

# The 21st Century Offering

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It's Not Dead; It's Different



by  
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## The Offering Is Not Dead; It's Different

**“We won’t be passing an offering plate ever again.”** That was what a pastor told me recently.

Honestly, the reality of how much change we are processing finally hit home with his comment. For as long as we can remember, there has always been an offering plate, basket, bucket, or some means of giving. Even churches that stopped passing a plate or bucket still have places where people can give.

**Is this the end of the offering?** Some might ask, wasn’t the offering doomed anyway with the rise of online giving? Without online giving, most of you reading this right now might have had to close your doors for good. Exactly! The fact that most of your giving is now coming by some electronic means proves the title of this chapter that **the offering is not dead; it’s different.**

I have been writing offering talks for years. I have hundreds of talks in my vault. I have tons of written material on taking up the offering, from blog posts to articles to manuals to books. In over 20 years of helping churches increase generosity, I have found that improving the offering time is the easiest way to do that.

At the same time, I have found that improving the offering time often gets pushed back by church leadership. Offering planning and preparation is usually non-existent for most churches. Here is a question. How much time do you spend each week planning what you will say before you take up the offering?

When I start coaching a church, I find that one of the first things I must do is help them,

### Rethink the Attitude About the Offering

The staff is the first hurdle I must overcome when working with a church. I think a significant reason is that we fear any talk of money will drive people away. After all, doesn’t everyone know that all a church ever talks about is money?

To attract guests, we have downplayed the offering. The typical church offering usually starts with an announcement that guests are not required to give. Our attitude is that the offering is an inconvenient intrusion upon our time or worship. It is a necessary evil that we tuck away at the end or during other important worship. Could *our* attitude be a part of our giving problem?

**Do you believe?** Do you believe that God has called Christians to make disciples for Jesus? Do you believe in the mission of your church to fulfill that calling? Do you believe in the mission work your church supports? Do you believe in the work *you* do for your church?

**The Right Attitude – My mission, to impact my world for Jesus, is given to me by God. We are changing the world one life at a time. Since all this is true, why would a Christian NOT want to give money to support that mission?**

If you adopt this attitude, you will never be afraid to ask people to give to support the work of ministry. You will ask with boldness because you believe! **When you have the right attitude about the offering, you are ready to help people connect the dots.** Connecting the dots is by telling and showing people how their generosity helps support life change and Kingdom building!

## Let's Change the Conversation About Money and Giving

A few years ago, I asked a pastor what my biggest obstacle was in helping him increase giving at his church. He replied, "My staff." I thought he was kidding until I first met with his staff. I walked into the room to bored looks, and everyone had their arms crossed across their chests. I looked at them and said, "Last year, giving at this church declined for the first time by \$458,000. In this room, your leadership met to discuss cutbacks and layoffs. I'm here to help reverse that decline." Everyone sat up and leaned in. Suddenly the conversation changed.

Everything rises and falls with the offering regarding being fully funded. Unless I can convince you to change your attitude or the attitude of your staff, your offering will never be what it could be, and you will always struggle financially. So, let me share why we need to change the conversation.

I shouldn't have been surprised at the staff's initial reaction to my opening story, which occurred exactly as I wrote. I find that staff and, often, the Senior Pastor are some of the biggest obstacles I face when attempting to help a church increase giving. Why is that? There are several reasons, but most are based on incorrect assumptions leading to erroneous attitudes and actions. I will get to that in a moment. Here are the most common reasons the staff leadership pushes back against talk of money.

- The staff leadership "thinks," I'm proposing policies that will drive people away when they are working hard to attract people.
- The second reason is that they are jealous of the platform time during worship, and giving any time to the offering takes what they see as valuable time. Therefore, churches spend more time on announcements than the offering.
- Another reason is that it requires additional work, and, in their view, they are overwhelmed as it is.
- The final reason is uglier. They struggle with being good stewards. The cold reality is that in many churches, not everyone on staff faithfully gives to the church by paying their salary.

To be fair to my peers, few, if any, have ever been trained on anything stewardship related. Most never even think of the finances of the church. It's an out-of-sight, out-of-mind sort of thing. This adds to the typical church never saying anything about money and giving. And we wonder why giving is declining.

My old boss, John Maxwell, famously said, "Everything rises and falls upon leadership." It must start with our leadership regarding changing the church's conversation about money and giving. You cannot lead your congregation to a place that you and your staff and not already at.

**How Does the Staff/Church Change the Conversation About Money?** The following are some key thoughts on how.

- **Be like Jesus.** Jesus talked more about money and finances than any other topic. If our Lord saw the importance of discussing this topic, why would we not follow Him and do the same? Let's let the Bible establish the conversation. Jesus called us to make disciples, and a part of discipleship is being a good steward.
- **Stop letting the desire to attract a crowd determine our agenda regarding talking about money and giving.** I've heard the stories of church starts asking the community what they don't like about the church. The answer was that we always talk about money. Yet what if we misinterpreted the answer to

that question? I believe we have because Americans give to charities in record numbers and dollar amounts. I contend that it is not *that* churches ask for money that turns people off but *how* we ask.

We have made people feel guilty by telling them what they ought to do rather than giving reasons why they should give. Whether we like it or not, we have not positively set the agenda or conversation. We too often apologize when asking for funding rather than simply sharing the importance of giving. The church needs to set the conversation and not retreat from it.

- **Have a compelling vision and tell a compelling story.** You must connect how a dollar given to your church impacts the world for good. I call that connecting the dots. Non-profits are masterful in telling their story and asking people to give to support them. People give to a compelling story! Make your story compelling, and people will give to it.
- **It's not about money. It's about missions.** The Church is in the business of bringing the Good News of Jesus to a lost and dying world. Missions start at the church's parking lot and go around the world.
- **It's not about money. It's about ministry.** Who visits you when you are in the hospital? It is not your congressman! Who counsels you when you have a crisis? It is not Dr. Phil. Gifts to a church allow that church to do ministry. That ministry impacts people locally, but it also impacts me. My gifts are returned through meaningful ministry that I can get nowhere else.

The amazing thing is that the church ministers to people whether they give or not. I can't get into a health club without paying dues, but no one at the church shuts the doors to people who haven't paid their dues. When I give to my church, I am giving to ministry.

- **It's not about money. It's about obedience.** Who is it that complains most about churches talking about giving? Lost and carnal people complain. People who lack obedience to the call of Jesus complain about giving. True Christian disciples understand that giving is a part of being a believer. It is an obedience issue. When I give to my church, I am being obedient to the call of Jesus. *And* God blesses those obedient to His command!

Non-profits never apologize for asking for donations. Yet I have heard countless sermons on giving begin with the minister apologizing for talking on the topic. Let's stop apologizing for asking for money to fuel missions and ministry. It is high time we set the conversation about giving in a new light and context. This Sunday, make giving about missions and ministry and see what a difference it will make.

**What happens if we fail to change the conversation about money and giving?**

- 1. Our members will struggle to become good stewards and thus fail to reach their financial potential.**
- 2. Your church will struggle to be financially solvent when giving declines.**

Are your arms uncrossed? **Let's Change the Conversation About Money and Giving.**

## Everything Rises and Falls With the Offering

**“Just when we really get going in worship, then it is time for the offering, and it interrupts the flow of worship!”** I had a staff member tell me that once when I attempted to help their church reverse a decline in giving. That statement sums up most churches’ view of the offering.

One of my first questions when I begin working with a church, is to ask about their approach to the offering. How a church approaches the offering time tells me everything about what they believe about biblical stewardship *and* whether they will be fully funded for the future.

In the last chapter, I quoted John Maxwell, saying, “everything rises or falls with leadership.” Let me adjust that a bit and say, when it comes to your church being fully funded, **“Everything Rises and Falls with the Offering.”** Let’s take your offering time to the next level. Here are five thoughts on taking up the offering.

1. **Never, ever forget that the offering *is* worship.** Instead of killing it, hiding it, and ignoring it, why don't we make it worshipful? What could your team do with all that creativity they possess if they saw the offering not as an intrusion upon their time but as what it is, worship? I firmly believe that it is not *that* we ask for money that turns people off. It was *how* we asked. Guilt never works. Let's change the offering time by making it better.
2. **Make the "Ask" and Stop Apologizing!** Before they take up the offering, the typical church will explain that guests need not give and that the offering is for members. They are essentially apologizing for taking up the offering. Think about what you are asking them to do. You are asking them to join you in *worshipping* God with our gifts. You are asking them to help you make a difference in the lives of others with their generosity. Let's invite everyone to join us and stop wasting time telling them they don't have to give. Stop apologizing for the offering while at the same time making a case for the offering, and you will see your offerings go up!
3. **Give the offering equal priority as the announcements.** The Bible is silent on announcements but is filled with admonitions about worshiping God through our offerings. The same staff person that decried the interruption of the offering never minded the interruption of worship for announcements. You will see a giving increase by giving the offering moment equal planning time and platform time.
4. **Always plan out every offering.** I provide my clients with one every week called a ...  
**Missions and Ministry Moment** – During the Lockdown, we stopped calling "offering talks," offering talks. We started calling them Mission and Ministry Moments. We teach that by telling the story of *how* you are changing the world one life at a time and inviting people to support that, it is the door to gaining the first gift. In two minutes or less, focus on the value of worship through giving for both in-person worship and live-stream.
5. **Make it easy for people to give in their favorite way.** With today's technology, the offering plate is open 24/7. At <https://www.onlinegiving.org>, we provide you with all the tools necessary to make your offering plate 24/7.

That's it. Do these five things every week in some fashion. Each week, think and plan it out across all platforms. **The easiest, quickest, and frankly most enjoyable way to increase giving is by taking your offering time to the next level because when it comes to giving, everything rises and falls with the offering.**

## The Anatomy of the Offering Time

**Remember what it was like that first shutdown Sunday in March 2020, and your offering went to practically zero overnight?** That is your future if you don't do something quickly. If you doubt me, have your financial person give you a listing of the top ten donors in your church and see how many of them are Baby Boomers. The faithful got you through Covid. What are you going to do in 2030 when they are all retired?

If you wait until 2030 to do something, you will have waited too late. The time for action is now, and the easiest place to start is with the offering time.

**Who has an offering time now?** Churches that want to be open in 2030. My theme throughout this playbook on the offering is this; the offering is not dead; it's different. So, while you might never again pass a plate, you must figure out how to keep the offering as an essential part of worship. The Great Generational Giving Shift demands that we work to disciple the next generation to be faithful stewards, or your church won't survive through the 2030s. Deleting the offering time from your service will only hasten your church's financial demise. Do I have your attention now? Then let's start by understanding the basics, or the anatomy, of the offering time.

**The Anatomy of a Great Offering Time** starts by understanding ...

**The Heart of the Offering – The most important part of any offering time is what I call its heart.** The heart of the offering is the story *of* the offering. I have always been taught that every "ask" must have a driver. The driver is the story of your vision. A worshipful, well-planned offering time with heart *will* touch the heart of the attendee.

**When you ask with heart, people will give!** That's why it's the most important part of the offering. Yet, just like your human heart, the heart of the offering won't survive alone. Therefore, I teach that we also need to understand ...

**The Head of the Offering –** An offering motivated by the heart will help you gain a first-time gift. To develop long-term donors, we must connect both heart *and* head. This is the task of discipleship, and your offering times can become a time of teaching biblical stewardship. How can we do that? Here are a few pointers:

- **Tell them why with Scripture –** From time to time, it is essential to tell them why giving is so important to a Christian. I think you can effectively use the offering time to teach the value of the offering by sharing what the Bible says about giving, generosity, and offerings. What better tool than the Bible? Remember this:
- **Always be positive!** Using Scripture doesn't mean bashing people over the head with the pulpit Bible. Guilt never moves the heart toward generosity.
- **20% to 30% of your offering appeals** should be about connecting the head by teaching what Scripture has to say on the subject.

The best offerings are **vision-driven offerings** that help people see how their gift will make a difference in others' lives. The anatomy of a great offering starts with the heart, continues to the head, and then must move to...

**The Hand of the Offering –** When I talk about the hand of the offering, I am talking about making "the ask." Here is where most offerings go awry. Let's talk about how to use your hands properly, and your "ask" in the offering.

**Never apologize for taking up an offering!** Most churches lead off the offering time by saying, "As we take up our offering this week, if you are a guest, please don't feel like you have to give. This time is for our members." It is past time that we stopped apologizing for asking people to give and instead presented a compelling reason to give.

