

Service

Jesus says by making the kingdom our first priority, ***“all other things will be given you as well.”*** In the kingdom God provides for all we need. We are no longer anxious about having enough. ***“So do not worry, tomorrow will take care of itself.”*** Mt 6:33-4

The parable of the mustard seed makes clear even a small act of generosity can grow far beyond what we expect. Mk 4:31-2

Paul writes God can do far more than we imagine — not forcing us but working gently within us. Eph 3:20

The church at its best is a community of love. ***“When love grows it is stronger than death.”*** 1 Cor 13:8

Witness

When we give ourselves to planting and nurturing love, investing our time and resources, our efforts reach beyond what we imagine.

When we build a community of people shaped by God’s love we are doing exactly what we are created to do; helping God build the kingdom.

The good news of the gospel is we have been chosen to make our own limited and very conditional love the gateway for the unlimited and unconditional love of God.

The Apostle Paul said it this way: ***“Make love your aim.”*** 1 Cor 14:1

Commitment is the little choices we make every day that determine who we are.



CHANDLER

UNITED METHODIST

GIVING AS A SPIRITUAL PRACTICE



**MAKING AND DEPLOYING DISCIPLES
WHO PUT GOD FIRST SINCE 1913**

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UNITED METHODIST
CHURCH

Our Commitment As United Methodists

As United Methodists there are specific commitments we share. Among these is our pledge to support the church with:

- our prayers
- our presence
- our gifts
- our service
- our witness

These five areas of commitment are the way we organize our lives in relationship to the work of the Holy Spirit.

Prayer

Prayer is the spiritual discipline by which our mind and heart are converted from indifference to valuing all of God's people.

Through prayer we experience illumination of our thoughts and feelings. Prayer uncovers hidden motives and unhealed wounds that shape our relationships.

Prayer allows us to see ourselves and others as God sees us.

In prayer we seek God's loving voice to penetrate our fear and resistance. The deepest truth of human identity is this:

"You are my beloved child.

With you I am well pleased." Luke 3:22

Presence

Paul binds us to the work of the Holy Spirit through the longing of our souls.

"We are aware all creation has been groaning in labor pain. Our souls also groan to be free." Rom 8:22

This groaning is the sound of our yearning for communion with God and one another. The church exists to respond to God's passionate desire for communion with us.

We are gathered in the ministry of the church by a common yearning for our lives to have a meaning deeper than our existence. We are invited into a new relationship with our resources by responding to the yearning of our souls.

Gifts

We give through our church to create the kind of community which answers the deepest of our human longings.

We have something to offer: peace, love, fidelity, friendship, affection, prayer, compassion, presence in the face of loneliness, ministry with those in need.

These things are so valuable we are willing to make our resources available to extend them to others in new ways.

Giving comes from the spiritual knowledge we are alive not only for ourselves but also for one another.

Commitment is following through on what you said you would do after the feeling you had when you said it wears off.

