

## Preparing for Pathways to Generosity

- Between now and February 14, examine your personal giving and how it reflects your commitment to Christ.
- Reflect on the understanding that stewardship is about raising disciples, not money.
- Read the daily devotional *Practicing Extravagant Generosity* and pray for God's guidance in your personal finances.
- Decide what percentage of your income to give consistently.



You will be enriched in every way for your great generosity.

2 Corinthians 9:11 NRSV

**During this time of celebration,  
we encourage you to:**

- Pray for God to lead you on new steps in your faith journey.
- Deepen your sense of generosity and gratitude.
- Discover the joy of giving.
- Complete your 2021 Estimate of Giving card by mailing it back to us or by giving online at [www.ankenyfirst.org/give.htm](http://www.ankenyfirst.org/give.htm).



Use your smart phone to capture this QR Code to save a special prayer reminder image as your Lock Screen through the campaign. Find it toward the bottom of the stewardship webpage.

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Ankeny, IA 50023  
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Each of you must give as you have made up your mind, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver.

2 Corinthians 9:7 NRSV



## Pathways to Generosity Goal

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

**Pathways to Generosity** is an opportunity to discover the joy of growing in your relationship with God as you experience living generously.



“

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

Galatians 5:22-23

”

## WHY Talk about Money

### It's a Spiritual Issue

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

### 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 Pathways to Generosity, we acknowledge that living generously is an inseparable part of our following Christ. God does not need our money; rather, we need to give it as an act of gratitude and trust.

### It's About Trust

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



## 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 walk on the Pathways to Generosity, we are moving forward in our spiritual journeys to be more like Christ. Jesus said that "where your treasure is, there your heart will be also."

#### Steps along the Giving Path:

##### First Time Giver

- Begin to give 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).