People will figure out they don't *have* to give. My goal is to make them *want* to give. Telling them they don't have to give is like putting your hand up as a stop sign. **STOP THAT!**

You want your hands open and extended, inviting them to worship through giving. To accomplish this, I use what I call...



**The 2 Sentence Out.** Here is how that breaks out: you have been telling a story that touches the heart, but now you are at the end of the story. What now? I want to extend an invitation to all to give generously. I do that in two sentences like this:

***"Every time you give here, you help support stories and lives (just like what you shared). This morning we encourage you to join us in worship as we give our tithes and offerings."***

Extending the hand and making the "ask" is the key to gaining a response. Then end with what I call...

**The Feet of the Offering** – It answers the question, "**How can I give?**" We must *show* them how easy it is to give at your church by mentioning the various ways to give. The offering plate, text, app, online, etc. End by saying something like,

***"Remember, we have multiple easy ways you can give here. The bulletin/screens give you that information. Let's pray...."***

Ensure that the information on how to give is listed in multiple places and across all platforms, including the main worship platform. Today's technology is easier than ever to give and give instantly.

You can make the offering time all members look forward to in two minutes or less. When we tell a compelling story and give immediate opportunity for people to give, people will give, and giving *will* increase. So, if you ever pass the plate again or not, you will still need an offering time. Think of it as a teachable moment.

**See my chapter on *How I Write Offering Talks* for more tips and pointers on the offering time.**

Every offering time should have these basic elements in mind as you pray and plan out your offering. These elements work on video as well as live presentations. Challenge your team to embrace these elements for each offering, and I guarantee that giving will increase.

Let me end with one more piece of advice, **think beyond this week's offering time**. One of my ultimate giving goals is to see your donors set up their giving to be recurring. Recurring giving is one of the best ways to ensure financial stability.

**What percentage of your giving comes through recurring giving?** That is a key offering metric you should know and keep an eye on. I always advise making January and May months to encourage members to sign up for recurring giving. Even a small percentage of an increase in recurring donors will make a huge difference in receipts at the end of the year: the more money, the more missions, and ministry can be accomplished.

Some clients approach 50% or higher of their giving through recurring giving. I'd be more than happy to discuss how to increase your average. To learn more about all our online giving options, go to <https://www.onlinegiving.org/>.

I would only add one more thought. The best offering times are those that are birthed by and through prayer. It starts with us if we want to make the offering a more worshipful time. What if every team member knew exactly what your weekly budget requirement was, and they prayed for that amount *at least* to be given every week? Call me a mystic, but those prayers would help breathe life into your offering time and increase your giving. Give it a try.

## Laying the Foundation for Your Offering Appeals

If you have ever built a house or a new facility at your church, you know how important the foundation is. The same is true when it comes to developing a post-Covid offering strategy. So, let's start by laying the right foundation. Let's begin with crafting the message of your appeal.

### The Right Message for Offering Appeals

**Your first step is to craft a message that matters.** Dollars follow a vision. Your vision is what drives people to give you more money. Thus, every appeal needs a driver for the vision to penetrate and capture the hearts and, ultimately, the wallet of your donors. The more compelling the driver, the more likely they will respond.

**Every "ask" needs a driver.** What's a driver? The driver is the message or story you are communicating about *why* people should give to your appeal. There is no better driver to achieve generosity than a vision *if* communicated effectively.

**Let's make a case for your vision!** When I work with a client for a significant giving initiative, I ask the Pastor to write out the vision behind whatever we are raising money for. Write a broad overview of what we are raising money for on one page. Focus on the "why" behind the offering. It's not about money but reaching people.

**Your message is your vision; the better you craft that message, the more money you raise.** Take time to think through how to best craft a message for the vision driving your offerings. While you work on that, have someone work on...

### The Right Tools for Improving Your Offerings

Your vision is the driver, but the best driver in the world is worthless without **effective vehicles to drive the vision to those you want to impact.** This section will share the essential tools needed for an effective offering.

**What tools should you have in place?** Here is the standard work list I give churches of the tools you need.

1. **Dynamic website.** Your website is the first place people will visit. Make it a good one.
2. **Robust online giving platform, including text giving.** I partner with, <https://www.onlinegiving.org/>
3. **Social Media platform and presence.** Social media is where people spend the great bulk of their time.
4. **Postage-paid envelopes.** I know this sounds old school, but this can be a great tool if used properly.
5. **Extensive database of your donors.** A given is to have all your member's email addresses.
6. **A mass email platform.** Find the tool that suits your church database best.
7. **Offering talks.** On-campus or live streaming, it is essential that each offering time has a talk connecting your vision to giving.

**Remember the old saying, don't put all your eggs in one basket.** When it comes to a 21<sup>st</sup>-century communication plan, you must use all the tools in your toolbox to get your message out.

## The Digital Offering

**The subtitle of this playbook, the offering is not dead; it's different, has become my new mantra.** I've been contending that the *why* of the offering hasn't changed. What *has* changed is the *how*. In 2011, only 14% of churches offered online giving. Thanks to Covid, now few churches lack some digital giving. One major reason for the digital offering is the rise of the smartphone.

Long before Covid hit our shores, Americans were moving away from cash and checks and even away from plastic as their primary means of commerce. With the rise of Covid and its continued impact, digital commerce accelerated. Consider these statistics ...

- 3.5 billion smartphone users exist globally, many of whom have more than one smartphone. Almost 1/3 of every person worldwide owns a smartphone, with over 80% of U.S. adults owning a smartphone.
- 80% of shoppers use a mobile phone in a physical store. If they use it in stores, why not inside your church?
- 58 times a day is the average amount an internet user checks their phone daily. Is your site worth checking?
- 90% of media time is spent on mobile devices in apps.<sup>1</sup> Does your church have an app?

If you think the offering hasn't changed, consider this fact:

- 49% of tithers donate with credit cards or other electronic payment services.<sup>2</sup>

I could go on and on, but I think you get the point, smartphones are here to stay, and we must figure out how best to use them in church life, especially when it comes to offering times. The big question is, what are you to do about these facts? Here are my thoughts and suggestions. The first step is to,

**Recognize what has changed about collecting the offering and adapt accordingly.** The change in commerce is already in process. It's past time to adjust our thinking and strategies. Here are some facts we must embrace.

- **The offering *has* moved beyond the walls of your church.** Just as you have been forced to embrace live streaming and on-campus worship, we must have the same thinking and planning regarding the offering.
- **Online giving has created an offering plate that never closes.** People can now give 24/7/365 from anywhere that has Internet access. Thus, we must have a 24/7/365 message and platform that allows us to connect our vision to giving.
- **There are multiple ways by which people give.** People love options, so don't put all your eggs in one basket! Today it is imperative to have a multi-channel communication and collection strategy. Effective churches tell their story through the Web, social media, and other channels. At the same time, we must provide multiple ways by which we collect the offering. The easier you make it for people to give, the more apt they are to give.

**Recognize what hasn't changed when it comes to the offering.** Processes change but not principles.

- **Giving is worship.** Christians are both commanded to give and compelled to give. We give because God's Word tells us to give. We also give because the love of Christ compels us. This is one of our acts of worship that helps grow us into maturity in Christ. Offerings have been, and must always be, a part of the Christian experience.
- **People give to a compelling story.** I have taught for years that you need to cast your vision compellingly through stories of life change to increase giving. I call that connecting the dots. Here are a few points to consider as you plan out your story.
  - Connect the dots for people by continually casting a compelling vision/story of why people should give to your church. The more compelling the story, the more effective the result.

- Have an online giving platform that matches how your people do commerce.
- Design your webpage so that online giving is highlighted and easy to find and use.
- Design an app to connect with your members and thus make it easier for them to give.
- Create social media platforms to tell your story with clickable links to your giving portals.
- Enlist a team dedicated to crafting your message and communicating it through all platforms.
- Keep telling your story AND point people towards the ways to give to support that story!

Doing these things consistently will help increase giving at your church. **Remember, the offering isn't dead; it's digital!**

1. <https://techjury.net/blog/smartphone-usage-statistics/>
2. <https://balancingeverything.com/church-giving-statistics/>

## How to Make Your Offerings 24/7/365

I hear continually from pastors, **“We will never pass an offering plate ever again.”** That may be the result of Covid, but commerce has already moved to become digital. The pandemic forced churches to finally adapt. Now with online giving, your offering plate is “open” 24/7/365. Here are some thoughts on how you can make your offerings 24/7/365.

**#1 – Keep online giving in front of your members.** Your members won't magically find your giving site. You must continually keep online giving in the mind of your donors. Consider running a campaign announcing online giving features, how easy it is, and encouraging members to sign up. Then throughout the year, at various times and across all platforms, encourage people to give online.

**#2 - Make your giving site easily accessible and visible.** Studies show you have less than 10 seconds once a person has landed on your website before they bail out. So, make your giving site easy to find and easy to use. It can be something other than a flashing light, but people should not have to search for your giving site.

**#3 – Think mobile!** People use their smart devices to do just about everything, including commerce. Your site and your emails must reflect this. Be short and to the point, as most are reading your text from a small screen.

**#4 - Utilize clickable links to your giving site.** Every print and digital communication should always contain a clickable link for ease of use that sends people directly to the giving page. A clickable link in a Social Media post is a great way to show people what their gift accomplishes while allowing them to give. Here is a sample of a link that is clickable, <https://www.onlinegiving.org/>.

**#5 - Provide multiple options on how people can give online.** You must have all the major platforms people use today. From text giving to recurring giving, you want to provide multiple options, thus allowing people to use what they like best. Multiple paths toward giving lead to a multiplication of giving!

At OnlineGiving.org, <https://www.onlinegiving.org/>, we give you 13 different methods of giving!

**The overall goal for online giving is to make it easy for people to give so that they WILL give!** The easier you make it for people to give, the more likely they will GIVE!

**#6 – Show people the impact of a gift.** On your giving page, tell the story of what your church is accomplishing for the Kingdom. Tell your story through social media, stating, “Your faithful generosity helps us see lives changed. Give at...” To see how to do this, go to any non-profit’s webpage.

**#7 – Have a 24/7/365 plan for the offering.** The previous points deal with concepts and platforms. Yet it would be best if you had a plan for establishing a 24/7/365 offering. It starts by realizing that your giving is already coming in multiple days and times. COVID forced us to think of how to engage with people digitally 24/7/365. We need to also think of the offering as 24/7/365 and plan accordingly. For instance, a social media post late at night might result in gifts from those sitting in bed checking their social media accounts. You will never know unless you try.

Like it or not, digital giving is here to stay. With these ideas, you can make sure your offering plate never closes.

## The Coach's Text-Giving Handbook

With nearly 90% of your congregation having and using smartphones, you need a text-giving strategy. Here is a simple step-by-step approach that any church can utilize.

**Set it up.** If you don't have text giving, we can help at <https://www.onlinegiving.org/>. Then, *you* need to use it. You can't promote what you don't know.

**Shout it out.** Most churches make the biggest mistake when setting up an online tool. They set it up and leave it. You must drive people to your sites before they can use them.

So here are some ideas on how to do that...

- Make sure your text to give number is prominently displayed on your website.
- Post the number and a short description of how to use text giving on all social media channels, newsletters, bulletins, and other forms of communications. During the kickoff month, I like to do this for four weeks. After the kickoff, I post on one of my major platforms at least once a week. For other platforms, I might advertise text giving once a quarter.
- Consider sending out an announcement email blast about text giving when you first provide the service. Then, periodically send out blasts a couple of times a year. I like to schedule email blasts like this on three-day holiday weekends.
- Utilize your announcement time to focus on text giving. If you use sliding screenshots before and after your services, consider a slide encouraging text giving.
- Text for donations! Use SMS to make strategic appeals for crisis giving to support crisis relief.
- Put the text to give number under your signature on every email and snail-mail letter you send.

**Simplify it.** Remember, our goal is to make it easy. Consider using what is called a short code. A shortcode is a simple string of letters or numbers that allows the donation to be sent to the right fund. For instance, you might want to text "Missions2019" to 555-555-5555. Most providers will help you with this. If not, give us a call or visit our site <https://www.onlinegiving.org/>.

Finally...

**Say thank you and follow up.** First, treat it like you treat every donation. Hopefully, by now, you do recognize first-time donors, etc. So, let's do the same with text givers by...

- Sending a quick tweet of thanks back to the donor.
- Confirm that the gift was received.
- Add that donor to your mailing and contact list, designating that they gave via text.
- Reach out to them a few months later with a similar appeal to what brought their first gift in.

These simple steps can help you see not just an increase in text giving but an increase in giving AND a better way to connect with the younger generations, your future givers.

