



KEEP
OUR VISION
GROWING

STEWARDSHIP AND
SECOND-MILE GIVING
CAMPAIGN

HONORING THE PAST · SERVING THE PRESENT · PROVIDING FOR THE FUTURE

2019 ANNUAL GIVING COMMITMENT

Dear Friends in Christ,

Our stewardship theme this year is “Keep Our Vision Growing” with a focus on honoring the past, serving the present and providing for the future. This campaign takes a two-pronged approach. We are asking for two pledges: one pledge for annual giving to support St. John’s ministries for 2019 and a “Second-Mile” pledge to help reduce debt left from The Walk campaign and prior outstanding debt.

We make our vision a reality through the breadth and depth of the programs and ministries that define the life of our church and enable us to be a place that glorifies God, feeds people and makes disciples. Your pledge to our ongoing ministries in 2019 is top priority. Additionally, in order to free us for future growth and ministries, your “second-mile” pledge toward debt-reduction is much-needed. This pledge is above and beyond your regular pledge to St. John’s.

Between now and Commitment Sunday, October 28, please pray about your giving, talk about your goals for generosity, and take a moment to reflect upon what offering you plan to give to God through our church in the coming year. We ask you to bring your pledge to worship on Commitment Sunday, October 28, to be dedicated during worship. This year, we will have a celebratory olive tree seedling available to all families who participate as well as a special surprise for the children of St. John’s.

We will conclude this year’s campaign with a lunch after the 11 a.m. service on October 28. It will be a time to celebrate all that God has already given us and what we have chosen to give back to him.

Thank you for all you do to support God’s work here at St. John’s. We are grateful for the ways you are growing our vision.

In God’s Peace,



Russ and Debbie Nolan

St. John’s UMC Stewardship Co-Chairs



ST. JOHN'S
United Methodist Church

Glorifying God. Feeding People. Making Disciples.

ANNUAL STEWARDSHIP CAMPAIGN: *Giving to Our* **MINISTRIES** *in 2019*

SERVING THE PRESENT: 2019 OPERATIONS BUDGET

St. John's, we make our vision to feed people spiritually and physically a reality through our varied programs and ministries. Your pledge to our Annual Stewardship Campaign enables mission and ministries. We live this out through our core values:

FELLOWSHIP

Our fellowship opportunities range from our weekly coffee time to monthly Heavenly Hash, meetings in support of St. John's programs, United Methodist Women and a range of children and youth activities. Lifelong friendships and connections are created and nurtured through St. John's.

MISSION

We engage in a myriad of hands-on missions such as The Shepherd's Market, outreach to Wildwood Elementary, St. Mark's feeding ministry and youth mission trips. On October 7, our annual Missions Fair focused the energy of our congregation on mission outreach.

CARING

We offer a loving response to the needs of our congregation and our neighbors through support, such as our prayer shawl ministry, card ministry, Wellness Covenant Group, Good Grief group and congregational care team.

SPIRITUAL GROWTH

Every Sunday we glorify God through inspiring worship featuring a robust and varied music program. Disciples are formed in our 14 Sunday school classes, through periodic short-term studies, Bible studies and covenant groups. St. John's is committed to growing in the knowledge and love of God.



You can keep our vision growing by making a pledge to our Annual Stewardship Campaign.

HONORING THE PAST: 2018 PROGRAMS & INITIATIVES

These important St. John's programs and initiatives were made possible by your giving. Your pledges and support will allow us to continue and expand this necessary work in 2019.

Advent	Confirmation for Youth & Adults	IT Support	School Outreach
Alcoholics Anonymous	Congregational Care	Kairos Prison Ministry	Scouting
Altar Flowers	Copyright Expenses	Kindergarten, 3rd Grade and 9th Grade Bibles	Security System
Angel Tree	Days for Girls	Landscaping	Shepherd's Market
Apportionments	Disciple Classes	Maintenance and Repairs	Spiritual Growth Ministries
Audio/Visual Ministry	Drive-Thru Ashes	Maundy Thursday Service	Stewardship
Audit & Statistical Reporting	Easter Eggstravaganza	Mission Trips	Support Staff
Bible Studies	Equipment	Musical Instrument Upkeep	Trustees
Blessing of the Backpacks	Fall Fest	Nursery	United Methodist Women
Cantatas	Finance Ministry	Office Supplies	Upper Room
Card Ministry	Funerals and Memorials	Opening Doors	Utilities
Children's Ministries	Furnishings	Parsonage Upkeep	Vacation Bible School
Choirs & Ensembles	Good Friday Service	Pastoral Staff	Walk to Emmaus/Cursillo
Choral Music	Good Grief, St. John's	Pest Control	Welcome Bags
Christmas Eve Services	Grace Camp	Prayer Shawl Ministry	Wellness Covenant Group
Coffee Time	Handbells	Prime Timers	Worship Supplies
Committee Expenses	Heavenly Hash	Puppet Ministry	Youth Ministries
Communications Ministry	Hymn Fest	Sanctuary Decorations	
Communion Supplies	Insurance		

SECOND-MILE GIVING CAMPAIGN:

Reducing Our DEBT in 2019



Since 2015, The Walk has raised more than \$1 million toward our \$1.4 million goal. The Walk was a campaign to raise the funds for a two-phased construction project to move us further along toward our vision to be known as a center for feeding people spiritually and physically in our community.

