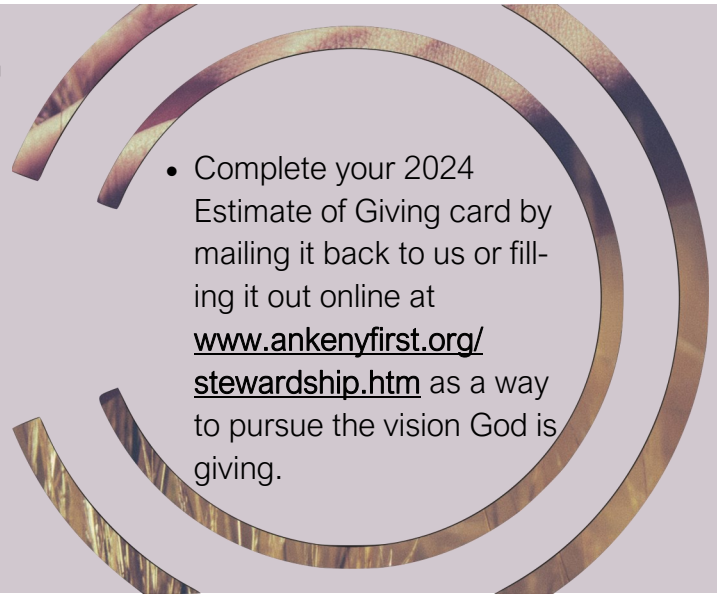


## During this series...

- Pray for God to give you a vision for your life and your participation at Ankeny First.
- Worship at our services each week, online or in-person, and worship daily by reading the devotions.
- Connect with others in a small group, generously sharing yourself with the group.
- Seek opportunities to respond in service.
- Complete your 2024 Estimate of Giving card by mailing it back to us or filling it out online at [www.ankenyfirst.org/stewardship.htm](http://www.ankenyfirst.org/stewardship.htm) as a way to pursue the vision God is giving.



## Preparing for Vision

- Read the daily devotional written by Ankeny First members and pray for God's guidance in your personal finances.
- Reflect on the understanding that stewardship is following Jesus.
- Between now and early February, examine your personal giving and how it reflects your commitment to Christ.
- Decide what percentage of your income to give consistently.



Use your smart phone to capture this QR Code to find campaign resources.

Ankeny First United  
Methodist Church  
206 SW Walnut Street  
Ankeny, IA 50023  
515.964.4249  
[www.AnkenyFirst.org](http://www.AnkenyFirst.org)



# 2024 Generosity Campaign



**God, let your light  
shine through me  
so that others  
can know you.**

# vision 2028

By December 31, 2028, Ankeny First will be a vibrant, diverse, welcoming community of faith. Our congregation will worship passionately each week, transforming our members into people who glorify God daily.

We will live life intentionally, making time in our busy schedules to connect with each other and engage in spiritually significant conversations. We will be known as a church that expresses God's love by making a difference to those broken by life's circumstances.

We will be relentless in our pursuit of God. We will be passionate about deepening relationships so that others know God for real. We will serve God with joy and invite others to come with us.

## Campaign Goal

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

"Vision" is an opportunity to imagine how far God can take you as you invest generously in making the vision a reality.

**Joel 2:28** Then afterward I will pour out my spirit on all flesh; your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, your old men shall dream dreams, and your young men shall see visions.

## Why Talk about Money

### *It's a Spiritual Issue.*

Stewardship is directly linked to the practice of our faith. How we use our resources is primarily a spiritual issue, not a financial one. The quality of that decision is determined by the spiritual condition of our hearts, which is shaped by pursuing the vision.

### *Jesus Talked About It.*

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

### *It's Not About the Budget.*

In stewardship campaigns, it can be tempting to approach the financial needs of the church as if we were simply funding the budget. In "Vision," we acknowledge that living generously is an inseparable part of our following Christ, a part that makes following Jesus even more exciting. God does not need our money; rather, we need to give it as an act of gratitude and trust.

### *It's About Trust.*

As we learn to trust God more and follow Christ's teaching more faithfully, we learn to depend less on ourselves and more on God, finding the courage to transform the theory of our faith into tangible action.

## Why move along The Giving Path?

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

## The Giving Path

As we pursue the vision, we grow stronger in our connection to Jesus and our trust for God grows. Jesus said that "where your treasure is, there your heart will be also."

### Steps along the Giving Path:

#### First Time Giver

- Begin to give a specific amount.

#### Intentional Giver

- Give a planned percentage of income.

#### Growing Giver

- Increase the percentage of income given.

#### Tithing Giver

- Give 10% of income.

#### Extravagant Giver

- Give beyond the tithe (10+% of income).