## Practical Ideas to Take Your Offering to the Next Level

Since even my stellar offering talks can become routine, causing members to tune you out, let me give you some ideas to take your talks to the next level.

You must keep changing what you do during the offering time to keep it from becoming stale and thus ineffective. Take my ideas and personalize them for your church. First, start by ...

**Connecting the dots – To gain dollars from your donors, you must connect for them with how their gift fuels missions and ministry.** Your offering time is the key to teaching the value and impact of giving. The goal should be to make people *want* to give rather than guilt them into giving. How do you accomplish this? Showing and telling your story of life change thus creates in people a desire to give willingly to support what your church is doing!

**Try these practical ideas for your mission and ministry, aka offering talks.**

**Use Video** – Many of my clients already use video loops for announcements. Why not use that approach for the offering? For instance, while you are talking about VBS on the screens, you could be showing shots from last year's VBS or shots of your kids in action. Non-profits use shots of kids to tug at donors' hearts. Why do they do that? It works!

You could also video the whole offering talk. Today it is so easy to do. Just take your smartphone, point, and click, and you can make your videos. While the content quality will not rival the networks, it is appealing because it is local. People love to see people they know on video. Show and tell what you are doing, and the offering plate will fill up!

**Interviews** – Even churches without screens or projectors can use the interview process to take their offerings up a notch. Let's take VBS again. Let's say; that a few weeks before you launch VBS, you have your director come to the platform and interview her. Tell her to look at you, not the crowd. Then ask questions about VBS. When is it? How many kids are you expecting? How many of them will come from outside the church? How many decisions do you typically see in VBS? Thank her and say, "We can hold our VBS only because of your generosity. So, as worship through today's offering, I want you to know that your generosity funds VBS; so, please give as God directs." These are two easy ideas of how to better tell your story.

**Preview, Report, and Thank** - My advice is to think through the entire month or season. Each week pick one specific mission or ministry endeavor to focus upon. Challenge your team to think of creative and effective ways to tell the story and ask people to support that work. You can also build an offering talk reporting on the success of missions and ministry initiatives. In the Church, we do a poor job of blowing our horns and praising God for what was accomplished. Let members know *how* their gifts helped change lives. Then thank them for the fact that their generosity allowed that to happen.

**Start thinking and planning NOW what each of your offering talks will be about, and you will have greater success in being fully funded.**

## How I Write Offering Talks

**At 500 offering talks, I stopped counting how many I had written.** Suffice it to say; I know a thing or two about offering talks, as I've seen a few. I wrote a blog post on this topic a few years ago.<sup>1</sup> Here is what I wrote:

**First, let me state my premise regarding taking up the offering.** This drives everything. I believe in what the local church does. So much so that I believe it should be fully funded. The disciples of Jesus should be generous in their support of Kingdom work. Why wouldn't they give to what their local church was doing?

The offering IS worship, not an interruption OF worship. So, it should be done with excellence and deserves time in the service. As a result, I don't work on my offering talks to be short. I work on them being effective. Granted, you can't go on and on and on. Yet, hurry is the death of anything. Being fully funded is too important to rush through the process.

So, from that beginning point of assumption, I move into crafting the "ask" for that offering. I know I have limited time and that, typically, most view the offering as an interruption.

So, I work to...

**Get their attention immediately.** I like to use timely events like sports or focus on things that everyone is talking about. After I have their attention, I want to move to...

**Show them what the church is doing and how it is making a difference in the community and world.** Why?

Because people give to that which makes a difference. You might list specific things like how many attended VBS or some other ministry initiative. It could be stated as an overarching concept focusing on ministry or mission. The point is to help them make the connection that a gift given in today's offering will impact the Kingdom.

Here are some other keys I use in writing offering talks...

- I never use guilt. Guilt doesn't work to accomplish what you want. A long-time cheerful giver.
- I try to thank them often for their generosity. Assume they will give, thank them for giving, and you will find...they will give!
- I change how I say what I say so that what I say will never become dry and boring.
- I use Scripture often to reinforce what I am saying and to teach long-term generosity. Never assume those in attendance will magically "get" generosity. Teach it so they will live it!
- 120 seconds or less. That is my time goal. Some argue that it is too long. Since the offering IS worship, I argue it deserves at least two minutes. We give time to what we deem important. Trust me; your staff wants to get paid. Help them see that giving 120 seconds to the offering is in everyone's best interest.

Put these same principles to work at your church, and I believe you will see an increase in giving.

1. <https://acts17generosity.com/how-i-write-offering-talks/>

**Check out the Bonus Section for a year's worth of Mission and Ministry moments, aka, offering talks.**



## Five Key Steps Towards Giving Success

Taking these five steps will guarantee that your giving will go up. Since I am a former Baptist preacher, I have alliterated each of these, to begin with, and E. The first step is to,

**Engage your staff in offering planning.** One simple way to do this is to build into your staff meeting time for generosity planning. Every staff member needs to know the status of giving each week. Engage them in planning and implementing all your offering pushes, and you will see your offering rise. Your staff is incredibly creative. Tap into that creativity to improve your offerings. To do this, you next need to,

**Elevate your offerings.** The offering is the least valued time of our services. To increase giving, you must **elevate your offerings to prominence in your services!** To accomplish this, you must convince your staff to give the offering time in the service. Worship time is valuable and often fought over.

Is giving an act of worship? Of course, it is. Then why do we typically devalue it by shoving it into the corners of our worship time? By devaluing the offering time, we have devalued the act of worshipping through our gifts. You will see your giving increase when you elevate your offerings to a place of prominence in your worship services. Of all my strategies, this is the easiest to implement yet the hardest to accomplish. Elevating the offering will improve your giving if you,

**Energize your offerings.** How do you turn boring offerings into meaningful, worshipful, AND energized giving moments? You need to energize your offerings with stories. Gone are the days when we can assume that our attendees know why they should give. Your offering time needs to make a case for why people should give. In my view, one of the best ways to accomplish this is by telling the stories of life change that your church is experiencing. You want your attendees to see that their gifts make a difference.

This is one reason I began advocating setting up the offering time with stories years ago. Your church is doing amazing work, and sharing that story will energize your offerings. That will increase giving.

Passing the proverbial plate is still a key to full funding in this 21<sup>st</sup> century. We need to,

**Electrify your offerings.** Americans have moved away from checks and cash to electronic commerce. If you are going to increase giving, you must electrify your offerings. Commerce has changed so vastly in these last few years, driven largely by the explosion of smart devices.

Americans love options when it comes to how they pay their bills and how they make purchases. A wise church offers multiple options for giving. Providing multiple options makes it easier for people to give, which in turn increases giving. This leads to my final point that to increase giving; you need to,

**Expand your offerings.** If Sunday morning is the only time you take up the offering, you might be in trouble. Smart charities and non-profits don't put all their eggs in one basket. I advise using multiple tools and sources to improve giving in my plans. Even with the proliferation of online giving, the most money charities raise comes through good old-fashioned snail mail. From online to social media posts to direct mail to the physical offering each weekend, multiple options help you achieve your budget goals.

One reason why you must do this lies in the fact that church attendance patterns have changed. Back in the day, most, if not all, active members were in attendance on a typical Sunday. It was easier to

communicate with them, and the standard offering plate was all we needed. Now your active members are attending church less often. Our challenge is in how to stay engaged with them.

I advise my clients to use multiple platforms to communicate their message, as they know many miss the weekend announcement time. They also work to push members to sign up for automated giving. A robust online giving platform and strategy around that platform are essential to meeting this new change in attendance patterns.

All of the above takes commitment and work. A good analogy is a farmer. He must sow to reap, yet if he doesn't continually tend his fields, there won't be a harvest. When harvest time comes, he can't simply lay around in bed, hoping the crops get in the barn. From beginning to end, to reap a harvest, he must work. The same is true for you and your staff. The labor you put in today will dictate where you end up. These five Es for the offering will forever change the offering time at your church and will increase by giving and givers.

## 53 Mission and Ministry Moments

### Did You Make Any Resolutions? – January 1st

**Did any of you make New Year's resolutions?** An article in *Inc.* magazine revealed that about 60% of us make resolutions, but only about 8% of us successfully keep them.<sup>1</sup> Based upon that, how are you doing keeping your resolutions?

If you want to keep your resolutions, you might be interested in another article *Inc.* magazine published entitled ***7 Tips to Make Sure You Actually Keep Your New Year's Resolutions This Year.***<sup>2</sup> They said, "This is what people who keep their resolutions do." One of the tips was, set yourself up for success.

By now, you might be thinking, what does this have to do with the offering? Often, Christians will resolve to give more in the New Year. They might resolve to increase the amount or the frequency of their giving. Like all New Year's resolutions, the best-laid plans often need to be more balanced by the tyranny of the urgent or other distractions.

If you have resolved to generously give to support our life-changing work, we have multiple ways you can do that. The best is to sign up to have your offering become recurring. That way, you never have to remember the checkbook because most of you don't know where that is anyway. Your gift gets here whether you do or not. It's the surest way to fulfill a resolution to give.

Setting up recurring giving is easy to do. Simply go to **GIVE YOUR URL GIVING PAGE ADDRESS.** Then follow the instructions, and you will be helping us make a difference in our city and worldwide.

1. <https://www.inc.com/peter-economy/10-top-new-years-resolutions-for-success-happiness-in-2019.html>

2. <https://www.inc.com/amy-morin/7-tips-to-make-sure-you-actually-keep-your-new-years-resolution-this-time.html>

## National Returns Day – January 8th

**Did anyone return a Christmas gift last week?** Be honest! Does it help you to know that there is a designated National Returns Day? Typically, it's January 2<sup>nd</sup>, the first day you can ship anything back. Well over a million packages will be shipped every January 2<sup>nd</sup>. Millions of more packages were shipped in the first week of January. If you returned something, you were not alone.

What causes people to return gifts? Aunt Bee's idea of chic is your idea of yuk. Uncle Bob gives you ties that looked great in the last century. It could be as simple as the wrong size. For whatever reason, the gift failed to meet expectations and was returned. Gifts often get returned because the recipient doesn't value that gift.

Here is an observation. The more love we have for someone, the more we want our gift to them to be perfect. We want them to love our gift and never think of returning it. A gift given in love is a gift worth keeping. A gift from love, even if we don't like it, has a better chance of being kept. How many of you have gifts from your kids that you never used but would never part with because of the love behind that gift?

When you give here at YOUR CHURCH NAME, we recognize that it is a gift motivated by your love of God. We treat every gift as valuable and important. We can do all we do only because of your generosity. Unlike people who don't use the gifts given to them, we use every gift to help advance the Kingdom of God. That is our mission and passion, and your generosity makes that happen.

So, while you might now be wondering if Aunt Sally kept your gift or returned it, please be assured that your gift today is appreciated and will be used. Thank you for your generosity!

## Dreams Matter – January 15th

Dreams matter. Tomorrow's holiday honoring Martin Luther King is proof of that. On August 28, 1963, Martin Luther King Jr. delivered the iconic "I Have a Dream" speech in front of over 250,000 supporters gathered at the Lincoln Memorial. The speech was ranked the best American speech of the 20th century in a 1999 poll. One famous part of his speech is this:

I have a dream that my four little children will one day live in a nation where they will not be judged by the color of their skin but by the content of their character. I have a dream today.

While we still have a way to go to see the ultimate fulfillment of King's dream, some of us here can remember those days of segregation. In 1963, apart from perhaps Martin Luther King, few people would have ever believed that in 2008 America would elect its first African American president. That would have never happened without the dream that Martin Luther King launched on that August day in 1963.

King's dream became the vision that drove the Civil Rights Movement. His followers work to this day to see his dream and vision become fully realized. There is an old children's song that says this:

Jesus loves the little children  
All the children of the world  
Red and yellow, black and white  
They are precious in His sight.  
Jesus loves the little children of the world.

Here at YOUR CHURCH NAME, our mission is to share the Good News of Jesus' love with everyone, red and yellow, black and white; they're all precious in His sight! Every time you give here, you help us fulfill the dream of reaching the next one for Jesus.

Remember, we have multiple ways in which you can give today. Thank you for your generosity!

## **What God's Word Says About the Offering – January 22nd**

As we approach our offering time every week, we try to show you what your gifts accomplish here. We always want you to know how your generosity makes a difference. We think that is a better approach to motivating people to give than hammering them over the head with a huge Bible.