*“for we walk by faith,
not by sight.”*

2 Corinthians 5:7
(NRSV)

Thank you for your generous gifts to help make The Walk a reality and for walking with us in faith. While The Walk as a campaign ends this month, we continue to walk with Christ for a “Second Mile.”

PROVIDING FOR THE FUTURE: DEBT REDUCTION IN 2019

Our Second-Mile Giving Campaign is driven by one pressing need: to pay off the capital debt remaining from The Walk campaign and prior outstanding debt. Pledges toward debt reduction will free our finances for other needs.

The new and renovated spaces, completed in 2017, provide a bright and spacious Narthex with new restrooms, the Burch Bell Tower with the Thayer Family Bell, a renovated Sanctuary, a covered walkway and a modernized, upgraded Family Life Center. The many benefits of these versatile, attractive spaces include:

- Improved worship experiences
- A more welcoming space for guests
- Comfortable space for fellowship events and coffee time
- Better service for our neighbors in The Shepherd’s Market
- An identity for the church with the addition of the bell tower



The good news: Through your pledges and gifts to the The Walk, we have received \$1,040,580.12 in contributions as of September 30. About 72% of the building and renovation costs have been paid off by The Walk’s three-year campaign.

We owe the Louisiana United Methodist Foundation approximately \$388,000 from The Walk as well as \$152,000 from a previous debt held at the Foundation. Current interest payments on the remaining balance of approximately \$540,000 make it more difficult to maintain and see growth in our annual ministry budget, which, along with your time and talents, fuels the church’s mission and vision.

With future years and generations in mind, we are called to reduce the debt and avoid burdening the church with long-term loan obligations. This will free us to focus our resources and attention on keeping our vision growing by living out our core values of fellowship, caring, mission and spiritual growth.

*Can you go the
“Second Mile” and
make a commitment to
debt reduction?*



STEWARDSHIP FAQs

Is this campaign different than previous years?

Yes! Instead of making one pledge to ministries of the church for the upcoming year, we are also asking that you prayerfully consider making an additional pledge to the Second-Mile Giving Campaign over and above your regular pledge. Your pledge to the Annual Stewardship Campaign will support the various missions and ministries of the church in 2019. Your pledge to the Second-Mile Giving Campaign will go directly toward reducing the church's debt, which totals about \$540,000.

Why turn in an Annual Giving Pledge Card?

It is important to complete an Annual Giving Pledge Card:

- So that our church can faithfully and realistically plan for ministry.
- In order that we can grow spiritually. Jesus said, "Where your treasure is, there your heart will be" (Matthew 6:21). Jesus taught that giving is a way of setting our priorities on God.
- John Wesley, the founder of Methodism, wrote, "Money is a gift of God that provides us the opportunity for doing good." Through our gifts, we share the story of Jesus and bring about good in the world.

How much should I give?

"A tithe (tenth) of everything from the land ... belongs to the Lord, it is holy to the Lord." Leviticus 27:30

The tithe, 10% of our income, is the Biblical standard for giving and represents a worthy goal. If we are not tithing, we can begin with a percentage of our income that is small enough to reach but big enough to stretch us. We can commit to growing that percentage each year. If we gave 4% last year, stretch that to 5% this year. The point is that we start somewhere, by giving at a proportion of our income that expresses our commitment to Christ.

How do I turn in an Annual Giving Pledge Card?

An Annual Giving Pledge Card is enclosed in this mailing and will also be included in the Sunday bulletins on October 21 and 28. We invite you to complete your pledge card and bring it to worship on Commitment Sunday, October 28. You may also mail or deliver your card to the church office or drop it in the offering plate on Sunday. Your estimate may be revised or canceled at any time.

Does the church offer online giving or automatic giving?

We do! Please go to <http://bit.ly/sjumcgive> to set up automated giving or to make a donation online. You may also contact LeAnn Davis (leanndavis@stjohnsbr.org).

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)

NOT EQUAL SHARES BUT EQUAL SACRIFICE

The concept of equal giving has never existed at our church. Instead, we believe that the sacrifice should be equal. This ensures that there is a role in these campaigns for every member of the church. Everyone's sacrifice is important if we are to be successful. Your financial involvement is a decision between you and the Lord. Giving is a part of worship, but giving must come from your heart to please God. You will never be pressured nor told what you should give. However, we ask that you pray to discern God's will for your participation in the campaigns.

Lord, what do You want to do through me?



ANNUAL GIVING & SECOND-MILE GIVING COMMITMENTS BEGIN
JAN. 1, 2019, AND CONTINUE THROUGH DEC. 31, 2019.

St. John's United Methodist Church

Our mission: We are a Christian community called to share our gifts through worship, witness and service so that others will know God and become disciples of Jesus Christ.

Our vision: Our church will be known as a center for feeding people spiritually and physically in our community.

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