

Taking the Next Step
is on:

SUNDAY
NOVEMBER 11

- Between now and Nov. 11 – Examine your personal giving and how it reflects your commitment to Christ.
- Read the daily devotional in *First: Putting God First in Living and Giving* and pray for God's guidance in your personal finances.
- Nov. 11: You will be invited to complete your 2019 Estimate of Giving Card during worship.
- If you are unable to attend, we will mail you an Estimate of Giving Card the following week.

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PLEASE JOIN US FOR

taking
the next
step

Commitment Sunday

Worship Services

November 11, 2018

8:30am & 11:00am

DURING THIS TIME
OF CELEBRATION,
WE ENCOURAGE YOU TO:

- Pray for God to lead you on new steps in your faith journey.
- Deepen your sense of generosity and gratitude.
- Discover the joy of giving.
- Give a percentage of your income systematically.
- Reflect on the understanding that stewardship is about raising disciples, not money.

First Presbyterian Church

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*Each of you must give
as you have made up your mind,
not reluctantly or under compulsion,
for God loves a cheerful giver.*

2 Corinthians 9:7 NRSV

First Presbyterian Church

OUR VISION:

Grounded in grace.

Transforming lives.

Impacting the world.



WHY TALK ABOUT MONEY

It's a Spiritual Issue

Stewardship is directly linked to our journey of discipleship. How we use our resources is primarily a spiritual issue, not a financial one. The quality of that decision is determined by the spiritual condition of our heart.

Jesus Talked About It

Jesus spoke openly about money and possessions. About two-thirds of the parables and about one in every ten verses in the Gospels address this very issue. As followers of Jesus, we should not be reluctant to talk about giving as an outward expression of our love for Christ.

It's Not About the Budget

In stewardship campaigns, it can be tempting to approach the financial needs of the church as if we were simply funding the budget. In **Taking the Next Step**, we continue to acknowledge that living generously is an inseparable part of our following Christ. God does not need our money; rather, we need to give it as an act of gratitude and trust.

It's About Trust

As we learn to trust God more and follow Christ's teaching more faithfully, we learn to depend less on ourselves and more on God, relinquishing attitudes and habits that impede our relationship with God.

Taking the Next Step GOAL

**Stewardship is not our way
of raising a budget.
It is God's way
of raising disciples.**

Discover the joy of growing
in your relationship
to God as you continue
Taking the Next Step
in your faith journey
and live generously.

*The fruit of the Spirit is love,
joy, peace, patience, kindness,
generosity, faithfulness,
gentleness, and self-control.*

Galatians 5:22-23

WHY TAKE THE NEXT STEP?

**It is God's intention
that we grow more generous
and take bigger steps in our giving
as we become more aware
of how richly God has
blessed us in Christ.**



THE GIVING PATH

When we take a step along the Giving Path, we are moving forward in our spiritual journeys to be more like Christ. Jesus said that "where your treasure is, there your heart will be also."

Steps along the Giving Path:

First-Time Giver:

Begin to give.

Intentional Giver:

*Plan what percentage of your income
to give for a year.*

Growing Giver:

*Increasing the percentage of income
toward a tithe.*

Tither:

Begin to give a tithe (10% of income).

Extravagant Giver:

*Give beyond the tithe, called an
offering (10+% of income).*