Yet we also want to be clear; we take up the offering each week because the Bible teaches us to give. From time to time, we feel it is important to remind all of God's commands. So, this morning, before our offering time, I want to read one passage of Scripture for us. I am going to read it and then pray. You will determine what the passage is saying and what your response should be.

God says to His people in Malachi 3:10, "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."

Please note that while this is a command to give, it is also a promise. We don't give to get, but at the same time, God's Word is clear. He will bless those that faithfully give. We offer multiple ways to give here. Find the way that works best for you. Let's pray.

## **Our Story is Eternal - January 29th**

**Everyone loves a good story.** Perhaps that is one reason why we love Valentine's Day. Hollywood capitalizes on our desire for a good love story, and every year they release blockbuster movies. Then, there is the Hallmark Channel with all their love movies. These movies are usually based on fictional stories with little to no meaningful message. I want to tell you a story that is real and eternal.

**(Tell a story of life change through one of your church's ministries. Here are two examples of how.)**

As a result of your generosity, we can help many of the needy in our community. Last year, we helped over \_\_\_\_ families with help from food to rent assistance. That gave them immediate help and relief from their temporary problems. This story is even more exciting because we saw \_\_\_\_ people come to accept Christ due to this ministry. Your generosity helped make that happen.

**(Or try something like this)** Consider just some of the things Community Church does - **List your bullet points here**

- In 2022, we saw XX children and students accept Christ.
- Our mission teams went to Africa, Romania, and the inner city of Detroit.
- We trained XX number of people.
- We ministered to XX number of people.
- We did all this weekly, providing worship and ministry for hundreds.

Without the loving support of our church family, none of the above would happen.

**(End with something like this)**

Unlike Hollywood, our stories are real and eternal. *Your* generosity allows this to happen. From here in our community to worldwide, your gifts impact today *and* eternity. We provide multiple ways for you to worship through giving. Find the best way for you, and let's continue making eternal investments in the Kingdom of God.

## 88% Are Happy – February 5th

**A recent study of churchgoers revealed that 88 percent are happy with how often the church asks for tithes and donations.**<sup>1</sup> I'm not sure what our percentage would be here, but I guess it would be high for some and lower for others. We're a family, after all!

**But we want 100% of you happy!** In fact, according to the Bible, we want you laughing. Listen to this:

"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.**" 2 Corinthians 9:7

The original verse was written in Greek, and the word used for "cheerful" is where we get our word hilarious. So, if at the offering moment, you want to laugh, it's biblical!

All kidding aside, one of our goals each week in our Mission and Ministry Moments is to elevate the offering as a meaningful part of worship. One way is by showing you the value of your generosity. **The 88% see the value of where their gift goes and what it accomplishes, changed lives!**

Thank you for *your* generosity! We will keep reporting each week about the amazing results of what your gifts accomplish. Find the way that is easiest for you to give. Whatever way or means you give, let's all give today as **cheerful givers!**

[9 in 10 Evangelicals Don't Think Sermons Are Too Long..... | News & Reporting | Christianity Today](#)



## Every Day is a Super Bowl Sunday Here – February 12th

Just in case you did not know, tonight is the Super Bowl. Who's cheering for the \_\_\_\_\_? Is anyone cheering for the \_\_\_\_\_? How many of you will watch but only for the ads? Here are some interesting facts:

- Last year Americans spent \$13.9 billion on the Super Bowl, mostly on food.
- The average spend per household was \$74.55.<sup>1</sup>
- \$6.5 million is the price tag for a 30-second ad this year, an increase of \$1 million from last year.<sup>2</sup>
- 100 million viewers typically watch a Super Bowl.

With numbers like that, it is easy to see that the Super Bowl has become an American tradition that even non-football fans enjoy.

### **The irony is that only a few will remember who won the game ten years from now!**

Billions of dollars are spent on one game that, in the end, will not change anything about the course of history or make the world a better place. Tonight's game will soon be over, but the world's troubles continue.

We exist; state **Your Vision Statement!** We don't focus on one event, game, or night. For us, every day is a Super Bowl Sunday here. We see lives impacted for eternity each week here.

That is one reason we never apologize for taking up an offering to accomplish all we do. We don't plead or beg you to give; we tell you what your gift does. We don't use guilt because we want you to give freely and willingly. We take up an offering as an act of worship for a God who gives us so much.

1. <https://www.alliantcreditunion.org/money-mentor/how-much-do-americans-spend-on-the-super-bowl>
2. <https://myrepubliconline.com/super-bowl-lvi-2022-advertisement-price-companies-advertising-advertisers-in-first-super-bowl/>

## **Your Security Begins With Your Generosity – February 19th**

In every service, we allow you to worship through giving. We try in some way to see the power of our giving by focusing upon some reasons for missions and ministry. (Around the office, we call them Offering Talks.)

Sometimes, the question arises: Does asking for money during times of economic difficulty make a church seem tone-deaf? First, let me say we're in the same boat as you. **YOU MIGHT STATE ANY % CUTS STAFF HAVE TAKEN ETC.** Yet, a core value for us is that **financial security begins where good stewardship/generosity begins.**

We give for many reasons, but one benefit is God, that blesses those who are generous. Consider these Proverbs:

- **"A generous man will prosper."** Proverbs 11:25
- **"A generous man will himself be blessed."** Proverbs 22:9

Consider the words of Jesus, **"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

These verses are *not* teaching that we will get some multiplied amount back for every dollar we give. They are teaching that God blesses and takes care of those who give. How does that work out? Frankly, it is different for each of us, but trust me, we could fill the hour with stories from faithful givers of God's provision. Here is the thing, we give to be obedient and for the joy giving brings. It doesn't hurt that it helps secure our financial security.

Giving away a portion of your money before you pay the first bill might seem crazy to a financial planner. They might advise you to work up to that. To them, it doesn't make sense. Yet, in God's economy, it makes perfect sense, but it takes faith and obedience to begin.

We give you multiple ways by which you can give now to build security for your future.

### Three Reasons Why – February 26th

Why? Have you ever heard that from one of your kids when you ask them to do something or tell them, they can't do something they want to do? Sometimes they keep on saying, but why? Have you ever responded out of frustration, just because? How did that work for you? Probably not too well. We naturally want to know why.

This morning as we prepare to take up our offering, I wanted to ask the questions that might be in your mind, why? Why do we each week take time for the offering? Let me share with you three reasons why.

**First, we take up the offering out of obedience.** As disciples of Christ, we are admonished to give and give freely. The Apostle Paul wrote to the Church in Corinth, "On the first day of every week, each one of you should set aside a sum of money in keeping with your income, saving it up, so that when I come, no collections will have to be made."

**Second, we take up the offering as a means of worship.** We don't stop worshipping when we collect the offering. We continue to worship. Your gift expresses your gratitude for what God has provided for you. We should think of every offering as a chance to worship God.

**Third, we take up the offering because what we do as a church matters and is worthy of your financial support.** We don't apologize here when we ask people to give. Your gifts and the gifts of others help us do amazing, life-changing things here. When you give to our Church, you are helping us extend God's Kingdom here in our town and area!

So, the next time someone complains about the Church always asking for money, you can tell them why we ask for money! Let's give this morning out of obedience. Let's give this morning to worship God, who sustains and provides for us. Let's give this morning because we ARE making a difference.

## **Are You Ready for Spring? – March 5th**

**Are you ready for spring?** I am! While we still have more cold weather, you can see the hints of spring. Never fear, my friends; warmer weather is coming!

Do you know how you can know spring is around the corner? Go to your local Wal-Mart, Lowes, Home Depot, or other stores with a nursery section. On display are all the various plants and seeds you need for whatever garden or flowers you desire. Already those of you who have gardens are thinking about the spring and summertime.

One truth all gardeners know is that if you don't plant seeds or seedlings, you will never have flowers or tomatoes. You must sow to reap. The Bible speaks of this in II Corinthians 9. Listen to what it says...

"Remember this: Whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows generously will also reap generously. 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. And God is able to bless you abundantly, so that in all things at all times, having all that you need, you will abound in every good work."

What an incredible promise. When we give, we are sowing seeds that result in experiencing the blessing of God. We don't give so that we will *get*. We give to sow into the lives of others for a spiritual and eternal harvest.

Your generosity today will sow seeds into the mission and ministry of our church.

## **On the Road To... March 12th**

**We will hear a lot about basketball in the next few weeks.** The NCAA basketball tournament will be starting soon. The teams will be picked later today. The Final Four will be played in Houston this year. CBS broadcasts many of the games that lead up to the finals. They often start the tournament by talking about on the road we are on to whatever city where the finals will be played. For this year, the players are on the road to Houston. They are on the road for an earthly trophy.

**What are we on the road for?** There is nothing wrong with trophies. Don't touch my bowling trophy! But in all seriousness, sometimes it is good to ask those kinds of questions. Let me share with you what we here at CHURCH NAME are on the road for:

### **GIVE YOUR VISION STATEMENT**

What we do here matters. For all eternity. That is what we are on the road to. We invite you to join us. This is one reason we never shy away from taking time during our worship to encourage you to join us in worship by giving generously as God leads you. We offer many ways for you to give here. Find the best way for you, and join us in **YOUR VISION STATEMENT.**

## There Is No I in Team – March 19th

**How is March Madness going for your team?** March Madness is a term that has become synonymous with the NCAA basketball tournament played every March. It comes from the fact that many games end in crazy maddening ways. There are also lots of upsets that add to the, well, madness. This makes predicting the winner of the tournament almost impossible. I can predict that the team that will win will be the team whose players play together.

Let me illustrate. How many of you have heard of LeBron James? LeBron James is arguably the best basketball player in the world. The Los Angeles Lakers acquired James, but that didn't assure them a winning season. Why? **Because one great player does not make for one great team.** LeBron gets the headlines, but that hasn't translated into automatic wins for the Lakers. As the saying goes, there is no I in team.

Regarding our success here at YOUR CHURCH NAME, we could not accomplish any of what we do without you! *You* are what makes this church go. From the parking lot attendants to those who change diapers in the nursery to those on the platform, we are all a team!

As we focus on worship through the offering, remember that our gifts combined as a team allow us to do all the missions and ministry here. Without your generosity, our team can't do what we do. So, be a team player and give generously today!

### **Thank You! – March 26th**

In writing to the Philippian church, the Apostle Paul began the letter by saying, “Every time I think of you, I give thanks to my God.” That verse expresses how we feel about each of you! As we focus on the offering today, I want to thank everyone who has supported us down through the years with your generosity. You may not realize it, but your generous gifts make a difference.

Let me share a few of the great stories we have seen this past year made possible because you gave.

This year we... **(Name three to four events your church did)**

- Reached XXX number of kids through our VBS!
- XX students attended camp, and XX gave their lives to Christ!
- We sent missions teams to...
- On top of all that, we kept all our ministries going and growing.
- We could even pay the electric bill to keep this place cool throughout the summer heat!

All the above was only possible because you gave. So, from all of us, Thank You! Your generous gifts do matter, and we are grateful!

## Every Gift is a Big Deal – April 2nd

Today, in churches around the world, we celebrate Palm Sunday. This day, the week before Easter, we focus on Jesus' Triumphal Entry into Jerusalem. Jesus rode into the city on that day on a donkey that had never had anyone ride it. People all over the city celebrated his coming to Jerusalem that day. They laid palm branches in front of his donkey, which people did as a tribute in those days to victorious kings.

What we often gloss over is how Jesus got that donkey. The Scripture says that Jesus directed the Disciples to go into a town to find the donkey tied up and bring it to him. He told them that if anyone asked why they were taking it, tell them, "The Lord needs it." That is exactly what happened. They found the donkey, and as they were untying it, the owners said, "Why are you untying the donkey?" "The Lord needs it," they said. That was it. The Lord needed a donkey, and the owners gave it to the disciples.

No big deal, right? Yet, their generosity set the stage for one of the greatest moments in the life of Jesus. Don't you know their grandkids heard them tell this story over and over? Their small contribution fulfilled the Lord's need.

What could your generosity unleash? When you give here, you help us **state your Vision Statement** or change lives for the Kingdom. We do indeed serve a victorious King. So, let's worship through giving by laying down our tribute with a generous offering. Find the best and easiest way for you to give.

At YOUR CHURCH NAME, every gift is a big deal. Thanks for helping us make a difference in our town.



## **Christ Is Risen! – April 9th**

Have you ever thought about what life would be like if Christ had not risen from the grave? Without the Resurrection, we would not have a viable faith. What hope do we have if Christ did not rise from the grave? Why are you here if the Resurrection is some myth? In the fifteenth chapter, Paul said to the church at Corinth, "if Christ has not been raised, our preaching is useless, and so is your faith." Then he says, "But Christ has indeed been raised from the dead." Paul offers himself as a testimony of one who first doubted Christ but later saw the resurrected living Lord.

