



Children's Ministry is growing every day! Over 60 people (kids, adults and teens) served and played together in VBS this year.



Sunday morning Sunday School has multiplied this year. When we began offering children's messages in 2021, there were 1-2 children that came forward and now we teach the gospel to 10-20 kids every Sunday through this special message.



This year we are hoping to add a new "Breakfast with the Angels" event to offer families at TMPC and in the community a faith based Christmas event that brings the joy of Jesus' birth to life and an upper elementary mission trip with The Philadelphia Project to begin to prepare our 3-5th graders to serve the Lord through helping.



Our Friday night Kid's Club and Parent's Night Out have been a great time for kids to connect and serve. This year children wrote letters to service people, made soup for Caring for Friends, and baked cookies for TASK.

Most of our Children's ministry events are very low budget, but rely on the time and talent of our dedicated volunteers. Your ministry hours make a HUGE difference! Pledge to help out this year!



GOD'S BLESSING: COMMUNITY AND FELLOWSHIP

People are growing in community and fellowship in all sorts of ways. Our men's and women's groups are full of new faces. Our second annual church picnic and kickball game was a great success (Go Purple!). We enjoyed our first camping trip and we can't wait to make new friends as we enjoy this community together! Many of these events are staff and volunteer supported and paid for by those who participate. We want to continue to provide the structure that makes this all happen! God has created us to exist in community and TMPC is the place that brings us together!



*Did you know? The rental
fee for the local park is
\$340?*



GOD'S BLESSING: YOUTH MINISTRY



Our youth program continues to support our core group of youth while reaching out to invite more teens to participate in music, service, tech and other ways. The teens this year participated in POCO retreat, ZETEO retreat, a mission trip in South Carolina, weekly youth group, youth Sunday, trips to serve at the Welcome Church and more!!! We know that reaching teens is of utmost importance because it is during these years that most people make their first decision to become a Christian and our youth are facing more pressures than ever before. Teaching them about God's generous love for them is life changing!

*Youth Ministry has a modest
budget for supplies and trips.
One van for our mission trip cost
\$2020 to rent!*



OUR RESPONSE: MISSION GIVING



When we serve others, we are living out the generous love of God.

\$585

Money given to help Afghani refugees in our area to obtain help with car repairs to make it to work.

\$3,500

The cost of our Rise Against Hunger event that feeds 10,000 people suffering from hunger and poverty.

\$3,000

Approximate amount donated to Jeremiah's Hope, an orphanage in Ukraine (an equal amount was given to PCSUA disaster assistance in Ukraine).



OUR RESPONSE: MISSION GIVING



One of the best parts of our church community is the way that we seek to serve others. \$86,500 goes to support mission organizations and outreach every year. Through this generosity we are able to support so many who need a helping hand.

\$1,200

The cost to prepare 80 hurricane relief buckets for the Presbyterian Mission Agency.

\$2,000

The cost for sweatshirts for TASK clients at Christmas.

\$500

The cost for TASK bike locks to allow clients to safely store their bikes while they receive services.



HOPE AND DREAMS



The love of God has allowed us to do so much at Thompson and in our own lives. Nearly every committee has come with new ideas, hopes and dreams for their ministry. If our Love, Generously campaign bears the fruit of God's goodness in our lives, some of the amazing things we could be able to do are:

Provide more active adult events and activities

Provide seating (benches and tables) around the newly installed playground

Provide upgrades to the building where the carpet is mismatched or stained

Provide technology, paint, rugs and decor for children's classrooms

Provide support for new outreach ideas (like the Art Show and Fall Fest)

Provide another Jazz Sunday worship experience

Provide traveling choirs to perform at TMPC

Provide resources for digital graphics and signs for committee events and functions

Provide software and web services to streamline our process and improve our web presence



STEWARDSHIP OVERVIEW



The 2022-2023 **Love, Generously** campaign is seeking a 12% increase in total pledges. This may sound like a large increase, but it actually is designed to provide cost of living increases to our staff that match the rate of inflation and to provide modest programming increases that allow for us to engage in new and creative ministries to reach our community. We are given a required rate of salary increase by the Presbytery that insures that we provide adequately for our staff.