Paul concludes I Corinthians chapter fifteen by saying, "Therefore, my dear brothers, stand firm. Let nothing move you. Always give yourselves fully to the work of the Lord because you know that your labor in the Lord is not in vain." As we focus on our offering, I want you to know that giving here at our church is not in vain. You are not wasting your money by giving here. We are actively working to serve our community and our Lord. Through your faithful gift, we make a difference by spreading the good news that Jesus is alive. Our Message is to give hope to countless people. We are committed to giving ourselves fully to the work of the Lord.

As we approach this offering, the question for all of us is, what does your gift today say about what you truly believe about the Resurrection? Can it be said today that your gift represents you giving yourself fully to the work of the Lord? Today we invite you to join us in giving a gift worthy of this day. Your gift will not be in vain but will advance and extend the Kingdom of Christ. Let's give ourselves fully today with a worthy offering.

## Showers of Blessing – April 16th

**April showers will bring...?** Some of you knew the answer. April showers will bring May flowers. I don't know about you, but some good rain showers are much needed to wash winter away and bring us spring. We could all use a breath of fresh air. April showers fill us with hope.

I was reminded of the Word of the Lord that came through Ezekiel the prophet to give hope to Israel when He said in Ezekiel 34:25-27,

<sup>25</sup> And I will make with them a covenant of peace, and will cause the evil beasts to cease out of the land: and they shall dwell safely in the wilderness, and sleep in the woods.

<sup>26</sup> And I will make them and the places round about my hill a blessing; and I will cause the shower to come down in his season; there shall be showers of blessing.

<sup>27</sup> And the tree of the field shall yield her fruit, and the earth shall yield her increase, and they shall be safe in their land, and shall know that I am the LORD, when I have broken the bands of their yoke, and delivered them out of the hand of those that served themselves of them.

At YOUR CHURCH NAME, our passion is to be a blessing to our community and the world! Each time you give here, we use your generosity to shower God's love to those around us. Thank you for being a shower of blessings.

Find the easiest way to give, and let's bring on an April rain for a spring harvest ahead!

### **Why We Give Will Never Change – April 23rd**

**Change is inevitable.** That is one lesson we have all learned these last couple of years. We have been forced as a church to change how we do many things. One thing that changed immediately with Covid was how we took up the offering. We went from primarily focusing on passing the plate on weekends to thinking of the offering as a 24/7 experience online. We now give you multiple ways by which you can give. So, the *how* of our offering time has changed, but the *why* of our offering time will never change.

We will continue to treat the offering as an integral part of worship. The Bible commands believers to give back a portion of what God has blessed them with, and in each service, we stop to reflect upon giving as an act of worshipful obedience. That is our primary reason for the offering.

Secondarily, our offering time is how we fund all our missions and ministry here. Every time you give here, you help us reach and impact more people for Christ. Without your generosity, we could not accomplish what we do. Your gifts make a difference, and we thank you! That is *why* we give, and that will never change.

Find the way that works best for you to give, and let's worship the Lord with our faithful gift to Him.

## How is Your Vision? – April 30th

**Would anyone here admit to using trifocal lenses?** For you Millennials, tri-focal glasses are what we of the more mature generation need to be able to read your texts on our smartphones! Just wait; after years of reading that small print, you, too, will have to wear corrective lenses, which might be trifocals.

If those of you under the age of 50 are not aware of what trifocals are, here is the Wikipedia definition...

**Trifocals** are **eyeglasses** with lenses with three regions correct for distance, intermediate (arm's length), and near vision.

**It's easy to spot people who wear trifocals by the way they must bob their heads up and down to get the text into proper focus.** Sometimes we look and feel like chickens, but the good news is that we can still read! So, whether we are looking right in front of us, a way away from us, or in the distance, we can see clearly what needs to be done.

**Our church has a tri-focal vision!** Our vision statement is, **list your statement or simply pick up on this next sentence.** Jesus' last words drive our vision to his disciples in Acts 1:8, where he said, "But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth."

**We view the world through the trifocal lens of Acts 1:8.** Our Jerusalem is our city and the surrounding area. Our mission is to impact our area for Christ. For us, our Judea and Samaria are our nation, and of course, the ends of the earth are missionary work abroad. To simplify it, we have a worldwide vision that begins when you leave our parking lot.

Like trifocals, there are times when our vision is focused locally. At other times we are focused on missional work beyond our region. Yet, there is never a time when we are not considering and keeping watch on how we can work our vision, whether near or far.

**Every time you give here at YOUR CHURCH NAME, you help keep in focus our vision of Acts 1:8.** We use your generous gifts to be the best witnesses for Jesus we can be. Our world is in great need, and through the power of Christ, we have the Good News to share with the world both near and far. That is why we exist, and that is why your gift is so important to us.

**Looking at our world through the trifocal lenses of Acts 1:8 keeps us on course. Your gift gives us the fuel to keep moving forward!**

## Vacation Planning – May 7th

**How many of you already have your vacation planned?** How many of you wish you were on vacation right now? We all need a break from time to time. We are fast approaching summer which for many of you means your annual break from slaving away at the salt mine to laying on the beach or visiting your favorite theme park. Or you may be planning to avoid the high fuel cost and have a staycation lying around the house. Now is the time to plan for your summer.

Listen, we WANT you to go on vacation. You deserve that break. A vacation is not an expense for families but an investment in memories that your kids will carry with them for the rest of their lives. So have fun!

Here at YOUR CHURCH NAME, we have planned this summer as well. **Highlight some of your summer plans, emphasizing mission and ministry opportunities.** We could never do what we do without your faithful giving.

As you plan for your summer vacation, let me encourage you to take another step of planning by planning to give even though you are gone. If you set up your offering to be automatic, you can still give to help fund all our missions and ministry initiatives this summer, EVEN though you are not here! It is simple to set up. Go to our website, look for the give button, click on it, and follow the easy steps.

So, with all your vacation planning, ensure that your gifts continue to help us fully fund our summer endeavors. Your faithful giving helps us change lives, which will last much longer than your vacation souvenirs.

## The Chicken Neck Sacrifice – May 14th

Have you ever heard grandmothers and mothers always eat the chicken neck when they serve their families chicken? I remember hearing that, and I found these statements from writers...

“When I was little, my mom and her mom always said that a mom's favorite parts of the chicken were the necks and backs.” Another writer said,

“My Mom recently passed at 92. She ALWAYS ate the chicken neck. She said she liked it. Imagine my surprise when I brought one to her bedside three days before she passed, and she turned her nose up at it. She confessed she never liked them and certainly didn't have to eat them anymore!”

If they didn't like them, why did they eat them? **Because mothers always sacrifice for their children, saving the best for them.** A mother's love drives them to do amazing things, even eating a bony chicken neck and feigning enjoyment! That is love, and today we honor all mothers with this day of celebration. Let's give all the moms a round of applause.

Love motivates us to do things we might not normally do, like eat chicken necks. Every week we take up an offering, and love drives us to give away what we hold precious our money. We sacrifice for the good of others. Your gifts allow us to do all we do here to impact the lives of others.

So, this morning as we honor and celebrate mothers' sacrificial love, let's give in that same spirit of mothers!

## Did You Ever Forget? – May 21st

**Is anyone here honest enough to admit that they sometimes forget about their offering?** You thought about giving. You *wanted* to give. It's just that something else came up, distracted you, you went on vacation, and before you know it, you forgot. Most of us can identify with that scenario.

**We have a solution – Set up your giving to be recurring!** With recurring giving, your offering always appears in the "offering plate," whether you are here or at the lake, beach, or mountains. You'll never forget the offering again, *and* most importantly, you will help fund all the life-changing work our church is doing. We could not do what we do without your faithful generosity.

Setting up recurring giving is easy to do. **(List the various ways, and then point them to your website's portal URL. If you use screens, have that address up and in any print material you provide.)**

We invite everyone to worship with us through giving and thank you for supporting our work. We provide multiple ways to give here. Find the way that is the best fit for you.

## **A Memorial Gift – May 28th**

This weekend is Memorial Day. The sad thing about many of our holidays is that we have forgotten why they exist. Memorial Day, celebrated on the last Monday of May, was first started to commemorate fallen Union soldiers who died in the Civil War. By the 20<sup>th</sup> century, it had been extended to honor all Americans who have died in all wars. It developed into a day for general expressions of memory for deceased relatives, whether they had served in the military or not. So the day is supposed to remember and honor those who have gone before us.

A few years ago, the Christian singer Steve Green sang a popular song entitled "Find Us Faithful." That song says, "We're pilgrims on the journey of the narrow road. And those who've gone before us line the way, cheering on the faithful, encouraging the weary, their lives a stirring testament to God's sustaining grace. Surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us run the race not only for the prize but also as those who've gone before us. Let us leave to those behind us. The heritage of faithfulness passed on through godly lives."

The song is based upon Hebrews 12:1, which says, "Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses, let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles. And let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us."

Think about where we would be without those that have paid the price for our freedom. We owe so much to so many. We should take time out to remember their sacrifice. We should memorialize those who served our nation and the family members who served us.

Many times we give a memorial gift in honor of someone. You may have noticed plaques in churches where pews or windows were given in the memory of someone. The focus of our giving should always be to be obedient to the Lord. Yet this morning, as we approach our time of offering, wouldn't it be special if our gifts were given a memorial statement of gratitude for those who have invested so much for us? As our ushers come forward for our offering, let's give gifts that honor those who have gone before us.



## Who Is Ready for Summer? – June 4th

**Who is ready for summer?** How many of you have a trip planned for this summer? OK, shout out to me, where are you going? **Give time for them to share.** Can you fit me in your suitcase?

Summer is our typical vacation time, and many of you have been planning your vacation for months. It might amaze you, but Americans spend over \$100 billion dollars a year on vacations. Here is some bad news. Due to the increase in gasoline prices, vacations this year are projected to increase over last year. So, on top of your planning, start saving!

Just as you plan in advance for a successful vacation and must figure out how to pay for it, we here at YOUR CHURCH NAME do the same for the upcoming summer months. Summers are our busiest time of the year. Consider that this summer, we will...

- List any mission trips you have planned,
- List any camps or retreats for youth or students,
- List Vacation Bible School or children's camps,
- AND we will still be open doing all our regular ministry week by week!

We have been planning and working for months to make sure these events go off smoothly.

**By faithfully giving to YOUR CHURCH NAME, you can help us prepare for summer by assuring that these vital missions and ministry initiatives happen.** Just like your vacation, our mission trips and other ministry initiatives cost money. While our ministries kick into high gear, we typically experience lower offerings. We can do what we do because of your generosity. Every dollar given here helps us advance the Gospel.

So, thank you for your gifts today in this offering. Please consider setting up your giving to be automatic so that your gift of love is still present in the plate when you are gone.

Your giving makes possible the life change of many! Thanks for helping us get ready for a fabulous summer by giving generously today!

## VBS Trivia – June 11th

**Does anyone here like trivia?** I have a church history question for you about Vacation Bible School. To help you, I'll make it multiple-choice. A woman named Mrs. Hawes, who lived in New York City, became concerned about the poor children running around in summer without anything to do. She started what was called Everyday Bible School. Most historians track this as the beginning of what became Vacation Bible School.

Here is the question, where was the first Everyday Bible School held?

- ☐ In a school.
- ☐ In a beer hall.
- ☐ In a church basement.
- ☐ Under a tree.

Mrs. Dawes started her Everyday Bible School in 1898, renting out a beer hall during the daytime. Vacation Bible School developed from a beer hall to sweep the nation.<sup>1</sup> Millions of children have been impacted for eternity through Vacation Bible School.

Thanks to your generosity, we have plenty of space and capacity for kids for our Vacation Bible School this summer. As we focus on our offering today, I wanted to help you see that your gifts today help run programs like VBS, one of our key outreach events. This year, we believe God for XXX kids, and we need all the help we can get. If you would like to generously give your *time*, see.

So, today as we focus on our time of giving, let's give cheerfully, knowing our gifts will enable us to share the love of Jesus with the boys and girls of our community.

<https://vbs.lifeway.com/wp-content/uploads/2019/09/HistoryofVBS.pdf>

## Father's Day Gifts – June 18th

Today is Father's Day! Thank God for fathers! Some of you have fathers still living, and for others of you, your father has gone. Yet, living or passed, we celebrate their lives today.

**What gifts do we get for our fathers?** Traditionally, it has been ties. Given the pandemic, I wonder if anyone wears ties anymore. This might account for the fact that it is projected that 2.2 billion dollars of the 12 billion dollars spent this Father's Day will be gift cards.<sup>1</sup> I wonder if a gift card requires much thought but apparently, that is the top way to show our love to our fathers.

**How much love do you show for your heavenly Father regarding the offering?** As I ask that question, I am not trying to lay a guilt trip on you. I want you to consider whether your gift is thoughtful or something you throw in the plate or basket. We must realize that the offering is when we show our heavenly Father the same honor we give our earthly fathers today.

In the Living Bible, Proverbs 3:9 says, "**Honor the Lord by giving him the first part of all your income, and he will fill your barns....**" What we give shows whether we truly honor God. Just as we pause today to give honor and tribute to our earthly fathers with a gift, let's pause and give our heavenly Father a gift with the first part of our incomes.

We give you multiple ways to give, so find your best option. We greatly appreciate your generosity, which makes all that we do possible. Thank you!

1. <https://muchneeded.com/fathers-day-statistics/>

## **Yes, We Do Talk About Money Here! – June 25th**

**“All the church ever talks about is money!”** Have you ever heard that? If you regularly attend church, you know that is not true. **Yet every week, we put a focus on giving to the offering.** So, at least for a few minutes, we talk about money here.

**Have you ever wondered what we do with that money?** This morning, before we take up the offering, I wanted to share our plans this summer to help you understand what we do with the money we give you. ***List your missions and ministry activities for the summer. Here are my suggestions.***

- **VBS** – Every year, we hold Vacation Bible School here. We typically have around 100 kids for a week. Many of these kids don’t come regularly here. Many come from broken homes where they get little to no love. We love on them and tell them that God loves them and has a plan for their lives. It costs us money to hold this event. So, yes, we ask you to give to support that!
- **Student Camp** – Every year, we take our students to camp. At camp, we teach them there is a better way to live their lives than to follow the path of the world. We teach them how to follow Christ in a Christ-less society. Student camp is one tool we use to mold the next generation for Christ. It costs us money to hold this event. So, yes, we ask you to give to support that!
- **Mission Trip to \_\_\_\_\_** - This year, we will be sending teams to \_\_\_\_\_. We will be doing a multitude of things. *Share specifics of what your teams will do.* It costs money to go there and do what we believe God wants us to do. So, yes, we ask you to give to support that!

**We talk about money because we believe in what we are doing and that what we are doing matters!** What matters is worth giving to. So, while we don’t pressure anyone to give, we invite you to participate in what we are doing with your generous gift this morning!

## Freedom Isn't Free – July 2nd

I don't know about you, but I get emotional whenever I hear the National Anthem and see our flag. I realize how blessed we are to live in this great nation with such freedom. We are gathered here without fear of reprisal, as we are free to worship as we see fit.

We will celebrate our nation's birthday with Independence Day in just a few days. The Fourth of July has come to mean many things to us Americans. It means baseball, hotdogs, and Chevrolet to some. It is a day off to lay around the pool or beach with others. The Fourth is a time for us to relax, spend time with our families, and eat and watch parades and fireworks. Sometimes we forget the real meaning of the holiday, to celebrate that our Founding Fathers risked their lives so that we could be free.

There have been many countless sacrifices to maintain our freedom through the years. From Valley Forge to Gettysburg, to San Juan Hill, to WWI, to the beaches of Normandy and Okinawa, to Vietnam, Iraq, and Afghanistan, brave men and women serve so that we can eat hotdogs and ice cream in peace and freedom. As we look at the rows of white tombstones in our cemeteries, we are reminded that freedom isn't free. It was bought with the blood of patriots and kept by the sacrifice of countless men and women who serve around the globe.

We have an even greater freedom today than the freedom our nation grants us. We are free in Christ. His sacrifice purchased a pardon from sin and set us free to live a new and meaningful life. Our flag symbolizes our freedom as a nation, so the cross symbolizes that we are free in Christ. The great hymn-writer Isaac Watts wrote in *When I Survey the Wondrous Cross*, "When I survey the wondrous cross On which the Prince of glory died, My richest gain I count but loss, And pour contempt on all my pride. Were the whole realm of nature mine, That were a present far too small: Love so amazing, so divine, Demands my soul, my life, my all."

We can never give a gift to repay God for the sacrifice of His Son. The point of the hymn is not that we should try to repay God with our gifts. The point is that a sacrifice like that so freely given causes us to WANT to give back to Him freely, willingly, and out of love.

Let's keep this in mind as we approach our giving this week.

## Meet Our All-Stars – July 9th

**I'm not sure anyone cares, but this week is the National Baseball League's All-Star game.** Will anyone watch it? The All-Star game is always intriguing, seeing the best of the best.

Did you know we have All-Stars here at CHURCH NAME? Our volunteers are All-Stars. They come week after week, volunteering their time parking cars, working in the nursery as host and hostess, and doing other tasks. Each one serving is an All-Star! Let me introduce you to a *few* of our All-Stars, **(IF POSSIBLE, SHOW PICTURES OF EACH IN THEIR SETTING)**

List several of your servant leaders:

- We have Mary Smith, who heads up our Pre-School on first base.
- We have Joe Jones, who heads up our parking lot team on second base.
- We have Jill Tucker, who heads up our Greeters on third base.
- Etc.

Let's give each of them a huge round of applause. Thanks to all our volunteers!

Do you know who else we consider All-Stars here? You! Your generosity funds our All-Stars staff's various ministries whenever you give here. Without your support, they would not be able to do the amazing work. So, thank you for your generosity.

We have many ways to give here. Find the way that is most convenient for you. The MOST convenient way is by setting up recurring giving through our website. That way, you never have to worry about forgetting the offering again.

## **We Want to Say Thank You – July 16th**

**Are you having a good summer?** Has anyone already been on vacation? How many of you wish you were on vacation? Do you remember when you were a kid and had the whole summer off from school? Now that is a vacation! Alas, we now must work so that our kids can sleep in!

Summer is a busy time for us here at OUR CHURCH. We have tons going on. Let me list a few things...**Share stats of various ministries and missions you have going on.**

And we are not done yet! We have a ton more coming up. Each is about helping connect people to a life-changing experience with Christ. We could not do any of this without you! Thousands of hours each week are donated in service by people like you. From greeting people at the door to wiping babies' bottoms, YOU make this church what it is! Thank you for your service! Let's give all our volunteers a hand!

We depend on volunteers giving their time, but those missions and ministry initiatives take money. Your generosity makes this happen. You generously give your money to fuel what we do. So, before we take up the offering, I want to thank you! Thank you for investing in the lives of children. Thank you for investing in the lives of students. Thank you for investing in missions here in our town and worldwide. Thank you! Thank you! Thank you! **Your generosity is changing lives forever!**

## **How Your Gift Today Shapes Eternity – July 23rd**

**This morning, each of us has an opportunity to shape eternity and the destiny of scores of children and students!** Here at YOUR CHURCH NAME, we exist to STATE YOUR MISSION STATEMENT OR MATTHEW 28:18-20.

This summer, we will be active in multiple missions and ministry opportunities. Here are just a few examples of what we will be doing:

- List any mission trips you have scheduled
- List any other ministry initiative
- Talk about what you will be doing for children
- Talk about what you will be doing for students

Why is this important? Studies show that the Church has a narrow window of opportunity to reach children and teens. 83% of all Christians made their commitment to Christ between the ages of 4 and 14. Studies have found that from age 19 and over, a person has only a 6% chance of becoming a Christian.

So, what is our opportunity today? This summer, the offering we are about to take up fuels our mission and ministry initiatives. Without the faithful generosity of people like you, we could not do any of the things I mentioned this summer. You enable us to better reach the next generation for Christ through your generosity. So, please prayerfully consider a generous gift this morning to help us make an eternal impact on the lives of our children, teens, and others. Your gift today WILL shape eternity!



## **Summer Is Almost Over, but We Are Not Done – July 30th**

**Can you believe that summer is almost over?** I know that technically summer ends in mid-September. Yet, in just a few weeks, schools will be back in session, and for all practical purposes, summer will be over.

Have you had a good time this summer? Did anybody go to the beach? How about the lake? Did anyone take some time off and do nothing? You know, sometimes nothing is good. You need some downtime—time off from the hustle and bustle of life and its demands.

Sometimes when we go on vacation, we need a vacation from our vacation! That is why many people are now taking staycations. People who do this might do some activities nearby but stay home and sleep in their beds. Did any of you take a staycation?

Whether you stayed at home or went away, our vacation is almost complete. **At Your Church Name, we are far from done!** We have the following key events coming up...

List whatever activities you have coming up.

**Every time you give here, you help fund these vital ministries!** We depend upon your faithful giving to do everything we do, including keeping the building cool! As you might imagine, our giving is greatly challenged, with many people gone during the summer months. Would you consider making that up this morning if you missed an offering this summer? Your gift today will help us reach more people with the Good News!

## First Things First – August 6th

**College football is just around the corner, and already the arguments are starting about who is number one. Who doesn't like to be first?** We always want to be first, from winning a race, match, or game to standing in line. First place is the place everyone wants to be in. Yet sometimes, we willingly forego being first.

We do this because first place is not just the place for winners but also the place of honor. Don't you offer them the first of everything when you have company at your house? When it comes to getting in the food line, who doesn't want to be first? Yet, we offer our guests the first serving. We even open doors for people so they can go in first. First is a place not just for winning, but it's a place of prominence and honor. Putting someone or something first in your life shows what you value.

Proverbs 3:9,10 says, "Honor the Lord with your wealth, with the **firstfruits** of all your crops; then your barns will be filled to overflowing, and your vats will brim over with new wine."

It is not as if God needs our money. After all, the Scriptures say he owns the cattle on a thousand hills. God wants what our money represents, our heart. Giving to God the first of all we have shows our love for Him. You show God has the first place in your heart when you give.

So, today as we focus on the offering, let's show that God is first in our lives by giving an offering that obeys and honors Him! Find the easiest way to express your love to God by giving your first fruits!

### Is It Worth the Cost? – August 13th

Have you ever heard someone say, "We are delaying having kids until we can afford it?" How much is that? According to a recent study, it costs between **\$12,800 to \$14,790 every year**.<sup>1</sup> The same study showed that the more kids you have, the more the cost. Multiply that over 18 years, and what will the cost be? We have yet to talk about college costs!

Here is the question. Is it worth the cost? Ask a new mother that question. Ask a dad after his first daughter/dad date or after the first soccer game. Ask a parent after their child graduates if all the costs of books, cleats, musical instruments, clothes, medicine, etc., were worth it. The answer is yes! You can't put a price tag on raising kids. Our children are our future, and there is no cost too high.

We have pulled out all the stops this summer to create the best possible children's and student programs. Here is what we have seen:

- List Children's ministry results from the summer.
- List Student ministry results from the summer.

You can't put a price tag on that! We could never accomplish this without your generosity. Every time you give here, you help us achieve results like this in the lives of children and students. As a result of your generosity, *you* are investing in the next generation of Christian leaders. Thanks for being so faithful!

We have many ways by which you can give. Find the way that is best for you. Thanks for showing that the next generation is worth the cost!

1. <https://costaide.com/raising-child-cost/>

## Let's Finish Strong – August 20th

Are you ready for some football? Say goodbye to your husband's wives; football season has arrived!

**Have you ever watched a football game and seen players raise four fingers in the air at the start of the 4th quarter?** The players are reminding themselves that they have one last quarter to bring home a victory. It reminds the team not to let up but give it their all until the final gun sounds. It's a reminder to finish strong.

Many games are won or lost in the fourth quarter. Sometimes games are won in the last two minutes or seconds. That is why college and professional teams practice over and over what is called their two-minute drill. It is designed to give them the winning score in the game's last two minutes. Why? Because the difference between winning and losing is in how strong you finish.

We are nearly through our summer giving initiative. Our goal was \_\_\_\_\_. As a result of your generosity, we accomplished all we did this summer. We saw amazing life change, but there is still more to do!

Just as a football team raises four fingers in the air to denote the start of the fourth quarter, we need to stay faithful in our giving to finish our summer giving strong. We still must fund our ministries and work. We are not playing for some trophy that will ultimately tarnish or be trashed. We are about the Kingdom work of our heavenly Father. Our work has eternal consequences; we cannot slack off or rest from our calling. Let's finish strong by giving generously today.