Last year, TMPC approved a budget with a \$29,000 deficit and while we are on track to meet budget and even potentially make up the budget shortfall, our 2022 budget does not reflect large increases in gasoline, fuel, and technology costs, or provide for the many other inflationary increases we experienced in 2022.

This stewardship season we hope to increase the number of pledges, the amount of pledges, and we are adding a new category -- a pledge of hours. We want each person to think about making an hourly commitment to serve.

In response to God's generous love that he has shown in so many ways, we can provide for the needs of our beloved church community as a reflection of our love for God.



STEWARDSHIP GOALS



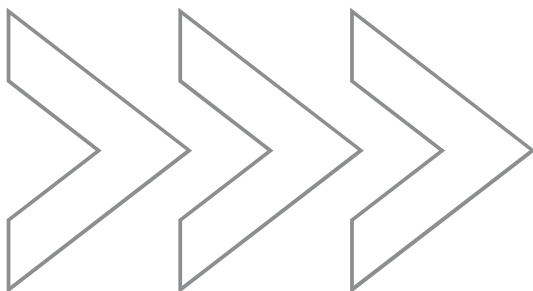
The primary hope of our 2022-23 **Love, Generously** campaign is that our members are overwhelmed by the realization of God's love for them and respond with generosity.



We set a pledge goal of 85, which is a 12-pledge increase over last year. We have 129 identified giving units who regularly give and 73 current pledge units. If 12 of our regular givers and/or new givers fill out a pledge card, we will make this goal.



We have set a goal for total amount pledged of \$690,000. This is a \$75,000 increase over 2022 which primarily reflects the required salary cost of living increases and modest program increases, mostly related to increased technology needs.



85

pledges

+12 from
2022

690K

dollars pledged

12%

increase in pledged
dollars

100%

Commitment of
1 Hour per week

Budget Overview

Category	2022 Budget	%
Staff	473,563	64.9%
Programs	\$26,350	3.61%
Facilities	\$143,336	19.64%
Mission	\$86,500	11.85%
Total Budget	\$729,749	100%

Summary:

Due to high inflation in 2022, we anticipate that overall church expenses will increase by 8% in 2023. Therefore, in order to maintain our current level of staffing and make modest increases in programming and outreach, we anticipate that our 2023 expense budget will be approximately \$788,000.


We hope through an outpouring of generosity in our Love, Generously campaign we can provide not only for our current ministries, but also offer new opportunities for fellowship and growth both within our church and into the community.




ATTITUDES OF GIVING




The Bible links our hearts with our giving and gives us a blueprint for our attitude toward generosity:


 Matthew 6:21: "Where your heart is, there also will be your treasure." This indicates the strong connection between our money and our attitudes:

 2 Corinthians 9:7: God wants our giving to be done cheerfully.
"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."


Matthew 6:2: God wants us to give humbly, without seeking credit.

 "So when you give to the needy, do not announce it with trumpets, as the hypocrites do in the synagogues and on the streets, to be honored by others. Truly I tell you, they have received their reward in full."

1 Corinthians 13:3: Love should be our primary motive for giving.

 "If I give all I possess to the poor and give over my body to hardship that I may boast, but do not have love, I gain nothing."

1 John 3:17: Giving can indicate our heart condition:

 "But if someone has material possessions and sees a brother or sister in need but refuses to help, how can the love of God dwell in that person?"



HOW MUCH SHOULD I GIVE?



What if you don't have an income anymore?

We know that many people are on a fixed income or don't have regular income.

In some cases, if you don't have regular income, it might be helpful to give 10% of what you spend each year, as a guide.

In other cases it might be that you choose what feels like generous love and offer that. God sees that and is overjoyed by your generosity!