Remember, we give you multiple ways to give here. Find the best way for you, and thank you for your generosity!

## How a Small Amount Becomes a Large Amount – August 27th

**Trivia question! What is the only miracle mentioned in all four Gospels?** Yes! The Feeding of the 5,000. Let me read you this story from John's Gospel. Read John 6:1- 7. I don't know about you, but I identify with Phillip! I am afraid, like Phillip, I would have seen feeding more than 5,000 people as impossible. Here is a lesson for all of us. With Jesus, the impossible *is* possible.

Read verses 8 – 13.

A boy in the crowd offered his lunch as the first course. Note how Andrew uses the word "small" twice to describe the fish and bread in the lunch pail. He sums up what I think is in many people's minds when he says, "how far will they go among so many?"

The answer is found in the next few verses. Read John 6:10-13.

Scholars believe that since Jews only counted men, there could potentially have been 20,000 hungry mouths to feed! Not only did the five *small* loaves and two *small* fish feed that number, but they also collected leftovers!

**The only miracle appearing in all four Gospels came from a boy's *small* gift.** The lesson for us is that the size of our gift doesn't determine the impact of that gift. As we approach our time of worship through giving, remember this story. You might think your gift is insignificant. Yet, combined with all our gifts, your generosity does indeed matter.

Today we encourage you to give through the many ways we have set up. Your gift that you might think is a small amount, combined with everyone's generosity, becomes a large amount helping us reach our city for Christ. **What all of us can do together is greater than what only a few of us can do.**

### **What You Do Matters – September 3rd**

**Labor Day is upon us!** If you are like me, you are wondering where summer went. Labor Day is the traditional end of summer weekend. It is officially the day we celebrate workers' contributions to our country's strength, prosperity, and well-being. Our nation's way of saying, "Thank you for your hard work!"

Labor Day has been a federal holiday since 1894. According to the United States Department of Labor website, "Labor Day, the first Monday in September, is a creation of the labor movement and is dedicated to American workers' social and economic achievements. It constitutes a yearly national tribute to workers' contributions to our country's strength, prosperity, and well-being."

**Thank you to all who serve and labor here. Without you, we could not do all the amazing things we do, so thank you!** What you do here matters! It matters to the lives of the children you minister to. It matters to the lives of students you are helping navigate through the difficulties of their teen years. It matters to our guests who want to know where to park and where to go. All our workers are laboring for the Lord matter!

Paul implored the church at Corinth by saying, **"Always give yourselves fully to the work of the Lord, because you know that your labor in the Lord is not in vain"** I Corinthians 15:58. That is a great reminder to all of us. You might not be on the platform visible each Sunday, but your presence, service, and generous contributions help fuel all we do here. Our "labor" together is not in vain. We are changing lives one person at a time, and you are part of that!

As a result of all your labor, we have seen great success this summer. We rejoice in what we saw accomplished for the Kingdom. The faithful service and generosity of our members allowed this to happen. Yet there is more to do. This fall is filled with activities and events. Carrying out our vision is always our focus. Your generous gifts will allow us to achieve our goals for the fall. All our large and small gifts help fuel our work here.

**So today, I want you to know your service matters, as does your gift in this offering. So, give like your gift matters!**

## **We Produce Winners – September 10th**

Did your team win or lose yesterday? The sad reality is that even the best teams sometimes lose. I don't know about you, but I hate losing in anything, not simply sports. I hate to lose money. I hate investing in things that don't win. I don't like to lose. Yet, it is a fact of life that all of us are, at some point, going to lose something.

*EXCEPT*, every time you give to God's work, you win. Here is the promise God gives when he says, "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 you will not have room enough for it." Malachi 3:10 NIV

As we approach our time to focus on the offering, I want to assure you that when you give here, you help us change lives one person at a time. We are about producing eternal "winners" for Jesus. Your generosity helps us accomplish that, *AND* you are blessed in return. So, we invite you to join our winning team by giving generously today in the manner that best works for you. Help us produce winners for the Kingdom through your winning generosity.

## **You Make a Life By What You Give – September 17th**

Winston Churchill, the famous British Prime Minister of the last century, is often quoted as saying, "**You make a living by what you get; you make a life by what you give.**" If you Google that, you will find that it is questionable whether he said that or not. It is still a great quote whether Churchill or someone else said it. The question for us is, what kind of life are you making with your gifts?

While Churchill might not have said, "You make a living by what you get; you make a life by what you give," he did say in 1908, "What is the use of living, if it be not to strive for noble causes and to make this muddled world a better place for those who will live in it after we are gone?"

If Churchill thought his world in 1908 was muddled, what would he think of ours? We live in challenging days, yet those challenges give us a great opportunity to spread the Gospel. Our church does amazing things not just within the walls of this building but throughout our area, our state, and worldwide. Your gifts allow us to do that! We have a noble cause that we ask you to give to every week.

Today, your gift matters and will make our chaotic world better! We provide you with multiple ways to give. So, find the best way for you and help us shine the light of Jesus in our chaotic world!



## **Fantasy Football Mania – September 24th**

How many of you participate in fantasy football? How is your season going?

Some of you are probably asking yourself, what is fantasy football? Fantasy football is a competition in which participants select imaginary teams from among the players in a league and score points according to the actual performance of their players. So, you could have the quarterback of the Cowboys and a running back from the Cardinals on your team. Your score is determined by how they do week by week. You participate in a league against other players' teams.

Today, over ninety-two million people play fantasy football. Fantasy Football is now a multi-billion-dollar industry based around teams that don't exist. You could call it Fantasy Football Mania.

I am okay with playing fantasy football or spending money on other leisurely pursuits if they don't rule your life. Yet, what does it say when we spend so much time and money on something as fleeting as fantasy sports? What we spend our time and money on shows what we value.

Here at YOUR CHURCH NAME, we focus not on fantasy but on eternity. We value people. Our goal is to move people into a loving relationship with our loving heavenly Father. That is our mania. And every week, we ask people to give to support our life-changing work. Our work is not fantasy but fact. We are making a difference, and we ask you to generously give this morning to help us impact our town for something that isn't fantasy, eternity!

## **Harvest Festivals – October 1st**

**Is anyone going to a Harvest Festival this year?** Today those are often large parties at churches to offset Halloween. Historically, Harvest Festivals have been times when people from all over the world gather at the end of harvest to celebrate the fruits of the harvest. A better way to understand it for Americans is to think State Fair.

Did you know that in the Bible, the Israelites held Harvest Festivals every year? They would come together and give God praise for the harvest. They would put up little tents known as booths to live in. The festival lasted seven days, and still, to this day, many Jews celebrate the festival. Today it is known as Sukkot, after the Hebrew word for booth, sukkah. This year's Sukkot started last Friday, September 29<sup>th</sup>, and ends at sundown on Friday, October 6th.

**They gave an offering at the Festival of Harvest to express thanks to God for His provision.** Exodus 23:16 says, "Celebrate the Festival of Harvest with the firstfruits of the crops you sow in your field." The idea of firstfruits was that it represented the best. True gratitude always requires our best, not what is leftover.

**We might not be the agrarian nation we once were, but we can still give the firstfruits of our labor.** Today's offering can be your Festival of Harvest celebration. Because of God's amazing and abundant harvest to us, we offer up to Him our best or firstfruit with this offering.

## It's October, So, Let's Talk Candy – October 8th

**Has anyone bought their Halloween candy yet?** This year in the United States, it is expected that we will set an all-time high record of spending on candy for Halloween of **\$10 BILLION**. That is a \$2 billion dollar increase from last year.<sup>1</sup> That is a lot of candy!

If you want to see what we as American's truly value, look at our spending. Don't get me wrong. I love a good candy bar. I also love to give candy out. I have more fun giving away candy than I do eating candy. Part of the fun of Halloween, at least for adults, is the joy of giving away something that brings delight to the heart of a child.

Did you know that Jesus said, "It is more blessed to give than to receive?" We obey God's command about giving and receiving God's blessing every time we give. On top of that, study after study shows that those who are most generous are happier and live better lives!

We encourage generosity here. I encourage you to give out candy this Halloween. Yet think about this. How long will the candy you have purchased for Halloween last? Some of you might have to go back and buy more because you're testing out what you originally bought. Candy doesn't last long one way or the other.

Do you know what last a long time? Eternity. Our focus here at YOUR CHURCH NAME is to point people to Jesus, assuring them that they will live forever with him. All we say and do is wrapped up in that.

So, as you are considering being generous with candy, consider being generous to our church. The money you give here will last far longer than the candy you give this Halloween. Giving candy out on Halloween might make a kid smile for a moment. Giving generously to God's work will help us reach kids for Christ and will last an eternity!

1. <https://www.statista.com/statistics/275726/annual-halloween-expenditure-in-the-united-states/>

### Let's Pray *FOR* the Offering – October 15th

**Most churches pray before they take up the offering, but I want to ask you to pray *FOR* the offering.** Before I do that, let me explain why we take up a weekly offering. We have a mission here at YOUR CHURCH NAME. Our mission is, **STATE YOUR MISSION STATEMENT.** **If you don't have a mission statement, read Matthew 28:19,20.**

This is not simply a phrase or slogan for us. It is a matter of eternal significance. Every week we touch the lives of children, students, and adults. Scores of people depend upon our church for spiritual guidance and direction. I could stand here for hours telling you story after story of YOUR CHURCH NAME in action.

We can do this because of our members' generosity. First, our members donate countless hours staffing everything from the nursery to the soundboard. Without the generosity of their time, we could not do what we do.

The same is true when it comes to giving. It takes money to accomplish what we do. Every week our members step up with generous gifts. Again, without that generosity, we could not do what we do. Thank you for your service and your financial gifts.

So, this morning I want you to pray *FOR* the offering. Please pray that people will see the needs we are trying to meet and will willingly respond with a gift. Pray that people will generously give to our offering each week so we can continue the amazing work God has for us.

Then please pray, **"God, what do you want to do through me?"** In Exodus 35, Moses sent out a plea for gifts to build the tabernacle. The NRSV reads, "And they came, everyone whose heart was stirred, and everyone whose spirit was willing, and brought the Lord's offering to be used for the tent of meeting, and all its service, and for the sacred vestments."

If all of us will pray, **"God, what do you want to do through me,"** and then respond obediently, we will have all we need. So, before we take up the offering, let's pray *FOR* the offering AND for what our part in that offering should be. Then, like the Children of Israel in Exodus 35, let everyone whose heart is stirred bring our offering to the Lord.

## Join a Winning Team – October 22nd

How is football season going for you? Is anyone cheering for a team without any losses? Does anyone want to admit that your team hasn't won any games? If your team is winless, it might be time to consider another sport or join another team. The reality is that even the best teams lose at times.

We spend all this time and money on something that brings us only temporary pleasure. Don't get me wrong; I love football. Yet what joy and satisfaction I get from it is fleeting, depending upon the outcome of this week's games. Sometimes your team wins, and sometimes they lose. Even Alabama and New England lose games. Every time there is a winner, there is also a loser.

Here at YOUR CHURCH NAME, we put together a "team" that plays for keeps. Our task is not to win some trophy that will ultimately tarnish or perish. We exist, STATE YOUR VISION STATEMENT OR, SAY, to build the Kingdom of God here in our community and worldwide. Our "wins" often can't be seen with the human eye, but they are wins nonetheless. We win every time we show the love of Christ. Every time you give here, you help us make a difference in the lives of men, women, boys, and girls. That is winning!

So, despite what your favorite team did yesterday or today, you can be a winner by giving to help support our eternal life-changing mission! As we take up the offering, we encourage you, as you are led by God, to give to His winning team! With your gift today, you join a winning team, making **you** a winner!

## **Halloween Is About Saints Not... - October 29<sup>th</sup>**

**This might surprise you, but Halloween was not originally about trick or treating or candy.** Like many of our holidays, Halloween is not what it once was. While the exact origin of Halloween is debated, we know that in the 8<sup>th</sup> century, Pope Gregory III designated November 1<sup>st</sup> All Saint's Day. That is the day on the Liturgical Calendar dedicated to honoring the dead, including saints. Historically, a saint was also known as a hallow, an Old English word for "holy person." The evening before All Saint's Day was known as All Hallow's Eve. Thus, Halloween is about Saints, not...well, you know!

We can debate back and forth about whether or not it is a pagan holiday that Christians attempted to co-opt or vice versa. My point is that the origin of the day for the Church was about honoring saints and loved ones who had gone before us. Over time, the original intent of All Hallow's Eve has been lost and commercialized.

It is important to recognize and honor those that lead our Christian faith. These "saints" established our churches, served countless hours, and gave significant amounts of money, of which we are the beneficiaries. Without their sacrifice and their examples, where would we be? They truly left behind a legacy, and whether on October 31<sup>st</sup> or November 1<sup>st</sup>, we should honor and remember those faithful "saints." Who was a "saint" in your life that you can honor this season?

Many of you had Christian grandparents and parents. Those that didn't wish they did. Even if you did not have a Christian upbringing, you benefit from your spiritual fathers and mothers in the faith by being here today. They believed and gave their lives serving and sacrificing to advance the Kingdom. We honor them. We thank God for their lives.

Each generation of the Church builds upon the legacy of the last generation. We stand upon the foundation of the Saints. As we approach today's offering, know that you are building upon that foundation for today and for the generations that follow.

## Listing Our Blessings – November 5th

**Can you believe that we are now into November?** Where did this year go? Am I the only one who feels like it was just summer, and now here we are thinking turkey and Christmas shopping? Time does fly.

Can I ask you a personal question? How has your year gone? Have you ever slowed down to think about it? One thing the holiday season is good for is reflecting upon our year. There is an old hymn entitled *Count Your Blessings*. The hymn chorus says, “Count your blessings, name them one by one; Count your many blessings, see what God hath done.” There is value in counting the blessings of God.

Let me share with you some blessings we have seen this year at OUR CHURCH...

- List mission activities,
- List ministry initiatives held during the year,
- List out special and meaningful events,
- List out anything that would excite members.

For all of that, we give God praise and glory! Why is it important to see God’s hand in the past? **Because it gives us faith in our future!** The same is true in your life. I listed out a few things we have seen God do here. What would you list? Take some time this month to do exactly that.

Then, as we prepare for our offering today, here is what I want to challenge you with. Give a gift of thanksgiving back to God for all that He has done for you. Your gift will honor the Lord first of all. It will also allow us to continue seeing many of the things I just listed happen in the coming days. All of us have been blessed in some way. Now let’s give so that our blessings can be passed along to others!

## How Many Turkeys Does It Take? – November 12th

**How many turkeys does it take to feed Americans on thanksgiving?** Before you grab your phone to Google that, let me make this a multiple-choice question. Is the answer,

- A. 46 million
- B. 56 million
- C. 66 million?

How many say A? How many say B? How many say C? How many of you cheated and Googled it?

The correct answer, according to one study, is 46 million. That is a lot of turkeys! \$927 million just on turkeys.

Clearly, we love Thanksgiving. It might be more accurate to say we love to eat, and Thanksgiving gives us an excuse to splurge on our diets. I will do my fair share of splurging.

We can lose sight of why we hold Thanksgiving during all this eating. It is supposed to be a time of reflection and thanksgiving for the blessings we have received from God. So, take some time out of your feasting and thank the Lord for all His blessings in our lives. You might even ask those at your table to share one blessing they are thankful for.

Did you realize that your offering today is an act of thanksgiving? Throughout Scripture, we see that the people of God often bring what was called an offering of thanks. Psalm 50:23 says, “He who offers a sacrifice of thanksgiving honors me.” Psalm 116:17 says, “To You I shall offer a sacrifice of thanksgiving, and call upon the name of the Lord.”

These acts of worship reminded them of God’s provision and protection. It was a way of showing thankfulness. When we view our gifts as an expression of thanksgiving, it changes our view of giving. So, let’s use today’s offering to express our thanksgiving to God for all he has done for us. We offer multiple ways to give; please find the best way for you, and thank you for your generosity!

Statistics from: <https://www.finder.com/american-thanksgiving-turkey-spend>



## **We Give Thanks – November 19th**

This week we will pause on Thursday to give thanks for all the blessings God has given us. It reminds me of an old hymn called *Count Your Blessings*. It has a great message for us as believers. The refrain says...

*Count your blessings, name them one by one,  
Count your blessings, see what God has done!  
Count your blessings, name them one by one,  
Count your many blessings, see what God has done.  
And it will surprise you what the Lord has done.*

How can you not give thanks when you see what the Lord has done?

As we focus on the offering today, I want to share that I consider *you* a blessing. On behalf of myself and all who serve here, I wanted to let you know what an honor it is to serve you. When I count my blessings, I count you and my opportunity to serve here as one of life's greatest blessings to my family and me. That is one of many things I am thankful for this Thanksgiving.

As we continue worshipping God through our offering today, I wanted to thank you for faithfully giving to OUR CHURCH. Every gift here makes a difference. From large gifts to small ones, all that is given goes to further the cause of Christ that He has called us to do here at OUR CHURCH. So, we thank you for your generosity, service, and support.

On behalf of all of us here at OUR CHURCH, we wish you a happy Thanksgiving and give thanks to each of you!

## **Your Gift Matters – November 26th**

**Did anyone get up early Friday morning and stand in line to be the first in the door for that special sale?** Some of you. How many of you stayed home and shopped online? Did any of you do both? The response here shows the changes in how commerce is done in America.

Black Friday, the day after Thanksgiving, has traditionally been all about standing in line at a brick-and-mortar store to get the best deals on all your Christmas gifts. Now, more people shop online than they do at physical stores. Brick-and-mortar stores still see huge numbers of people shopping, but now we like options for purchasing our Christmas gifts.

Here at YOUR CHURCH NAME, we give you several options for giving. **List the various options.**

We don't care how you give. We want you to give. Let me give you three reasons why.

First, your gift today honors God and is an act of worship. We encourage everyone, members, and guests, to consider a gift in today's offering as a way of saying thanks to God for all He has done for us.

Secondly, when you give, you are blessed. Consider what Malachi 3:10 says, "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."

Third, your gift blesses others. Every time you give here, you help us fulfill the mission and ministry God has called us to do. Our church impacts hundreds, not simply here in our community but worldwide—your gift matters.

No matter what form your gift comes in, whether cash, check, or electronically, you can be assured that we use that gift to extend the Kingdom of God here, locally, and globally. So, thanks for your generosity. Your gift matters for you and for those you bless with your gift!

## It's Time For Good News – December 3rd

**A recent survey discovered that the COVID-19 pandemic has made Americans significantly angrier, sadder, lonelier, and more worried.** More than one-third reported feeling these emotions more strongly than before the pandemic. I'm sure we feel this way for multiple reasons, but one leading cause is the News. We have been fed a continual diet of bad news from newspapers to social media to the Mainstream media for almost the last two years. I contend it's time for Good News!

Our mission here as a church is STATE YOUR MISSION STATEMENT. That mission is grounded in our faith in Jesus Christ as the world's Savior. We are entering one of our most sacred times as a church, Christmas. The story of Christmas is a story of good news. The Gospel of Luke tells about the birth of Jesus. It records the story of nearby shepherds tending their flocks at night when an angel of the Lord appears to them. Here is what the text says, "the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid. **I bring you good news that will cause great joy for all the people.**"

In a world filled with bad news, **CHURCH NAME is committed to sharing the Good News of the Gospel with our community and world.** The faithful generosity of our members allows us to spread the good news of the Gospel. This month, we ask our entire church family to prayerfully help us spread the Good News through our special Christmas offering! We accomplished much due to your generosity, but there is much more to do.

Every time you give here at our church, you help us spread that Good News in our town and literally around the world. Let's give generously today so that Good News can continue to spread.

## **Give a Gift That Lasts – December 10th**

I saw a study that reported the following about our Christmas shopping habits:

- 60% of US consumers start their Christmas shopping before December. How many of you are in that category?
- 62% of US shoppers buy gifts in the week before Christmas. How many fit here?
- 60% of shoppers in the US prefer to shop online. How many of you would agree?

How many of you are finished with your Christmas shopping? How many of you haven't even started? This year it is projected that Americans will spend about \$1,000 on Christmas. Here is my question. How many of those gifts will last? Few of the gifts we give last long, and none last forever.

But a gift here at YOUR CHURCH lasts forever! We exist (insert your vision statement or use the following) to proclaim the Good News of Jesus working to build up His Kingdom. Every time you give a gift here, you help support that mission. Consider that this year:

- List events such as Our VBS reached over 100 kids, many of whom don't have a church home.
- We took 35 students to camp this summer, teaching them life-long principles and training them to be the next generation of leaders in the Church.

Those are just a few examples of what your generous giving helped us accomplish. Thank you!

We are not done yet! While we only have a few more days this year, we plan on an amazing New Year of missions and ministry. Every time you give in our offering, your gift helps us achieve all God has called us to do. We are building up the Kingdom of God, and your gift helps us do that. Giving here truly is a gift that lasts. So, thank you for your generosity that impacts eternity!

### **Give a Gift That Lasts – December 17th**

I saw a study that reported the following about our Christmas shopping habits:

- 60% of US consumers start their Christmas shopping before December. How many of you are in that category?
- 62% of US shoppers buy gifts in the week before Christmas. How many fit here?
- 60% of shoppers in the US prefer to shop online. How many of you would agree?

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## **Keep the Focus on Christmas – December 24th**

**We are exactly one day from Christmas!** Does that evoke excitement or fear in you? For the kid in us, it evokes excitement. The adult in us worries about all that is left to do. Sadly, too many of us get caught up in the hustle and bustle of this season, so our focus gets diverted. Our focus can too easily be upon completing our list rather than the true reason we celebrate this time of year, the birth of our Savior!

In our commercialized world, it is easy to forget the true meaning of Christmas. Our country is becoming ever more secularized. Christmas is being obliterated so much that instead of our kids having a Christmas break, it's called a Winter break. You hear Happy Holidays but rarely hear Merry Christmas. At OUR CHURCH, we will never lose focus on what this season means, the birth of the Prince of Peace, Jesus Christ. Christmas is named for Him, who came to show us the way to God.

So here is a word of advice: slow down this week and enjoy the season's true meaning. Stop and listen to those carols. Please read the text of your Christmas cards proclaiming the birth of our Messiah. Take in the lights while thinking that Jesus is THE light of the world. Do what you can today, but don't let the rush of this season cloud out the joy meant for this season. Let's keep the focus on Christmas!

And, in all your gift-giving, please prayerfully consider a gift not only for our offering today but for our special Christmas offering. We want to end this year strong, setting ourselves up for a great New Year. We use your gifts to spread the message of Christmas to our town, state, nation, and, indeed, the world. So, please consider a generous gift today.

## How to Fulfill Your Resolutions – December 31st

**How many of you are making New Year's resolutions? How many of you have already broken what you resolved to do?** Studies have shown that most resolutions get broken within days or, at best, weeks of their being made. So, if you have already broken yours, don't feel bad.

One reason why keeping resolutions is so hard is that we forget. I can easily forget the resolution to lose weight when you set a pizza in front of me. If we could only put our resolutions on autopilot, we might better fulfill those resolutions.

Every week, we focus on the act of worship through our giving. The Bible commands us to give, which is why we do this. Yet, we also want our motivation to be the love we have for God and our thankfulness for what He provides. We also share how your generosity helps fund our life-changing work here.

So, we don't apologize for asking people to give generously. This morning, please consider one more resolution. Would you join many of us in resolving to put God first in our finances and become faithful givers? You will be a blessing to many *and* be blessed in return.

And here is how you can fulfill that resolution, set your giving to be automatic through our recurring giving program. You can go to our website and look for the Give button that will direct you to give online and set those gifts up to be recurring. You can fulfill your resolution, but more importantly, your generosity will help make a difference in the lives of others.



## Want more generosity/stewardship help?

Check out my website at: <https://acts17generosity.com/>.

Check out these Kindle titles, many for \$.99!

**“Recovering the Lost Offerings of Covid-19”** <https://www.amazon.com/dp/B098KYQSZS> - This simple plan focuses on how to use a special offering to bring in at least an additional week offering. As with all my playbooks, this one will provide you with all the tools needed to close any giving gap you might be having. **\$.99!**

**“The 15 Offerings of Summer” \$2.99** [HTTP://](http://) Learn how in 60 seconds or less to head off the typical summer slump in giving with these offering talks, one for each weekend of the summer. These talks are great starters for your ideas and talks!

**“The Forgotten Sermon: How to Preach Effectively on Giving”** <https://www.amazon.com/dp/B094DW4S46> **\$4.99** I show you how to preach on giving in such a way that your members will want more sermons on giving! I not only show you how but I give you tons of giving sermons that you can use this weekend!

**“The Top Ten Stewardship Mistakes Churches Make” \$.99!** <https://www.amazon.com/dp/B00844HK9S>  
Learn the most common mistakes churches make and how to avoid them!