In some seasons, it may be impossible to give 10%. The most important thing is to love generously.

TMPC is comprised of a wide variety of people with very different financial circumstances. God doesn't rank us based on what we earn or the amount that we give, but instead looks to the condition of our hearts.

Using scripture as our guide, we believe that God desires a tithe. This is defined as 10% of your income. Many of you have asked if that is before or after taxes or before or after your bills. The answer is: yes. Make a decision about how you can love generously and make a commitment to honoring God with your resources, however you understand a tithe. As your pastor, my husband and I have made a commitment to give 10% of our income before taxes and have adjusted our extra spending so that this is possible for us. It took us years to get to this place, but over time, God tugged on our hearts until we could give a full tithe and we have felt great spiritual benefits ever since.

Know that wherever you are on your giving journey, that I am praying for you and hoping you feel full of gratitude for all that God has provided.



GENEROSITY LADDER

In order to meet our giving goals, each one of us needs to climb one rung on the ladder.
Find where you are for 2022 on the Generosity Ladder and climb one rung for 2023.

GENEROSITY LADDER ANNUAL GIVING LEVELS
≥ \$35,000
\$30,000 - \$34,999
\$25,000 - \$29,999
\$20,000 - \$24,999
\$15,000 - \$19,999
\$12,500 - \$14,999
\$10,000 - \$12,499
\$7,500 - \$9,999
\$6,000 - \$7,499
\$5,000 - \$5,999
\$4,000 - \$4,999
\$3,500 - \$3,999
\$3,000 - \$3,499
\$2,500 - \$2,999
\$2,000 - \$2,499
\$1,500 - \$1,999
\$1,200 - \$1,499
\$1,000 - \$1,199
\$800 - \$999
\$600 - \$799
\$400 - \$599
\$200 - \$399
\$50 - \$199



LOVE, GENEROUSLY

At the end of every year, I think of all the things we didn't do or accomplish. I start to wish we had traveled to see more old friends or done more house projects, but when I look back on all that we did in the course of the year, I am always overwhelmed by God's provision for us. When I focus on God's abundance, I don't feel that I lack anything at all, instead I am simply overwhelmed by God's love.

As I put together this booklet, I couldn't help but feel the same way regarding Thompson. Our generous God has blessed us greatly! When we remember all of the ways our God has already blessed us and we learn to trust that God will continue to provide all that we could ever need or ask for, we are set free to respond generously.

God challenges us to surrender our resources if we really want to see the generosity of God.

In Malachi 3:10, God says:

Bring all the tithes (the tenth) into the storehouse, so that there may be food in My house, and test Me now in this," says the LORD of hosts, "if I will not open for you the windows of heaven and pour out for you [so great] a blessing until there is no more room to receive it.

Look what we have already done with what God has provided. Imagine what God can do if we **Love, Generously** this year.



WHAT'S NEXT?



Take time to look through this packet to see all that God has done at TMPC this year.



Give thanks to God for his abundant generosity in our church.



Think of all that God has provided for you this year and give thanks to God for his abundant generosity in your life.



Pray about how God is calling you to love, generously this year.



Take some time with the Stewardship worksheet, the Generosity Ladder, make a pledge and move up a rung, if you are able.



Fill out your Time and Talent Sheet and make a pledge of time this year.

October 9th-30th, join us in worship to hear our sermon series: **Love, Generously** and hear our members talk about the generous love that they have received from God.



On October 30th, join us for Stewardship Sunday. Bring your pledge card for pledge Sunday (or mail it into the office/or place it in the collection basket) and join us for a special coffee hour full of love!



STEWARDSHIP WORKSHEET

2022-23

Amount of my 2022 Pledge/Offering

Based on my resources and my circumstances,
a tithe would be:

Amount of my 2023 financial Pledge

God desires our time and talent as much as our
treasure. This year we are asking people to
prayerfully commit how many hours they would
like to pledge to serve the church.

Amount of my 2023 Time and Talent Pledge
(hours per month)

